

Brawford 2014



* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1. New York, April, 1882. No. 1.

HIS LAST DELIVERY.

"Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! rage! blow!
You cataracts and hurricanes spout."

KING LEAR.

In the long ago when it was a matter of surprise to receive a letter from some out the way hamlet not one hundred miles distant from a postal town, inside of a week any were the surmises among the congregated farmers, villagers and the habitual dangers always to be found even to this day around that centre of gossip, and news change the village post office if said mail carrier did not make the usual appearance on time.

Hours delay not as at the present time, signified nothing, but when the hours were prolonged into days, then the townsmen were all agog, one with a theory that the streams were swollen, bridges carried away, the snow lay in such impassable drifts that it would be almost a miracle if the carrier should make his entry by the following noon. Others that perhaps, he, the young prince of woodcraft, had been treed by a pack of wolves, or attacked by Indians in a bush. These were only a few of the accidents, mishaps and ills with which the carrying of the mails were attended.

This was about the situation. One bright morning in the depth of one of the severest winters, experienced by the hardy dwellers of the region now known as the Senandoah Valley. The storm having out its strength for the past three days in endeavoring to destroy the town which lay at the foot of the snow capped Blue Ridge, had finally become appeased and had departed at dawn, leaving as a memento the swelling brooklet swollen to the proportion of a river, and the latter lashed to a fury which threatened not only the bridge, mills and habitations near its banks, but to engulf the town also.

Nat, which was the cognomen by which the mail agent was familiarly known, had been on a day or more overdue. A robust, muscular fellow, woodsman to the marrow, heart to the core, and besides being charged with the mails, was intrusted by the inhabitants for miles around with numerous duties, commissioned to buy, to sell, to parter was the bearer of news, besides which with his mail sack was filled, with news of life, of death, good news, ill news in fact was the telegraph, express com-

pany and what not with which our later civilization has blessed us. No great danger had been apprehended, as it was naturally supposed Nat had found shelter, but when his familiar coon-skin cap floated down the swollen stream, and was arrested in its progress by a branch of one of the many smitten trees the hearts of the people throbbed more quickly.

A party soon formed to search for the luckless carrier, and by noon-day had traversed at least ten miles of the route which they knew he had been in the habit of taking and although the search had been carefully performed, not a vestige other than the fur cap had been found. The region was most wild and desolate, and the rigorous hand of winter had not improved its aspect. Heavy forest trees at the narrow portions of the stream had fallen from each side with their tops crosswise and so intertwined that they formed an impassable barrier to the ice which accumulated to the height of many feet forcing the waters in the near to seek an outlet upon each flank, and submerging the lowlands in some places to the extent of miles. At one of these barriers the dead body of the carriers horse was discovered so mangled by the drifting chafing ice as to be almost unrecognizable. The search if earnest before this discovery was now renewed with increased vigor or else as some of the most sanguine of the searchers thought Nat might also perish while succor was near at hand.

By the sounding of horns, the party was kept informed of each squads progress, and it was understood that three blasts upon the same denoted the finding of some clue, or the carrier himself. Just as the sun was setting, and but a faint speck of its disc was discernible alone the highest portion of the Blue Ridge, far off in one of the depressions formed by the mountains surrounding it, the eager searchers were startled by the faint echoes of the three tokens of discovery. In the centre of this valley, for many years had dwelt a friendly Indian, who for some reason, which none were able to discover, had been cast out by his kinsman, and had chosen this retreat as one suited to his wild and half civilized nature. The carrier so the stories told at that time inform us had made the Indian his fast friend by succoring him when nigh unto death's door, with a malignant fever, and

by his care and faithful attendance had brought him back to life and old time vigor.

To this hut the searchers now directed their footsteps, where upon a couch of pine boughs, that had been gathered in the autumn, and beneath a covering of furs, the result of the Indian's good marksmanship, lay Nat helpless as an infant, and nursed as tenderly as one by his savage friend.

With a word of caution by the latter to observe silence, the Indian ushered in his white friends, who were more than startled by the changed appearance of the carrier's face; a change betokening the intense suffering he had endured while fighting the elements for his life.

Under the influence of a vegetable opiate, administered by his nurse, Nat was sleeping, and while in this condition, the Indian related the circumstances connected with the carriers miraculous escape.

The day previous, when the tempest was at its height, the Indian snugly ensconced in his rude habitation heard, during a lull in the storm, what he thought were cries for help. Thinking it only a fancy at first he was loath to leave his comfortable retreat, and not until a cry more piercing than that preceding resounded even above the din of the storm did he bestir himself. Donning a garment suitable for such an enterprise, he started for the river. The cries for help sounded more distinctly as he drew near to that angry and swollen torrent.

In one of the ice gorges, previously spoken of, the carrier was locked, every moment his danger increasing by the descending ice. He had bravely endeavored to ford at a shallow part of the stream, and had been carried by the miscalculated impulsion of the same, (having been first unhorsed), down to the icy imprisonment in which his red-skinned deliverer found him.

Cautiously creeping, and even then slipping in the torrent, he by the aid of a fallen tree, approached his friend, who now lay, with body bruised, and one leg crushed, an almost inanimated mass, which any moment his rescuer expected to be carried down the flood. Minutes were like hours, so intensely did the Indian feel the urgency of the situation. Still, if he miscalculated a distance, he was sure to be hurled headlong into the mass of ice. So with a dogged resolution to reach his friend, even if it consumed hours, the kindly savage often enduring numerous blows from the ice, and a complete submersion several times in the cold waters, reached the carrier who lay mute and cold, as if dead.

The carrier lost a limb by this mishap, but thankful for his life, never forgot his Indian friend, and his townsmen never became tired of listening to his graphic description of his last delivery.—
A. C.

IMPRESSIONS.

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We would refer our readers to *J. Handford's* advertisement on the last page of this issue, particularly to his COLLECTOR'S DIRECTORY, a copy of which now lies before us; a well-constructed volume that does credit to both printer and publisher, and without which no collector's or dealer's library is complete.

Our mi(te)ghty contemporary, the LIBRARIAN TABLE, whose febrile number for February has just been received, keeps its promise given in a former issue of not making itself simply a medium for advertising, as it only devotes three pages out of the eight to that lucrative business, two more pages being devoted to copied matter. It has a method of sticking to the original, which our older contemporaries would do well to imitate, that of using a kalsomining brush instead of the diminutive brush usually found in an editor's sanctum. We shall *hale* its monthly appearance with delight, hoping that when it takes its departure from this sphere of paste pots and brushes it will meet its Waterloo with resignation.

THE BALTIMORE PHILATELIST No. 5 is at hand. It contains a useful article entitled: "Notes for Beginners," which those about to collect stamps should read; it also has other short and interesting articles, besides its regular columns of "New Issues" and "Clippings." We would like to see the first three numbers of this paper.

A number of exchanges have been received too late for notice in this column, which we designed for that particular purpose, and we would suggest to our contemporaries a little more promptness in mailing.

Newspapers to go from Somerville to Harlinger, in New Jersey, a distance of eight miles, have to go to New York, and then back to Bound Brook, from which place they are sent over the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad to Harlinger.

A prond man on West Hill always takes his black-and-tan dog to lick the postage stamps for him when he goes to the post-office, that is, you understand, the dog licks the stamps for the man.

Under the heading below in each issue will appear that which now seems to be inseparably connected with newspaper making, a few tid-bits from our Faragraphist, which he is pleased to term from the fact we suppose of their being far fetched.

◆◆◆
FARAGRAPHS.

A coign (coin) of (ad) vantage, a coin which passes current throughout the world.

Sproggins says that Phil Lately (philately) is responsible for the commotion created in stamp collecting.

Why is a door off its hinges like a coin coined in France some fifty years ago. Because it is a loose door (Louis d'or).

Sproggins says his boy's metal cabinet is made of wood, which assertion leads us to believe that Sproggins mental cabinet is made of the same material.

Postman—"Does Mr. Fitzpatrick live here?"

Maid—(from Erin), "Yis, sir, he died yesterday"

What is the oldest stamp known? That which was branded upon the forehead of Cain.

"To what base use have we come," the revenue stamp exclaimed, when being pasted upon a cask of whiskey.

What branch of the postal service do we first read of in Sacred History? The olive branch.

We meet only to part forever.—Letter in mail bag.—Ex.

That is unless they go to the dead letter office.

"Still water runs deep," exclaimed the drunken man, as he laboriously dragged himself out of the canal, after a complete immersion.

Labor is but a pastime when the heart is in the task.

Economy is the great lubricator used by Dame Fortune on her much talked of wheel.

What coin gives most enjoyment to a little girl? A doll (ar).

Rare stamps like wine improve with age, and as wine doth serve the intemperate, so doth the rare stamp intoxicate the enthusiast.

Advertise judiciously, and in selecting the medium do not forget to insert your advertisement in the next issue of this paper.

What coin gives most enjoyment to the street arab? The coin of vantage in viewing a dog-fight.

A fashion journal writes that watered silk grows fashionable. We would add that so does watered stocks. Furthermore, it says that flowers on the dining-table is the fashion. We are surprised to learn at this late day that flour has commenced to be appreciated in the homes of the fashionable.

◆◆◆
AN ANTIQUATED IDEA OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Scene, Post Office. Dramatis Personae Clerk, Old Lady, Impatient Business Man and Crowd.

Old lady—"Mister Postman, I want ter send a letter ter Sally Ann Smith."

Clerk—"Who is Sally Ann?"

Impatient business man in rear of old lady, aside—"Old Beelzebub."

O. L.—"My darter, of course."

Clerk—"Where does she live?"

I. B. M.—"Halifax."

O. L.—"Squankham, Injiana."

Clerk, addressing and stamping letter, "three cents."

I. B. M.—"She has no sense."

Exit old lady with a decided impression of the clerk's ignorance and amid the audible sighs of relief along the line.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, - - - NEW YORK.

One year, - - - 25 Cents.

Foreign Countries, - - - 37 Cents.

Unused U. S. Postage Stamps taken in
Payment.

No Agents to this Paper.

All communications, etc., must be directed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by writer's full name and address.

All letters requiring an answer must contain stamp for return.

Vol. 1. APRIL 1, 1882. No. 1.

EDITORIALS.

This being our initial number, we wish to say in as few words as possible that we propose making this atom of newspaperdom a necessity to the Stamp-Collector the same as good tools are to an artificer a real necessity.

Our first intention was to make up a four page paper, but it was soon made apparent by the accumulation of advertisements and news, to say nothing of the continued reception by mail of the hearty well-wishes of our contemporaries, that the size should be increased. The result we hope will be appreciated.

We do not propose to give chromos, corner lots in some obscure western village, full-blooded Hamiltonian pacers, or a hundred shares in some Colorado silver mine which has its location solely in the fertile brain of some crank, but this we do propose, to give our readers the "newsiest," "spiciest" and most reliable paper pertaining to philately.

We shall aim to be original, but reserve the right to use the shears whenever an item appears which is of interest to our readers.

To our associates, we close by repeating the introductory of Paul Pry. "I hope I don't intrude"

The House Ways and Means Committee reported a bill for the redemption of two cent documentary internal revenue stamps at the option of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, notwithstanding an existing statutory provision limiting the time for their presentation.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

The first two cent stamp was used on July 1, 1863.

Cancelled specimens, specimens of the first issue of Heligoland are scarce.

Boston, the oldest post-office in the country, was established in 1672.

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

Prior to 1847 the mail was carried on horseback, and it took three days to send a letter from New York to Boston.

Of the number of adhesive stamps, Spain leads with 212, and the United States comes next with 178, including 92 officials.

The blue numbers on the backs of the 1875 issue of Spain denote where they were taken from the sheet, the stamps being numbered consecutively.

Domestic postal cards first appeared in Austria, in 1869, while Wurtemberg issued the first double and international cards in 1872 and 1878, respectively.

It will probably be interesting to stamp collectors to know that the first stamp collectors and dealers in the United States arose in 1861; the first hand-book appeared in 1863, and the first philatelic paper in 1864.

A government commission has been appointed to organize a new postal system, and to accord with the new state of affairs it is proposed to add a postmaster general to the President's Cabinet. The commission will closely study the United States postal system. The elections in many of the States have passed off quietly, and resulted generally in the success of the administration party.

RED TAPE IN MAILS.

Have you had occasion to notice the red tape rough which a letter must go if it happens to be dropped in a post-office without regular postage? If not, and it was addressed to you, you would, about two weeks after it was mailed, receive a card from A. D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, as follows;

Washington, D. C.,—1882.

A letter directed to you is detained for postage. On the return of this card and three cents in postage stamps the same will be forwarded to your address.

You attach a stamp to the card and mail it, adding another three cent stamp to get it to Washington, and in the course of a week or so the letter is sent to you and you discover it is a copy bill with a "please call and settle" at the bottom, and you are proud of the postal laws that will not allow such a valuable document to be lost.

But if you were in business and the letter contained a draft that you greatly needed, and you had lost the use of it these three weeks, you might feel like "cussing" the red tape that prevented the letter being forwarded you at once and postage collected as it was delivered.

It is a construction of law that lacks common sense, and probably has only been allowed to continue in force because people are not much given to mailing letters without paying postage.

The idea seems to be to punish some one by making him pay six cents. This may be all right, but when this was done directly the public refused to stand it and Congress changed the law. Now we are punished indirectly, as double postage is actually collected! but that is trifling compared to the loss which may be occasioned by the delay in sending the letter to the Dead Letter Office and having to wait till the red tape regulations are carried out? Is it not a good law to change?—H.M.—*New York Herald.*

THE OLD RED CENT.

As the "red cent" has now passed out of use, and, except rarely, out of sight, like the "old hen bucket," its history is a matter of interest for preservation. The cent was first proposed by Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution, and was made by Jefferson two years after. It began to make its appearance from the mint in 1792. It bore the head of Washington on one side and thirteen links on the other. The French Revolution soon created a rage for French ideas in America, which put on the cent instead of the head of Washington the head of the Goddess of Liberty—a French Liberty, with neck thrust forward and flowing locks. The chain on the reverse side was displaced by the olive wreath of peace; but the French Liberty was short-lived, so her portrait on our cent. The next head on our cent that succeeded this—the staid, classic dame with a fillet around her hair—came into fashion about thirty or forty years ago, and her finely modeled Grecian features have been but slightly altered by the lapse of time.

A Texas post-office is called Too-too—perhaps because of the numerous aesthetic letters it sends.

The finest and most valuable stamp collection in this country numbers 10,105 specimens, including 460 essays and proofs, and 1076 revenue stamps. This collection is owned by J. K. Tiffany, a St. Louis Attorney.

There is no law against opening a postal card.

NEW ISSUES.

CUBA.—New set, lately issued:

- 1c., Green.
- 2½c., Lilac.
- 5c., Grey.
- 10c., Brown.
- 20c., Chocolate.

CHILE.—The colors of the current issue have been changed:

- 1c. to Green.
- 2c. to Carmine.
- 50c. to Blue.
- 5c. to Blue.

GUATAMALA.—The following are now in use:

- 1c., Black and Green.
- 2c., Brown and Green.
- 5c., Red and Green.
- 10c., Violet and Green.
- 20c., Orange and Green.

MEXICO.—A new 4 cent stamp is announced which will resemble the 10c. of the 1874 issue.

NORWAY.—Tromsøe has added another value, which is an adhesive red brown, 2 ore.

PERSIA.—Three new stamps: 1, 2 and 10 shahi.

SPAIN.—New stamps have been noted of the following denominations: 15, 30 and 75 centimes.

TURKS' ISLAND.—Another surcharged stamp is 4d. on 1d.

U. S.—The new 5c. Garfield Stamp has been seen, and will be issued as soon as the old ones have been used up.

We notice, lately, that the stamps, cards, &c., of our country, are not printed as well as formerly. Why is this?

VICTORIA.—A registration envelope and a four pence stamp have been issued lately.

HUSSEY'S LOCAL DISPATCH has issued new stamps, and has also bought out the Empire City Dispatch which has only existed one month.

For those collecting revenues we have compiled the following list some of which have been taken from an old philatelic paper, and can be relied upon as being correct.

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE PAPER STAMPS UP TO 186

Head of Washington in oval, designed differently in each denomination.

1c. Brown. Express, Playing Cards, Telegraph, Proprietary.	25c. Red. Bond, Certificate, Entry of Goods, Warehouse Receipt, Protest, Power of Attorney, Life Insurance, Insurance.	\$1.50 Blue. Inland Exchange.
2c. Blue. Orange. U. S. Int. Revenue, only orange. Bank Check, Playing Cards, Proprietary, Certificate, Express.	30c. Slate. Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange.	\$1.60 Green. Foreign Exchange, \$1.90 Lilac. Foreign Exchange.
3c. Green. Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange, Playing Cards, Proprietary, Telegraph.	40c. Brown. Inland Exchange.	\$2.00 Red. Probate of Will, Conveyance, Mortgage.
4c. Purplish, (brown to blue.) Inland Exchange, Playing Cards, Proprietary.	50c. Blue. Conveyance, Lottery Ticket, Lease, Mortgage, Surety Bond, Probate of Will, Passage Ticket, Original Process, Life Insurance, Foreign Exchange, Entry of Goods.	\$2.50 Purple. Inland Exchange, \$3.00 Green. Charter Party, Manifest.
5c. Pale Red. Agreement, Certificate, Express, Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange, Playing Cards, Proprietary.	60c. Orange. Inland Exchange.	\$3.50 Blue. Inland Exchange, \$5.00 Red. (Light and Dark.)
6c. Orange. Inland Exchange.	70c. Green. Foreign Exchange.	\$10.00 Green. Probate of Will, Charter Party, Conveyance, Mortgage, Manifest.
10c. Blue. Bill of Lading, Certificate, Contract, Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange, Proprietary, Power of Attorney, Playing Cards, Insurance.	\$1.00 Red. Charter Party, Conveyance, Entry of Goods, Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange, Lease, Life Insurance, Manifest, Mortgage, Passage Ticket, Power of Attorney, Probate of Will.	\$15.00 Blue. Mortgage, \$20.00 Orange. Probate of Will, Conveyance, \$25.00 Mortgage, \$50.00 Conveyance, \$200.00 U. S. Internal Revenue
15c. Brown. Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange.	\$1.30 Orange. Foreign Exchange.	
20c. Pale Red. Foreign Exchange, Inland Exchange.		

The Empire City Philatelist.

Advertising Rates.

One Inch, 35 Cts. One Column, \$1.75.
 Half Inch, 20 Cts. Half Column, \$1.00.
 One Page, \$3.25.

TERMS:—Strictly Cash in Advance.

Send in your advertisements now for our next issue. Advertisements not in by the 15th of April cannot be inserted in the next issue.

Business men who do not wish to be afflicted with a rush of business should not commit the error of advertising.

STAMPS.

One cent each. Regular Price, two cents.

- Austria, 1858, 5, 10, 15 kr. 1c.
- " 1861, 5, 10, 15 kr. 1c.
- Austrian Italy, 1850, 15s., Red. 1c.
- " " 1863, 5s., Red. 1c.
- B. varia, 1867, 1 k., Green, 3 k., Red. 1c.
- Denmark, 1874-5, 3 ore, 50 ore. 1c.
- " 1864-8, 2, 3, 8 sk. 1c.
- France (Empire) 1871, 40c., 20c. 1c.
- Greece, 1861, 10 lepta, Red. 1c.
- " 1863, 10 lepta, Red. 1c.
- Finland, 1875 2, 5, 20, 25 penni. 1c.
- Holland, 1869, 1/2c., 1c. 1c.
- " 1872, 12 1/2c., Lavender. 1c.
- " Newspaper, 1877, 1/2c., 1c., 2c. 1c.
- Italy, 1864, 80c., ottava. 1c.
- " 1857, Newspaper, 1c., Black. 1c.
- Roman States, 1867, 10c. 1c.
- Sandwich Islands, 1862, 2c. Brown. 1c.
- Sweden, 1872, 6, 20 ore. 1c.

* Means unused.

Send only 1 cent unused postage stamps.

When buying name this paper.

A. M. CROUTER,
 447 West 22d Street,
 NEW YORK.

"The Queen City Collector,"

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 " 8 contains 20 different stamps including Trinidad, Spain, etc.
 " 9 contains 15 different stamps including Finland, Belgium, etc.
 " 10 contains 15 different stamps including Egypt, Victoria, etc.
 " 11 contains 15 different stamps including Cape of Good Hope, Cuba, etc.
 " 12 contains 10 different stamps including Queensland, Greece, etc.
 " 13 contains 10 different stamps including U. S. 1851, 1861, 1862, 1869.
 " 14 contains 8 different U. S. Department stamps.
 " 15 contains 7 different stamps including Hungary (15k), India, etc.
 " 16 contains 5 different Turkish stamps, old and new.
 " 17 contains 5 different stamps including Constantinople local, unused, Venezuela, etc.
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 " 21 contains 20 different stamps including Turkey, Roumania, Greece, Sardinia, etc.
 " 22 contains 15 different stamps including Italy segnatasse and officials, Queensland, Tasmania, etc.
 " 23 contains 15 different stamps including St. Thomas, Venezuela, Brazil.
 " 24 contains 15 different U. S. stamps including 1851, 1861, 1862, 1869 and 1870 issues.
 " 25 contains 15 different stamps including Turkey (local), Mexico, Servia.
 " 26 contains 12 different U. S. Department stamps.
 " 27 contains 10 different Canada Bill stamps old and new issues.
 " 28 contains 15 different stamps including No. Australia, Sandwich Islands.
 " 29 contains 12 different stamps including Hayti, West Australia, Prussia.
 " 30 contains 6 different Egyptian stamps.

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— * T H E * —

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, May, 1882.

No. 2.

THE POST-OFFICE.

—
BY A. M. C.
—

"And be thou here again,
Ere the leviathan can swim a league."
OBERON.

Couriers for the conveyance of letters and despatches for kings and princes are as old as empires and kingdoms. The vast extent of territory and the great number of kings and satraps subject to the Emperors of Persia and Assyria, required them to maintain regular couriers to bear their commands and bring reports from their distant provinces.

The first system of posts seems to have been established by the Romans, and from the latin the word *post* is derived. It was the policy of the Romans to maintain a constant communication with all the countries that came under their power, and for this purpose they constructed "royal ways" from Rome through all the countries of Europe, and their route is to-day easily traced through Italy, France, England and Germany. At intervals were greater and lesser posts; the first, at the termination of a day's journey, was a camp with a small band of soldiers and a large equipment of men, carriages, horses and supplies, and whatever was necessary to expediting couriers or travelers on their way; at the other, were the relays of horses, and over all was the Roman eagle.

Along these ways the couriers bore public and private letters, while passengers and merchandise were carried by slower conveyances. On one occasion, it is said, that a courier traveled across the continent of Europe at the rate of one hundred and sixty miles a day. This latter fact seems almost improbable, but as it says not how it is most likely that he changed his horse at every post, and so on to the end of his journey.

As the power of Rome declined, the posts were gradually abandoned, the ways neglected and deserted, until the Dark Ages removed these vestiges of civilization.

The Renaissance of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries led to a renewal of intercourse between different parts of the same country and with foreign States, and by slow degrees the highways were renewed, and posts were again seen traveling through the land—at first on horseback, afterwards by carriage.

On the continent, the postal service was established for the convenience of the sovereigns and nobles, but subsequently the carriage of passengers, freight and the letters of private individuals was permitted.

The service was generally performed by the sovereigns, who owned and maintained the equipment, that they might retain the power of inspecting all correspondence; sometimes the monopoly was given to private individuals. The posts of the Counts of Thurn and Taxis were maintained for many generations, and their stamps are found in all large collections of stamps.

The carriage of the mails in England was generally left to private parties, although even there it was repeatedly farmed out as a monopoly to favorites of the crown. The introduction of stage-coaches at the close of the last century gave despatch and regularity to the postal service of Great Britain, and about 1800, was carried with as great rapidity as the posts of the Romans.

The post-office abroad was established for the use of the rulers, and the cost was defrayed by regular taxes, but when the people were permitted to use it, they were charged for the privilege a postage high enough to pay all expenses and yield a large revenue to the State.

In America, a different system has always prevailed; here it was established for the benefit of the people, and as public intelligence contained in newspapers was for the public benefit, they have been carried free or for a very small postage, and private intelligence or letters have been carried at a higher rate, the revenue derived from these two classes of mail matter being high enough nearly to cover the expense of the service. The post-office existed in America from its earliest settlement. Originally, it was merely a re-

ceptacle in the coffee house, where letters arriving from abroad were deposited, and taken by those to whom they were addressed or carried to them by their neighbors.

Gradually a postal service was established between the several colonies, and in 1672, there was "a post to go monthly from New York to Boston."

One of the earliest acts of the Continental Congress was the establishment of a post-office and post-routes from Falmouth, Me., to Savannah, Ga.

Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster-General, and under practical management, it was soon extended through all the colonies. His connection with the post-office began in early life—in 1737 as Postmaster in Philadelphia, and continued for over forty years,

For some years subsequent to 1776, the postage was paid in currency, and was increased as the value of the currency depreciated, until it became impossible to keep up with the decreasing value, when the rate was reduced and made payable in specie. The rates of postage fixed in 1792 were continued, with a few unimportant changes, for more than fifty years. There were nine different rates: for thirty miles and under, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents; between 60 miles and 100 miles, 10 cents; between 100 and 150 miles, 12 cents; between 150 and 200 miles, 15 cents; between 200 and 250 miles, 17 cents; between 250 and 350 miles, 20 cents; between 350 and 450 miles, 22 cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. These high and various rates amounted almost to a prohibition of correspondence.

There were few post-offices in the beginning, but now, in a single State, there are more than there was in 1776. The post-offices in the State of Missouri alone number 1790. The post-office gives employment, also, to a large number of persons, the number being over sixty thousand. In this respect, the post office does a great deal of good to the country, instead of doing harm.

Postal cards, a recent extension of the service, were first adopted by Austria in 1869. Their use has increased much more rapidly here than abroad. The number of letters mailed in Great Britain is 50 per cent. greater than with us, but the number of postal cards is 25 per cent. less.

Barnum announces the birth of a monkey in his establishment. We suppose this is his latest issue, or is it another advertising dodge?

IMPRESSIONS.

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The sprightly No. 6 of the BALTIMORE PHILATELIST just peeped in at our sanctum. Now, were it not for its anxiety concerning the flood of philatelic literature its whole four pages would be one sunbeam without a shadow. Why borrow trouble, friend. Let them come. Our ark of safety lies in our earnest endeavors to excel. Let the weaker go to the wall.

The PHILATELIC TIMES for March has been carefully perused, and found to be quite interesting. It has secured a safe harbor in philatelic waters through the course it has been forced to take by its Gale.

THE PHILATELIC REVIEW for February, received rather late, which, we suppose, is due to its journey across the Atlantic. We have studied it carefully, and find that it contains a bountiful supply of information important to the fraternity.

THE BUCKEYE STAMP JOURNAL is a 4 page, eight column paper, and as implied in the old saying concerning parcels, has the best of matter enclosed within its pages. We have received the March number, and find enclosed a notice that the publisher will enlarge and issue it quarterly.

THE STAMP WORLD for March received. It contains anything but what its name implies—a world of stamp news; but in its stead a quantum of advertising matter, and notices quite as remunerative possibly as the former. This, along with the query made by the pensive Juliet, now worn quite threadbare, along with three illustrations, one of which it is frank enough to admit does not do justice to the subject, is what it wishes its readers to consider philatelic news. Well, well, to what straits we philatelic advertisers are driven.

The following papers received with thanks:

"Le Collectionneur de Timbres," "The Collectors' Library Table," "The St. Louis Philatelist," "The Standard Bearer," and "The Agents' Star."

FARAGRAPHS.

Sproggins remarked that his boarding mistress seasons the turkey dressing with thyme. This, he further adds, he does not object to, but it is the footprints of time indelibly stamped on said fowl that rends his soul with anguish and plays sad havoc with his last new set of teeth.

Collectors must now award the palm to that prince of showmen, P. T. Barnum, for being the largest stamp collector in the world, as the imprint left in the sawdust by the hoof of his last importation—elephant Jumbo—demonstrates.

Viewing with alarm the increasing mania for stamp collecting, and the vigor with which the small boy gathers them in, Winkleman the druggist has trained his dog of the bull species to guard the proprietary stamps with which his nostrum bottles are decorated.

We read in one of our exchanges of a paper termed "The Tomahawk." We suppose, says the funny fellow at our elbow, that it is published in the interest of the ticket scalpers.

The English write more letters than any other nation.—Ex. Yes, but we write more postal cards than they, so that is where Uncle Sam beats John Bull.

"Delays have dangerous ends."—Shakespeare. So have ropes.

An essay, on the Desert of Sahara, says that "sheep are fattened on the pounded stones of the fruit of the date-palm." At last we have found something that will eat stones, an animal, by the way, of which we have every reason to believe, we can fatten to a Falstaffian proportion by grazing on our Jersey farm.

"Pa," says little Johnny, after visiting the park with another companion, "I saw some awful big stamps to-day."

Doting father, viewing with delight the tendency of the child's mind towards the intellectual occu-

pation of stamp collecting, inquires earnestly "Of what issue, my child?"

Johnny—"Of the policeman's (is) shoe, papa," innocently replied the young hopeful.

It is a needless waste of the Queen's English, but it should be remarked that Johnny has not been able to sit quietly since the funny interview.

The widow of Balzac, who still lives in Paris, has been ruined by a mania for bric-a-brac.—Ex.

We would intimate, without wishing to appear irreverent, that Baldy's widow is not the only female who has been used up by the too frequent use of the brick, notably of that kind the male persuasion carry in their hats.

Miss Corson, in her lecture on cookery, delivered for the benefit of the poorer classes, free, informs them as to the capacity of a dollar towards providing food for a family. While recognizing the importance of the "almighty dollar," still we should not lose sight of the fact, that twenty-five cents is a quarter of the same, and for which price you can have the "Empire City Philatelist" sent to your address for the term of one year.

When is grain like coin passing through the mint? When it is being milled.

Why is a hound deficient in trailing like a boy with a spurious coin? Because he has a bad cent (scent).

Does it always follow that when a man is stealing ice he is stealing cold?—Ex.

Or that when he steals coal he is in danger of taking fire?

Bismarek wants to resign and put the head of the "majority" to the front. This is significant and most encouraging to the believers in citizen sovereignty.—Ex.

Many of the good emperor's subjects desireth muchly to erect a head upon the doughty chancellor.

A collector of curiosities has just added to his collection the remains of a dinner.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, - - - NEW YORK.

One year, - - - 25 Cents.

Foreign Countries, - - - 37 Cents.

Unused U. S. Postage Stamps taken in
Payment.

No Agents to this Paper.

All communications, etc., must be directed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by writer's full name and address.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as second class matter.

Vol. 1. May 1, 1882. No. 2.

It has been acknowledged by all that have carefully perused our mite of a paper that this, our maiden effort, if not entirely, has been quite successful. An edition of five hundred, which, by the way, is just double the number we anticipated use for, have been called for by correspondents, and circulated in our own and foreign countries. Since this distribution we have had a flattering number of calls for more, accompanied by a no small portion of subscriptions. In the face of these facts, we do not think our readers can accuse us of egotism when we say that, notwithstanding the pointless jokes and childish stories, which one of our contemporaries says it contains, the paper is already appreciated. We shall continue as we have begun, satisfying the hunger after the knowledge of philately in the same manner as the caterer for our proper bodily wants—the bread, as a foundation which, with the permission of our readers, we will term philately; ham (our childish stories), as an appetizer; and the pungent mustard, the spicy faraglyph column, which, like the sandwich above illustrated, will be always found on our middle page.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

—Cardinal Richelieu was the first to introduce a postal system in France.

—The postage stamp was invented thirty-four years ago.

—The market will soon be flooded with the old issue of Servian stamps, as the entire stock of remainder has been sold to stamp dealers.

—The twenty-four dollar periodical stamp is the highest denomination sold.

—The first supply of the 1850 issue of Austria was struck on thin paper; the second on thick paper.

—The $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling violet, and 3 schilling rose, of Bergedorf, were in circulation only eleven days, and are extremely rare.

—The stamps of the Ionian Islands were suppressed upon the cessation of the English protectorate in 1864. They were used exclusively for interinsular postage.

NOVEL FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

It is not generally known that if a one dollar greenback is neatly cut in two, each of its halves is good for fifty cents at the Federal Treasury. The same process can be carried on till the bill is divided into tenths without injuring the aliquot value of its parts. This has been suggested as an easy way of obtaining small sums to send by mail, now that the extremely convenient fractional currency has disappeared; but it is not likely to be generally adopted; a half note being an awkward thing to pass, except at a bank. The popular objection to such fragments comes down from a time when one-half a banknote was worthless without the other half. It is so to-day in England, and the division of a Bank of England note is a frequent way of insuring its safety when sent by mail. Major Powers, a prominent officer in the Treasury Department, of long experience, proposes that the back of one-dollar greenbacks be hereafter divided by the device printed upon them into four parts, so as to be cut at pleasure each quarter being good in small sums for twenty-five cents. This would enable the community to supply itself with its own fractional currency at pleasure, and it would also probably increase enormously the share of one dollar notes which would never come back to the Treasury.

NEW ISSUES.

AUSTRIA.—New postal cards with Romanian inscription. A 2 kr. and a 2x2 kr. Both cards are of a buff color and the stamps are colored brown.

BELGIUM.—Domestic post-card. Value, 5c.; color, violet.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Registration envelope. Round stamp; 4c.; red.

BRAZIL.—New issue :
50 reis, blue.
100 reis, bronze green,
200 reis, red.
20 reis, card; brown stamp.

CYPRUS.—New style :
 $\frac{1}{2}$ p., green.
1p., carmine on buff.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ p., brown on buff,
2p., blue.
4p., olive.
6p., grey.

DUTCH INDIES.—New set of unpaid, similar to those of Holland :

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., red and black.
5c., red and black.
20c., red and black.
40c., red and black.
75c., red and black.

ECUADOR.—New designs as follows :

1c., brown.
50c., green.

FRANCE.—Unpaid, 30 centimes, black.

FRENCH COLONIES.—The following are now in use :

1c., black.
2c., brown.
4c., violet.
10c., black.
15c., blue,
20c., red.
25c., yellow.
30c., brown.
35c., black on yellow.
40c., vermilion.
75c., carmine.
1 franc, bronze green.

GREECE.—New issue :

5l., green.
10l., vermilion.
40l., violet.

FIJI.—New stamp, lately issued; value, 1 shil.; color, brown.

HAYTI.—The following are now in use :

1c., carmine.
2c., violet.
3c., brown.
5c., green.
7c., blue.
20c., orange.
30c., red-brown.

MEXICO.—Two new Port de Mar stamps; 50c. green, and 100c. black.

PORTO RICO.—New set, now in use :

$\frac{1}{2}$. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 m., de peso.
62, 5, 5, 8, 10f 20, 40, 80 c. de peso,

ST. VINCENT.—1d., surcharged in black on 6d. 1880 issue.

SPAIN.—War tax stamps lately issued :

5, 10, 15, 25, 50c.
1, 5 pesetas.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.— $\frac{1}{2}$ d surcharged on 1d.

TOBAGO.—The following have been seen :

$\frac{1}{2}$ p., violet.
1p.; brown.
4p., green.
6p., listre.
18, stone.

◆◆◆

ADDITIONAL NEW ISSUES.

AZORES.—A double 10 reis card has been issued and is now in use.

BARBADOES.—A 1d. provisional post card is now in use.

CANADA.—Post card; 1c.; blue.

EGYPT.—10p. of current issue has been changed in color to grey.

GRENADA.—The following post cards are now in use :

1d., blue on light buff.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., red brown on buff.

HAWAII ISLANDS.—New issue, consisting of the following :

1c., blue and violet.
5c., blue, same as now in use.
10c., black.
15c., red brown, bust.
Post cards.—1c., Red; 2c., black; 3c., green.

JAVA.—New set, unpaid :

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., carmine and black.
5c., carmine and black.
20c., carmine and black.
40c., carmine and black.
75c., carmine and black.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—New issue :

$1\frac{1}{2}$ reis, black.
 $4\frac{1}{2}$ reis, brown.
6 reis, green.
1 tanga, rose.
2 tangas, blue.
4 tangas, lilac.
8 tangas, orange.

SCARCITY OF THE 1804 DOLLAR.

It will probably be interesting to our readers to know the reason of this coin being rare. In the year 1804, the United States was at war with the Barbary States, and a great many of the silver dollars coined were sent to Tripoli to pay our sailors who were cruising in those waters at that time. This money, or nearly all of it, disappeared in the interior of Africa, and has never been seen since. Added to this, says our informer, was the fact that there was a small number of these coins made in that year.

A POT FULL OF OLD MONEY.

St. Louis, April 1.—As two laborers were digging a drain yesterday on the premises of James E. Haggerty, 912 Collins street, they unearthed a large pot, tightly sealed which on examination was found to contain, a large amount of English sovereigns, American silver dollars, and about a hatful of Continental currency. The money has not been counted, but there is probably between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in coin, which is dated in the last century. The currency bears the date of 1777. The house was occupied by Montgomery Blair many years ago.

A letter carrier in Meriden, Conn., whose wife has inherited \$60,000, still goes his rounds, though the post-master has several applicants for his place. Good fellow. Prefers to earn his living than be dependent on his wife.

The flower beneath the crown on the first stamps of Nova Scotia is the Nova Scotian May flower, which is much prized in the colony for the rich, spicy fragrance of its pretty rose-colored blossoms. It grows wild, and is one of the earliest flowering plants.

The business of the Post Office Department of the United States shows a steady and constant increase.

THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

A recent estimate as to the amount of gold produced since the discovery of America gives it at \$7,000,000,000, which would be sufficient only to cover the pavement under the cupola of the National Capitol with a one-foot bed of gold. Trade consumes about \$75,000,000, arts and manufactures consume in England, France, and the United States, about \$33,000,000. India absorbs \$15,000,000. The coinage between 1851 and 1875 amounted to \$4,000,000. America absorbed in 1879-80 nearly \$76,000,000, and in 1880-81 over \$91,000,000, which is equal to one-third of all the gold coin of England. This is a good argument in favor of a double standard, and some far seeing statesmen even aver that the luxury and trade of the world will require even a greater amount of the medium of exchange than the two royal metals are able to furnish.

HOW POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

The number of ordinary stamps issued in 1881 was 954,158-449, and value \$24,040,643. The method of printing postage stamps is as follows: The printing is done from steel plates, on which two hundred stamps are engraved, and the paper is of a peculiar texture, somewhat resembling that employed for bank-notes. Two men cover the plates with the colored inks and pass them to a man and a girl, who print them with large rolling hand-presses. Three of these little squads are employed all the time, although ten presses can be put in operation if necessary. The colors used in the inks are ultramarine blue, Prussian blue, chrome yellow, and Prussian blue (green), vermilion and carmine. After the sheets of paper on which the two hundred stamps are engraved have been dried they are sent to another room and gummed. The gum used is made of the powder of dried potatoes and other vegetables mixed with water. Gum-arabic is not desirable, because it cracks the paper badly. The sheets are gummed separately; they are placed back upward upon a flat wooden support, the edges being protected by a metallic frame, and the gum is applied with a wide brush. After having been again dried, this time on little racks, which are fanned by steam power for about an hour, they are put in between sheets of paste-board, and pressed between hydraulic presses, capable of applying a weight of two thousand tons. The sheets are next cut in halves; each sheet of course, when cut, contains a hundred stamps. This is done by a girl with a little pair of shears, cutting by hand being preferred to that of machinery, which method would destroy too many stamps. They are then passed to the perforating machine. The perforations between the stamps are effected by passing the sheets between two cylinders provided with a series of raised bands which are adjusted to a distance apart equal to that required between the rows of perforations. Each ring on the upper cylinder has a series of cylindrical projections which fit corresponding depressions in the band of the lower cylinder; by these the perforations are punched out, and by a simple contrivance the sheet is detached from the cylinders, in which it has been conducted by an endless band. The rows running longitudinally of the paper are first made, and then by a similar machine the transversed ones. This perforating-machine was invented and patented by a Mr. Arthur, in 1852, and was purchased by the government for \$20,000. The sheets are next dressed once more, and then packed and labeled and stowed away in another room, preparatory to being put up in mail-bags for dispatching to fulfil orders. If a single stamp is torn, or in any way mutilated, the whole sheet of one hundred is burned. Five hundred thousand are burned every week from this cause. The sheets are counted no less than eleven times during the process of manufacturing, and so great is the care taken in counting, that not a single sheet has been lost during the past twenty years.

C H E A P L I S T

—OF—

Foreign and Domestic

POSTAGE STAMPS

For Sale by .

A. M. CROUTER,

447 WEST 22d STREET,

NEW YORK, N.Y., U.S.A.

Austria, 1858, 10, 5 kr	2c	Roman State, 1867, 10c., Red	2c
“ 1861, 5, 10, 15 kr	2c	“ 1866, 2c., Green, 20c. Purple, 3c.	
Austrian Italy, 1863, 5s, Red	2c	Sandwich Islands, 1862, 2c., Brown	2c.
Canada Bill, 5 for	10c	“ 1862, 1c., Purple	3c.
“ Reg., 2c., Red	1c.	Sweden, 1872, 6, 20 ore	2c.
Denmark, 1874, 5, 3 ore, 50 ore	2c.	United States, 1866, 15c, Black	10c.
“ 1864, 8, 3sk	2c.	“ 1863, 2c., Black	3c.
Finland, 1875, 5, 20 penni	2c.	“ 1851, 5c., Brown	25c.
France (Empire), 1871, 40c.	2c.	“ 1851, 10c., Green	15c.
Greece, 1861, 10 lepta, Red	2c.	“ 1861, 5c., Brown	5c.
“ 1861, 10 lepta, Red	2c.	“ 1861, 10c., Green	8c.
Holland, 1869, ½c., 1c.,	2c.	“ 1861, 30c., Yellow	15c.
“ 1872, 12½c., Lavender	2c.	Venezuela, 1879, 5c., 25c., Yellow	2c.
“ Newspaper, 1877, ½c., 1c.	2c.	“ 1867 ½c., Real Brown	4c.
Italy, 1863, 2c., Brown	1c.	“ 1863 ½c., Real Yellow	6c.

When more than one stamp is mentioned, the price is for each.

Send 1c. Stamps only.

Mention this Paper when buying.

The Empire City Philatelist.

Advertising Rates.

One Inch, 35 Cts. One Column, \$1.75.

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One Page, \$3.25.

TERMS:—Strictly Cash in Advance.

Send in your advertisements now for our next issue. Advertisements not in by the 15th of May cannot be inserted in the next issue.

Business men who do not wish to be afflicted with a rush of business should not commit the error of advertising.

FOREIGN STAMPS,

As Cheap as elsewhere. 8 Page Circular Gratis.

52 PAGE COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY,

—For 1882—

NOW READY, - - - PRICE, 25 CENTS.

Address, J. T. HANDFORD,

P. O. Box 1870,

New York.

Send 25 cents for a year's subscription to the best Philatelic paper out, to A. M. CROUTER, 447 W. 22d St., New York.

FREE!

My Finely Illustrated Coin and Stamp Catalogue will be sent to every purchaser of any of the following offers of stamps:

4 Cuba, 5c.

2 Egypt, 5c.,

3 India, 5c.,

3 Jamaica, 5c.,

3 Russia, 5c.,

10 Bavaria, 5c.,

6 Finland, 5c.,

12 Holland, 10c.,

5 Hanover, 10c.,

10 Switzerland, 10c.,

10 Canada, 10c., 4 Navy, 10c.

Postage Extra.

Philatelic papers please copy; good for this month only.

W. F. GREANY,

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100 Varieties of Fine Used and Unused

FOREIGN STAMPS,

Containing Argentine, Brazil, Denmark, Norway, New Foundland, Finland, Egypt, India, Peru, Persia, Italian Official, Spain, Turkey, Austria, 25 kr., Hungary, New Zealand, Queensland, and many other good ones.

Price Only 40 Cents.

CHAS. A. TOWNSEND,

Room 4, Commerce Block,

AKRON, OHIO.



Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, June, 1882.

No. 3.

THE CONFEDERATE NOTE.

Now do I 'ply the test, to
Try it thou be current gold,
Indeed.

— King Richard III.

Representing nothing on God's earth now,
And naught in the water below it,
As a pledge of a nation that's dead and gone,
Keep it, dear friend, and show it!
Show it to those that will lend an ear
To the tale this paper can tell,
Of liberty born, of the patriot's dream,
Of a storm-cradled nation that fell,

Too poor to possess the precious ore,
And too much a stranger to borrow,
We issued to day "our promise to pay,"
And hoped to redeem on the morrow.
Days rolled by, and weeks became years,
But our coffers were empty still;
Coin was so rare that the Treasurers quaked
If a dollar should drop in the till.

But the faith that was in us was strong, indeed.
And our poverty well we discerned,
And these little checks represented the pay,
That our suffering veterans earned.
We knew it had hardly a value in gold,
Yet as gold our soldiers received it,—
It gazed in our eyes with a promise to pay,
And each patriot soldier believed it.

But our boys thought little of price or pay,
Or of bills that were over-due;
We knew, if it bought our bread to-day,
'Twas the best our country could do,
Keep it! it tells of our history o'er.
From the birth of the dream to its last,
Modest, and born of the angel Hope,
Like our hope of success, it passed.

The above was found on the back of an old note.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

By A. E.

The system of pre-paying postage by means of small adhesive labels, to be sold to the public and received by the post office in evidence of payment when attached to letters, was first advocated by Rowland Hill in the year 1837, and was adopted by the British post office in 1840, the stamps being first used on May 6 of that year. They were introduced into the United States in 1847. The designs on postage stamps vary greatly with the time of issuing, and the different nations that employ them. The first adhesive stamp issued by Great Britain consisted of a profile of the Queen, with the word "Postage" above, and the value below; but this design was objected to by many governments on account of the seeming disloyalty of the blackening (in cancellation) of the portrait of their sovereign. Brazil, the second country which adopted the system, used a simple figure of value, rather large, which was eventually superseded by a portrait of the emperor. The various German states seem to have a preference for numerals of value surrounded by inscriptions, which were at first printed in black on colored paper; but this style of printing soon gave way to the more secure plan of printing with colored ink on white paper. Many countries have adopted the national arms as the principal design of their postage stamps, and most of the stamps printed in Europe are impressed on paper water-marked with some appropriate design as an additional protection against counterfeiting. The invention of the perforating machine in England, which enabled the stamps to be more readily separated from each other, was soon adopted universally. More varieties of postage stamps have been issued, and a greater number have been in use at one time in the United States than in any other country. Thus the total number of varieties issued is 162, while 32 varieties have been issued by Great Britain, and 60 by France. Postage stamp collecting, or "philately," as it is now called, began as soon as stamps were in use in half a dozen countries, and many volumes and periodicals have been published on the subject.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

By A. M. C.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This republic, or confederation, as constituted by its reunion with Buenos Ayres in 1859, consists of what may be roughly termed a rectangle. It is bounded on the North by Bolivia and Paraguay, on the East by Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay and the Atlantic, on the South by the Atlantic and Patagonia; on the West by Chili and part of Bolivia. It has fourteen provinces, which are divided into one hundred and seventy-three departments.

Millions of cattle wander at will across the plains, or are kept on breeding estates of vast extent; and likewise of mules and horses, there are immense bands.

In 1515, Juan Diaz da Solis entered the La Plata; in 1526, Sebastian Cabot, son of the Newfoundland discoverer, penetrated nearly to the confluence of the Paraguay and the Parana, but was arrested by the Rapids, which afterwards were called Corrientes.

In 1535, Buenos Ayres was founded, and from that time up other cities were founded, partly by adventurers from Peru. Down to 1775, the basin of the Rio de la Plata was a dependency of the vice-royalty of Lima; but in the year 1806, Spain, as an ally of France, being then at war with England, both Buenos Ayres and Monte Video were occupied by the English—a change which, brief as was its duration, virtually sowed the seeds of revolution; so in the year 1816, a General Congress declared the independence of the United Province of "Rio de la Plata." The area is 841,000 square miles. The population up to about 1880 was 1,879,410; the capital, Buenos Ayres, has 177,787.

In the year 1858, was issued the first postage stamps of the Argentine Republic; they consisted of three values: 5, 10 and 15 centavos; the first was colored red, the 10 centavos green, and the 15 centavos blue. Around the edge was a sort of Grecian border, inside the border at the top was "*Confedn Argentina*," at the bottom 5 *centavos*, in the middle was an oval divided into two parts, by a line drawn from one end of the oval to the other end; over the line was a cap supported upon a vertical pole held in position behind two hands clasped together; over the oval was a head with rays darting from it. There was also in the same year another set like the ones above described, excepting that the figures of value were larger.

In 1862, there was another set having same values and colors, but of a different type. "*Republica Argentina*" around circle, inside of which were the coat of arms of the republic, below was "5 centavos."

In the years 1864-6, another set of a different type was issued. In this year there were 4 in the set. In the years 1867-73, were issued 8 varieties, and in 1877 there were nine issued.

From this time up, the Argentine Republic has issued many stamps, some of which have a good appearance. Besides the adhesives this republic has issued, in the years 1876 and 1878, altogether 5 varieties of envelope stamps.

IMPRESSIONS.

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES

We are in receipt of a sixteen page paper issued monthly at Rockford, Ill., entitled "Our Home." Its contents in contradistinction to those papers criticised in another column of this issue, and in keeping with its title, is all that it implies. It is fitted for old and young, the fireside and library. It is filled with a varied matter; travels, history, agriculture, astronomy, meteorology, and besides its interesting literary columns, has one—and very well devised—pertaining to philately. We deem it worthy of a large patronage.

The first number of a paper devoting its four pages and supplement of one page to philatelic and numismatic advertisements, is on our exchange list for May. It is termed "The Coin and Stamp Journal," has its office in Toronto, and as a medium for displaying in print the stock of dealers, seems to be just the sheet.

A more interesting paper devoted to philately, and one more prolific in news useful to the philatelist, it has not been our good fortune to peruse, than the "Foreign Stamp Collector's Journal" for April. It is made up in pamphlet form, and a rather good idea is that which it has of placing its advertisements on tinted sheets, enclosing its eight pages of reading matter. There is *Nunn* to beat it.

"The Stamp Dealer's Annual Advertiser" compiled by Mr. Townsend of Akron, Ohio, is before us. It is a very neatly compiled advertising pamphlet, and we are not aware of another publication that the dealers could patronize with more profit. It certainly deserves credit, for the vim and pluck it shows, after having been, as it says, so shabbily treated by those whom we infer from the editor's introductory had promised a plentiful support.

Several correspondents have wrote us, requesting information, regarding Mr. William P. Brown's stock of postage stamps and coins, which was partly destroyed in the burning of the "World" building. We will say to them and any others who may wish to know that Mr. Brown saved a part of his stock, which he disposed of at auction, the auctioneers being Scott & Co. of this city.

The following received with thanks to their respective publishers:—The Stamp World; Hubbard's Coin Catalogue; The Philatelic Globe; The Philatelic Advertiser, Collector's Library Table, Baltimore Philatelist.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We intend to start a new column for the benefit of subscribers, in which they will be allowed to give notice of what articles of any kind they may wish to dispose of by exchange or sale. This column will only be open to those who are subscribers, others wishing to do so can, by paying 25 cents. I will receive copies of exchanges now and limit them to four lines.

THE EDITOR.

PARAGRAPHS.

A. C.

"Sweet Celestine, thou wilt always be dear to me?" "Yes, love." That's what Smith says when Mrs. Smith's milliner's bills are presented.

How it works in Boston:—"Husband, on your way to the office order a pot of baked beans, and dear, don't forget to inquire for the new Garfield stamp when you go to the post-office."

The Gainesboro' hat has again gained a notable notoriety, as a lady whose vision of the stage and performance had been thoroughly obstructed by one of them broke her parasol over the offender's head, and was mulcted to the tune of ten dollars by a police justice for breaking the peace. Not the lady, hat or head; that wouldn't be justice.

"Wake me up when Kirby dies" used to be the adjuration of the pitites and denizens of the gallery in the time of the Old Bowery and Chatham Theatres, so well did Kirby vent his spleen upon the doughty Richmond, that the latter seldom appeared in the scene on Bosworth Field without fear and trembling, so realistic did the hunchbacked tyrant make it for him in the last act and scene of the play of Richard III.

"Cæsar's wife should be above suspicion." But she wasn't. That is if Smith's word should be taken. The way of it was this: Cæsar, who for years had done the outside chores, weeding the garden, repairs of fences, dozing under the trees, and making a fly-trap of his capacious cavern-termed mouth, had a helpmate of the feminine gender, who also made herself useful in the Smith's kitchen, and obnoxious to the later editions of the Smith family. She had a penchant for helping herself to many things not bestowed by the head of the family; but this matter being looked upon as chronic kleptomania was allowed to pass with a short discourse on the eighth commandment. It came to pass that one night when Cæsar's wife was about retiring to her own domicile that the lady of the house discovered in the hands of her black servitor, ready for transportation, a jar of honey, in explanation of which Cæsar's wife said: "La! missus, dem am de very jar ob honey you sent me to git out'n the buttery, and for which I hab hunted for de whole bressed ebenin'." Tableau.

Harkins doesn't like his boarding house for these causes: He has found on several occasions decidedly red hairs much longer than his own (which he admits is slightly auburn) in his hair brush. The lady of the house thinks it must be the cat's; but what relationship there can be between a coal-black cat with short hair and a long red hair, Harkins fails to see.

Then again, Harkins says that the lady to whom he pays his board, when he does pay it, being too economical to furnish a large key hole to the night latch, that his efforts to find the same when belated at night at the lodge, has been the source of much complaint by the neighbors, whose night-capped heads can, on such occasions, be seen craned out of the windows for a square distant, calling down with imprecations the wrath of the law, and the policeman upon that beat to "take the drunken fool in and let peace reign."

Furthermore, Harkins vows that he cannot see why the father of the new baby up stairs does not choose the day time to tramp about the room, cooing sweet lullabys to the same until daylight, or the latter, exhausted, falls to sleep; or why the fair mother of the babe should spoil her comely features by such horrid frowns when at the table Harkins speaks depreciatingly of infants in arms. Any of these annoyances would be considered trifling, however, were he assured that his tooth brush, in his absence, was not used to clean the digits of the scullion or the molars of the ancient maiden who presides over the sleeping department.

Then, who can blame me for getting choleric, and wanting to die, continues Harkins in his plaint, when upon coming home late after visiting one's sick aunt, and being taken for a burglar at the door; your dressing case, upon which the match-holder was wont to rest, after barking one's shins, you find instead of, in the place which knew it, in the morning knows it no more, and that the match-box, when found, although of stone, has been thoughtfully emptied by some one in the interest of the insurance companies. And then when you have made up your mind that it is better to disrobe without a light, you find that the domestic, who presides as usher, has deposited your new silk hat, delivered that afternoon, upon the bed, and that you have, owing to the pitchy darkness and the luck that follows you like a Nemesis, deposited yourself upon the same, crushing it out of all semblance to that which the hater toyed so fondly with in the fore part of the day.

Then to find, gasps our friend, your cup of misery filled to the brim with these annoyances, that a careless chambermaid has filled the same to overflowing by leaving your bedside disjointed from its fellow piece, the head or foot, and by so doing making it a pitfall for the unwary, spilling you on the floor, rousing the entire house, your bachelor friend in the next room to berate you soundly and unjustly accuse you of drinking, and the nervous lady lodger in the rear to rend the midnight air with her cries for help! murder! police! and the latter to cling still closer to the friendly shelter of a shutter-box and report to his superior next morning as everything being quiet the night before on his post.

I shall surely change my domicile, saith Harkins, at least so soon as I can raise the needful to satisfy the landlady's avariciousness, and so procure the conveyance of my trunk out of the house at some other time than under the cover of night, which will have to be done otherwise, as the same is held in bond (Harkins candidly admits) as hostage for the payment of three months' arrears.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, - - - NEW YORK.

One year, - - - 25 Cents.

Foreign Countries, - - - 37 Cents.

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All communications, etc., must be directed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by writer's full name and address.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as second class matter.

Vol. 1. JUNE 1, 1882. No. 3.

The May copy of the *Library Table* just received. By what stretch of courtesy, or the wildest imagination, it can lay claim to the name, or a place on any table, other than the sorting table of some rag and waste paper shop, passes all comprehension. Its illustrations, a creditable feature of this number; its general make-up and style of type, are very good, all of which is due to the printer; outside of that, what is there in it, and as a prominent writer of fiction puts it, "What shall he do with it." We trust that after perusing this article, "this journal," which it pleases its fancy to dub itself, will not labor under the impression that we are of those "fig-leaf papers," whatever this, their newly-created term, may imply, who propose to become one of his "mutual admiration society;" and while making no effort to appear independent, or lay down laws for the ruling of the philatelic fraternity, propose to "stand upon our own bottom," using a homely phrase, and do lay claim to the possession of sufficient brains to know of what we write. We are sensible up to the present writing of not having committed such egregious blunders as that of attributing, as our contemporary does, to a "camp," the possibility of its being "folded up;" and of misquoting the adage so well known that school boys use it, and contort that which should read "familiarity breeds contempt" into "silence breeds contempt," with which it heads a spoony and complaining article on the page which, instead of being devoted to the edification of its "859 subscribers," has been misappropriated to the use of the "editor's chair;" a chair, by the way, sadly disjointed and in need of revamping, and which we have seen more intelligently filled by a freshman. With placid self-conceit and elastic imagination, he comes to the conclusion that his "journal" has become not only the cynosure of the 1,718 eyes of his

"bona fide subscribers," but the "target for attack" by the whole journalistic world. Such complacency! Such delicious freshness! As though there were but one journal in existence! And if, perchance, this "journal" is correct in his target conclusions, mayhap it has been caused by some naughty, ill-advised effusion or covert pen attack on some contemporary, and for a remedy we would in all kindness advise his rendering to memory the trite old saying that "those who dwell in glass houses should not throw stones." Our much-abused contemporary goes on to inform us of a new creation in newspaperdom—"fig-leaf papers." Webster defines fig-leaf as a thin covering, quite likely having in view the quality of paper which a penurious economy impels the "journal" to inflict upon the "859," as also applicable, possibly, to the latter figure itself. Are you sure, brother of the shears and paste pot, that there is not one or two exchanges lurking among that number? In confidence, now confess. But time and space will not permit, so we take leave of the subject by adjuring the cause thereof to learn sense ere he embarks on the "sixteen page" enterprise, as the rock of self-conceit has been the wreck of many others better equipped for a voyage than he.

A sheet of yellow paper hung in a tobacconist's window, stuck over with stamps, each with a figure in ink below it, the whole headed "Timbre a Vendre," revealed to Paris collectors in the early days of philately the existence of other collectors and dealers.

The man has great confidence in humanity who will propose to a girl by postal card. We have heard of such men, but are not personally acquainted with any.—*Ex.* Perhaps a courtship by telephone would be as foolhardy.

"Nothing is more interesting and instructive than collecting." Especially when the debtor stands on the top step with his pedal extremities encased in a pair of number twelves.

What country in Europe should be most noted in piscatorial culture? Finland. And in what part of Germany should we expect to find the most highwaymen? Han(d)over.

In what manner does a coroner and his jury differ from a compositor? The former sets on 'em, the latter sets em up.

A ball struck a little boy in the mouth the other day. Strange to say, the bawl immediately came out of his mouth.

"H'all's well that h'ends well," as the cockney said after witnessing a well-executed execution.

NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 5 cents 1867 has been surcharged, in black $\frac{1}{2}$, in centre, and over the original value is the word Provisorio in Roman capitals. It is said that a 12 cents may appear soon.

BOLIVAR.—A 5 pesos and a 100 pesos lately issued.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The provisional 1 and 2c stamps have now been issued. At the top is the word "Postage," at the bottom "2 cents" at the left "British" and on the right "Guiana," and in each corner a figure representing 1882. Color black on orange paper, and there are two kinds; one bears a brig and the other a three-mast ship.

CABUL.—Three new stamps; 5 and 10 annas, and 1 rupee; color, deep violet. Two of the above are new values.

CANADA.—Newsband, new design, blue color, one cent.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—1d. newsband, color, brown on buff.

COSTA RICA.—We have heard of a new series, as follows: 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents; and 1, 2, 3 dollars. Colors not yet known.

ECUADOR.—Besides those chronicled in our last issue, the following have appeared: 2, 5, 20 centavos.

EGYPT.—It is said that the 20 paras has been surcharged "caire," in red.

FINLAND.—10 pennia, chocolate, same as those now in use. (100)

GREECE.—The 20 lepta of the present issue has been withdrawn.

HOLLAND.—The fiscal stamps of the present issue have all been changed in color.

HONG KONG.—The one dollar "Stamp Duty," is now used for postage.

INDIA.—A 1 anna 6 pies, brown, and a new registration envelope 4 annas 6 pies, yellow, have been issued.

ITALY.—Two new postal union cards, bearing the profile of King Humbert, 10c. and 10x10c. brown on green.

LABUAN.—Union post card, 4 cents, green on buff. Also, the 12-cent stamp, surcharged eight cents.

LIBERIA.—3 cent stamp, black. Union card, 3 cents, blue and red.

MACAO.—There will soon be a new issue for this country.

MAURITIUS.—New 8-cent envelope, blue.

MOZAMBIQUE.—10 reis, green, 40 reis, yellow, 50 reis, blue.

NEPAL.—New issue, as follows:

- 1 anna, blue,
- 2 annas, violet.

NEW GRANADA.—New set.

- 1 centavo, green.
- 5 centavos, lilac.
- 10 centavos, green.
- 20 centavos, vermilion.
- 50 centavos, olive.
- Union card, 2 centavos, vermilion.
- Registration envelope, 10 centavos, violet.

NORWAY.—Three new cards as follows:

- 5x5 ore, reply card, blue on buff.
- 6x6 ore, pale green on white.
- 10x10 union card, rose on white.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The 5 shillings, green has been surcharged 1d.

PARAGUAY.—The following stamps have been issued:

- 10 cent green, old type, new color,
- 1 and 2 cent surcharged on 10, green.

New type:

- 1 centavo, blue.
- 2 centavo, carmine.

Union cards:

- 2 centavos, lilac.
- 3 centavos, blue.
- 4x4 centavos, brown.
- 6x6 centavos, green.

PERAK.—2 cents brown Straits Settlements surcharged "Perak."

PERSIA.—5 cents, violet, and 25 cents green, with colored borders.

PERU.—Plenty of surcharges from this country. The Chilians are surcharging all the Peruvian stamps.

- 2 centavos, surcharged with blue oval.
- 20 centavos, surcharged with arms of Chili in blue Union card, 4 centavos, black.

Also the 50 centavos and 1 sol. are changed in color and surcharged in black with a horseshoe, and the Chilian arms have been surcharged in black on the 50 centavos.

PHILIPPINES.—The 2 reales, Derecho judicial has been surcharged Habilitado Para correas 8 cms; Habilitado Para correas surcharged 2 cents de peso.

PORTO RICO.—In our last issue we did not give the colors, but only the denominations of the new issues, we have therefore printed them below, with their respective colors:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ mils de peso, carmine.
- 1 mils de peso, red brown,
- 2 mils de peso, violet.
- 4 mils de peso, mauve.
- 6 mils de peso, yellow-brown,
- 8 mils de peso, green.
- 1 cent de peso, pale green.
- 2 cent de peso, red brown.
- 3 cent de peso, orange.
- 5 cent de peso, blue.
- 8 cent de peso, listre.
- 10 cent de peso, green.
- 20 cent. de peso, gray blue,
- 40 cent de peso, blue.
- 80 cent de peso, olive.

PORTUGAL.—New stamp, 25 reis, brown; this stamp will probably be followed by more.

QUEENSLAND.—New issues for this colony are as follows:

- 1 shilling, violet.
- 2 shillings, blue.
- 10 shillings, brown.
- 20 shillings, rose.

It is said that high and low values of fiscal stamps are now used instead of postage stamps.

ROUMANIA.—The following are now in use, having been issued last month.

- 2, 5, 10, 30, 50, 60 bani, dark brown.

The description is as follows: Posta Romana, on the sides, Taxa de Plata above and Bani below, in the middle is the figure of value on white oval.

ST. LUCIA.—Provisional $\frac{1}{2}$ d., black, on green; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. black, on red. Also a $1\frac{1}{2}$ d card.

SERVIA.—Union cards; ten paras, blue lilac; 10x10 paras, bistre. Domestic cards, 5 paras, violet on pink; 5x5 paras, violet on pink.

SUNGIE UJONK.—Straits Settlement stamps, surcharged, are now used in this Indian State.

SWITZERLAND.—8 centimes, brown, and 20 centimes, green.

TOBAGO.—In addition to those noted in our last the following have appeared. 1d. violet brown, 4d. green, and 1s. yellow. Also, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. post-card, color, red brown.

URUGUAY.—New card; R. O. U. crossed by Ribbon, with Tarjeta postal; 2 centesimos, blue, and 2x2 centesimos, vermilion. Envelope, 5 centavos, green.

NUMISMATICS.

1799 CENT.

This cent is deemed by numismatologists as being very rare and valuable; fine specimens of which will command a greater premium than those of the cent of 1793, of the same condition of preservation, to which, from their extreme scarcity, much value is attached. The number of this coin issued amounted to 904,585—no insignificant sum. Their scarcity, however, is attributed to a shipment to the coast of Africa, by a Salem, Mass., firm, of several hundred thousand, on an order from that country, where, being punched with holes, they were bartered away, probably to the chiefs—certainly not for negroes—and subsequently used as ornaments by the natives, being depended from the neck by a string, and showing to what good account so slightly valuable a thing as a copper cent may be applied by the sagacity of our countrymen. Of the few of these cents to be found, it is very difficult to procure perfect specimens. The copper of which they were composed was rendered very inferior by too much alloy, which gave them a very rough and uneven surface—perhaps the result of the copper being burnt in smelting.

The great value of these cents among numismatologists has led to an attempt at counterfeiting them, by altering those issued in 1798 by means of acid or the graver—the former being most successful. Both are readily exposed by the use of the tens.

The idea that some of the old copper cents contain gold is an erroneous one, originating, it is said, from a report emanating from an employee of the mint, to the effect that the contents of one of the melting-pots containing gold had been accidentally upset into one in which the copper was being melted. This rumor was strengthened by the appearance in the 1814 cent of bright, gold-like specks, caused by a careless mixture of the metal used in their manufacture. Many persons are reported to have bought large numbers of the above issue on the strength of this "gold mixture," only to find, when they offered them for sale, that the pieces were only worth their face value.

The initial "M" which appears on the standard dollar, is that of the engraver of the die—George Morgan. It is hardly perceptible to the naked eye. Why he put this initial on the coin is not known, although initials are to be seen on several issues of the United States penny.

"SOMERS ISLANDS" PIECE.

This piece is so rare as to be, perhaps, more nearly unique than any other coin of as late a period known, since there are but three said to exist—one in England, one in the possession of a coin collector, and one other.

The "Somers Islands, better known as the Bermudas, are supposed to have been discovered by Juan Bermudez, in 1522.

In 1609, Sir George Somers, on his way to Virginia in two cedar-built vessels, was wrecked on these islands, but afterwards reached his destination. He was sent back from the Virginian settlement to procure a store of the wild hogs from the Bermudas, where they were very plentiful, but died on the islands, and his men sailed back to England. In 1612, the islands were settled by charter from James I; and while the local government of the islands was in the hands of Capt. Daniel Tucker, being about that date, we are informed by Capt. John Smith in his History of Virginia, that efforts were made to establish a currency; his words being, "besides meat and drink and clothes, they had for a time a certain kind of brass money, with a hogge on one side, in memory of the abundance of hogges which were found at their first landing.

The description of the coin, which is an inch and a quarter in diameter, is as follows:

Obverse—a wild boar with the Roman numerals XII over it. Reverse—a ship under sail, firing a gun.

Legend—"Somers Islands." M. M. a mullet of five points.

The Romans issued a silver coinage in 281 B. C. and a gold coinage in the year 207 B. C.

ANCIENT PERUVIAN POSTS.

In Peru, in 1527, the Spanish invaders found a regular system of posts in operation along the great highway from Quito to Cuzco, and messages as to the progress of the invasion, as well as other subjects, were forwarded to the Inca by fleet-footed runners, who wound around their waists the *quipu*, a species of sign writing by means of knotted cords.

ENGLISH POST-CARDS.

On the first of October, 1870, half-penny postage was established in England, for cards without covers or envelopes. At first, the stamped card was issued at a half-penny; but afterwards the price was raised to 6½d. per dozen. The number sold in 1871 was about 75,000,000.

WEIGHT OF A MILLION DOLLARS.

In answer to an inquiry, the Government Actuary has furnished the following information as to the weight of a million of standard gold dollars and that of the same number of standard silver dollars:

The standard gold dollar of the United States contains of gold of nine-tenths fineness 25.8 grains, and the standard silver dollar contains of silver of nine-tenths fineness 412.5 grains.

One million standard gold dollars, consequently, weigh 25,800,000 grains, or 53,750 ounces troy, or 4,479 1/8 pounds troy, of 5,760 grains each, or 1,843 "short" tons, of 2,000 pounds avoirdupois each, or 1,645 "long" tons of 2,240 pounds avoirdupois each.

One million standard silver dollars weigh 412,500,000 grains, or 859,375 ounces troy, or 71,614.58 pounds troy, or 58,928.57 pounds avoirdupois, or 29,464 "short" tons of 2,000 pounds avoirdupois each, or 26,307 "long" tons of 2,240 pounds avoirdupois each.

In round numbers the following table represents the weight of a million dollars in the coins named:

<i>Description of Coin.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Standard gold coin.....	1 3/4
Standard silver coin.....	26 1/2
Subsidiary silver coin.....	25
Minor coin five-cent nickel.....	100

Mr. A. C. Elliot, of Rumford, Maine, has an old-fashioned clock which has passed into the hands of the fourth generation. It was first bought by Benj. Elliot, one hundred years ago. He paid \$100 for it. It was then owned by David Elliot, thence passed into the hands of N. W. Elliot, and is now keeping good time for its present owner. The same weight lines are in use as when first purchased a century ago.

THE SHIP'S POSTMAN AT MADRAS.

Madras is a seaport of British India, situated on the western shore of the Bay of Bengal, on what is called the Coromandel coast. It is a very poor harbor, being nearly open to winds from any quarter. Sometimes the sea runs so high that vessels are obliged to run from it to the open sea.

One of the curiosities of the place is the ship's postman on his catamaran—a piece of solid wood shaped like a canoe—on which, propelling himself at a prodigious rate with a single paddle, he will go off in almost any weather, his letters being stowed in a water-proof bag which he carries in his strangely-shaped head-gear.

NEW JERSEY POST OFFICE CHANGES.

The following new post offices have been established recently in New Jersey:—Alloway, Salem; Atlantic Highlands, Monmouth; Bakersville, Atlantic; Blackwood, Camden; Brick Church, Essex; Bustleton, Burlington; Jeffers, Atlantic; Lincoln Park, Morris; Lyndhurst, Bergen; Somers Point, Atlantic; West Point Pleasant, formerly Bayhead, Ocean. The office at Rosenhagen, in Cumberland, has been discontinued. Bergen Post has been made a Presidential office, and the salary at Washington, Warren county, has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,700.

A NEW FAST MAIL.

Postmaster Gopsill, of New Jersey has recently made arrangements for a new Western mail. All letter mail for the following States will be forwarded by the express train leaving Jersey City at 6.05 p.m., (Sundays excepted). This train takes no paper mail, and connects at Pittsburg with the Pittsburg and St. Louis fast mail. It includes all points in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois Indian Territory, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana (except New Orleans) Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio and Texas. This mail closes at 5.30 p.m.

BOYS' AND GIRLS STORY PAPERS.

An evil, tending to licentiousness and crime, is greatly prevalent in this day. The flash and sensational story papers, prepared for the youth and widely circulated, create an appetite for publications of a grosser type. These papers present stories of youthful criminals developing lives of recklessness and crime. The hero is usually armed with a knife and revolver and shoots at sight. There is no literary merit, no moral tone, no redeeming quality to many of these stories. Written in coarse and often indecent phrase, they are educating thousands of boys to shame and crime. The number of youths arrested for crime is appalling. It is stated on good authority that one-half at least are under 23 years of age, and nearly or quite 25 per cent. are under 16 years.

Possibly a less injurious form of literature is the sensational story, which, though not filled with bloodshed and daring feats, yet still fills the mind of the child with wild fancies to the exclusion of the study, makes the student a day dreamer, and robs the intellect of the man by captivating the thoughts and fancies of the child.

All must admit that the sickening details of loathsome crimes in some of the daily papers is another fruitful source of evil among the young. It is familiarizing the children's minds with crimes that should be nameless in polite society, and furnishes them with topics of conversation among their playmates.

Nor less are blasphemous or infidel publications sowing seed of corruption in our communities and paving the way for license in wrong doing.

These latter and growing evils mentioned, being as yet unrestrained by law, need the awakened and repressive action of an enlightened public opinion.

The Empire City Philatelist.

Advertising Rates.

One Inch, 35 Cts. One Column, \$1.75.

Half Inch, 20 Cts. Half Column, \$1.00.

One Page, \$3.25.

TERMS.—Strictly Cash in Advance.

Send in your advertisements now for our next issue. Advertisements not in by the 25th of June cannot be inserted in the next issue.

Business men who do not wish to be afflicted with a rush of business should not commit the error of advertising.

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Publishers, insert above advertisement, (to occupy 1 inch space), and send on your copy (to occupy 1 inch space), and we will insert in this paper.

CHEAP PACKETS.

No. 1 contains 25 varieties, including such as Venezuela, Sandwich Islands, Greece, etc.,
Price, 25c.

No. 2 contains 15 varieties of rare (used and unused) foreign stamps, including such as Roman States, United States, old issue, etc. price, 30c.

No. 3 contains 5 rare old issues, United States,
Price, only 40c.

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" 1861, 10c., Green 8c.

" 1861, 30c., Yellow 15c.

Venezuela 1879, 5c, 25c., Yellow 2c.

" 1867, ½r., Brown 4c.

" 1863, ½r., Yellow 6c.

A. M. CROUTER,

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Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, July, 1882.

No. 4.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

II BOLIVIA.

Bolivia is a republican state on the west side of South America. It is bounded on the North by Brazil, on the East by Brazil and Paraguay, on the South by the Argentine Republic and Chili on the West by the Pacific Ocean and Peru.

It is divided into nine departments, and as regards population these departments come in the following order: Beni, Santa Cruz, Tariji, Chuquisaca, Atacama, Potosi, La Paz, Cochabamba, Oruro.

The departments are again divided into thirty-seven districts, and the districts are subdivided into forty-five provinces.

In 1861 the population was estimated at 1,742,352. The Indians are said to number about 245,000. The aboriginal is by far the most numerous element in this republic. Of the many aboriginal tribes still existing in Bolivia, the most noteworthy are the Aymaras or Aymarus, Quichnas, Moxos and Chiquitos. The first two speak a language of kindred origin, and in their customs and manners little dissimilarity is noticeable. Various monuments, such as obelisks, burial places and other ruins, attest the proficiency in art attained by the Aymara nation at an epoch far anterior to that of the Incas. Another interesting fact is that the hair of the Chiquitos instead of turning white in extreme old age turns yellow.

From the infancy of Bolivia up to the present time the history of it is a history of military insurrections, the supreme power having been almost invariably seized by successful commanders. It was erected into an independent state in August, 1825, and called Bolivia in honor of Simon Bolivar. A constitutional assembly decreed, August 11, a republican form of government, appointed Gen. Sucre president, and requested Bolivar to prepare a constitution. Sucre's administration continued till 1828, when he was forced to quit Bolivia by Gen. Gamarra, and was shortly afterward assassinated. His successor, Gen. Blanco, fell a victim to a revolution headed by Balibian two months after his inauguration. Mariscal Santa Cruz, then in Chili as minister plenipotentiary from Peru, was elected to the presidency in 1829, and remained in power till February, 1839. He was at the same time president of Peru, with the double character of protector of the Bolivia-Peruvian confederation. Velasco, aided by Balibian, raised a revolution, and having secured the overthrow of Santa Cruz, usurped the executive functions, but was himself overthrown by Balibian. The country again pronounced in favor of Santa Cruz, which produced

an invasion by Gen. Gamarra for the purpose of re-establishing Peruvian influence. Balibian accompanied him for a while, but afterwards took sides with the Bolivians, and defeated the Peruvian army at Ingavi, where Gamarra was killed.

President Balibian, after five years, was driven out by another revolution, and succeeded in power for a short time Velasco, and subsequently by Gen. Belzu (1849). In 1855 Gen. Cordova was elected, but was forced to yield to Dr. Linares, who, after nine revolutionary attempts, succeeded in 1858, and in 1860 he was cast into prison by three of his own officers.

Congress now named Acha provisional president in 1861. In 1864 Gen. Margarejo rose against Acha, who was defeated near Potosi in February, 1865. Margarejo was the proclaimed president, but while he was away Gen. Belzu arrived at the capital of the republic and caused himself to be proclaimed president. Margarejo returning took the city by storm, and Belzu was killed by one of his own soldiers. Margarejo, after many attempts to regain the presidency, and after being overthrown a number of times was at last killed in Lima by his own son-in-law, Nov. 23, 1871, after being forced to leave Bolivia by A. Morales, who was killed by his own nephew, Nov. 27, 1872.

The first stamps issued by this country were issued in 1867; they consisted of six different varieties, as follows: 5 centavos, black; 5 centavos, violet; 10 centavos, brown; 50 centavos, orange; 50 centavos, blue; 100 centavos, green; 100 centavos, blue. The design was as follows: In the very centre was an eagle, around which was an oval which was very wide; in each corner was an oval, inside of which was the denomination.

The issue of 1868 had five different denominations, viz: 5 centavos, green; 10 centavos, black; 50 centavos, blue; 100 centavos, yellow; 500 centavos, black. These stamps had a circle in the middle, inside of which was the Bolivian arms. Above the circle was "Correos de Bolivia" and at each end of this inscription was an oval, inside of which was the figure of value. At the bottom was the value in full, "Diez Centavos." In 1870 another new design was put in circulation and had the following values: 5 centavos, black; 10 centavos, green; 50 centavos, brown; 100 centavos, scarlet; 500 centavos, blue. In the centre of an upright oval was the figure of a female with the right hand extended above the head. Around the oval was the inscription "Transacciones Sociales," and at the bottom of oval "Bolivia," at the extreme bottom was the word "Centavos," in each corner was the figure of value. The following year (1871) another issue came out, having the same design as that of 1868, and had the same colors and values as did that issue. In 1876 an entirely new design, different from any issued before, came out with the following values and colors: 5 centavos, black; 10 centavos, orange; 20 centavos, green; 50 centavos, carmine. The design is as follows: in the middle was the inscription "Correos de Bolivia," above which was the Bolivian arms, and below the inscription was an opened book. Below the book was the value in words, and in each corner was the figure of value.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Stamps for taxation were invented in Holland in the seventeenth century.

The Japanese employ 7,000 persons in their postal service.

Post-houses were first instituted in England during the reign of Edward IV, in 1481.

The first Chief Postmaster-General in England was Thomas Randolph, appointed by Queen Elizabeth in 1581.

The rate of a single postage is two cents in Great Britain, France and Germany, and three cents in the United States and India.

Mr. Philbrick, Q. C., President of the London Philatelic Society, has lately sold his collection for £8,000, or \$38,880, to a French enthusiast.

Collector's should note the difference between the two ten kopecs Russian stamps. One bears the value in a curved line at the bottom, the other in a straight.

When the U. S. unpaid letter stamps were first introduced, a collector obtained a specimen of the two cent by writing an overweight letter addressed to himself.

The unused Mauritius stamps, marked *cancelled*, are the old remainders. When they went out of use a dealer bought up the whole remaining stock, and to prevent them being cashed at any post-office, or used for the prepayment of letters, they were marked *cancelled*.

The Russian envelope stamps surcharged over the 20 kopecs chronicled by the *Review* some time ago as doubtful, have turned out all right. It was only intended to surcharge the 7 and 8 kopecs but some of the twenty were surcharged by mistake.

The number of different kinds of postage stamps which have been hitherto issued all over the world, is estimated in round numbers at 6,000. Among them are to be found the effigies of five emperors, eighteen kings, three queens, one grand duke, six princes, one princess, and a great number of presidents, etc. Some of the stamps bear coats of arms and other emblems, as crowns, the papal keys and tiara, anchors, eagles, lions, horses, stars, serpents, railway trains, horsemen, messengers, etc. The collection preserved in the Museum of the Berlin Post Office included, on July 1, 1879, 4498 specimens of the different stamps. Of these 2462 were from Europe, 441 from Asia, 251 from Africa, 1143 from America, and 201 from Australia.

IMPRESSIONS

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

To coin collectors we would call attention to the fact that W. F. Greany, of San Francisco, California, has issued a newly compiled illustrated catalogue of his extensive and varied collection which he offers (considering their scarcity) at reasonable rates. So unique is the collection, it is sure call forth the enthusiasm of the amateur, and the more advanced in numismatics.

Healy & Co. wholesale stamp dealers of Clapham Road, London, have, judging from their newly-published sheet just received, a goodly array of new and old issues of used and unused stamps of most of the countries. Prices are so low as to insure a success.

The Collector's Library Table for June at hand. It has been enlarged to twelve pages by the addition of an illuminated and colored advertising cover. It is announced in its editorial column that it has become the official organ of the *National Philatelic Society*.

The Philatelic Times for May contains matter of fresh interest, besides a very tempting series of prizes for competitors versed in philately lore. A brief but truthful sketch headed "Biography in Philately." It is on the whole very interesting.

WHAT THEY ALL SAY.

Our Home and Science Gossip of Rockford, Ill. says: "THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST is a new and worthy candidate for public favor."

J. M. Hubbard writes us: "I must say you have got about the best philatelic paper out. If nothing splits and the hen sets well, will be with you in a few months with the *Granite State Philatelist*."

The editor of the *Baltimore Philatelist* says in No. 6 of that paper: "We have just received No. 1 of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST, which appears in 8 page form. This number is good, and the contents are readable. The arrangement of the form might be improved, however, but on the whole it makes a good appearance, with every promise of success. We will be glad to exchange with the publisher regularly."

In No. 7 of the same journal the editor says: "No. 2 of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST is a great improvement on the first in every way, and the publisher will undoubtedly make a success of it."

FARAGRAPHS.

He who rides freely the wheel of *time* soon falls under the juggernaut of *credit*.

Was the Duke of Wellington solvent at the time of the battle of Waterloo? No, for he owed (oh'd) for Blucher or night.

Cultivate to the maximum a personal supervision to the smallest detail at the risk of neglecting your book-keeping.

"Lis und to dot mocking-bird," said an unsophisticated Teuton upon hearing for the first time the dulcet strains and ravishing screeches made by the saw-filer's energetic endeavors at his trade.

"Let us have peace," suggested the urchin as he lay prone over his maternal parent's knee. "Not if it takes all summer," was the response, with a vehemence that threatened the urchin and shingle with annihilation.

"What fur (ther) is required?" said the seal, when captured by the esquimaux. "Oh! more blubber," remarked the latter, when the former shed tears at parting from his companions.

Lowell, our Minister to England—it is insisted by the Hibernians—should hibernate. Wouldn't it be as *well* for some of them to *hie* over the seas under the cover of night would possibly suit *them* better—ere Mother Britannia *hires* it done in the direction of Van Diemen's Land.

A gamin's philosophy:—First newsboy: "I say, Jem, what are they givin' us dem fellers down at the lodgin' house, wid dem signs hangin' on der wall sayin 'it is better to give than to receive?" Second newsboy: "Dem's de feelins' of de fellers what's never slept in a coal-box, and what has to run around the block to get an appetite."

"Your conduct is anything but gentlemanly," said the plank to the jack-plane. "I *saw* you used more roughly," cried the axe, "when the *icedge* broke in your trunk." "Yes, and when you had more ground for complaint," said the lumberman, as he took his leave (leaf) of the quarrelsome trio. "Further remarks would (wood) be unnecessary," said the joiner, as he *clinched* the subject and plank with a ten-penny nail.

"Republics and ready-made Presidents are ungrateful," remarked this rascally wiseacre, as upon the eve of his dissolution he heard of the immovability of the one he had lifted to the highest office within the gift of the people.—Ex.

But we must give them credit for an unlimited amount of perseverance and patience to the *end*.

FOOD FOR THE YOUNG.—This is the office of the International Stamp Gather 'em, a sheet—not blanket size—devoted to the interest of stamp collecting for the benefit of the editor's pocket. The man you see seated at the desk wearing a frenzied air, necktie and trowsers, with hair all awry, after the manner of the lamented Count Johannes, is the editor. He's in doubt, which is no doubt the cause of the doubtful condition in which we find him. He's in a study. Not a brown study, but an editor's study. The cause of it all is the trowsers, inasmuch as its pockets now turned outward are of course empty. We say of course advisedly, as it is not to be presumed they would be otherwise. The long bill marked unpaid which you see clutched in his hand in such a melodramatic manner, is his printer's bill due for last month's issue, and the editor is coquetting with an elastic conscience as to the methods to be pursued in getting ready his next with nary a centime to appease the greed of the printer. He's in a giddy mood; quite hilarious, in fact, occasioned by the futile attempt made by a bloated and conscienceless landlord to collect his rent, in a brief and gusty interview, held prior to the editor's introduction to the reader. That which you see in the background, we would inform our young reader, in case it became a matter of dispute, is the editor's cat. It is rather attenuated and angular built, somewhat on the gothic order of architecture. The editor's subsistence department seems to be in a demoralized condition of late, judging from the Bohemian style upon which his account at the grocers is built, viz.: beer, bread, onions, bread, onions, beer; beer, onions, bread. Editor's are generally near-sighted, being forced to use glasses with a microscopic strength when rummaging their wallets for greenbacks. This frequent use of glasses accounts also for the habit they have of smiling, as also the erratic gait which you will observe them use when ambling homeward. Other innocent and child-like notions editor's affect and habits acquire, which, if indulged in by ordinary mortals, would bring down upon them the minions of the law, such as flinging ink bottles at the head of the printer's imp, who by long practice at dodging missiles, soon graduate as boss base-ballist; fibbing to his washerwoman; decrying her handicraft in order to evade payment for the last wash; assisting theatrical managements in papering their houses, and making free not only with the lists, but also at the bar; calling people pet names, and using primitive English in doing so; all of which is passed upon as being freaks of a gigantic intellect when indulged in by the cultured editor. It is to be hoped, dear children, that you will profit by the lesson taught above, and never slide on cellar doors in trowsers of a gossamer texture or of stretching clothes-lines on a dark night over the pavement for the feet of the unwary without first making sure that your front door stands ajar.

The Empire City Philatelist.

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Vol. 1. JULY 1, 1882. No. 4.

EDITORIAL.

Number Four! Well, that's something we didn't think of. We shall soon step over the barrier made by our older contemporaries, viz: the sixth number. After that Rubicon is passed, we shall, we fear, feel quite aged, but shall not let that fact become apparent in our conduct of this paper, excepting to fill its pages with that wisdom that is generally attached to that period so poetically termed the "sere and yellow leaf." Our aim beside that of obtaining the largest circulation, shall be to make it the best. We trust that our readers, subscribers, and advertisers will continue rendering us the support they have up to the present time given us so liberally, and that they will derive much benefit from this, our *mite* of a paper. We will continue through the year our "Impression" column, in which we will review papers, catalogues, hand-books, directories, stamp books, etc., sent us to notice. Our "New Issues" column will always contain the latest and most reliable news pertaining to such matter. Our "Faragraph" column will be replete, in jokes and witticisms, with which our paragraphist repository is crammed. "Short Talks about Stamp-Issuing Countries and their Stamps,"—a recent addition to our paper—will be continued, and we repeat that we shall use our best endeavors to make it eminent in everything that we undertake.

DANGEROUS FORGERY!

Collectors, Beware!

A forgery which has been widely circulated has just been brought to the notice of the public by the *Collector's Library Table*.

We have reference to the Porte de Mar stamps of Mexico. In our May issue we chronicled them as being genuine new issues, but have ascertained through sources other than the above that they are spurious.

Collectors should be on the alert for them. There were two varieties: a 50 and a 100 centavos.—Ed.

THE WORLD'S LETTERS.

Some recently compiled statistics show that the total number of letters sent by mail in all parts of the world in 1865 was 2,300,000,000. In 1877 the number was increased to 4,020,000,000, an average of 11,000,000 a day, or 127 each second. Of these Europe contributed 3,036,000,000, America 700,000,000, Asia 150,000,000, Africa 25,000,000, and Australia 50,000,000. If the present estimate of the world's population (1,400,000,000) is correct, the number of letters sent in 1877 by mail to each person in the world, was three.

"Isn't it a shame," remarked Mrs. Dobbs to her neighbor, who had 'just dropped in' to have a gossiping cup of tea, "that the English people should tolerate such immoral goings-on as has been witnessed of late between their Minister and that brazen hoyden Sue (Suez) Ess." "Yes," remarked Mrs. Tibbs, "another proof and witness of the immorality and rottenness of society in the old and efete monarchies, is the rapid decline and depreciation of its councils (consols) and the defection of its (bourse) bosses.

CHEAP POSTAGE.

Two important reforms in the rates of postage have been brought forward in Congress. It is proposed to reduce the charge on letters from three to two cents, and a bill to abolish the postage on second-class mail matter—newspapers and periodicals—has been introduced into the House. These are advantages promised to the people as a result of ridding the service of the star route jobbers. For years every person who used the mails was made to pay tribute to these plunderers in the form of unnecessarily high rates of postage. A material reduction is now practicable, chiefly in consequence of the enormous saving in postal expenditures that has been effected since Brady was ousted from the department, and the shameful jobbery of the corrupt ring of contractors stopped.

NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—In addition to the stamp chronicled in our last there has been a post-card surcharged, viz: 6c. card surcharged *Servicio Urbano Dos Centavos Provisorio* in three lines over stamp.

AUSTRIA.—An entire new set of adhesives is announced as being ready for emission.

BOSNIA.—An envelope is now in use having the same design of stamp as that of the adhesives now in use; 5k., red.

CUBA.—New series of post-cards, as follows:

2	cent de peso,	green.
3	"	scarlet.
4	"	maroon.
10	"	blue.

FRANCE.—A new series of *chiffre luxe* stamps is announced as in preparation, containing the same value as the current post-stamps.

GREECE.—The following are now in preparation:

5	lepta,	green.
10	"	vermilion.
40	"	violet.

ICELAND.—The following change in color was made on July 1st in the stamps named below:

5	aur	to green.
20	aur	to blue.
40	aur	to lilac.

MADEIRA.—The 25r. of Portugal chronicled in our last issue has been surcharged *Madeira*.

STRAITS SETTLEMENT.—It is said that the 4 cent has been surcharged 5 cents in black. We have not seen it as yet.

ANTIOQUIA.—Two new stamps, as follows:

10	centavos,
20	centavos.

BAVARIA.—New set of unpaid letter stamps are now in use:

10	pfennig,	green.
20	"	"
30	"	"
40	"	"
50	"	"
1	marks,	light red,
2	"	"
3	"	"
4	"	"
5	"	"
10	"	"
20	"	"

DRONTHEIM.—The description of the lately issued Drontheim locals by our worthy contemporary, the *Philetelic Times*, is very good, and is as follows:

"Collectors of local rubbish will be delighted to hear of a new post-card. We should not mention it only it is quite too utter. The design of stamp appears to represent railway arches, with a low

brick wall in foreground; there are three human creatures—one, traveling from left to right, seems like a "candyman" dispensing "haportha" of candy, and is in the stamp apparently weighing them—the other figure, walking along, is remarkable for having a hat exactly like a bishop's, and rejoices in a walking-stick nearly as long as himself—standing on two pillars of the arches is a girl attired in her night dress-gown holding out one hand for candy, and the other towards the man with the walking stick. In the arches also are two birds, beasts or fishes of unknown species; one looks like a hedgehog after an electric shock, and the other like some bat or other. It is impossible to do justice to this work of art, and it must be seen to be appreciated. We will get an illustration if possible."

HONDURAS.—This country has issued the following cards which were promised a little while ago:

2c.	carmine.
3c.	blue.
2x2c.	carmine.
3x3c.	blue.

ABOUT UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY A. M. C.

These stamps were issued by private carriers in in different cities and towns. The business, to a great extent, was finally broken up by the P. O. department for encroaching upon the department's prerogative, and a collection of these stamps would now be very valuable were it not for the endless variety of imitations which have been made.

New York had about forty-five different carrier companies, all of whom have been compelled to hang up their mail-sacks except Boyd and Hussey, both of whom have continued a profitable business up to the present time; Boyd's being commenced in the year 1844, and Hussey's in the year 1854.

Philadelphia leads next with about ten different companies; then San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore, Charleston, Cincinnati, in the above order, and other of the smaller towns and cities being also represented by their local postman.

Some of their stamps present a neat appearance, while others are but commonplace, having only the rate of postage and the company's name and address enclosed in a plain border, and on the whole, looking very much like the labels an apothecary puts on his bottles.

Their value depends greatly upon their being cancelled. If in good condition and upon the original envelope they are worth more than unused specimens, the reason of this being that unused specimens are apt to be reprints or counterfeits, and their being cancelled and upon the original envelope proves their authenticity.

NUMISMATICS.

COINAGE OF CHINA.

BY A. J. N.

The shadowy testimony as to the antiquity of Chinese civilization is growing clearer with the progress of time, and the almost daily discovery, as European civilization forces its way through celestial barriers, that arts we have regarded as modern in origin were practiced inside the great wall centuries ago. Whether the Chinese invented the compass or no, certain it is that they long ago made their own magnetic needles. Equally certain it is that all the refinements of modern chemistry cannot elaborate a pigment so gorgeous and durable in color as the Chinese vermilion. Their magical mirrors, their peculiar process for cracking the glaze of porcelain vessels, their alloys of copper, especially of white copper, are also beyond the craft of our most cunning smiths. The military use of kites, and the use of strips of iron have been known to them for long years. Pe-Ching, an old blacksmith in 1041, is the oldest representative of the art preservative, for he used moveable types of earthenware, set in an iron chase, in those ante-Faust days. In the same connection, no ink is so durable as the Chinese, for funeral tablets are still preserved, the written characters remaining in relief while the wood has rotted away with age. In the rearing of domestic animals, in our modern science of pisciculture, and in preserving and beautifying the hair and teeth, they excelled ages ago. Not even Jurner, boasting of the colors of his fish on Calais Pier, could have painted the butterflies on the old Chinese fans. The life-like and gorgeous tints were unknown to his pallet. In pyrotechnic combinations, who so brilliant as Ming Fung, and for nauseating compounds what civet can compare with him?

The testimony upon coinage, perhaps the most reliable of all testimony, for the reason that the coin is struck while events are fresh, and that it is not subject to the mistakes of tradition, or carelessness of transcribers, is also pointing unmistakably to the remoteness of Chinese coinage. Recent translations of native Chinese works on coinage, such as the *Seuen ts-ing Seao Tseen*, or, "Numismatic Memoranda;" *Tseen pro te Kang*, or, "Essence of Numismatic Treatises," and especially "The Chronicle of Tseen," a work on the coins of China published by Wun Seang Shih, and compiled by Charng Le-ying in 1830, giving a description of Chinese coins, arranged according to dynasties, from the reign of Yaou B. C. 2356, to the close of the Ming dynasty, A. D. 1644, a period of 4,000 years,—all these bear weighty testimony to the arguments of antiquity. How these coins have come down to us is unaccountable, as the custom of burying them with the dead did not prevail with the Chinese, as with the Roman,

Greek, Egyptian, and other nations of antiquity, but the very existence of these alleged representatives of ancient coinage points to a remote antiquity. The emperor Kang-he, in A. D. 1662, made a complete collection of the coinage from the time of Yaou, already mentioned, to his day. To add corroborative evidence, a superb collection of Chinese coinage, arranged by dynasties, from B. C. 250, to the present time, is now in the archives of the Lake Forest University, near the City of Chicago. Every dynasty in the long period of 2,000 years is represented by one or more coins; the inscriptions translated, and the chronology reduced to our own. While this collection dates back to B. C. 250, yet this seems to me of unusual importance, as the authorities, almost without exception, ascribe a modern origin to Chinese coinage, and none invest it with even the approximate age of this collection. The honor of the invention of coined money heretofore has wavered between the Lydians, the Ionians and the Persians, and usually has been conceded to the Lydians, the coins of Sardes, B. C. 800, being put forth as tests. If we may trust probabilities, or rely upon the statements of Chinese works, the coins of all these claimants became comparatively modern when contrasted with those of Yaou made 1556 years earlier.

The coins of the reign of Yaou were called Yaou Poos, taking the name of the monarch Yaou. They were of iron, or a composition very nearly resembling iron, about an inch and a half in length, the same in width, and an eighth of an inch in thickness. The inscriptions, which were very well executed, were in very high relief. B. C. 2254 the coinage underwent a change. The shape retained the same general appearance, except that the coins were made larger, and the outlines curving instead of straight. The length was increased to three inches. The new coinage was called Tarnng Kinbor. B. C. 1765 appears another change. The coins called Tarnng-wih-kin are again angular, like those of Yaou, but increased about four and a half inches in length. In B. C. 245 there was coined a curious coin called the Tse-bor-taoun, and in shape as well as in size very much resembles the blade of a razor.

This coin, also, is of iron, about 8 inches in length. The rim of the ring is raised on the obverse, but on the reverse the surface is flat. The inscriptions upon the reverse are a circle, a dot and three parallel lines across the lower end of the blade. From this until the present time the coinage has been immense. I can only glance at a few of the more interesting specimens. A. D. 9, the monarch Sin Warng issued coins called *tseuen-woo-shih*, having upon the obverse Chinese letters, and upon the reverse rude representations of a tortoise, snake, sword and stars. In the year 168, reign of Lingte, a coin was issued having on the reverse a type of four roads—four lines radiating from the square hole in the center, indicating that the coins would be dispersed in all directions—and so they were, for a rebellion soon broke out, which effectually did the business.

(To be continued.)

ODE TO AN INDIAN GOLD COIN.

Written in Cheral, Malabar.

Slave of the dark and dirty mine!
 What vanity has brought thee here?
 How can I love to see thee shine
 So bright, whom I have bought so dear?—
 The tent-ropes flapping lone I hear
 For twilight converse, arm in arm;
 The jackals shriek bursts on mine ear,
 When mirth and music went to charm.

By Cheral's dark wandering streams,
 Where cane-tufts shadow all the wild,
 Sweet visions haunt my waking dreams
 Of Tevist lov'd while still a child,
 Of castled rocks stupendous, pil'd,
 By Esk or Eden's classic ware, smil'd,
 Where loves of youth and friendship'
 Uncurs'd by thee, vile yellow slave!

Fade, day-dreams sweet, from memory fade!
 The perished bliss of youths first prime,
 That once so bright on fancy play'd,
 Revives no more in after time.
 Far from my sacred natal clime,
 I haste to an untimely grave;
 The daring thoughts that soar'd sublime,
 Are sunk in ocean's southern wave.

Slave of the mine! thy yellow light
 Gleams baleful as the tomb-fire drear.
 A gentle vision comes by night
 My lonely widow'd heart to cheer;
 Her eyes are dim with many a tear,
 That once were guiding stars to mine:
 Her fond heart throbs with many a fear!—
 I cannot bear to see the slime.

For thee, for thee, vile yellow slave,
 I left a heart that lov'd me true!
 I cross'd the tedious ocean-wave,
 To roam in climes unalaid and new.
 The cold wind of the stranger blew
 Chill on my widow'd heart—the grave
 Dark and untimely, met my view—
 And all for thee, vile yellow slave!

Ha! com'st thou now so late to mock
 A wanderer's banished heart forlorn,
 Now that his fame the lightning stock
 Of sun-rays tryst with death has borne?
 From love, from friendship, country torn,
 To memory's fond regrets the prey
 Vile slave, thy yellow dross I scorn!
 So mix thee with thy kindred clay.

B. T.

The Empire City Philatelist.

Advertising Rates.

One Inch, 35 Cts. One Column, \$1.75.

Half Inch, 20 Cts. Half Column, \$1.00.

One Page, \$3.25.

TERMS:—Strictly Cash in Advance.

Send in your advertisements now for our next issue. Advertisements not in by the 25th of July cannot be inserted in the next issue.

Business men who do not wish to be afflicted with a rush of business should not commit the error of advertising.

READ THIS, EVERYBODY.

JOB PRINTING. Any person that will send me One Dollar will receive by return mail The Illus' Silent Friend, price \$1.00. Agents' Star, one year, price 50c, also Cards, Circulars, &c.

JOB PRINTING AT LOWEST PRICES. GOOD WORK.

Address, **THE AGENTS' STAR,**

Box 41.

BAY SHORE, N. Y.

NOVELTIES, Cheap!

My new Novelty Packet No. 1 contains 10 of the latest Novelties, as follows:

1-2d. St. Lucia, (surch.) 1-2d Turks Is, 1 s. Persia, official, '82, 1 2d. Grenada (prov.) 1c. Guatemala, 1c Ecuador, 1c. Domingo and 3 Porto Rico 1882, all unused and post free for only **25 cents.** Send for it.

B. M. HAMMOND,
 1005 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas.

COLLINS & CO.

Foreign Stamp Importers,

Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, O.

• **PRICE LISTS FREE.**

The Stamp Collector's Companion,

A 50-page stamp book. Just what you need.
 Post Free, 15c.

100 Mixed Foreign Stamps, 10c.
 300 " " " including such as Norway, Sweden, Jamaica, Queensland, Roumania, Australia, etc., post-free, only 20 cents. Good Albums, post-free, at 25c.

RARE COINS WANTED.

From 5 cents to \$500.00, premium paid, 16-page catalogue of my buying prices, 10c. I wish to buy large or small collections of stamps, coins, etc., for cash, or exchange. For any paper in mourning for Garfield I will give 50 foreign stamps.

Agents wanted to sell stamps @ 25 to 50 per cent com. Lists free. The Paul Bros., Violet Ink, full directions, 25c.

JOHN M. HUBBARD,
 LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

AN ABRIDGED LIST OF FOREIGN STAMPS FOR SALE

—BY—

FRED. WRIGHT,

IMPORTER AND DEALER IN

FOREIGN STAMPS,

234 BERGEN AVENUE,

Jersey City Heights, N. J.

Austria, 1858, 15 kr., blue.....2c.	Mexico, 1879, 10c, blue.....3c.
“ 1861, 5 kr, red.....2c.	Modena, 1852, 5c., green .....5c.
Austrian Italy, 1863, 5 soldi.....2c.	Norway, 1876, 1 ore, grey.....2c.
“ 1850, 5 cents.....2c.	Nova Scotia, 1857 issue, 3d.....10c.
Azores, Journal stamp.....5c.	“ 1860 “ 5c.....2c.
Baden, 1862-4, 3 kr.....2c.	Portugal, 1871-3, 25 reis, red.....1c.
“ 1862-4, 1 kr.....2c.	Queensland, 1861, 1d., red.....2c.
“ 1868, 3 kr.....1c.	“ 1861, 2d, blue.....2c.
Canada, newsband (uncut).....10c.	Romania, 1875, 15b., brown.....1c.
Chili, 1877-8, 1 centavo, green.....3c.	“ 1876, 10b., blue.....1c.
“ 1877-8, 2 centavos, red.....5c.	“ 1875, 5b., yellow.....1c.
“ 1867-8, 5 “ “.....3c.	Roman States, 1861, 20 cent, red.....3c.
Denmark, 1864-8, 3 sk.....2c.	“ 1861, 10 cent, red.....5c.
“ 1864-8, 2 sk, green.....2c.	“ 1861, 2 cent, green....2c.
“ 1874-5, 3 ore, grey and blue, 2c.	Sandwich Islands, 1862, 1 keneta.....3c.
“ 1874-5, 50 ore, violet & brown, 2c.	“ 1862, 2 “2c.
Finland, 1875, 5 penni, red.....2c.	“ 1862, 5 “3c.
“ 1875, 20 penni, blue.....2c.	“ 1862, 6 “3c.
France, 1871, 20c, blue.....2c.	Servia, 1869, 20 p, blue.....2c.
“ 1871, 40c., red.....2c.	“ 1873, 2 p., black on white.....2c.
“ 1871, 1c., green.....2c.	Sweden, 1872, 6 ore, violet.....2c.
France, Repnb., 1872, 4c., lavender...1c.	“ “ 20 ore, red.....2c.
“ 1877, 2c., brown.....1c.	United States, 1851, 5c., brown.....25c.
Greece, 1861, 10 lepta, red.....2c.	“ 1851, 10c., green....15c.
“ 1861, 20 “ blue.....2c.	“ 1861, 5c., brown.....10c.
“ 1863, 5 “ green.....2c.	“ 1861, 10c, green.....15c.
“ 1863, 10 “ red.....2c.	“ 1861, 30c., yellow.....25c.
Holland, newspaper, 1877, 1c., green...2c.	“ 1862, 2c., black.....3c.
“ 1869, 2c., yellow.....1c.	“ 1869, 3c., blue.....2c.
“ 1872, 12½c., grey, 15c. red-brown....2c.	“ 1870, 10c, brown, 6c, red, 5c., blue.....1c.
Italy, 1863, 1c., green.....1c.	Venezuela, 1863, ¼r., yellow.....6c.
“ 1863, 2c., red.....1c.	“ 1867, ½r, red.....4c.



* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, August, 1882.

No. 5

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

III BRAZIL.

The empire of Brazil is the only monarchy on the continent of America. It occupies almost one-half of South America. It is bounded on the North by Colombia, Venezuela, British, Dutch and French Guiana, on the North-east and East by the Atlantic, on the South and West by Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. Its area is estimated at 3,252,300 square miles.

The mineral wealth of Brazil includes gold, silver, iron, diamonds and other precious stones. To these may be added the enclose, beautiful crystal, of iron-glance, crystalized talc, rock-crystals with adhering topazes, as well as topaz-crystals with included rock-crystals, and kyanite. Among the gold mines first discovered in Brazil were those of Jaragua. Coal is found on the Amazon. In diamonds, Brazil is perhaps richer than any other country in the world. The most noted mines are those of the Serra do Frio. The diamonds were first found in this district about 1730 by a colony of miners from Villa do Principe 60 miles to the South-east of Tejuco. While employed at this place in search of gold, they frequently met with little shining stones, which at first they threw away; but one of the overseers, suspecting that they might be of value, transmitted specimens to the governor, who sent them to Lisbon, where they were pronounced genuine diamonds.

Over all Brazil, December, January and February are the hottest months—June, July and August are the coolest. In the Northern provinces of Ceara, Pernambuco and their neighborhood, sometimes no rain falls at all for two or three years at a time. A famine ensues, cattle and other animals die of thirst, and numbers of the inhabitants of starvation. This, however, is a rare exception, as most of the northern provinces are subject to heavy rains, while in the South the climate is healthy and settled. Most of the European diseases are unknown here, while the yellow fever, with very few exceptions, is not known in Brazil.

The most useful plants raised in Brazil are the sugar-cane, coffee, cotton, cacao, rice, tobacco, maize, manioc, beans, bananas, yams, ipecachuan-

ha, ginger, lemons, oranges, figs, etc. Sugar and coffee are the staple products, Manioc (the plant which produces the tapioca) is a native of Brazil, and its farina is used as meal by almost every household. It is said to produce six times as much nutriment to the acre as wheat. No part of the world can excel Brazil in the extent and luxuriance of her forests. Many trees of the largest size stand so close together that it is impossible to clear a passage between them. A peculiar characteristic of Brazilian vegetation is the large number of species of myrtaceous trees which fill the air with perfume.

Brazil was first discovered on May 3, 1500, by Vincente Yanoz Pincon, who was one of the companions of Columbus. It was subsequently taken possession of by Pedro Alvarez Cabral, Soon after the first discovery of Brazil the Portuguese made numerous settlements in that country, which continued gradually to extend, notwithstanding the jealousies and opposition of the English, Dutch and Spaniards, who repeatedly attacked and even destroyed some of their settlements. In 1755 a decree was passed by the Portuguese government, declaring all Indians exempt from slavery, which curse in future should rest only on the African race. When Portugal was invaded by the French in 1808, the sovereign of that kingdom, John VI. sailed for Brazil, accompanied by his court, On the fall of Bonaparte, the king raised Brazil to the rank of a kingdom, and assumed the title of King of Portugal, Algarve and Brazil. A revolution in 1820 forced the king to return to Portugal, and he left Pedro, his eldest son, as regent. In 1822, Dom Pedro, forced by a desire on the part of the Brazilians for complete independence, and not wishing the control of Brazil to go out of his family, declared Brazil a free and independent state, and assumed the title of Emperor, and was recognized by the King of Portugal in 1825. A series of disturbances and general dissatisfaction throughout the empire ended in the abdication of Dom Pedro, who left Brazil April 7, 1831, leaving a son, who was under age, as his successor. The rights of the latter were recognized and protected, and a regency of three persons appointed by the Chamber of Deputies to conduct the government during his minority. In 1840 the young emperor was declared of age, being then in his fifteenth year, and was crowned July 18, 1841. The early part of his reign was disturbed by a servile insurrection and a war with Buenos Ayres. In 1826, Dom Pedro I, had made a treaty with England for

the abolition of the slave trade. Dom Pedro II emancipated the slaves of the government in 1866, and in 1871 the legislature provided for the gradual abolition of slavery throughout the empire. Brazil, with some aid from the Argentine Republic, carried on a war with Paraguay from 1865 to 1870. This war terminated in a complete victory for Brazil.

The first stamps of this country were issued in the year 1843; there were three different denominations, viz.: 30 R. black, 60 R. black, and 90 R. black. The design was as follows: a sort of oval inside of which was the figure of value.

In the following issue (1844-46) there were seven different denominations, viz.:

- 10 reis, black,
- 30 reis, black,
- 60 reis, black,
- 90 reis, black,
- 180 reis, black,
- 300 reis, black,
- 600 reis, black,

The design was as follows: a square with the ends rounded inwards, inside of which was the figure of value in script numerals.

In 1850 a new issue came out and had eight different values, namely: 10 reis black, 20 reis, black, 30 reis, black, 60 reis, black, 90 reis, black, 180 reis, black, 300 reis, black, 600 reis, black. The design was as follows: a square inside of which was the figure of value. In the following issue (1854-61) the same design came out, but there were only four denominations, viz.: 10 reis, blue, 30 reis, blue 280 reis, red, and 430 reis, yellow.

In 1866 a new and prettier design was issued. In this issue there were seven designs, viz.: 10 reis, black, 50 reis, blue, 80 reis violet, 100 reis, green, 500 reis, orange, 20 reis, black, 200 reis, black. The 20 and 200 reis, differ in design from the others; in the middle is the head of Dom Pedro II d'Alcantara, around the head is a Greek cross, at the top is the word "Brazil" at the bottom the value in words, at the right and left ends of the cross is the value in figures. The other design of the same issue is as follows: same head in the center, at the top "Brazil" at the bottom value in words, in circles, near the bottom of each end is the figure of value enclosed in a circle, the head is enclosed in an oval.

In 1871 there were one value issued, viz.: 300 reis, black; in the centre was the head of Pedro II, at the top was the word "Brazil" at each end of that word was the figure of value, at the bottom was "Trezentos reis." The head was enclosed in a fancy oval.

During the years 1878-9 there were issued ten different values, viz.: 10 reis, red, 20 reis, violet, 50 reis, blue, 80 reis, lake, 100 reis, black, 200 reis, black, 260 reis, brown, 300 reis, bistre, 700 reis, red, brown, 1000 reis, slate. In the centre was the head of Dom Pedro, II, at the top was the word "Brazil" at the bottom the value in words, and in each corner the figure of value. The 100 reis and others of the same issue were of the following design: in the centre was the head of Dom Pedro, II, right above the head was the word "Brazil" at the bottom was the value in words and near the bottom at each side and above the value in words was the value in figures. The whole was enclosed in fancy scroll work.

NEW ISSUES.

Two provisionals have been made by surcharging the 6 c. card of 1879. They are:

- Post-Card, 2 cen. surch, on 6 c. rose.
- Reply-Card, 2x2 c. surch, on 6 c. rose.

BARBADOES. - This place will have a new issue soon which will consist of the following:

- ½ d. green,
- 1 d. carmine,
- 2½ d. ultramarine,
- 3 d. mauve,
- 4 d. greenish grey,
- 6 d. brown,
- 1 shil. orange red,
- 5 shil. yellow ochre.

There will be three envelopes, value 1 d. a 1 d. registration envelope, 2 newsbands, a ½ d. and a 1 d., and a ½ d. and 1 d. post-card.

The design of the adhesives is as follows: head of Victoria in circle, value below, Barbadoes above.

BRAZIL.—For this country we have a new 80 reis postal card.

FERNANDO POO.—Two new stamps as follows:

- 10 cent. de peso,
- 20 cent. de peso.

HONG KONG.—The *Philatelic Times* says "Collectors would do well to examine the new Hong Kong stamps, the water-mark being changed to C. A. and Crown.

NEW ZEALAND.—The following have been issued.

- 1d. rose.
- 2d. mauve.
- 3d. yellow.
- 4d. green.
- 6d. brown.
- 8d. red.
- 1 shil. brown.

LABUAN.—The following varieties of the 8c. provisionals are now current.

- 1—Surcharge reversed—
- 2—EIGHT CENTS.
- 3—EIGHT CENTS.

surcharged on the 12c. carmine in black.

PERSIA.—The *Record* says that the only stamps now in circulation in this country are the 50c. and the 1 and 5 francs of the same design as the 50c.

UNITED STATES.—It is said that the 10c. present issue is now printed in a darker tint. We have not seen it so as yet.

TRINIDAD.—1d provisional surcharged on 6d. green, and the 1d. carmine surcharged "One Penny."

PORTUGAL.—The latest of this country is a 50 reis stamp, color blue.

FARAGRAPHS.

BY A. C.

A SUMMER'S IDYL (IDOL) SMASHED.

Slimkins cut short his annual vacation visit to the country, for reasons that it would be extremely hazardous for his most intimate friend to mention in his presence. In all the glory of a well-waxed and incipient mustache, tight-legged trowsers, immaculate tie and jaunty straw-hat, set akimbo on four brick-colored hairs. This hero of a long imprisonment behind the counter sedulously measuring tape, and ogling giddy maidens, was deposited nigh to the close of a sultry summer's day at a not much frequented station, situated on the Noggles-ton branch of a railroad which is said to own one of our neighboring sovereign states.

So torrid was the temperature, that not even the station-master who dozed in the shade, noted the illustrious arrival; an omission he had never made within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, it being common report, that what that rural functionary—not the oldest inhabitant but the station-master—lacked in the inquisitorial line, or pumping qualifications as regards the acquiring, the pedigree, business, family and future prospects of every new comer would not add lustre to reportorial fame.

Neither did that hireling of a bloated monopoly discern the movements of the small boy, who with jack-knife keen, emblazoned in huge misshapen hieroglyphics his name upon the property of the aforesaid bloated; but a famished fly about that time finding a lodgment in the hireling's ear awoke the latter, which gave the desired opportunity to Slimkins of gaining the information which he had failed to gather from the small boy, owing to the enterprise, and vim which the latter was bringing into play to complete his task before the hireling should awaken to interrupt it.

To be brief Slimkins that evening arrived at his destination after being well jolted over a very rough road in a springless one-horse chaise. Now the end of his journey proved to be the home of a widow, and her daughter, the latter a comely buxom lass whose mischievous black eyes at once enthralled the perfidious Slimkins who had already made a score of affidavits to a no less number of city maidens that he was sojourning on this mundane sphere solely for their accommodation.

It is no unusual occurrence to find that widow's daughters of the description given above have more or less of the good youths of the country side as devoted followers; but the one which hath to do with this narration had one most devoted who looked upon the arrival of Slimkins with something more than a prejudice. Briefly had been the sojourn of this our knight of the yard-stick ere he gushingly unfolded his story of love to his

petite enslavor, which act led to the turning point of our hero's rural history, for this comely maiden's swain vowed "that such goings on would not be tolerated" and to rid himself of his obnoxious would-be rival would not have hesitated, had the opportunity offered, of visiting upon the gorgeous Slimkins condign punishment, which overt act would have surely been committed but for the persuasive beauty, who after a bit of female strategy the strength and quality of which may be surmised by those of the male persuasion who have at some time been participants in like occurrences, assuaged his anger and as is always the result allowed this daughter of Eve to have her own way.

Near this humble cot, beneath the umbrageous shade of a sturdy oak, was the trysting place of this devoted pair unto which spot Slimkins had no difficult task of obtaining the assent of his country inamorata to meet him, the appointed hour being the twilight of the following evening.

When Slimkins neared the trysting-place as appointed, it was with rapture that he beheld although the shades of night were fast closing around this summer's day his charmer awaiting his tardy arrival, (and as Slimkins thought impelled by her coyish maiden modesty) with her beautiful features enveloped in the folds of a voluminous and impenetrable veil.

Nowise undaunted by this barrier he imprinted on this maiden's lips a vehement osculatory sortie, to which the maiden offered slight resistance.

Our hero with ardor unabated returned to the attack in the midst of which Clem, the full-bred negro field help, made his appearance and speedily put an end to the scene, and our hero's dream of love in a very matter of fact manner by disrobing first his wife's face of its covering and by then administering a severe cudgeling to the unfortunate Slimkins who with ill concealed distrust with the color of his inamorata and smarting under the blows of her dark-complexioned husband with fleeting foot-steps sought the cot and with increased zeal packed his trunk and then sauntered with still further zeal to the railroad station and safety, forgetting ungallantly to take leave of the widow's daughter who sat laughing at the easement in the cozy sitting-room along with him where this is printed hath become her liege. Result: Slimkins hath discovered the why and wherefore of the darkey in the fence. The latter has been enlightened upon the causes which led to his young mistress presenting to his dusky better half the neat sombre gown and bonnet over which she spends so much of time in admiring herself before her rustic looking-glass.

Wanted, a driver who can handle a tandem team in livery.—Ex.

From the above it would appear to be an open question whether the driver or team is to wear the livery; and if the latter, whether it requires more skill on the part of the driver than if they were rigged out in the ordinary horse apparel.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, - - - NEW YORK.

One year, - - - 25 Cents.

Foreign Countries, - - - 37 Cents.

Unused U. S. Postage Stamps taken in
Payment.

All communications, etc., must be directed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by writer's full name and address.

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EDITORIAL.

What with the rabid Egyptians running unmuzzled in the vicinity of Alexandria, the thermometer cutting up all sorts of capers, the siren-like advertisements thrust before ones eyes on every page of every journal one chances to peruse, telling each of cooling breezes surcharged with health-giving properties, and the total absence of mosquitoes and malaria; the increased price of ice and mint, not to speak of straw and the other ingredients that it takes to build a julep; the absence of the cheery countenances up to this date of many of our always welcome contemporaries, is it any wonder that the editor with the view of ending this brief existence, took his mother-in-law on a trip to Coney Island, and having spent his money and remaining energies in vain—it unluckily not being collision day with the boats—came back to his sanctum, discharged his paragraph man, and after several journeyings to the corner hostelry to set his watch, re-employing the same at an increased salary? Can the reader, possessed of a moiety of human compassion, help shedding tears, when the above measure of ills were increased by the possibility of our not being able to ever issue our fifth number, having the same evening been made a short stop for some ounces of lead, which a neighbor in our rear had playfully arranged for a score of telines who were making night hideous with

their waltzing in the moon-light. But why mar the pleasure of our readers in reciting this unhappy tale. Be it sufficient to say that the hardships, the trials, that we have endured in getting this number ready for the edification and delectation of our many readers, whom we know are spending sleepless nights longing and hoping for our speedy arrival, has been enough to make an army mule eat his harness or a contrite defaulting bank teller offer fifty per cent of his grab for a "return ticket." And we herein solemnly aver that if there is a semblance of the above or a like persecution recurring in the issuance of our next, our *host* of subscribers will witness the career of the *Empire City Philatelist* set in one of the most intense and brilliant pyrotechnic displays, alongside of which a Fourth of July celebration would prove a fizzle.

IMPRESSIONS

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Our triumph in Philately, in the shape of that natty little sheet, the *Philatelic Triumph*, for July, duly received. We consider it a triumph for both printer and editor.

One of the strangest events of late, according to its editor, our friend Collins, is the bringing forth of twins from the *Stamp World's* sanctum, or what he terms "a double number." "Tut, tut, friend C, we begin to think that you are also a member of a nine, or that it is kite-flying time. 'Oh, for a cot in some vast wilderness,' where we also might complacently ruminate on the ills that man is heir to.

The *Library Table*, *Bureau*, and other members of the philatelic cabinet for July, have thus far failed to reach us. Wonder what it all means? Have they been attacked with that disease which some of them were all too ready to believe would afflict the new comers? Egad! but it ill becomes a denizen of the barn-yard, to make the welkin ring before he has emerged from the umbrageous recesses of the forest.

Now there's a seasonable fellow always on time. *Times* must be sadly out of joint, when our philatelic contemporary of that name, from the other side of the big pond, does not come up to the scratch.

IS IT REMUNERATIVE.

BY A. C.

Ever ready to impart whatever information we might be possessed of to those athirst after knowledge, it was our good fortune, before our attention had been directed to the science of stamp collecting, to assist a young votary of the art in solving to him a knotty question; that of locating some out of the way country, stamp of which he had received of a dealer. I ascertained some time after from the boy's father, a long time acquaintance of my own, that up to the time when the lad had become interested in stamp collecting his knowledge in geography had, to use his teacher's expression, been "abominable." This aroused a train of thought, the results of which I have endeavored to give briefly in this article. First; what are the peculiar fascinations surrounding the business, pastime, or science, by whatever term we wish to designate it, that lures the boy on, in investigating the intricate labyrinth necessary to the mastery of and the study of maps and geography, that the school-room and the art of the teacher had until then failed to invest it with. Was it the newness of the subjects? Certainly not, for up to the present writing his ardor has rather increased than diminished; and now, he has the history of a stamp almost at his tongue's end, will tell you date of issue, under what reign, the cause of its issuance, its value in the collectors market, and a world of information concerning this little square of paper, that is astonishing. Was it the absence of that compulsion which as a rule is brought to bear on the pupil when at school and the mandatory rules and tasks laid down and allotted to the several scholars by the pedagogue. To these we cannot ascribe it, but rather to the fact that some one of the senses until then latent had been more strongly appealed to and an interest begotten which all of the tutors eloquence and admonitions had thus far failed to arouse.

After the closest study of the subject by the writer, he fails to see how one can come to any other conclusion, than that the study of the stamp and the collecting of the same, is one of the most intelligent and practical, suggested and followed, for imparting useful knowledge to the scholar, as any in vogue at the present time in our institutions of learning. It comes under the head of object study, lessons in which have been successfully given, and favorably passed upon by the most proficient teachers of our time; and savors strongly of the practical kindergarten method. It seems to arouse a degree of inquisitiveness, if we may be allowed the term, which the teacher fails to do with his more prosy and humdrum way of putting it. In whatever way we would account for it the same results stare us in the face, the youth acquires more useful knowledge of—course with the aid of

his atlas and geography—in six months stamp collecting then he could possibly do in a year pursuing the routine method to which our educators in the public schools seem to be attached.

Not entirely engrossed in the news of the day, but nibbling at this and that item in the evening paper, like partaking of dessert after satisfying the longings of the appetite with the more substantial viands, I was surprised one evening with the conversation of a group of children over their respective collection of stamps. The youngest boy at times collected from a pile of stamps designating their several nationalities, referring to the oldest to affirm his correctness. This the latter did, and thinking that he simply verified it to please the child, I bid the boy bring them to me. This he did one each from Germany, Austria and New Zealand and in every instance correct. The boy by an effort could spell words of three or four letters and must have acquired the knowledge he possessed entirely by observation.

What keener incentive have we to impel the young to the study of history, especially to a mind having an inquiring bent, and what child or youth have not the latter to a prodigious degree, as witness the numerous questions a parent is plied with day after day by his offspring, the why and wherefore of this and that, until the parent is puzzled at times to give an intelligent answer. By degrees the desire of the youthful collector is increased, to not only the accumulation, but of seeking a further knowledge of his store, why the same was issued, when, where, and for what purpose and causes which led the government to withdraw this stamp from circulation and the putting forth its successor? The intelligent mind—and I claim without a considerable intelligence a youth seldom takes to the occupation, that is, for a protracted period, is not satisfied with the ownership, spurious and the history of his stock, but to enable him to select from the genuine, he becomes acquainted with the manner in which it is produced, the precautions, if any, that are taken to prevent forgeries. Then colors, and in fact the entire semblance becomes photographed on the vision and memory, so much so, that from a mass he is enabled to select any, and give you the facts concerning them like so much rote, thus he not only learns geography and history, but he becomes interested in the lithographers art, the different monetary standards of the world, the latter every day growing to be a more and more beneficial knowledge. In keeping his collection in order, that first law of nature is inculcated, the one which should take precedence of another occupies its legitimate position, date after date fill the squares allotted to them neatly and squarely secured by its adhesive tinge. Tints and colors have also become blended in the mind, the beauty of the several tints, the dullness of others, the warmth of this and coldness of that color, and so we might argue to the end of time. With the above facts before us, who can say stamp collecting, with the same proviso that applies to every other—undertaking that of conducting properly,—is not a studious, useful and intelligent occupation.

POSTAL AND MINT ITEMS.

The United States Mint in Philadelphia has resumed operations after a suspension of two weeks. The whole amount of its coinage during twelve months was \$291,102,314.

The House of Representatives have passed the Senate bill as amended, providing for the sale of the old post office building on Nassau street, at a minimum price of \$630,000. It is quite probable that the Senate will concur in this action, and that the bill will be signed by President Arthur, as we learn on undoubted authority that Secretary Folger is strongly in favor of such legislation.

The Postmaster General opposes the bill to reduce the rate of postage on letters from three to two cents, and on newspapers to one-half the present rate, on the ground that the proposed reduction cannot be made with safety to the government revenue.

After long debate on the proposed amendment to the Tax bill repealing the tax on bank capital and deposits, bank checks, &c., it was voted down—yeas 15, nays 41.

OUR POSTAL BUSINESS.

Postmaster Pearson's report of the business of the New York Post Office for the fiscal year which has just closed presents an exceedingly gratifying exhibit. The general government has received from it the enormous sum \$4,200,066 07, which is an increase of \$409,615, 76 over the revenue of 1881. The expenses of its management amounted in 1882 to \$876,007 15. In 1881 the expenses were only \$35,975, 71 less. If the other post offices of the country advance in the same ratio the day is not distant when, if the star route thieves and other jobbers are not allowed to rob the treasury, the department will be more than self sustaining.

The important feature of the report so far as the city is concerned is the evidence it furnishes of our growth and development. It shows conclusively that the volume of our business is increasing every year and that our metropolitan progress is advancing in equal step with the progress of the country. If the business of the post-office were to stand still, it shows that we had reached our highest commercial development, that possibly our decadence had begun. An increase of nearly half a million dollars in a single fiscal year not remarkable for unwonted commercial activity indicates on what sure and solid foundations the trade and commerce of the city rest.

At a coin sale in New York a "Good Samaritan" shilling of the date of 1652 brought \$650. A Lord Baltimore penny sold for \$550.

The French Mint has struck the models of some new coins intended to replace the present copper coinage. They are to be made of an alloy of nickel, similar to German and Belgian, and will not be circular, but octagonal to distinguish them from silver.

The House of Representative passed a bill providing for the issuing of a postal note for sums less than \$5, at a charge of three cents, for the transmission through the mails and fixing the charges for postal orders as follows:—Not exceeding \$10, eight cents; exceeding \$10 and not exceeding \$15, ten cents; exceeding \$15 and not exceeding \$30, fifteen cents; exceeding \$30 and not exceeding \$40, twenty cents; exceeding \$40 and not exceeding \$50, twenty five cents; exceeding \$50 and not exceeding \$60, thirty cents; exceeding \$60 and under \$70, thirty-five cents; exceeding \$70 and under \$80, forty cents; exceeding \$80 and under \$100, forty-five cents.

UNDERPAID LETTERS.

The new regulation concerning underpaid letters, which went into operation July 1, will materially improve the postal facilities of the country and thereby add to the convenience of the public. Heretofore the rule has been to send to the Dead Letter Office underpaid letters bearing a one or a two cent stamp and not having the address of the writer on the envelope, but to forward to their destination underpaid letters stamped with three cent stamps or those of a higher denomination. Hereafter an underpaid letter with a one or a two cent stamp affixed, and not having the address of the writer on the envelope, will be detained in the office where it is posted and a notice sent to the person to whom it is addressed informing him of the fact, and the letter will be forwarded to him on receipt of the postage due. This is a marked improvement over the old practice of sending this sort of mail to the Dead Letter Office, but it would seem that still greater despatch and convenience might be secured by mailing such letters at once to the proper person and then collecting from him the postage due, as is done in case of "short paid" letters with stamps of a higher denomination. The new regulation applies only to letters deposited at a free delivery office and addressed to some place in the United States.

PROJECTED NEW COINAGE.

The Director of the United States Mint in Philadelphia, has projected and will submit to the consideration of the present Congress a plan for supplanting all former issues of the minor coinage by a new and uniform series. He declares that there has been a great deal too much ill-considered legislation on the subject of the nation's small coins. For instance, the present 5 cent piece contains more than its due proportion of metal, as compared with the 3 cent coin (authorized in 1865), although the alloy is the same. All the small coins should have a uniformity of alloy, he contends, the devices should be uniform in character, and there should be due proportion in weight between the various pieces. The plan further recommends that the alloy be 75 per cent. copper and 25 per cent. nickel, this being the best alloy, because it does not oxidize, retains its color, is clean and without odor. It can be readily worked and is difficult to counterfeit. He would have the 5 cent piece weigh 5 grammes, the 3 cent piece three grammes, and the 1 cent piece 1½ grammes, which is as small a bulk of metal as can be conveniently worked upon in coinage. He would have on the above coins a classical head of liberty, surrounded by the words, "United States of America," and the date below. On the reverse, a wreath composed of wheat, corn and cotton—products of the country—surrounding the Roman V, III, I, on the 5, 3 and 1 cent piece respectively. The sizes of the coins would be: For the 5 cent piece, 22 millimeters in diameter, 3 cent piece, 19, and the 1 cent piece, 16 millimeters. This would make the 5 cent piece four millimeters smaller than the quarter dollar, from which it would be easily distinguished—first, in the day time, by the color, by the device, which is absolutely different on the obverse and reverse; and at night by the plain edge, while the quarter dollar has a "reeded" or "milled" edge, as it is improperly called. The 3 cent piece, which at present is exactly the size of the silver dime, would be two millimeters larger, with the same marks of difference as noted between the 5 cent piece and the quarter.

FRAUD AGAIN.

Being in hearty accord with any movement tending to the detection and stoppage of fraud in the stamp collecting business, we copy for the benefit of our readers, the following from the *Stamp World* for July.

"I must expose the doings of a Mr. or Master Tom Stevens, of Bournemouth, the publisher of the *Philatelic Observer*. This promising young man not only buys stamps and declines payment but he also supplies unsuspecting collectors with forgeries of the vilest description. It is this sort of dealers that injures the reputation of our science, and hence there is necessity for putting a stop to their frauds."

FLATTERING BUT TRUTHFUL.

We hope the readers of this will pardon any expression of vanity that they may discern in our calling their attention to the flattering comments made by our esteemed contemporaries quoted below. That our endeavors are recognized we have constant proof in every mail, and hope that those who have discerned a merit in our little sheet, will not be bashful, or at all backward in transmitting their shekels for a year's subscription, for which they will receive our thanks and the numbers already issued up to the date of their subscription, providing they subscribe prior to the 15th of September.

"Please insert the enclosed advertisement in your next issue. Let me congratulate you on the steady improvement of your paper, 'may it live long and prosper. F. L. MILLS.

And as the following comes from the *Stamp World*, its truthfulness certainly cannot be questioned."

"We have received two numbers of the *Empire City Philatelist* since our last number. It has the material in it for making one of our best journals and is good now."

STAMPS.

120 All different.....	25c.
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50 All different.....	10c.
25 All different.....	5c.
50 U. S. Revenues, all different.....	25c.
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One Page, \$3.25.

TERMS:—Strictly Cash in Advance.

Send in your advertisements now for our next issue. Advertisements not in by the 25th of August cannot be inserted in the next issue.

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The only Stamp Journal published in Buffalo. Twelve pages of good reading every issue; ads. inserted at 25c. an inch; sworn circulation nearly 2,000; devoted to the interests of Philately. Exchanges desired. Subscription 20c. per year, post-paid to all countries. BENJAMIN ILLING, Publisher, 48 & 50 Seneca St., Buffalo, N. Y.

AN ABRIDGED LIST OF FOREIGN STAMPS FOR SALE

—BY—

FRED. WRIGHT,

IMPORTER AND DEALER IN

FOREIGN STAMPS,

234 BERGEN AVENUE, Jersey City Heights, N. J.

Austria, 1858, 15 kr., blue.....2c.	Mexico, 1879, 10c, blue.....3c.
“ 1861, 5 kr, red.....2c.	Modena, 1852, 5c., green5c.
Austrian Italy, 1863, 5 soldi.....2c.	Norway, 1876, 1 ore, grey.....2c.
“ 1850, 5 cents.....2c.	Nova Scotia, 1857 issue, 3d.....10c.
Azores, Journal stamp.....5c.	“ 1860 “ 5c.....2c.
Baden, 1862-4, 3 kr.....2c.	Portugal, 1871-3, 25 reis, red.....1c.
“ 1862-4, 1 kr.....2c.	Queensland, 1861, 1d., red.....2c.
“ 1868, 3 kr.....1c.	“ 1861, 2d, blue.....2c.
Canada, newsband (uncut).....10c.	Roumania, 1875, 15b., brown.....1c.
Chili, 1877-8, 1 centavo, green.....3c.	“ 1876, 10b., blue.....1c.
“ 1877-8, 2 centavo, red.....5c.	“ 1875, 5b., yellow.....1c.
“ 1867-8, 5 “ “.....3c.	Roman States, 1861, 20 cent, red.....3c.
Denmark, 1864-8, 3 sk.....2c.	“ 1861, 10 cent, red.....5c.
“ 1864-8, 2 sk, green.....2c.	“ 1861, 2 cent, green.....2c.
“ 1874-5, 3 ore, grey and blue, 2c.	Sandwich Islands, 1862, 1 keneta.....3c.
“ 1874-5, 50 ore, violet & brown, 2c.	“ 1862, 2 “.....2c.
Finland, 1875, 5 penni, red.....2c.	“ 1862, 5 “.....3c.
“ 1875, 20 penni, blue.....2c.	“ 1862, 6 “.....3c.
France, 1871, 20c., blue.....2c.	Servia, 1869, 20 p, blue.....2c.
“ 1871, 40c., red.....2c.	“ 1873, 2 p, black on white.....2c.
“ 1871, 1c., green.....2c.	Sweden, 1872, 6 ore, violet.....2c.
France, Repub., 1872, 4c., lavender...1c.	“ 20 ore, red.....2c.
“ 1877, 2c., brown.....1c.	United States, 1851, 5c., brown.....25c.
Greece, 1861, 10 lepta, red.....2c.	“ 1851 10c., green... . .15c.
“ 1861, 20 “ blue.....2c.	“ 1861, 5c., brown.....10c.
“ 1863, 5 “ green.....2c.	“ 1861, 10c, green.....15c.
“ 1863, 10 “ red.....2c.	“ 1861, 30c., yellow.....25c.
Holland, newspaper, 1877, 1c, green....2c.	“ 1862, 2c., black.....3c.
“ 1869, 2c., yellow.....1c.	“ 1869, 3c., blue.....2c.
“ 1872, 12½c., grey, 15c. red-brown... 2c.	“ 1870, 10c, brown, 6c, red, 5c, b'us.....1c.
Italy, 1863, 1c., green.....1c.	Venezuela, 1863, ¼r, yellow.....6c.
“ 1863, 2c., red.....1c.	“ 67, ¼r, red, 1d.....4c.

ALMOST GIVEN AWAY FREE.

My new packet No. 8, contains the following 10 rare unused stamps: 1-} a Alwar (Native India), 1-1c. Liberia, 1-½c. Tobago, 1-1c. China, 1-2½c. Curacao, 1-Grenada, 1-½c. Turks, Is., 1-½c. Malta, 1-5 reis Capé Verde, 1-1c. Guatamala. Price, 25c. Postage, 3c. F. H. SCHWARTZ, 1407 N. 12th St.

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Revised and Published Quarterly. 64 pages of the most interesting, entertaining and instructive reading in every issue. Extra CHRISTMAS NUMBER. Every department is well illustrated; especially the “OLD CURIOSITY CORNER,” (devoted to Stamps, Coins, etc.) A large department of not less than 12 pages each issue. Subscription, 40c. a year; sample, 10c.; advertisements, 10c. per line; \$1.50 per inch. Address, USEFUL PUBLISHING CO., Halifax, Nova Scotia.



* T H E *

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Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1. New York, September, 1882. No. 6

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

IV.—BRITISH GUIANA.

British Guiana is a section of the extensive tract forming the north-eastern portion of South America. The greatest length of this tract, from Cape North to the confluence of the river Xie with the river Negro, is calculated at 1090 miles; the greatest breadth, between Punta Barima, at the embouchure of the river Orinoco, and the confluence of the river Negro with the river Amazon, at 710 miles.

The limits of the British possessions have never yet been accurately determined. If we adopt the idea of Sir Robert Schomburgh, the latest authority on the subject, and assume the natural indications to be the proper guide to the geographical boundaries, we shall include all the regions drained by the waters falling into the river Essequibo; and taking the river Corentyn as the acknowledged line of demarcation, between British and Dutch Guiana, we arrive at an area of 76,000 square miles, a territory much larger than England and Wales. If, on the other hand, the claims of the Venezuelan and Brazilian governments respectively are to be admitted, the British portion will be reduced to something above 12,000 miles, and become the smallest of the European colonies in this region.

The coast-line of the British territory consists of an alluvial flat, composed of a blue clay impregnated with marine salts, and mixed with decayed vegetable matter, which, in its decomposed state, forms a rich and highly productive soil. The inland depth of this fertile coast varies from ten to forty miles, where it is bounded by a range of sandhills, varying in height from 30 to 120 feet. In the fifth parallel North latitude occurs a chain of mountains composed of granite, gneiss, and trappan rocks, with their various modifications, and it has been conjectured that it was the ancient boundary of the Atlantic Ocean. A peculiar feature of the interior is the savannas extending between the rivers Demerara and Corentyn, and at the river Berbice closely approaching the seashore. There is another series of such savannas further inland, and the geological structure of the region indicates that it was once the bed of an inland lake, which, by some great elemental disturbance, burst its barriers, and forced for its

waters a passage to the Atlantic. This supposition may throw light upon the origin of the tradition of the White Sea and the city of the gold-sprinkled Manoa, which inflamed the ardor of the chivalric Raleigh, and led him to the pursuit of those discoveries by which his name has been immortalized.

The climate of Guiana is genial and equable, and for a tropical country comparatively healthy. The thermometer ranges from 90° to 75°F, the mean temperature being 81°226. The barometric pressure — highest, 30.05 inches; lowest 29.74; mean, 29.916.

Whether Christopher Columbus himself ever actually landed on the shores of Guiana seems not to be positively ascertained. It is however, certain that the Spaniards must have settled in the neighboring countries early in the 16th century, as in 1580, when the Dutch began to establish themselves on the banks of the Pomeroon and the other rivers, they were speedily driven out by the Spaniards, nor was it until 1602 that they succeeded in obtaining a footing on the river Essequibo. During the 17th and the early part of the eighteenth centuries, the Dutch were frequently harassed by incursions of the French, and by internal insurrections; three distinct colonies were constituted, until, in 1789, those of Essequibo and Demerara were united. Berbice remained a separate colony until 1831, when the three were constituted into the colony of British Guiana, consisting of the counties of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century, the feelings of the inhabitants had become strongly influenced by a desire to place themselves under British sovereignty, and in 1796 effect was given to that desire by the cession of the colonies to an expedition under Major-General Whyte. At the peace of Amiens, in 1802, however, the colonies were restored to the then "Batavian Republic," to be again surrendered to Great Britain 1803, which was finally confirmed at the peace of 1814.

The first stamps issued by British Guiana were issued in 1850. There were three denominations, viz.: 4c. yellow, 8c. green and 12c. black. The design was as follows: An irregularly rounded circle, in the centre of which was the value, at the top "British," at the bottom "Guiana."

In the same year there was issued another design which had only two values, viz.: 1 cent black and 4 cent blue. In the centre was the coat of arms, at top the value, and at bottom *Damus Pat-*

imus que Vicissim," at the left hand side was "British," and on the right hand side "Guiana."

In 1856 the same design of stamp was issued, it differed only in being oblong; and there were only two varieties, 4 cent blue, 4 cent carmine.

In 1853 a new design was issued. In this issue, also, there was two values only, viz: 1 cent red, and 4 cent black. At the top was "Postage," at the bottom "four cents;" on the left was "British," on the right "Guiana." In the centre was the coat-of-arms enclosed in an upright oval in each corner of the stamp was a figure, and the four put together made the date of issue—1853.

In 1860 the same design was issued. In this issue there was a big difference in the printing, etc. There were 6 values in this issue: 1 cent black, 2 cent orange, 4 cent blue, 8 cent rose, 12 cent gray, 24 cent green.

During the years 1862 and 1863, there were issued two 1 cent stamps, one brown and the other black. The design was the same as that of the issue of 1860. In 1862 another design was put in circulation. At top "Guiana," at bottom value in words, on the left side "British" on the right side "Postage." Three values, viz.: 1 cent black, 2 cent yellow, 4 cent blue.

In 1863, a new issue, having three values, was put in circulation. The values were 6 cents black, 24 cents green, 48 cents red. The design was as follows: at the top "B. Guiana," at the bottom the value in words, in centre a ship in full sail, and following motto in a circle around the ship: "Damus Petimus que Vicissim."

In 1876, another new issue came out and had eight different values, viz.: 1c slate, 2c reddish yellow, 4 cent blue, 6 cent brown, 12 cent lilac, 24 cent green, 48 cent rose, 96 cent bistre. The design was as follows: In the centre was a full-rigged vessel, around it the usual motto. At the top was "Postage" at bottom the value, on the left hand was "British" and on the right hand "Guiana."

IMPRESSIONS

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We are in receipt of a descriptive price catalogue from the publisher and compiler, E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J. Besides its general neat appearance and extra good quality of paper upon which it is printed, it has a repleteness of matter, which should satisfy the most voracious in the stamp collecting line.

A most welcome guest to our sanotum this month was the *Young Folk's Guest* for August. It certainly cannot do our young folks harm, to invite a monthly visit from the same by promptly subscribing. We leave them to guess its contents, until they learn the same by sending for a sample copy.

July and August price-list from Stanley, Gibbons & Co. received. As they never do things by halves, it is needless to say that this, their latest effort, is one of their best. One can with little stretch of the imagination upon going over their list, visit almost every point of the compass, and the remotest corners of the globe, (at least those of the stamp-issuing countries), so varied is their stock. They certainly possess a "big drive"

Friend L. W. Durbin sends his August contribution to philatelic literature, in the shape of his *Philatelic Monthly*. By the way, this sprightly sheet bears its age well. Just think of it! Vol. 8, No. 8, and as yet no impress of age. He must certainly have imbibed at the fountain of life, for which Ponce de Leon went in search of some time ago, on an "unlimited ticket."

We would feel thankful for a copy of the *Library Table* for August. We received two copies of the same for July. One was sufficient, Brother Smith, so send along that *august* number for August, for we have been balancing on the tip-toe of expectation since reading that modest article of yours entitled "Ourselves," in your issue for July.

The Gazette of Lansdale, Pa, is a funny little sheet, but *The Bugle* of Clinton, Iowa, is bigger and "too utterly" funny. Both of these sunbeams of the press paid us a visit last month, and do you know, dear readers, that we haven't got over it yet, so racked were our internal machinery by the hearty laughter occasioned by reading the same, that we have not been able as yet to straighten out the kinks caused by the same. For the sake of all you hold dear, readers, subscribe for them, 'twill do you more good than a trip to Coney Island.

Numerous other sheets, all welcomed, have visited us during the past month. To those we would say that it gives us most intense pleasure to receive them, and trust that they will not become tired in well-doing, and continue their monthly visits to our sanctuary, the same as though they had received a more lengthy notice.

POSTAGE STAMP DEFICIENCY.

In reference to the alleged difference, as shown in the Postmaster-General's report, between the amount of mailable matter and the sale of postage stamps, Postmaster Pearson said that he did not believe there was any such difference as that described—a sum of \$8,000,000. He thought it not unlikely that the "washing" and fraudulent reuse of stamps had something to do with a deficiency of this character. He was not one of those who thought that fraud of that kind was carried to any great length. There certainly was no organized conspiracy for the purpose. He suggested various causes for the apparent discrepancy, none of which would imply that any fraud was perpetrated,

FARAGRAPHS.

BY A. C.

How does the conduct of the European powers affect the situation in the East? About the same as a kettle tied to a canine's caridal appendage.

Why is a pugilist like a religious sect of the Eastern countries? Because they are both muscle men (Mussulmen).

How is Egypt at the present time like a mad dog? She's afflicted with an attack of the (A)rabies.

Stranger: "Say, Pat, which road shall I take to go to Glenville?"

Pat: "Who towld ye me name was Pat?"

Stranger: "I guessed it."

Pat: "Well, thin guess the road to Glenville."

"Well, Sniffles," said an employer to his new clerk, "have you posted the ledger?"

"Yeth, sir," lisped Sniffles, "I have pohted the ledger; but lor, thir, it wath too big for the letter boxth, and I had to take it inthide the post-offith"

Wanted. A respectable lady as waitress and nursemaid. The highest reference required.—Ex. Possibly a good chance for one of her Majesty's Maids in Waiting.

"Tall oaks from tiny acorns grow."

And just the tallest fun from those myriad flakes of snow! Remarkd the youth, with expectancy pictured on every lineament of his countenance, at the increasing storm.

The practical way that one of our schoolboys have of rendering the following is another sign of this progressive age:

"How doth the little busy bee

Improve the shining hour?

In laborious gathering honeyed sweets

For us bipeds to devour.

"Raising the wind" was aptly illustrated last week by a remark Mrs. Dobbs made in the hearing of a neighbor that "she couldn't for the life of her fathom the cause of her neighbor Mrs. Tibbs, displaying such a liking for the side entrance of her uncle, whose sign of the "Three Globes" was conspicuously displayed on a neighboring avenue.

Mrs. Dobbs now informs her visitors that her countenance was thus sadly marred—when referring to the gridiron condition of her face—by the flying splinters, in her endeavors to break a refractory stick of kindling-wood; but fails to enlighten them as to the cause of her recent purchase and wearing of the wig.

Snorting with fatigue, Jenkins caught the car, and the scowls of a pugilistic passenger, upon whose horns he had managed to alight. The conductor had the good sense and intelligence to stop the vehicle after his passenger was safely on the platform, which sudden stoppage landed, after many futile grasps at the pendant straps, our unfortunate Jenkins in the expansive lap of a matron, crushing in his hurried sitting down the lady's poodle. The seat of our hero's trowsers were of a midsummer texture, which possibly was the cause of his pitching headlong from his lodgment on the poodle—into the bosom of an erratic nervous gentleman comfortably esconced on the opposite seat. This caused an outcry from the latter, which to the surprise of all brought the police, and Jenkins to the nearest police station, where, after parboiling a night in the cell, our friend was mulcted by the dignitary who dispenses blind justice in one of our district courts, to the amount of ten dollars for disorderly conduct. Jenkins is now plaintiff in a suit for damages against the railroad corporation.

Conversation had flagged somewhat after the last remarkable story had been duly digested and criticized by the loungers around the cylindrical stove, used to heat the store at the cross-roads, when Bilkins, the village encyclopædia, after distending a capacious mouth with a full quota of tobacco, borrowed from the storekeeper's pouch, relieved himself of the following, and with an ease that, if it did not entirely demonstrate to the aforesaid loungers that he was a man of truth and veracity, went far to prove that he possessed a very vivid imagination:

"'Twas during our protracted festivities in front of Petersburg, when the boys had become so accustomed to the continual booming of the artillery, and the spiteful zip of the bullet, that a game of poker lost its zest without this accompaniment, that, being sent to do outpost duty, the following peculiar incident transpired. In my immediate front, and sent from the other side upon the same mission as myself, that of looking after the welfare of the several armies, and behind his shelter of logs, so close to the ground that with the color of his uniform one could scarcely distinguish him from his native soil, sprawled a tawny, long-haired and gaunt Virginian. His speech was as puckery as if he had been nursed on green permimmons, and his first inquiry was not what one would term civil, considering the circumstances. "Well, Fed," said he, "when be ye gwine to come over arter us?" "Well," says I, "being as we paid you the last visit, it is only becoming in you, if you wish to be neighborly, to return the call." "When be you going to surround and gobble us all up?" persisted he. "In the spring-time, Johnny," says I, "when we can turn you all out to grass." That remark like to have proved my last,

Continued on page 44.

as 'zip' went his bullet, taking off in its hurried passage the lobe of my left ear. Now, thought I, two can play at that game, and my opportunity soon came, when 'bang' went my rifle, sending a bullet through the rebel's hat, with which he had tricked me, by raising it on his ramrod a trifle above his shelter. For the next two hours I let Johnny monopolize the gun-talk, and by this time he became quite confident and careless, exposing the upper part of his body for several seconds at a time. Getting tired of this one-sided warfare, after erecting a dummy, so that, by means of a rail as a lever, I was enabled, at a few yards distant in the rear, and behind another hummock of earth, to raise its head above the position I had evacuated, I made ready for my adversary. With a stone for the fulcrum and my foot on the lever, up went the form of my dummy. 'Zip,' passed the rebel's bullet through its head. Johnny, being too confident, hesitated, as I expected he would, to cover. This hesitation proved his destruction, as I sent my leaden messenger, would you believe it, right through the barrel of his rifle, as it lay yet in its horizontal position, and through the breech of the same into the rebel's brain, as I discovered after, when our folks made a sortie towards night in that direction." The storekeeper, wishing evidently to cogitate over the matter on the quiet, put out the light, leaving the loungers wending homewards, puzzling themselves in the intricate depths of that wonderful rifle shot.

POSTAL AND MINT ITEMS.

THE LETTER CARRIERS' BILL.

The House bill fixing the pay of letter carriers, which was reported to the Senate by Mr. Ferry, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and passed without amendment, provides for amending sections 3 and 4 of the act of February, 1879, so that they will read as follows:

SEC. 3.—Upon the recommendation of the postmaster of any city, the Postmaster-General may establish a third grade of letter carriers known as auxiliaries, who shall be paid at the rate of \$600 per annum, and who may be employed at any letter carrier office.

SEC. 4.—Appointments of letter carriers in cities having two or more classes shall be made to the class having the minimum rate of pay, and promotions from the lower grades in said cities shall be made to the next higher grade at the expiration of one year's service, on certificate of the postmaster to the efficiency and faithfulness of the candidate during the preceding years. Provided however, that the Postmaster General be, and he hereby is, authorized to appoint one or more substitute letter carriers, whose compensation shall be \$1.00 per annum and the *pro rata* compensation of the carriers whose routes they may be required to serve, and provided, further, that no boxes for the

collection of mail matter by carriers shall be placed inside of any building except a public building or railway station. The bill now only awaits the signature of the President to become a law.

THE SALARIES OF LETTER CARRIERS.

Judge Freeman, Assistant Attorney-General for the Post Office Department, in construing the recent act of Congress fixing the salaries of letter-carriers, holds as follows: First, that the salary of letter carriers at first-class cities should be fixed at \$1,000 per annum for the first-class; \$800 for the second class and \$600 for the third or auxiliary class; second, that in cities of the second class, the highest salary paid to principal carriers should be \$850 per annum, and to the auxiliary carriers \$600; that appointments must be made to the lowest grade or class; that each carrier is entitled after one year's efficient service to promotion to the next higher grade.

AN INTERNATIONAL POSTAL DISPUTE.

A somewhat spirited correspondence has been and is still passing between the postal authorities of Great Britain and the Chief of the Post Office Inspectors of the United States with regard to the stoppage of the delivery of certain mail matter arriving in Great Britain from the United States. It appears that the British postal authorities not only prohibit the circulation through the mail of American newspapers containing matter adjudged by those authorities to be inimical to the interests of that government, but that registered letters and packages suspected of containing seditious information or dangerous preparations are interdicted by the same authorities.

BUSINESS OF THE POST OFFICE.

Postmaster Pearson's exhibit of the business of the New York Post Office during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, shows that the number of employees is 1,131, whose aggregate pay is \$1,306,490. The changes made for the promotion of the efficiency of the service were as follows:—Appointments, 299; promotions, 420; reductions, 36; removals, 89. The number of imperfectly addressed letters was 336,859. The receipts aggregated \$4,200,066.07, and the expenditures, \$1,316,018.40, giving a net revenue of \$2,884,040.67. The amount of money paid and issued in the Money Order department was \$63,057,953.10, giving an increase of \$11,826,204.06, over the business of the year 1880, performed at an additional cost to the government of only \$1,000.

The P. O. Department of Germany has adopted and uses postage stamps whose colors can be cancelled by water. This prevents fraud, for as soon as the stamps are washed, the color is obliterated.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Vol. 1. SEPTEMBER 1, 1882. No. 6

EDITORIAL.

We trust our readers will not think any the less of us, when we frankly admit that we have not been down to the seaside, or to any of the fashionable summer resorts; so, consequently, have not this as an excuse for being so late in making our monthly appearance. Neither were we delayed in going to press by our anxiety to give the earliest news concerning the overflowing of the Nile, so submerging a district, not supposed at the present time to be overflowing with milk and honey. Much less were we delayed, by the wish to chronicle the safe arrival of the last cargo of mules on the scene of unpleasantness in the East, or to report that the constabulary of Dublin would turn in with the crowd and sack Sackett Street, or accept the situation and baton without waiting for the "bating" promised to them by Her Majesty, the Queen. Neither was it the wish to announce the termination of the Star route trials, life being so short and fleeting. We solemnly reiterate that our late appearance was not due to such slight obstacles as the above, but having by exhaustive inquiries ascertained that the paper mills, although working with all their resources, night and day, would not guarantee to us a sufficient quantity of paper whereon to print our projected mammoth double number; we were forced to give up the project and appear before our readers in our usual form. We failed to ascertain whether it was from the lack of faith in our paper, or their manufacturing capacity that we met with such poor success, the result is the same, however, and we have promised ourselves that in the hereafter we shall faithfully bear in

mind the moral taught by that dear old philosopher Aesop in his fable of the "Mouse and the bull," wherein it is stated that a bull was bitten by a mouse, and pained by the wound, tried to capture him. The mouse first reached his hole in safety and the bull dug into the walls with his horns until wearied, crouching down, he slept by the hole. The mouse peeping out, crept furtively up his flank and again biting him, retreated to his hole. The bull rising up, and not knowing what to do, was sadly perplexed. The mouse murmured forth, "The great do not always prevail. There are times when the small and lowly are the strongest." This being our semi-yearly number, we find ourselves in a congratulatory frame of mind, that is to say, we congratulate our readers upon the fact that they have been allowed the privilege of basking for the last six months in the sunlight of our intellectual countenance, and that a kind Providence has spared them to partake of the feast of good things which we have spread before them in this number. We fear, however, there are those among the great reading public, that will characterize this article as pregnant with self-conceit and dictated by an overweening confidence. To those we would say, fight against these selfish feelings, and some day or month, when they have nothing better to do, go to the general post-office, and note for themselves the increased labor entailed upon the extra force of hands employed there since the publication of this journal. We would modestly intimate, however, to the many who have the good fortune to be upon our subscription list, that to their friends, who have been the habit of borrowing this paper, they can say that in publishing this edition, we have been enabled, by an extra amount of machinery, to turn out double the quantity that we have heretofore, and that they have only to hint that they wish to become subscribers, and their orders shall be promptly filled.

A Richmond man offers a dollar apiece for \$1,000 Confederate bonds.

Liverpool in 1700 contained 5,714 persons, and in 1800 75,000. In 1775 there was one letter carrier for the whole place.

Mr. T. S. Crayton, Jr., of Anderson, S. C., sold recently a \$500 Confederate note for \$30. It is said to be the only one of that denomination issued by the Confederate government in 1861.

The issue of crowns and half crowns has been suspended in England since 1851. Florins have been coined recently at a great rate. Nearly seven million florins were coined in the year 1872, and about three times that number were coined in the twelve years, 1861-72. Half crowns were issued so long ago as in the reign of Queen Mary; the florin was introduced in 1849.

THE COINAGE OF CHINA.

Continued from No. 4.

The inscription on the coins of Tcae Tsao, 1616, founder of the Manchu dynasty, is "coin of the Heavenly Mandate Period;" on those of T'ae Tsung, 1627, "coin of the Eminent Virtue Period." She Tsao, 1653, issued sixty-five different coins, and opened twenty mints, and first placed on Chinese coins characters representing their value in silver and mint marks. His successor, Shing Tsao, issued twenty-nine coins, called "coins of the Peaceful Lustre Period," one of which is much sought after by Chinese for making rings. The name of this coin is Lo-han-t'ung tseen, or, 'Lo-han, cash, the word 'Lo-han' being the transcript in Chinese characters of the Sanscrit 'Arhan, venerable,' the name applied to the regular attendants of Buddha, which are often seen ranged along the two sides of the principal hall in Buddhist temples." The tradition is that the Emperor was intimately associated with European missionaries. He became imbued with a feeling of contempt for Buddhism, and illustrated this phase in his religious progress by having a set of eighteen brass Lo-han images melted down and cast into cash. The brass is said to contain a considerable portion of gold, hence the great demand for rings,

In 1735, Kaou Tsung cast coins of the "Celestial Support period," also coins for the Mohammedan tribes of Soungaria, also silver coins for Thibet. On the abdication of Kaou Tsung, the national designation adopted for his successor, Jin-Tsung, 1796, was "the Increasing Felicity Period." His coins show a very perceptible deterioration, both in size and quality. Jin Tsung was succeeded by Seen Tsung 1820, who ascended the throne, with the national designation of "Right Principles," or "Reason," and the superscription of his coins is "of the Reason's Lustre Period." On the accession of the new emperor, in 1850, "Prevailing Abundance" was selected as the motto, and a new obverse was cast with the superscription "Current coin of the Prevailing Abundance Period." The specimens of cash were the worst that have ever been issued in China, and those of to-day are not much better.

The earlier coinage of the Chinese, as we have shown, was very rude and uncouth, and the very last an engraver would have selected. But since the time of Christ, the prevailing shape is circular with the well-known square opening in the centre for the purpose of stringing. The string is the usual manner of enumerating them, each mint, in its returns to the government, stating that so many strings of 1,000, 50,000 or 100,000, as the case may be, have been coined. There is, however, great variety, both in diameter and thickness, and also in the quality and color of the metal, even in is-

ues from the same mint.

The following table of Chinese weights and measurements will be of interest:

WEIGHTS.

10 *le* = 1 *fun*.10 *fun* = 1 *tsien*.10 *tsien* = *leang*.A *leang* or *tael* = $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. avoirdupois.

MEASURES.

1 *tsun* = 1,4625 inches.1 *fun* = 1-10 *tsun*.

Of the weight of ancient Chinese coins, there are few official data. In 1664, the weight of cash was fixed at one *tsien*; in 1645, 1 *tsien* 2 *fun*; later in 1645, 1 *tsien* 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *fun*; in 1657, 1 *tsien* 4 *fun*; in 1684, 1 *tsien*; in 1702, 1 *tsien* 4 *fun*; in 1734, 1 *tsien* 2 *fun*, about the present weight.

From 1616 to 1792, the authorized proportions of metals was as follows:

Copper.....	50
Zinc.....	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lead.....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tin.....	2

Afterwards the metal was equal parts of copper and zinc, copper being the generic term used for the metal of all the coins, and sub-divided into red or pure metal, yellow, very like our brass and white. Iron was first used in the reign of Woo-te of the Leang dynasty, A.D. 502.

The only silver coinage of importance issued during the Machu dynasty was employed in Thibet, about the close of the last century: but it was quite a common occurrence, even with the sanction of mandarins high in power, to counterfeit foreign dollars, especially the Spanish dollars, to make up their deficiency. The Taou Kwang dollars were issued for payment of soldiers, and are considered as valuable among the Chinese numismatists as the Sommer's Island piece or New York doubloons with our collectors. One of these has on the obverse the bust of the Genius of Longevity, with four words upon his breast: "Seven *tsien* two *fun* by the treasury balance;" one side is the inscription: "Silver Cake of the Standard Purity," and on the other: "Cast in the time of Taou Kwang." On the reverse is a vase with the name "Formosa," where the coin was cast. Another of these dollars has "Pure Sycee," and "General Current" on the obverse. On the reverse is a horizontal inscription, "Chang Chow Commissariat," and under this a running hand inscription, value seven, four," that is "seven *tsien* four *fun*, weight in silver." Another was struck in Shanghai, 1856, from a steel die, and was tolerably well executed. As soon as it made its appearance, spurious imitations in base metal made their appearance, also in large numbers, so that confidence in the new coin was speedily lost, and now Chinese numismatists preserve it as a rare specimen in their cabinets.

TO BE CONTINUED.

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES:—The design of the new Garfield envelope is as follows:

In the centre of the stamp impressed on the envelope, is the head of Garfield, around the head is a circle, and around the circle is a large circle. In the space between the two circles, at the top is "U. S. Postage," at the bottom, "Five Cents," on each side is the figure "5." There is a rumor that there will soon be a two dollar adhesive.

ANTIGUA:—A half-penny green stamp, is now in circulation in this place.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC:—The double 4 cent avos card, has been surcharged the same as the 6 cent avos.

CANADA:—A new half cent stamp has been emitted. Color, black, in the centre is the head of Victoria around which is a circle of pearls. At top in quarter circle, is "Canada Postage," at the bottom in quarter circle is "Half ($\frac{1}{2}$) Cent," in each corner is a fancy flourish.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE:—The changing of the postal rates will necessitate the emission of a half-penny newspaper wrapper, and a two penny stamp.

DENMARK:—A newsband has lately been issued. Color, green on white.

GREECE:—The color of the 30 lepta, has been changed to blue.

GREAT BRITAIN:—A 5£ stamp is now ready for emission; color, orange.

MEXICO:—*The Philatelic Monthly* says: Mr. Ackerman sends us a specimen of a 6 centavos stamp lately received by him on a letter. The color is blue, and the design a close copy of the U. S. unpaid letter stamps.

SANDWICH ISLANDS:—The color of the new one cent stamp, is now green instead of blue. The two cent has also changed its color to rose.

SAN MARINO:—Single and double post cards will soon be emitted.

ST. CHRISTOPHER:—The latest from this place is a half-penny green.

ST. LUCIA:—One-penny surcharged on the black stamp is the latest.

URUGUAY:—The one centavo stamp has been replaced by another of a different design.

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Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, October, 1882.

No. 7

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

V.—CHILI.

Chili is a South American republic of Spanish origin. It is the most Southerly state on the west side of that continent. It lies wholly between the water-shed of the Andes and the shores of the Pacific, stretching coastwise from Bolivia and Patagonia in lat. 25°30'—43°20'S., and in long. 69°—74°W., an extreme length of about 1240 miles, and an average breadth of fully 120.

Within these limits lies virtually independent Aracania, comprising most of the mainland to the left of the Bibio; while the southern portion is confined chiefly to Chiloe and its archipelago.

Chili is divided into 15 provinces, of which, including certain outlying dependencies in Patagonia, the aggregate area has been officially stated at nearly 140,000 square miles, and the population in 1870 at 1,938,861.

The capital is Santiago, situated nearly in the heart of the country, and connected with Valparaiso, the principal port, by a railway of 90 miles in length, and also by telegraphic wires. The other towns are on or near the ocean; and, to arrange them according to the relative amounts of their trade, they are Valparaiso, Capiap and Caldera, Coquimbo, Talcalmano, and Concepcion, Huasco, Constitucion and Valdivia.

The Roman Catholic Church is established, and that practically to the exclusion of every other denomination. Of mixed marriages, the offspring whether male or female, must be educated in the national faith. In its political constitution, Chili appears to be the least democratic republic in the New World. The legislature is composed of two houses. The deputies sit for three years; and the senators are chosen for nine, retiring in thirds at the end of every third year. The voters for a deputy—to say nothing of the still more select voters for a Senator—must possess either £100 in real property, or £200 in personal effects, or £20 of income: a pecuniary qualification which is exceptionally doubled for the wealthier localities of Valparaiso and Santiago. In 1848, attempts were made, but in vain, to abolish or modify these restrictions on the suffrage. Under this form of government, Chili has maintained a degree of peace and prosperity utterly unknown to the other transatlantic commonwealths of kindred race. In

this respect, however, the character of the people has doubtless co-operated with the tendency of the institutions. As contrasted with Spanish America in general, Chili contains an unusually large proportion of European blood.

Immediately after the conquest of Peru, Chili was seized by Almagro, a companion of Pizarro, subsequently becoming the seat of captain-generalship, which held sway as far as Cape Horn. In 1810 commenced the war of independence, which, at the close of eight years, was decided against Spain by the victory of Maypo.

The predominant rocks of Chili are crystalline and metamorphic. They form the range of the Andes, except in those districts in which active volcanoes exist, where they are covered with recent volcanic rocks! They occupy also the whole of the level ground between the mountain-range and the shores of the Pacific, with the exception of a narrow stretch of palaeozoic fossiliferous strata which run along the coast south from Santiago for a distance of 300 miles. The coast line of Chili is being continually altered from the elevation of the whole country to an extent of at least 1200 miles along the Pacific shores, produced by volcanic agency. In 1822 the coast at Quintero was raised four feet, and at Valparaiso three feet. Oysters and other mollusks were left dry, and perished, becoming offensive as they decomposed. The change of level was permanent over an area of 100,000 square miles—nearly as large as the whole extent of Great Britain and Ireland. A similar extensive elevation was noticed in 1835 by Captain Fitzroy.

Physically the continental portion of the republic—for its insular section will, in this respect, be noticed under the head of Chiloe—presents many singularities. Of all the maritime regions on the globe it is, perhaps, the most isolated. On every side but the sea—and that sea very remote from the main thoroughfares of commerce—it is beset by difficulties of communication. With the lonely wilderness of Patagonia to the south, and the dreary desert of Atacama on the north, it is bounded on the east by a mountain chain which, altogether impracticable in winter, can be crossed, even in summer, only by a few passes ranging between 12,450 and 14,370 feet in elevation. Moreover, this strip between the Andes and the Pacific is broken into plateaus in the interior and valleys on the coast by two longitudinal ranges, with numerous lateral spurs; while, throughout length and breadth, the general level gradually descends,

as well to the south as to the west. In point of mere temperature, so suggestive of welfare—covering fully 15 degrees of latitude, and attaining an altitude of more than four miles within about two of longitude—must present nearly every possible variety. Through the reciprocal action of the Andes and the prevailing winds, the rainfall graduates itself, with something of mathematical regularity, from the parching skies of the north to the drenching clouds of the south—a graduation which, disturbed merely by the melting of the mountain snows, is, in a great measure, necessarily reflected in the condition and magnitude of the countless water courses. Hence the rivers to the north of the Maypo, which enters the Pacific near latitude 34°, are but inconsiderable streams; while, further to the south, the Manle, the Bibio, and the Caballa are all to some extent navigable.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

Chili issued her first stamps in 1856; there were two values, viz.: 5c. red and 10c. blue. They were printed on blue paper. The design was as follows: In the middle was a circle inside of which was a head, above which was "Colon," below was "Chili." Above the circle was "Correos Porte-Franco," and below the circle was the value. In the next issue there were four designs, viz.: 1 centavo, green, 5c. red, 10c. blue, 20c. green. The design was the same as the first issue. Another issue came out during the years 1867-8, and there were five varieties, viz.: 1c. green, 2c. black, 5c. red, 10c. blue, 20c. green. The design was as follows: A circle, inside of which was a bust; above bust, "Chile;" below bust, "Colon;" above circle, "Correos Porte-Franco;" below circle was value in words; in the upper corners was the figure of value; at each bottom corner was a star.

In 1877-8 was issued a set containing six values, viz.: 1c. green, 2c. light red, 5c. vermilion, 10c. blue, 20c. green, 50c. violet. The design was as follows: A lined background, at the top of which was a bust; below the bust is the word "Colon;" below the word "Colon" is the figure of value in large type; below the figure is "centavo;" below "centavo" is "Chili;" on the left side of stamp is "correos;" on the right side is "Porte-Franco," and in each corner at the bottom is a star.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1874.

First design: Circle; at top, "Chile;" below "Chile," occupying three-fourths of circle, is "Porte Franco Dos Centavos." In smaller circle in centre is a bust.

Second design: Square; at top, "Chile;" on left-hand side of stamp is "Porte;" on the right-hand side is "Franco;" at bottom is "5 cents." In smaller square is the bust.

Third design: Six-sided; bust in centre; in oval around bust, occupying three-fourths of oval, "Porte Franco Diez Centavos;" at top of oval,

"Chile." Fancy scrolls in each angle. Around the bust inside of inner circle are small dots put close together.

Fourth design: Oval; bust in centre; at top, "Chile;" around oval, occupying three-fourths of it, "Porte Franco Quince Centavos;" fancy work around edge of stamp.

Fifth design: Octagon; in centre, bust; around bust is a frilled oval; around frilled oval is "Porte Franco Veinte Centavos;" at top of oval is "Chile;" around the inscriptions is a plain oval border, outside of which is a straight line, tallying with the edge of stamp which is octagon.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

In November of last year, a series of notes concerning matters philatelic in Britain was begun by me and left unfinished. In these it is intended to lay before American readers such information as is both interesting and new, pertaining to philately over the water. The series inaugurated this month in these columns is but a continuation based on a different and more extensive plan. That in the past they have secured the attention and approbation of philatelists is amply testified by the flattering testimonials of the press, backed up, as they are, by the independent and spontaneous communications of various readers. *The Philatelists' Gazette* for February last took occasion to remark: "There has been commenced in the *Stamp World* a new and pleasing feature—and one we believe to be entirely original—which consists in describing in a popular manner everything connected with Philately on this side of the Atlantic, under the title of 'Philatelic Notes from Great Britain.'" But I must not write any panegyric, but rather rest content with the assurance that their success is due to the fact of their novelty. In the future a greater success can be achieved; the first six months was experimental, but now that a firm footing has been established one gets accustomed to the work, settles into harness, and finds that channels of information hitherto unknown turn up. I promise to procure the earliest information concerning interesting matters, and if proof is desired that this has been already accomplished, a comparison of what has previously appeared in the *Stamp World* with British journals will show the news has appeared several weeks—if not months—earlier there than in the British contemporaries. Nothing in my path worthy of notice will escape observation here; the writer's connection with the philatelic press—especially that of his own country—rendering him peculiarly able to apprise our readers of every notable move in stamp collecting, publications, new issues, postal flats and alterations.

The past season has gone, and the bulk of new magazines with it. Even the present year has witnessed the collapse of no less than five journals. One number of the *Philotypist*, one of the *Royal Philatelist*, one of the *Postage Stamp Gazette*, and two of the *Philatelic Observer* have only appeared. Henceforth they are numbered with the Philatelic dead. The *Royal* was published by a swindler in Liverpool, the *Observer* by a Mr. Stevens, hailing from Bournemouth, described as a "doubtful dealer." The *Philotypist*, on the other hand, came out under distinguished managers. The publishers were Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, and it had for its editor the patriarchal philatelist, Dr. C. W. Viner. As the Doctor is not so much known as he used to be, and as his name is now seldom before the public, I have gathered some authentic remarks concerning his career in relation to our science, and now present them here, feeling certain they will be new to the majority of American readers.

Dr. Viner commenced collecting over twenty years ago, and during that time has done much for the advancement of our science through his contributions to its literature. It is pretty universally known that the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, though not the very first periodical devoted to stamp collecting, was among the first; the most important, and the longest lived—it having attained an existence of twelve years. In February, 1863, No. 1 of this standard work saw the light. Dr. Viner was editor; Alfred Smith & Co. publishers. For four years the Doctor's name was connected with it, until the dissolution of the partnership of its publishers put a termination thereto. Stafford Smith—younger brother to Alfred—removed to Brighton, and started the *Philatelist* in 1866, under Dr. Viner's editorship. Like its predecessor, this monthly lasted for a good many years—ten—then merged into the *Philatelic Quarterly*, which survived till three years ago. The *Stamp Collectors' Annual*—No. 1 of which appeared last year—is the remains of these journals, but as the second number has not yet appeared, it being a midsummer annual I doubt this too is discontinued. It was only last winter that Whitfield King & Co. announced that the *Philotypist* would appear in January, and that they had secured the services of Dr. Viner as editor. No. 1 did appear, but it has been nipped in the bud. The editor tells me that *Philotypist* is derived from two Greek words meaning a friend, and an impression, freely, anything stamped. (See article by me in the *Queen City Collector* entitled "Philately and its Synonyms.")

The last collapse is the *Philatelic Review*, lately published by Nicols Butler & Co., of Maidenhead. This has been in existence for over two years, now it is merged into the *Stamp News* of Theodore Buh1 & Co., London. The *News* is doubtless the best journal now published, as in its new issues, a point on which they may feel justly proud, we have

the earliest information, accompanied by profuse illustrations, possible.

Strenuous efforts have been made to float two philatelic associations—one for dealers, another for collectors. The International Philatelic Association, although started in June, 1881, fell through in the winter, consequent on the resignation of the Treasurer and Secretary. It has been a complete failure, there is no mistake about that. Whether the Secretary is responsible for this, as has been imputed, or whether the blame must be attached to the whole committee, is a matter of little moment, although it must strike one as strange how one member of a committee can be held responsible for the actings of his whole colleagues. The Treasurer, Mr. T. W. Cheveley, got reinstated in his office and tried to commence a new course, but few dealers having responded to his call, the consequence is the whole affair has had to be thrown up, as well as the collectors' society. Against both I have all along affirmed the endeavors would come to nothing; not that I desired this result, but any one could see it from the lack of unanimity, the petty bickerings and animosities existing between those who instead ought to have gone hand in hand in order to achieve any degree of success.

I have little space and less inclination to argue with G. H. F. Gale on the subject, but then I publicly affirm what I privately believe, while he does the reverse, conduct deserving the most stringent condemnation. Publicly he writes: "Mr. Wears seems to think a Collectors' Philatelic Society *no good*. Surely he is blinded by prejudice," while in a letter to me written at the time when he was to all appearances doing its utmost for its furtherance, he says: "The society for collectors will come to nothing, and I will not care a rap. What can a little society do? They can form a club, that is all. There will be no science in it, and if a few youths are to be the heads of it no gentleman would care to bow to the chair occupied most likely by a boy of 17 or 18." Yes, Mr. Gale, you and I are of the same opinion, only I had the courage of my convictions while you had not. I must decline further correspondence with him on the subject, as I wish these notes to contain general information, and not be filled with petty squabbles on private matters entirely foreign to their title.

Reply post-cards are being prepared and will be ready for issue to the public on 2d October current. The pattern is of the German style, a double card folded longitudinally, selected in preference to the American plan of a single card with double stamp and ruled spaces on the face for the two addresses. These are for domestic use; an international series is being prepared and will be ready shortly.

Great Britain to Adopt a Parcel Post.

Mr. Fawcett, our Postmaster General, has intimated that the Treasury has sanctioned the proposals of the Post Office for instituting a parcel

post. The negotiations with the railway companies have been completed, any difficulty arising from that quarter having been amicably settled. The maximum weight to be carried is seven pounds the charge for which will be 1s. the minimum one pound, the postage on this being 3d. It would be difficult to overestimate the advantages to be gained from such an arrangement, since there is continually a want of method and punctuality in transmitting parcels by rail, besides the boon conferred on those removed from railway stations, would be very appreciable. The existing arrangements on the continent were adopted at an International Postal Conference which met in Paris in October, 1880. At that conference France, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany agreed to establish an International Parcel Post, to commence on 1st May, 1881. The parcels from France to Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, the charge fixed was 11d. At that time we were invited to join the International Parcel Post, but until the existence of a domestic one, this course would have been indiscreet on our part. It is hoped that on the establishment of the latter, it will subsequently be linked to the former. Indeed, the Postmaster-General holds out the hope of this advantage accruing very soon. A distinctive set of parcel stamps can, I think, be easily dispensed with, but I am unable to say whether such is intended, although their probable issue was rumored some time ago.

T. MARTIN WEARS.

PARAGRAPHS.

BY A. C.

AUTUMN.

Note yonder field of sickled grain,
In rows of gold and crimson sheaf,
Doth tell how Autumn's breath hath kissed,
And wrought a blush on blade and leaf.

Arabi Bey and the Star Route trials have ceased, and the very old *Dickens* seems to have been raised at the finish. The British, not content with *teeming* over the Egyptians' earthworks, as it is said they did, taking the sleepy rebels by surprise, but they must needs *teem* over our *moors* and take away our *prizes*. Alas! What do all our spread-eagle resolutions amount to?

In meditative attitude, and a pair of keen, cunning eyes riveted on the upper story of the General Post-Office, on the curb opposite the Astor House, there stood several days ago, about the noon hour, a ragged bootblack with arms akimbo, and the insignia of his calling slung negligently over his almost nude shoulder. "There!" ejaculated he, in a tone of amazement, loud enough to be heard by the hurrying throng. "Now, look at that!" he continued; "did you ever see the like?"

"What's the matter?" said a benevolent-looking gentleman, who seemed by his manner to have a surplus of time at command, as also a very credulous appearance. "Well, ain't that a shame!" continued the gamin, not appearing to notice the type of benevolence at his side. Soon an old lady halted, and turning her gaze upward, remarked: "Did you ever!" at which a business man—at least

he wore the air of one who hadn't a moment to spare—thought he would take in the sight; and with him a telegraph boy, bent on some errand which needed despatch, also gazed upward. Then another quite different character appeared on the scene, who inquired with quite a bossy air: "Say, pard, wot's the racket?" hurling this enigma at a clerical looking personage who had also tarried to gaze upwards as his fellow travelers were doing. Then a hod-carrier edged his way in the now increasing throng, nearly upsetting the old lady with his impetuous manner, and lifting the silken tile off the mercantile gent's head with the rakish prow of his hod that he acrobatically poised on his brawny shoulder; in his wake followed a worker in wood, with eyes bent upward and his kit of tools carried in mid-air, so as to rake the figure-heads of the crowd fore and aft. Still the crowd increased, until the pedestrians who were not excited by curiosity, or hadn't time to spare, were forced to mount the steps of the hotel in order to make any progress up or down town. Meanwhile the old lady kept muttering, "Well, I do declare, did you ever?" But I noticed ere this that the bootblack had made tracks for the corner, and with a companion was holding on with all his might to an apple-woman's stand with one hand, and with the other seemed to be pressing his sides and at intervals rubbing his abdomen as though he had been lunching off of unripe watermelons. His (the bootblack's) associate stood affectionately leaning on the other's shoulder, ever and anon rolling with herculean efforts a paper of tobacco, which he had deposited in the southwestern portion of his mouth, from one side of the same to the other, and all the while swaying back and forth like the rocking of a ship, and it seemed as though he were afflicted with the same disease or distress which so disturbed his fellow. Feeling a sympathy for the afflicted boys a bystander pressed them to unburden their souls to him, but his Christianlike approaches were met with, "Oh, cheese it!" "Pull down your wes' cut!" and other irreverent remarks. Soon a policeman, having ascertained that there was no fight going on, rushed up madly and carromed over an urchin so small that the guardian of the peace had failed to notice him, and addressing an errand-lad who was puffing with might and main at one end of a villainous cigarette, while the other end emitted an aroma not found pervading the precincts of a perfumer's shop, with "How long der yez mane to shtand gazin' over at the offiz yander like a lot of moonshtricken boobies, der yez moind?" The crowd's gradual and silent fading away reminded one of the departure of the mourners at a funeral, so solemn did they appear, while some of them certainly wore a look which seemed to augur bad for the gamins, had they been at hand. The crowd of a hundred or more had been gazing all this time at the upper windows and bare walls of the Post-Office, and had been thoroughly sold.

DR. BLACKIE'S COLLECTION SOLD AT AUCTION.

BY A. M. C.

On October 2d Messrs. Scott & Co., of this city, sold at the auction rooms of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., by order of the executrix, the large and valuable collection of American and Foreign postage and revenue stamps belonging to that most ardent and well-known philatelist, the late Dr. George S. Blackie.

Dr. George S. Blackie died at his residence in Nashville, Tenn., on Sunday, June 19th, 1881, at twenty minutes past one o'clock A. M., after an illness of nine weeks. He was one of the most prominent citizens of Nashville, and the foremost in every plan for the advancement of its interests. His school for young ladies was one of the well-known institutions of Nashville, and he was also a professor in the medical department of the University of Tennessee. He was not selfish; but he had a heart which felt for those who were less fortunate than himself.

He first commenced collecting stamps over twenty-five years ago, while studying at Bonn, in Austria. In his journeys through Germany and Switzerland he would add such stamps as he might come upon. In May, 1880, when the great Nashville fire occurred, he lay sick. It became necessary to remove him from the house to a more secure place. Before going he made sure that the sheets containing his stamps were wrapped in a sheet and taken good care of. After this they lay in his room until his death. The sale of October 2d scatters a valuable collection, many of his stamps having been sent him by masonic friends in different parts of the world.

The collection was partly disposed of at private sale before the auction, many of the stamps being rarer than those catalogued by Messrs. Scott, but still there were some rare ones left.

At the time appointed philatelists began to show themselves, and kept coming in afterwards so that by the time the auctioneer opened the sale there were a large number present. The bidding was spirited from the opening to the closing of the sale.

As the stamps were sold in lots I will name by their number such lots as I may think worthy of notice, and name what was included in each lot as per the catalogue, and at the end of each lot I will give the price brought by the lot as a whole and not the price of each piece.

The first that I think worthy of notice is:

Lot 135.—British Guiana, 1856, 4c. magenta, ship in oblong, fine specimen with a large margin. This is very rare and sold for \$26.

Next comes

Lot 108.—Antioquia, various issues and values; one unused 14 pieces brought \$11.20.

Then in their order according to the price brought come:

Lot 345.—St. Domingo, *un real*, green, rarer than lot 344, brought \$10.10. (Lot 344 included: St. Domingo, first issue, small, square, value in italics, *medio real*, pink, fine used specimen, very rare, brought \$3.75.)

Lot 51.—Beautiful set of proofs of all the Departments, splendid condition, 92 pieces, brought \$9.43.

Lot 136.—British Guiana, 1850, 1c., magenta,

ship in rect., fine specimen, rare, brought \$6.25.

Lot 174.—Egypt, unperforated, and Ecuador, 14 pieces, brought \$6.16.

Lot 402.—Uruguay, 60c., "diligencia," used, very rare, brought \$6.

Lot 437.—A fine collection of European post-cards, single and double, including many rare ones, unused, a valuable lot, 231 pieces, brought \$5.77.

Lot 176.—Egypt, official stamps, the most complete set ever sold at auction, 284 pieces brought \$5.68.

Lot 194.—Great Britain, compound envelopes, 1s. 1p., 1s. 2p., 1s. 3p., 1s. 4p., and others, a desirable lot, all unused but 4, 27 pieces, brought \$5.40.

Lot 249.—Mauritius, 1852, 2p., blue, type 739, "Scott's Standard Catalogue," rare, brought \$5.25.

Lot 341.—Russia, revenues, beautiful and rare, 22 pieces, brought \$5.06.

Lot 38.—Old embossed revenue stamps of Pennsylvania and other States, very rare, priced at \$2 each, a very difficult lot to duplicate, 13 pieces, brought 4.55.

Lot 54.—Envelope stamps, 1853 to 1864, including high values of first issue, the 20 and 40 of two-colored set and other rarities, 29 pieces, brought \$4.93.

Lot 78.—1861 U. S. 12c. stamps with grill on back, in various colors of both stamps and paper, rare, 9 pieces, brought \$4.50.

Lot 150.—Canada law stamps, C F, F F, L C, L S and Ontario and Quebec, a beautiful lot, 86 pieces, brought \$4.73.

Lot 247.—Mauritius, 1850, 1 penny vermilion, good specimen of this rare stamp, brought \$4.

Lot 248.—Mauritius, 1850, 2p., blue, type 737, "Scott's Standard Catalogue," beautiful specimen, rare, brought \$4.50.

Lot 261.—Mexico, 1865, 3c., eagle, brown, issued by Maximilian, unused, very rare and desirable, brought \$4.25.

Lot 265.—Mexico, beautiful collection of revenues, including "Renta del Timbre," which are rare, 29 unused, 67 pieces, brought \$4.02.

Lot 273.—Natal, 1857, 9 pence, blue, unused, rare, brought \$4.

Lot 326.—Porto Rico, a good assortment of the various issues, 22 unused, 43 pieces, brought \$4.

I might give more but think those already given sufficient to let my readers know of what the collection was composed and what they brought, so that a collector possessing any of them can tell very near their worth.

There were some very rare stamps that did not bring much. For instance take the Connell 5c. stamp of New Brunswick. This stamp, which was one of the collection, is reputed as being the rarest stamp extant. Before I go any further regarding the sale I trust the reader will not consider it out of place in giving a brief history, etc., of the rarest stamp (postage) in the world. Charles Connell was Postmaster-General of New Brunswick in 1861. A while after he had entered on his duties he thought he could improve the stamps of the province. He got up a design and employed the American Bank Note Co., of this city, to print them. He put a different design on each value, which is a very sensible way of doing. On the 1c. was a steam-engine, Victoria (head) on the 10c., a steam-boat on the 12½c., head of England's next monarch on the 17c. and on the 5c. his own portrait. The 5c. stamp was only issued one day and this is the reason of its rarity.

Lot 209, which was a set of Hamburg locals (115) sold for 35c. (they are good for nothing).

I might go on still further but have already taken up much valuable space, suffice it to say that the sale proved a success.

POSTAL AND MINT ITEMS.

POSTAL REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1882.

A statement prepared at the office of Sixth Auditor Ela of the Post-Office Department shows the gross receipts of the department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882, to have been \$41,265,317.10, against \$36,217,511.55 during the previous year, an increase of \$5,047,805.55. The receipts from the sale of postage stamps, postal cards, envelopes, etc., amounted to \$39,533,317.21, against \$34,678,812.30 for the previous year, an increase of \$4,854,504.91. The issue of stamps, etc., amounted to \$40,978,053.42, an increase over the previous year of \$6,352,617. These figures, it is thought at the department, justify an estimate of about \$1,000,000 net revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882. The official announcement will show what have been the results in one direction of reform in the department. The magnitude of the achievement can hardly be over-estimated. The people will remember that this result was reached by the honest administration of the department under Mr. James, who cut off \$1,500,000 a year of Brady's jobbery.

The cost of the star service under Brady in 1879 was \$6,401,830. In 1880 it rose to \$7,321,449. Before the fiscal year 1881 was ended the change took place and the work of reform began. The cost for that year was \$6,957,355, the appropriation having been \$7,375,000. Brady, looking forward to an extension of his scheme, had estimated the cost for the year just ended at \$8,260,000, and Congress gave \$7,900,000. In the report for 1881 Mr. Elmer declared that if no orders reducing the star service had been made the sum needed for the current year would have been \$9,000,000. There is some difference between \$9,000,000 and the sum which the department will show as the cost of star service for the year 1882. It is said that the cost has been nearly \$2,000,000 less than the sum appropriated, or more than \$2,000,000 less than Brady's estimate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

W. C. S. writes and wishes to know "if we are not mistaken in saying that the issue of half crowns was suspended in 1851? I have one dated 1881 which I took in charge that summer in London. The crown is quite scarce and rarely met with in circulation now. I saw but one during the three weeks or more I was in England."

We have made diligent search upon the above subject and query, but with unsatisfactory results. The most that we could learn was that during the reign of Queen Victoria and in 1845 a new design bearing her portrait was issued, and this was (including the date between it and 1851) suspended in 1851. If any of our readers are possessed of any reliable information on the above subject we would be pleased to publish same. E.D.

IMPRESSIONS

MADE BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

With our many other visitors this month we had the satisfaction of greeting our brilliant contemporary "The Gem," the setting of which is the handicraft of the "Gem Publishing Company," of West Chester, N. Y. The lustre of this literary gem shows no sign of dimming, and although quite aged, like the precious minerals found in the bosom of Mother Earth with its years increases in brilliancy. It is very evident from a perusal of the September and prior numbers that its selected stories and other matter filling its eight pages would possess but very little interest to the youth whose sole aim in life would be the possession of an outfit, whereby, he would be enabled to exterminate the buffalo and the savage, but would be a prize to the youth who loves good, wholesome, and common-sense reading.

Our friend from the State of Molly Stark has made his first editorial appearance, and that in a creditable manner. If it develops as much energy or pluck as the heroine mentioned above, and which its brief editorial promises—the sentiments to which we give our hearty approval—the success of the *Granite State Philatelist* is assured. It smacks—its editorial—of that "don't tread on me" style which ultimately makes itself felt and respected. Joking aside, however, we trust that brother Hubbard's subscribers will in a brief time so increase in numbers that he will be placed in the same quandary as that dame of the nursery tale who had such a progeny that the capacity of the shoe in which she dwelt became somewhat confined, so that the editor also will be forced to enlarge his sheet.

The following publications received with thanks: *The Agents' Assistant*, for May and June; *Stamp Collectors' Review* (Rasmussen's) for July; and for September, *Philatelic Monthly*, *Foreign Stamp Collector's Journal*, *Young Folks' Guest*, the *New Jersey Philatelist*, *Western Amateur*, *Collectors' Library Table*, *Philatelic Triumph*, etc.

Incessant halloaing at last arrested the attention of the driver of a heavily loaded dray, and when the vehicle had been brought to a halt the bare-footed, hatless gamin, who had been the cause of the commotion, essayed the following explanation: "Sister Lize says as if you're the feller that soused around with her in the kerchunk dances, at the last picnic, that she'd like you'd call again." By this time the vociferous peals of the policeman's whistle warned the embarrassed drayman to move on, which he did, wondering who his admirer could be.

COINAGE OF CHINA.

Continued from No. 6.

The inscription on the obverse of this coin was: "Heen Fung, 6th year; a cake of pure Sycee silver," from the firm of Wang-Yung-Shing, in the district of Shanghai." On the reverse: "One leang of silver, true weight by the ordinary balance, cast under the inspection of Choo Yuen yu, and executed by Wan Tseuen, silversmith."

The coins of rebels and usurpers in China are but of little interest, and differ from the ordinary cash only in inscriptions. The national designations were also very similar; but some of them are very curious, as for instance, "Resplendent Progress," adopted by the modest Chinese General, Woo San Kwei in 1673; "Extensive Reformation" by his equally modest successor and grandson, Woo She Pan in 1697; "Enriching the people," by a military politico-economist, Kang Tsing Chung, who rose and fell in one year; our "Great Tranquillity Celestial State," by the barbarous Triad rebels who took Shanghai in 1853.

All of the Chinese coins exhibited a very low state of art—all of them were cast with the exception of recent silver money. The inscriptions are very simple, usually designating the name of the period or epoch of the reign and characters signifying "current money," a custom of common occurrence with some of the modern German silver. There is an entire absence of legends perpetuating the memory of great persons or great deeds, no portraits or likenesses of places or things, with the exceptions of very rude representations of a tortoise, snake, sword, horse, and the inevitable dragon or national symbol. On one or two coins of the fifteenth century there is a figure which may be a man or a monkey, as the examiner pleases to fancy. The cause of the absence of portraits of the reigning monarchs is to be found in the fact that their serene highnesses of "Peaceful Lustre," "Eminent Virtue," etc., considered it indecent and insulting that their heads should be handled by the rabble.

Equally with other nations the Chinese have had their financial embarrassments. Insurrections are a fruitful source of these, as has been and is now realized in our own history. The continual drain on the Chinese treasury was so seriously felt in 1853 that proposals of plans to meet the emergency were invited by the mandarin who presided over the exchequer. Prominent among these schemes was the issue of a paper currency and the substitution of iron, lead, and even leather was proposed in the manufacture of cash. The plan most extensively adopted was the issue of large cash. Coins were cast by the Board of Revenue of the value nominally of 5, 10, 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 1,000 cash. Those above 100 cash had a very limited circulation, and the following scale was fixed:

For 100 cash.....	2 leang, 4 tsien.
" 50 "	1 " 2 "
" 10 "	4 " 4 fun.
" 5 "	2 " 2 "

or a little more than one-third the weight used in the same number of full-sized cash in the earlier dynasties. They are now almost extinguished as a circulating medium.

THE END.

EXCHANGES.

I will send 25 transfer pictures for any of the following stamps: British Columbia, B. Honduras, Danish West Indies, Dominica, Gambia, Iceland, Lagos, Malta, Natal. I will send one French advertisement card for any of the above-named stamps, instead of the transfer pictures, if desired.

Address K. BROWN, No. 6, Ave. du Chateau, Neuilly S. Seine, France.

Two U. S. of Columbias, a 5c. and a 10c., for No. 1 of the *Empire City Philatelist*. Must be in good condition. First offer accepted. S. K., 218 E. 17th street., City.

THE RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS.

Assistant Superintendent Jameson and Chief Clerk Summerfield, of the Railway Mail Service, have been busily engaged for over a month in the work of redesignating and reorganizing the employees of that branch of the postal service in accordance with a special act of Congress passed the last session. All of the employees, about 3,600 in number, formerly known as railway messengers, railway postal clerks, road agents and local agents, have been redesignated as railway postal clerks, and divided into four grades, with salaries ranging from \$720 to \$1,400 per annum. In many cases the redesignation resulted in a decrease of salary, but the general average shows an increase of salary paid to employees. It is believed at the Post Office Department that the change just made will result in a saving of money to the Government and in benefit to the service. Under the old system of specific appropriations for every grade, it often became necessary to transfer numbers of clerks from one branch of service to another to meet the exigencies of public business. By the present arrangement clerks may be detailed wherever needed, without making necessary the labor of transferring their names upon the pay-rolls. Some idea may be formed of the labor involved in the reorganization from a knowledge of the fact that each one of the 3,600 employees had to be given notice, by a personal letter, of the change in his designation. A separate order was required in each case, signed by the Postmaster-General, and copies of the orders were furnished to the First and Second Assistant Postmasters-General and the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department for their guidance in paying and auditing accounts.

NEW ISSUES.

BHOPAL:—We notice the latest from this Indian State is a $\frac{1}{2}$ anna and that the color is black. It is now in circulation.

BOLIVAR:—In addition to those noticed in a former number there have been added three more, viz.: a 1 and a 10 pesos, and an 80 centavos. This makes five already issued.

BRAZIL:—We notice that the new 100 reis stamp has been re-engraved. The color, too, has been changed a little.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE:—The 3d. rose adhesive has been surcharged "3d." Before it was surcharged "3" alone without the "d."

CYPRUS:—In No. 2 we mentioned $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green, in our list. Now we have it again in our list as it has been surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side of the head. This has been done to prevent fraud, because when it was soaked in acid the acid would change its color to light blue, thus making them liable to pass off as a 2-piastre stamp. We must add another to the set, viz., 30 paras, lilac-rose.

DENMARK:—In our last issue we chronicled a new wrapper but as we were not aware of what its value was we did not give it but will give it now. It is 5 ore, green on white. We will give as good a description of it as we can give in words. In centre are the arms in an oval band; above the arms is "Denmark," and below "Post from 5 ore." To the right and left, in large discs, is "5." Ornamented spandrels with circles also contain the figure of value. Besides the above we might name a 10 ore rose post-card which will appear with it.

FERNANDO PO:—Besides those we chronicled in a former issue we may name a 1, 2 and 5 cents de peso. The design is the same as that of the last issue.

GREAT BRITAIN:—The design of the £5 stamp we chronicled in our last issue and which we were not able to give, is as follows: Profile of Queen Victoria to left in a circle with lined background. Above is "Postage," below is "Five Pounds," and on the right and left is "£5." In each corner is a colored square containing the usual letters. It is water-marked with two anchors. The color, orange. There has also been a change in the registered envelope stamps. They now have rosettes in the place of the dates.

ITALY:—The latest from this country is the 2 lire, orange. The design is the same as that of the others of the present set.

LIBERIA:—Two new adhesives we have as an addition to the others already issued of this country. Their values and colors are:

8 cents, blue.
16 cents, rose.

MEXICO:—Mr. B. M. Hammond has sent us the following list of new issues for this country; following are the same design as the U. S. due stamps:

2c. green,
3c. carmine,
6c. blue.

Also a 12c., brown, exact design and color as that of the 1c. of 1879.

NEW ZEALAND:—The current new issue is as follows:

1d., rose,
2d., mauve,
3d., yellow,
4d., green,
6d., brown,
8d., red, and
1s., India-red.

They contain the words "Postage and Revenue."

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS:—The 10c., buff, is now surcharged "Habilitado" in a curve above "Pa correos" in the centre, and "De un real" in a curve at bottom.

QUEENSLAND:—The current issue is as follows:

1sh., violet,
2sh., blue,
10sh., brown,
20sh., rose.

ST. CHRISTOPHER:—This place has added a halfpenny, green, to the set.

SAN MARINO:—We said in our last issue that "single and double post-cards will soon be emitted." Since then they have made their appearance, and we give their design below: A resemblance is noticeable in them to the Italian post cards only that the arms of San Marino appear in place of those of Italy, and that the stamp is much larger. It consists of the full face head of liberty with a crown surrounded by branches. Their values and colors are:

10 centesimo, blue
15 centesimo, blue (reply)

ST. VINCENT:—The latest from this place are the following:

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, orange,
4 pence, blue,
1 penny, drab.

UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA:—The present issue is now perforated. The present issue consists of the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 centavos values, with the Columbian arms in the centre.

VENEZUELA:—There are to be new sets of both Escuelas and Postage stamps for this country. Guzman Blanco, the head of the Republic, stated in the paper signed by him on April 15th, that there will be the following values of Escuelas:

5 cent., green,
10 cent., grey,
25 cent., yellow,
50 cent., blue,
1 bolivar, rose red,
2 bolivars, violet,
10 " bistre,
20 " purplish red,
25 " black.

And that there will be the following values of Postage:

5 cent., blue,
10 " listre,
25 " grey,
50 " green,
1 bolivar, violet.

So we may expect the above stamps in a short time. The design, it is said, will be as follows: In the centre there will be the head of Bolivar, which, in the Escuelas, will be turned toward the right side of the stamp, and in the Postage will be turned toward the left.

In the upper part of the Escuelas will be the word "Escuela," and in the upper part of the Postage will be "Correos de Venezuela," and at the bottom of each (the Escuela and the Postage) will be their different values.

Both the Escuela and the Postage are to be rectangular, and it is said they will measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters in length and 2 centimeters in breadth.



— * T H E * —

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

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No. 8

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

VI.—PERU.

Peru is a South American republic, and is bounded on the north by Ecuador, on the west by the Pacific, on the south and south-east by Bolivia, and on the east by Brazil. It lies between the parallels of 3°25'—21°31' south latitude, and 68°—81°20' west longitude. It resembles in the appearance of its outline a triangle, the base of which is formed by the boundary line between Peru and Ecuador on the north.

In area it is above 500,000 sq. miles; and according to the census of 1876, its population is 2,720,735, not including wild Indians.

The country is 1,100 miles in length, 780 miles in extreme breadth along the northern boundary, but is little more than 50 miles wide in the extreme south. Following the general direction, the coast-line is 1,660 miles in length. The shores are generally rocky and steep; in the south, lofty cliffs rise from the sea, and, in some places, the water close in shore has a depth of from 70 to 86 fathoms. Further north, however, occur sandy beaches, and in the north, the shores are often low and sandy, and covered with brushwood. Its harbors are few and unimportant. The harbors of Callao and Payta give the most secure anchorage. On account of the perpetual beating of the surf on the shore, recourse is had to the *balsas* or rafts, in order to land the passengers and baggage, from vessels.

The islands off the Peruvian coast are small in extent and few in number, but are very valuable. The Lobos Islands form a group of three and the largest of them is Lobos de Tierra, which is 5 miles long and 2 miles wide. On the eastern sides of this group they are covered with guano, and the quantity on the whole group, when it was first exported, was estimated at 4,000,000 tons. The Chincha Islands are the most famous of all the groups near the Peruvian coast. They present, on the eastern side, a wall of precipitous rock, with a general slope towards the western shore. The cavities and inequalities of the surface used to be filled with guano, sometimes quarried to a depth of 80 feet. Convicts are used to cut the guano and load the vessels.

The surface of Peru is divided into three distinct

and well-defined tracts or belts, the climates of which are of every variety from torrid heat to arctic cold, and the productions of which range from the stunted herbage of the high mountain slopes to the oranges and citrons, the sugar-canes and cottons of the luxuriant tropical valleys. These three regions are the *Coast*, the *Sierra*, and the *Montana*.—The *Coast* is a narrow strip of sandy desert between the base of the Western Cordillera and the sea, and extending along the whole length of the country. The *Sierra* embraces all the mountainous region between the western base of the maritime Cordillera and the eastern base of the Andes, or the Eastern Cordillera. The *Montana* forms two-thirds of the entire area of the country, and stretches away for hundreds of leagues eastward from the Andes to the confines of Brazil.

The wealth and resources of Peru consist, not in manufactures, but entirely in mineral, vegetable, and animal products. The immense quantities of gold and silver found here by the Spanish invaders represented the accumulations of centuries, and that among a people who used the precious metals only for the purpose of ornamentation. The Andes abound in mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, bismuth, (a brittle metal of crystalline texture,) etc.; and in the *Montana*, gold is said to exist in abundance in veins and in pools on the margins of rivers. The public revenue of Peru is derived mainly from the sale of guano, and only to a small extent from customs. Another important mineral substance is nitrate of soda, which is found in immense quantities in the province of Tarapaca and also borax is found here in very large quantities. There were 608 miles of railway completed in 1876 and several hundreds in course of construction, including a line across the summit of the Cordillera de los Andes, and presenting engineering difficulties even more extraordinary than those overcome in the Mont Cenis Tunnel.

Peru, the origin of whose name is unknown, is now passing through its third historical era, and is manifesting its third phrase of civilization. The present era may be said to date from the conquest of the country by the Spaniards in the early part of the 16th century; the middle era embraces the rule of the Incas; and the earliest era, about which but little is known, is that Pre-Incarial period, of unknown duration, during which a nation, or nations, living in large cities, flourished in the country, and had a civilization, a language, and a religion, different, and perhaps in some cases even far

superior than those of the Incas, who succeeded them and overran their territories. It is worthy of note that at Pachacamac, 25 miles south of Lima, where there are the remains of a now wholly deserted city, and of a great temple, the religion seems to have been a pure Theism; for when the Peruvians of Cuzco carried their victorious arms across the Cordilleras to this district, they beheld this temple with astonishment, not only because it rivaled if not surpassed in splendor the famous Temple of the Sun at Cuzco, but because it contained no image or visible symbol of a god. It was raised in honor of an invisible and mysterious deity, whom the inhabitants called Pachacamac, the Creator of the World. The Peruvians did not dare to destroy this temple, but contented themselves with building by its side a Temple of the Sun, to the worship of which they gradually won over the inhabitants.

Regarding the origin of the Incas, nothing definite can be said. We have no authorities on the subject save the traditions of the Indians, and these, besides being outrageously fabulous in character, are also conflicting. It seems that Manco, the first Inca, first appeared on the shores of Lake Titicaca, with his wife Mama Oello. He announced that he and his wife were children of the Sun, and were sent by the glorious Inti (the Sun) to teach the simple tribes. He is said to have carried with him a golden wedge. Wherever this wedge on being struck upon the ground, should sink into the earth, and disappear forever, there it was decreed Manco should build his capital. Marching northward, the wedge disappeared in the plain of Cuzco and there he founded the city of Cuzco, and he became the first Inca, and founded the Peruvian race. He taught the men the useful arts, etc., while his wife taught the women to sew, spin, and weave. After a reign of forty years "he ascended to his father, the Sun," in the year 1062 A. D. The ancient Peruvian mode of keeping memoranda was with the *quipu*, a twisted woolen cord, upon which other smaller cords of different colors were tied.

Although the buildings of Peru were erected probably about the 12th century A. D., they possess an extraordinary likeness to those of the Pelasgi in Europe. The Peruvian walls are built with large polygonal blocks of stone, exactly like what is called "Cyclopean masonry." The jambs of the doorways slope inwards, like those of Etruscan tombs, and have similar lintels. The walls of Cuzco are good examples of this style. It is further remarkable, that these walls are built with re-entering angles, like the fortifications which were adopted in Europe only after the invention of gunpowder.

About 1516, and ten years before the death of Huayna Capac, the first white man had landed on the western shores of South America; but it was not till the year 1532, that Pizarro, at the head of

a small band of Spanish adventurers, actually invaded Peru, and compelled the haughty Inca to bow down at his feet, and thus Peru came to be a province to Spain. Pizarro became governor, but he had not been installed long before Almagro, a companion of his, rose against him, but was defeated and executed. After his death, his followers resolved to assassinate Pizarro as he returned from mass on Sunday, June 26, 1541. Hearing of the conspiracy, Pizarro deemed it prudent not to go to mass that day. His house was assaulted by the conspirators, who, murdering his servants, broke in upon him and killed him. After his death, the son of Almagro proclaimed himself governor, but he himself was defeated in battle and put to death. Next came Blasco Nunez Vela from Spain with an audience of four, but he was thrown into prison soon after he arrived. Gonzalo Pizarro, the last of that name in Peru, now marched threateningly upon Lima, where the audience of four was and who proclaimed him governor, but he was soon captured and executed by Pedro de la Gasca. A series of petty quarrels, and the tiresome story of the substitution of one ruling functionary for another make up a great part of the subsequent history, and in 1821 she was declared independent, and even after that quarrels were frequent not only internal but external.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

1858. 1. In this year were issued three values, viz.: 1 dinero, blue; 1 peseta, red; and $\frac{1}{2}$ peso, yellow. The design was as follows: Arms, (Llama, tree, etc.) in centre on colored ground in circle. Inscription "PORTE-FRANCO, CORREOS" on left side the value in pesos; on the right the value in centavos. Squares in each corner. Bordering of double lines. Colored imprint on white paper. 2. "CORREOS" at sides instead of the value and plain circle. Flags around arms.

1860.—Same as 1858. Crossed ferns below, arms inside of circle. Smaller wreath above arms than in 1858 issue. 1 dinero, blue; 1 peseta, red.

1862.—1. Arms in circle on colored ground. Colored imprint on white paper. Bordering of single lines. 1 dinero, red. 2. Similar device. Bordering of double lines. 1 peseta, red-brown. 3. Same. Arms on white ground. 1 dinero, red. 4. Similar device. Cornucopia on white ground. 1 dinero, blue; 1 peseta, pink. 5. Trial stamps were issued for this year of the following design: Arms in white relief. Black imprint on colored paper. 1 dinero, white; 1 peseta, white.

1866.—Llama in shield. Above in ribbon "PORTE-FRANCO," above ribbon "CORREOS (5) PERU." Below shield value in words; fancy ornaments on each side of shield. Bordering of single lines. 5 centavos, green; 10 centavos, red; 20 centavos, brown.

1874.—1. Arms in oval. At bottom of engraving value in words; above the first letter of value and last letter is the figure of value in an oval. Above figure in oval, on each side of stamp, is the figure spelled in words. Above arms "CORREOS DEL PERU." In each corner at top is figure of value enclosed in shield. 2 centavos, violet; 5 centavos, blue. 2. Arms in centre in oval. A line is outside of oval, inside of which "CORREOS DEL PERU" at top, and at bottom value in words. At each corner at top is figure of value. All the above is on a shield ornamented throughout with fancy scrolls, etc. Shield is cut off at bottom of stamp by the word "FRANQUEO," which runs from left to right across the bottom of stamp. 10 centavos, green; 20 centavos, carmine; 1 centavo, orange. 3. Large stamp. Mountain. Sun in background. Mountain and sun enclosed in a sort of an oval, with squares with one end cut off, intersecting it at each corner, outside of which is a ribbon with the following inscribed thereon: "PERU. CINCUENTA (50) CENTAVOS. CORREOS. CINCUENTA (50) CENTAVOS." Bordering of parallel lines. 50 centavos, green. 4. Large stamp. Sun in oblong ornamented at each corner. In each corner the figure of value in a broken square. At top of stamp, in ribbon curved outward is "PERU." At bottom, in ribbon curved outward is "CORREOS." On right side "UN SOL." On left side "UN SOL." 1 sol, red.

1879.—Sun in oval ribbon. Inside of ribbon is inscribed "CORREOS DEL PERU." At bottom of oval ribbon value in words. In each corner value in figures. Ornamented throughout. 1 centavo, yellow.

1880.—Same design as 1879. 1 centavo, green; 2 centavos, carmine; 5 centavos, blue; 10 centavos, green; 20 centavos, violet. 50 centavos.—Large stamp surcharged "PLATA," etc. 50 centavos, green. Same as issue of 1874. Also 1 sol, red. Same as 1874. As there has been such an endless number of surcharges by the Chilians for this country for the present year, we will not notice them here, but collectors can find full description of them in "New Issues."

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

1874.—Very large oblong stamp. At top "PERU." Below "CORREOS." Below that is the figure of an ocean steamship enclosed in an ornamental oval. Below ship is "DEFICIT O FRANQUEO." Below that is a shield in which is the engraving of a Llama. At the bottom is the figure of value, from which, on the left side, running upwards in a wave-like ribbon, is the value in words, and the same thing is noticeable on the right side. Each value varies slightly in design. 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos.

1879.—Like the 1 centavo stamp of this issue, only it has "DEFICAT" above. 1 centavo, brown.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Arms in centre. At each side of arms is the figure of value. Below arms is the value in words, printed in large type. Below that is the word "CENTAVOS;" at top of stamp is "CORREOS." Ornaments, tassels, lines, etc., make up most of the fancy work. 2 centavos, 5 centavos, 10 centavos, 20 centavos, 50 centavos.

There were stamps for Lima, which we will describe under a different heading, in a future number.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CRUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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No. 8.

EDITORIAL.

"You have been well Phil (ed) ately," remarked the office-boy after the appearance of our last number. His language struck us as being too utterly familiar to pass without rebuke; not only was the dignity of our office as editor of the *Empire City Philatelist* in jeopardy, but our character as a domesticated patron of sobriety, and not given to late hours, and the consequences which befell those, who, not having gauged their capacity, get well filled, was also at stake. While preparing in our mind a lecture to this young man, intending to show therein the error of his ways, the atrociousness of the pun broke upon us, or, as the boys say, "we tumbled to it." The pen-rack that we hurled at the miscreant, intending thereby to have felled him to the floor, missed its mark, which accounts for the horrid din ensuing, while we write, that the son of Poland,—dubbed by the unregenerated street arab as a "glass puddin'—is creating in his frantic and economic endeavors to patch,—the journal not as yet netting us a princely income—the glass in the upper half of our office door. It is a fact, however, which the reader will not gainsay, that their journal was well-filled and that with most interesting matter. This, with the knowledge that our patrons would not suffer thereby, were we to omit a long discourse upon "Ourselves," considering the nature of the intellectual repast we had selected for them, swayed us in appropriating our "EDITORIAL" column to other uses. New characters have also appeared upon the scene, notably from across the water, our esteemed and well posted friend and Philatelic writer, Mr. T. Martin Wears, for which we make space by casting aside several features, which, though not strictly Philatelic news or literature, we trust have been entertaining. We are negotiating with several other writers well up in "Our Themes," but as nothing definite has yet grown out of the same, we deem it premature to announce names. But we are digressing, as we started out simply to thank our patrons for the support they have tendered us during the past six months, and the congratulatory effusions they have almost deluged us with since the appearance of the October number. We would also add that we wish them to compare our first number with the last issue, and take the favorable difference of the last as an earnest of what we propose to do in the future. We know that it is possible, and in all probability we will improve and enlarge the journal in the coming six months, fully as much, if not more, than in the past, and shall feel more confident of success in the future after having received so many kind expressions of their approbation and good will.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

*"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them."*

The event of the chiefest importance in Britain this month from a stamp collecting standpoint, to which precedence must be here given, is the issue of reply post-cards for inland transmission. These were for sale at the various post-offices throughout the kingdom on the 2nd October. Little or no ingenuity has been displayed in their preparation, as they simply consist of two of our ordinary half-penny cards perforated horizontally. The front one has printed in very diminutive block letters at the left side,—“THE ANNEXED CARD—IS INTENDED FOR—THE ANSWER.” This occupies three lines; the only addition that has been found necessary to affix to the combined half is the word “REPLY” in large capitals in the centre. A thin strip of paper runs along the perforation in the stout card to keep the halves from bearing asunder; this, however, is absent in the thin ones. The former are sold at 8d. the half dozen, 6s. 8d. for a parcel of sixty; the latter at 7d., 11s. 8d. for 120. They have been a long time in making their appearance. I mentioned them as on the way in the April number of the *Stamp World*, and by that date the Act 45 Viet. Cap. 2 had been issued to authorize their use. At the time of writing, it is stated that similar cards for foreign transmission are being prepared, a boon we will not likely enjoy for a good few months to come.

The parcels post will probably not be put in operation until the beginning of 1883. Our Postmaster-General has under his consideration, and will give effect to at that time, a scheme whereby the parcels post, which he has established, will become even more of a benefit to the public than it promises at present. According to this, parcels may in future be insured to almost any value. It is further anticipated that in the event of the insurance of parcels being established, it will be followed by the insurance of letters containing money and jewels, of the principle of which Mr. Fawcett has already thoroughly approved of.

Stamp journals here have barely got over the strain of the summer dullness. Mr. Maitland Burnett, editor of the *Philatelic Record*,—“the only journal which rises above the nether level of schoolboy intelligence,” according to an American contemporary—has been off for the last three months to the north,—the far north. During this period the paper has been under the management of Capt. Evans, who has succeeded in producing three most interesting numbers. Capt. Evans, too, it is who is engaged with a catalogue for stamp collectors, which is at present published periodically. It takes cognizance of all the minor varieties to be met with, and is essentially a catalogue for collectors in the true sense of the term.

Other catalogues in Britain, of course, there are, and good ones too. The last edition of Stanley, Gibbons & Co's contains a list of stamps extending to seventy pages, while the appendix of illustrations thereto annexed occupies 56 pages of specially

prepared plate paper, embracing over 1650 different types of stamps. To this an addendum has just been furnished, embodying a catalogue of all recent accumulations from March to September current, inclusive. This addendum extends to eight pages uniform in size with the catalogue, and is embellished with over 100 engravings.

The only stamp magazines that have survived the dull season, and are calling to their aid all their energies for the busy time at the fag end of the year and the spring of the succeeding, are *Smith's Circular*, the *Foreign Stamp Collectors' Journal*, *Record*, *Globe* and *Stamp News*, out of about a dozen which have strove, but strove in vain to establish for themselves a firm footing, and to obtain a hold on the good graces of stamp collectors. This is about the time new comers for winter ought to be putting in an appearance, but as yet I have heard of none.

It has been matter for regret that able amateurs will not come forward, but continue to remain silent in the background; whereas by disseminating what knowledge they possess, it would not only show that they still continue to take a mediocre interest in the hobby which in days gone by held out many irresistible adherements for them. It may be that some consider Philatelic luminaries have degenerated, others may like certain philatelists of whom the aforesaid American editor tells us have abandoned the walks of philately, “and will walk their bed-room floor at midnight instead, and doubtless some of their spare cash will be invested in soothing syrup,” or it may be for some other less explicable reason. I know not; but thanks to Dr. Viner; he has led the way. Although, as yet, the September number of the *Stamp News* has not appeared, I have good reasons for stating we may expect therein a contribution from the pen of this philatelic veteran. It will contain many reminiscences of the Doctor's relating to a period when “timbromania,” as it was then called, was beginning to make some noise in the world.

The “Foreign Stamp Collectors' Journal,” one of the oldest stamp periodicals extant, takes a new departure on the entrance into its fifth volume this month. Mr. Hunn, the publisher, has been carrying on a work appertaining to coin collecting for the past two years, which, pecuniarily, cannot be termed a success. This branch will in future be merged into the above journal, and will henceforth be known by—but I must take a big dip of ink before I attempt to write so long-winded a title. It is “The Stamp Collectors' Journal, Coin Collectors' News, and Bric-a-Brac Chronicle; a monthly magazine devoted to philately, numismatics and bric-a-brac subjects.” I have a few words to say in mitigation of the tardiness of the *Philatelist's Gazette*, a magazine I have been connected with for some time back. In May last it was tried experimentally to publish without the assistance of dealers, but from obvious reasons this did not work,—hence the delay. I may take my readers into confidence and tell them that I am engaged preparing a number combining many new features which will come out soon under a different publisher.

CORRESPONDENCE.

D. A. Vindin, N. S. W., Australia. Yours of the 28th September received. Thanks for well wishes expressed therein. Note our new advertising rates. Please visit us often.

W. G., Darvill. Will you oblige by mailing to this office number 4 of the “Globe?”

Wm Ridley. Please send your Brooklyn address.

Furnald's “Collector's Guide” (monthly) will make its appearance December 10th.

AUCTION SALES.

BY A. M. C.

COINS.

W. Elliot Woodward's fiftieth sale of Coins and Medals took place on October 16, 17 and 18, and consisted of the collection of Prof. J. Grier Ralston, late of Norristown, Penn. Throughout the sale, bidding was quite spirited and was also attended largely.

The catalogue, which was gotten up by Mr. Woodward, was in its way a work of art. In the first part he has fixed his index and immediately after commences his preface: "Unlike the youthful 'Numismatists and Antiquaries' of Philadelphia, who announce under date of 6mo. 1, 1882, that 'Our aim in compiling our catalogues, is to give our own unbiased and original opinions,' my aim, in making a catalogue, always was so to describe the coins offered for sale, that collectors and buyers might know what they were and have some idea as to how they looked, leaving matters of opinion for discussion by more advanced numismatists and antiquaries," and we would add that he has done just as he says; first he gives the number of the lot, next whether in good or bad condition, and thirdly the number of pieces in the lot.

The first piece calling for special attention, is a 1794 dollar; the catalogue describes it thus: "Unusually good, fine for the date. Obverse, every portion distinct, the head unusually bold, the hair at the most prominent point considerably rubbed, Liberty and date fine, the stars all good, those back of the head as usual flat; reverse, the eagle and wreath fine, legend distinct; so good a dollar of 1794 is but seldom offered for sale; *extremely rare*." No better description was needed than that given by Mr. Woodward to satisfy the bidders that they were bidding for a fine specimen and of a rare piece. This piece brought \$50, and surely it was worth more, considering the condition and its rarity.

The next piece most worthy of notice and struck down to the highest bidder for \$43, was an 1851 dollar: "Proof impression, not quite brilliant, but uncirculated, and blenished, if any, in but the slightest degree. *Extremely rare*." This piece was another dollar which, we think, should have brought more, considering the condition, which was very good.

The next piece of importance was an 1852 dollar, struck down at \$41.50. "Proof impression, brilliant, *extremely rare*." As for this piece, we think it better by a great deal than those mentioned above, for it was comparatively new and as bright as though it had just emerged from the mint.

Another 1852 dollar, which is described in the catalogue as being a "Struck proof, has been considerably handled, but is scarcely any worn, very fine, *extremely rare*," was bought for \$31. On this piece there was some lively bidding.

A dollar, "1839, Liberty seated; reverse, flying eagle, without stars; struck proof, slightly blenished by handling, but still very fine indeed, *extremely rare*," was sold for \$30.

One piece, an 1866 dollar of Mexico, sold for \$1.60; we make mention of this piece because it represents an historical fact and the overthrow of an empire. This specimen showed on the forehead a break in the die, identical with the spot where Emperor Maximilian received the fatal shot, one bullet entering there; this fracture at the time was regarded by some as an omen of the Emperor's overthrow. But 36 of these imperfect dollars were coined.

The following is a list of some coins which brought a high price, but which we cannot devote space for a minute description.

1804 counterfeit dollar U. S.	\$16 00
1854 dollar, <i>very rare</i>	8 25
1855 " <i>very scarce</i>	7 50
1797 half dollar	25 00
1801 " " <i>very rare, so fine</i>	6 40
1815 " " <i>very rare, uncirculated</i>	6 50
1853 splendid proof, rare	9 75
1795 dime, very fine	13 25
1799 cent, " "	24 00
1795 " " <i>extremely rare</i>	10 00
1852 half cent, <i>brilliant proof, extremely rare</i>	10 10
1858 proof set; <i>accessively rare</i> . 7 pieces,	44 00

One more coin should be noticed, and that is a Good Samaritan shilling, Wyatt's counterfeit. This coin, which is very fine and of silver, brought in the Bushnell sale \$650, but from some cause or causes, for which we cannot account, brought but \$1.82. As this equals the one sold at the Bushnell sale in genuineness, is probably as old, and possesses a better history, *why did it not bring more?*

WORKS OF PRE-HISTORIC MAN.

The same gentleman mentioned above, catalogued the collection of archaeological objects of Mr. Norman Spang, of Etna, Pennsylvania, which were sold at auction by Bangs & Co., of this city.

As we have but little space left in which to review the sale, which took place on October 19 and 20, we will run over the principal pieces.

The catalogue was every bit as fine as the coin catalogue, and we must here award the palm to Mr. Woodward for being the best person we know of to get up a neat and comprehensive catalogue.

The first piece which brought the most was Lot 366a. It was an "Amulet or Bird stone, Ray, Ind.; the head of this piece bears a striking resemblance to the head of a dog, with the ears partially erect; it is probable that what appear to be ears were intended for eyes; the body triangular, the tail not raised, perforations commenced but not finished; material, variegated stone resembling agate and of equal hardness; perfect, 3½ by 1½ inches." This piece brought \$30.

Lot 773. Shell Sorget, from East Tennessee, was from a mound in Sevier county. It had two perforations, and the inner surface was elaborately decorated with a carving, which was thought to represent a coiled rattle-snake, this device being a favorite one for objects of this sort. This piece was perfect, and was, perhaps, the finest object of this description, nearly round, deeply concave. Size, $6\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It brought \$17.

All of the Discoidal stones brought a good price; the highest was \$10 for one from Tellico Mountain, on the head waters of the Tellico River, in Tennessee; this stone's edge was rounded, and it was deeply concave on both sides, and the material was granular quartzite; very fine and of great size, the size being $5\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Next we have a spade from Union County, Ill., a very fine specimen, for which the owner paid \$25, but in this sale it only brought \$10. The size was $13\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Next we have another Discoidal stone, but this time from Gwinnett Co., in Georgia; edge beveled, concavities large; and of dark, nearly black, material; very fine; size, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$. This piece brought \$8.

Next is another spade from Illinois; material quartzite, symmetrical and finely wrought, point polished and of unusual size. Size, $14\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ inches. This piece brought \$8.

Another Discoidal, from Yancey county, North Carolina, having deep concavities and of soapstone, brought \$5.75. The size of this piece was $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

A bead from Ohio, of ivory or bone, and in form a long cylinder, shaped like a cigar, 5 inches in length and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter in the middle and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch at the ends, *extremely rare*, brought \$5.50.

The following are most worthy of notice:

Lot 391, Discoidal from Franklin Co., Mo.,	\$5 50
" 392, " " " " " "	5 00
" 394, " " Cherokee Co., N.C.	5 25
" 398, " " Clay " "	5 50
" 395, " " Polk Co., Tenn.	4 00
" 601, Dagger, washed from a mound on the banks of the Tennessee River, in the freshet of 1865, finely chipped, $8 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$	5 25
" 964, Dagger, Germany; $6\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$	4 10
And lastly,	
" 954, Dagger, Denmark; broad blade, handle contracted; very fine; size, $7\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{8}$, brought	4 50

The French must be industrious letter writers. In 1881 one milliard three hundred and fifty million letters passed through the Post-office of France, an increase of four hundred and eighty-five millions since 1877. By dividing the number of letters in 1881 by the number of population, it will be found that thirty-seven letters for each inhabitant must be allowed for the year. So that in France each individual writes one letter in nine days.

GOOD PRICES FOR RARE COINS.

SALE OF THE THIRD DIVISION OF PROF. ANTHON'S COLLECTION.

The sale of the third division of Prof. Charles E. Anthon's numismatic cabinet was concluded yesterday afternoon by Messrs. Bangs & Co. The interest in the sale was unabated and the prices obtained were equally as good as those of the previous day. A double gold ducat of Saxony, F. Augustus I., a very rare and curious coin formerly used as a counter at the Court gaming tables, was sold for \$9.50. A medal dollar of Saxe-Weimar, 1655, struck in commemoration of the death of Bernard, the great Protestant hero of the Thirty Years' War, much prized by collectors, brought \$9. An extraordinary coin known as the catechism dollar, Saxe-Gotha, 1668, bearing on the obverse side the attributes of God, inscribed in German on flames issuing from a circle, changed hands at \$6.50. A silver medal of Goethe from the same dies as the gold impression presented to Goethe by the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess on the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival at Weimar went at \$8.25. The medals and coins relating to Luther and the Lutheran Reformation were in general demand, and brought good prices. A fine broad dollar without date, 1517 or before, bearing on the obverse side the bust of Frederick III., (the Wise,) Elector of Saxony, Luther's protector, sold for \$20. A sharp and fine Huss-and-Luther dollar of Magdeburg, 1617, first jubilee of the Reformation, was bought for \$16.50. A double Eisleben dollar, 1661, in an unusually good condition, having a bust of Luther on the obverse side and a representation of his birth-place on the reverse, went for \$9.50. A contemporary silver medal on the death of the great reformer, also in admirable condition, brought \$11. Among the German Masonic medals were some very rare objects which brought high prices. In the Swedish division of the collection was a mortuary ducat of gold, Gustavus Adolphus, 1632, which was bought for \$7.25, and a large historical silver medal on the battle of Leipsic, worn by Gustavus Adolphus, went for \$6.25. A unique square copper plate, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, representing half a dollar in the silver money of Sweden, and belonging to the reign of Charles XII., 1711, brought \$10.10. The coins and medals of Holland were for the most part valuable mementoes of a deeply interesting historical period—the life-time of William of Orange. Their historical and intrinsic value being great, unusually high prices were obtained for the objects classified under this head. A silver medal on the destruction of the Spanish Armada, 1588, one of the leading pieces in the collection, ran up to \$22. This piece is described in many histories and memorandum works, and is in superb condition. A triple dollar on the victory at Turnhout, an interesting memorial of the great Prince Maurice of Orange, was knocked

down, after a good deal of lively bidding, at \$20.50. A silver medallion in *repousse* on the appointment of William, Prince of Orange, to be Commander-in-Chief of the Dutch forces, 1672, was eagerly sought after and run up to \$11.50. The last in the list of coins and medals was a fine and extraordinarily large Rembrandt medal by M. C. De Vries, 1873. The piece, which had been subscribed for by the owner, was in perfect condition, and in its execution and dimensions surpassed the Ingraham medal. It is believed to be the largest struck medal known. It sold for \$7.50.

Prof. Anthon's books, principally in German, illustrating this part of his cabinet were next sold, but the prices obtained were far below their real value. The principal sales of books were: "The Coins of the German Emperors and Kings of the Middle Ages," Cappe, 3 volumes, \$9.50; 24 volumes of a weekly publication entitled "Historical Numismatic Amusement," \$20, and "Numismatique du Moyen Age," Joachim Lelewel, 3 volumes, \$15. A rare collection of catalogues was also disposed of, and in a few instances they brought exceedingly high prices. The Ritter von Schultess-Rechburg catalogue, forming an appendix to the Thaler cabinet, sold for \$9.50, and the Ferdinand Ockel auction catalogue, Berlin, Sept. 13, 1869, brought \$7.25. The total amount of the sales was \$1,063. — *N. Y. Times*.

A gentleman from New York is said to have paid \$650, not long ago, for a single coin. He was a coin-collector, and, of course, was under the influence of the "coin-collecting mania." Most of us can understand that mania, for who has not tried to make a collection of cards, or stamps, or shells, or buttons, or something of the kind? The name given to the mania for coin-collecting—"numismatics"—is of French origin. The Romans, however, were great collectors, and some of the specimens preserved by them are now in European museums. The first coin-collector on record was Petrach, and since his day, the number of collectors has been constantly on the increase. The largest collection is in the British Museum, and it numbers 125,000 pieces.

A boy, who lives in Butte County, in California, recently shot an owl which evidently was once a captive. Attached to one of the bird's legs was a gold dollar, of the coinage of 1856. The coin was fastened to the bird by means of a piece of wire. The bird was an aged one, and the dollar evidently had been carried many years.

It is estimated that the gold dollar is used by 80,000,000 of people; the British sovereign by 35,000,000; the French franc by 77,000,000; the silver dollar of all countries by about 552,000,000. — *Boston Traveller*.

NEW ISSUES.

BARBADOES :—It is said, that there will be a new issue of adhesive stamps for this colony, also envelopes, wrappers, news-bands, and cards.

ICELAND :—There has been emitted a new 3 ore, buff, for both official and general.

MEXICO :—In addition to those chronicled in our last, we have a

24 centavos, violet.

ORANGE FREE STATES :—The four pence, blue, has been surcharged "3" in black ink and will be used as a provisional.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA :—There has been announced for this colony a ½d. stamp, which is similar to the ½d. Victoria.

SWITZERLAND :—The new issue for this country consists of

2	centimes,	buff,
3	"	grey,
5	"	brown,
10	"	red,
12	"	blue,
15	"	yellow,
20	"	orange,
25	"	green,
40	"	grey,
30	"	blue,

1 franc, red-brown.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC :—The *Stamp News* says: "We have received information that, owing to the stock of 1c. adhesives being exhausted, a provisional has been made by surcharging the 2c. with the lower value, but cannot vouch for the authenticity of this."

MARTINIQUE :—A new post-card was issued for this place on May last, and we allowed the fact to pass without noticing it. The description is as follows: "Martinique—Carte-Postale—Ce cote est exclusivement," etc., (this is in three lines). Two lines have been made for the address, the first line as usual commencing with M. It is typographed in black on red, the other side being white. Postage is prepaid by affixing two 5 centimes stamps in the upper right hand corner.

CHIHUAHUA :—*Le Timbre Post* chronicles a stamp found in an old collection. The design is as follows: The Mexican eagle in centre, on the left "Correos," on the right "Chihuahua," below "Ps." above "Un," all in a circle. Colored imprint, on white. Rouletted on lines.

TASMANIA :—There is a private post-card lately issued in this colony. The design is as follows: It measures 118x78 mm.; the inscription is as follows: "Walch's Tasmanian Post-Card. All persons who approve of the introduction of a penny post-card for delivery in any part of the colony, are solicited to encourage the movement by the use of this card. The address only to be written on this side." Below is the word "To," and in the upper right hand corner is a place for the stamp, with the directions "Inland Postage 2d., Town Postage 1d."

TURKEY :—It is said this country will have an entire new set of adhesives of a new design.

VICTORIA :—There is a variety of the 1d. post-card, in which the arms are smaller and slightly different than those in use commonly. It is said there will be a number of post-cards (official) for the various departments.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE STAMPS OF TRINIDAD.

By T. MARTIN WEARS.

For the last few months the inhabitants have been supplying us with numerous additions to our stock of stamps and post-cards for this island. Most of our readers are doubtless aware that the values in the first three issues are not indicated, and that at the present moment they have none on which the penny value is specially impressed. This appears to have been more in request than the others, so that a provisional has been concocted by taking the current green sixpence, deleting the word, and putting in its place the former value. This surcharge is effected by pen and ink, there being two different varieties, one in red ink, the other in black. It is certainly a rough and ready system to pursue, and for my own part, unless I saw the stamps post-marked, and on their original envelope, I certainly would have misgivings as to their authenticity.

Philatelists know that the carmine stamp has been accustomed to do service as a penny value, without any indication whatever on it. The Trinidadians, however, have now found it advisable to impress it with "ONE PENNY," thinking, no doubt, that if it does little good, it will do less harm. The printing is of the same type as the current half-penny. In common with other of the West Indian Islands, *e. g.* St. Vincent, a $\frac{1}{2}$ provisional was formed by dividing the 1d. vertically down the centre, and allowing each to stand for a halfpenny value.

But, in addition to these provisional adhesives, a resuscitation in the shape of a local has just been brought to light. It is rectangular, and has in the upper portion a steamer sailing to right, in the lower the initials L. McL. in the form of a monogram. The background is composed of shaded horizontal lines, enframed by an ornamental border. Like its other insular compeers, this stamp is devoid of any mark of value, and is imperforate, engraved in *taille-douce*, dark blue on thick white paper. It appears that the local was issued in the early part of the year 1847 by the owners of the steamer *Lady McLeod*, for the purpose of franking letters between two towns in the island—Port of Spain and San Fernando; and that they were sold at the rate of four dollars per hundred.

So much for the adhesives; but I may as well remark, before passing on to a description of the lately issued post-cards, that a new series including the values $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 4d., 6d., 1s. and 5s. is at present in preparation.

Like the adhesives, the cards too are merely temporary. They bear the following inscription in five lines: "UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE," "TRINIDAD (TRINITE)," the words "POST-CARD" separated by the royal arms, "FOR COUNTRIES WITHIN 300 MILES SERVED BY BRITISH PACKETS," "THE

ADDRESS ONLY," &c. In the space for the adhesive stamp, ruled in the right upper corner, are printed the words "POSTAGE STAMP" and "ONE PENNY" above and below. There are two varieties; the inscriptions, although both in black, are on a white as well as on a pale buff card, and are franked by the carmine adhesive (value 1d.), as also by the provisional penny in red on 6d. green described above.

It may be as well to note here, while on the subject of colonial post-cards, an event which has ultimately been crowned with success. A party in Tasmania desiring the introduction of penny post-cards, issued one of his own as follows:—Space for stamp in upper right-hand corner, lettered "ISLAND POSTAGE 2D., TOWN POSTAGE 1D.;" within an ornamented frame is the following inscription: "WALCH'S TASMANIAN POST CARD. All persons who approve of the introduction of a penny postal card for delivery in any part of the colony are solicited to encourage the movement by the use of this card. THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE." This card had the desired effect of inducing the postal authorities to issue one of their own, and from this time dates the issue of cards for the island of Tasmania, under the circumstances above mentioned.

BRIEFS.

The article entitled *Britain: Its Stamps*, by T. Martin Wears, which was commenced in the October number of the *New Jersey Philatelist*, we have perused and find it written in his usual instructive style and is one of his best. Part I. explains to the reader the manner in which the Penny Post was first introduced, and contains a laughable anecdote of Rowland Hill. We have every reason to believe that his subsequent parts will be interesting.

THE PHILATELIST'S GAZETTE.—Mr. Fred. Tozer has given this magazine over to Mr. M. Arthur, of Dunfermline, Scotland, and that gentleman will be its future publisher. T. Martin Wears will be editor. We expect to get an excellent medium, now that Mr. Wears is editor.

Mr. F. T. Mills has again possession of the "Stamp World," and Mr. Collins has bidden "Yale" and his Alma Mater. We do not for a moment suppose that the progress of this journal will be in the least impeded by this *Stamp pede*, and have every confidence in the new regime.

J. T. Hanford is hard at work on his forthcoming annual directory for 1883. It promises largely and should be liberally subscribed to.

Publisher Illing, of the "Triumph," is also industriously at work on his new directory. He must be as busy as a beaver with all of the publications which he advertises as being issued from his office.

Mr. Woodward announces another sale—time not as yet specified.—which will include a quantity of Masonic Bric-a-Brac, China Punch Bowls—of capacity, we suppose, fitted for the approaching holiday season—original Seals of a great number of extinct European Lodges, Banners, Regalia, Jewels, etc., a selection of curios from Japan and the South Sea Islands, oars, war clubs, lances, etc., objects of natural history, teeth of the sperm whale and the mastodon, skulls, tusks, elaborately ornamented in artistic designs. Due notice of date of sale will be given in these columns.

* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, December, 1882.

No. 9

"THE OLD POST-OFFICE."

BY A. C.

Noticing with concern the gradual obliteration of old land-marks in this city, owing to the arbitrary demands of trade and this era of progression, the writer, impelled by a reverence and sentiment of veneration for this—almost the last—relic of the days when Manhattan Island was known as New Amsterdam in the reign of the Von Twillers and Stuyvesants, has taken no little pains and time to gather for the reader, who, likewise, may feel a regret at the demolition of this structure, a few facts concerning the same. To the old New Yorker and scions—and there are many of them scattered over the country—it must bring a suspicious moisture to the eye and a quickening beat of the heart, when, as they sit by the fire-side they have provided for themselves, mayhap many miles from their birth-place, they learn that this, about the first building of importance in the village which now aspires to fill the position of the leading city of the world, is fast disappearing by the hand of the brawny laborer, who with pick and bar moving stone by stone and with a zeal that would have done credit to a Goth or Vandal of the Middle Ages, they slowly—for let me tell you, the rough-hewn stones cling tenaciously one to the other, fearing lest in this their last embrace they will lose sight of one another forever—toss one by one from the highest point of the gambrel-shaped gable-wall to the abyss below, which was wont to be the *auditorium* wherein the sturdy and honest burghers worshiped the everliving God, the echo and crash of each stone, as it finds lodgment among its fellows at the foot of the wall, sounding to the writer—although scarcely heeded by the hurrying and busy throng—like a protest from the spirits of the departed, who, more than a century and a half ago, so loved to linger on the lawn which then surrounded it. None but those most callous can certainly look upon its departure, this rudely constructed monument of Anti-Colonial times, and which, from the period of its disuse as a house of worship up to within a few years, has been used for Post-office purposes without at least a misgiving that we are as a community rapidly losing all sentimental feeling—if, indeed, we ever possessed any—towards those age-frosted land-marks which have been so rapidly disappearing from the face of Manhattan Island for the last twenty-five years, notwithstanding the craze with which many are infected at the present time of establishing museums of curios and overloading the same with

antiques and bric-a-brac, made to order in some shop of modern handicraft. We fear, much of this is for the sake of Mrs. Grundy, and this reverence for what is aged, to a great extent, exists, but on the surface.

In the year 1726, parties representing the Dutch Reformed Church in America, bought for the sum of £575 from a David Jamison the site upon which in the year following the corner-stone was laid of the Middle Dutch Church, or what we of the present generation have known as the "Old Post-Office." In the centre of the plot purchased was erected, in the style illustrated on our second page—excepting the wing enclosed by sash-work on the first floor—a building 100 feet long by 70 feet wide, having situated in the centre of its width on the northern gable a bell-tower, the lower part of which, some years after, was made still more useful by the insertion of a clock. The ceiling of the auditorium was in the form of an arch unsupported by columns, a pronounced improvement by the way of that nuisance of the present day, which compels one to crane his or her neck to get a glimpse of the speaker. The building was dedicated in the year 1731 by the Rev. Walter Dubois and Mr. Henry Boel, "much impressiveness," says an old chronicle, being lent to the service. By a bequest of one Colonel De Peyster, "a God-fearing man and loyal citizen," who breathed his last before the completion of the edifice, the congregation was enabled to procure a bell, which was cast in Holland in the same year of dedication; the good folks of Amsterdam contributing silver coin for the same, while the bell metal was being reduced to a molten mass at the founder's.

During the occupancy of the city by the British, the interior of the edifice was to a great extent defaced and mutilated by the removal of the stairs, pulpit, and a portion of the galleries, to make room for the mounted dragoons, who used it as a school for practice; and, gaining the consent of Lord Howe, a Mr. Oothout had the bell taken down and placed in hiding until the invader was compelled to evacuate, when it was with much ceremony replaced, remaining in position until the year 1844. Now its deep and solemn tones can be heard pealing its call to worshipers in the Empire City from the square tower surmounting the Reformed Church in Lafayette Place, as it did the exiles from Holland from the belfry of the "Old Dutch Church" decades ago.

Up to 1764, the Dutch language was used in conducting religious services, but the Rev. A. Laiddie in that year being called from the mother

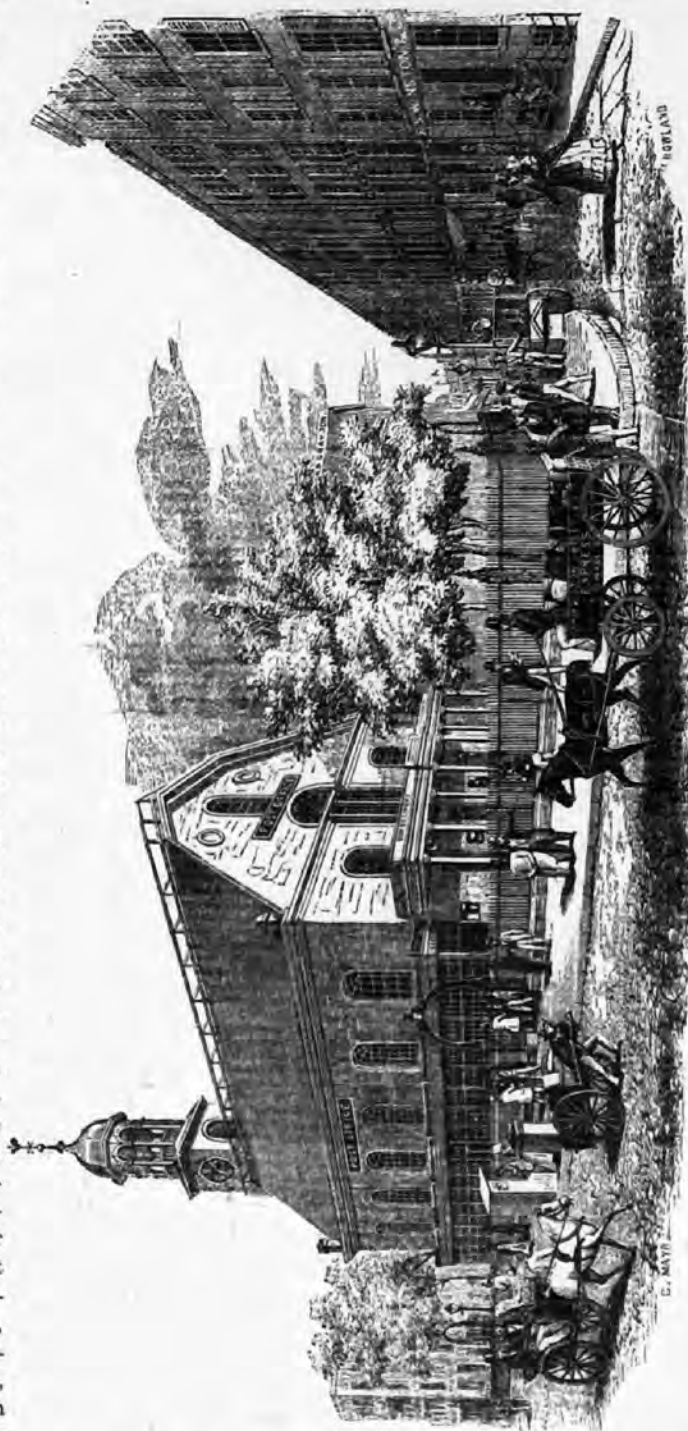
country, introduced services in the English language, both languages being used, however, up to the year 1803.

Mr. Laiddie was responsible also for other innovations; for shortly after becoming pastor, new galleries were built, the interior of the church in other respects renovated, and the pulpit which had been standing in the south end removed to the end occupied by the belfry, and provided with an immense concave roof or sounding board, with the view of improving the acoustic properties of the auditory.

In the year 1844, with the congregation still in a prosperous condition, the locality being then chiefly devoted to business purposes, the U.S. Government by lease came in possession and thereafter up to September 1875, used it as a Post-Office. The valedictory sermon took place in August, 1844, when, beside the sacred programme, the Rev. Dr. Knox gave a graphic and interesting picture of its past history. The Government's lease expired in the year 1860, and not being able to effect a purchase, owing to a deficiency of \$50,000, the appropriation for that purpose being limited to \$200,000, the moneyed institutions and merchants made up the \$50,000 deficit, and the U. S. Government became possessors in fee for the sum of \$250,000. The additions with which the Government surrounded the church after purchase can scarcely be said to have en-

hanced its appearance, entirely concealing the lower half from view, and had the Holland lad or lass, reared within sound of its bell, been recalled to this mundane sphere and brought within its precincts, they certainly would never have recognized it, such was its disfigurement. The Chamber

of Commerce was largely represented in the subscription for the deficit in the year 1860, and several years subsequent those of the subscribers living made legal assignment of their claims to any interest in the property to the Chamber of Commerce, with the provision that the latter corporation should erect a building for their own use on the site. Great excitement prevailed in the vicinity during the draft riots in July 1863, so much so that the employees were armed and artillery placed in a commanding position near the entrance to the tower on Liberty street. A story is told concerning this tower, that when Dr. Benjamin Franklin was on his way to Albany in 1754, to attend that memorable convention which suggested there a plan of union for the colonies, while in New York he made from the



NEW-YORK POST OFFICE, 1845.

tower experiments of the electrical theories with which his name is honorably associated.

From the time of taking possession of the magnificent structure provided for the postal service, situated at the southern extremity of the City Hall park, up to October, 1877, the Government

used the venerable edifice as a sort of lumber room, giving it the appearance somewhat of an old curiosity shop.

In the latter year, Mr. Conant, of Boston, obtained a one year lease and a renewal thereof one year after at the rate of \$5,000 per year; these leases expiring May 1, 1880, it was again renewed for two years by the Secretary of the Treasury at \$12,000 per year. During these leases, Mr. Conant made repairs absolutely necessary for subletting, and the structure was soon occupied—the site being so advantageously situated for this petty traffic—by retailers of all imaginable kinds of merchandise, the owners and character of the goods in which they dealt changing quite frequently, so that the shop in which the passer-by purchased his cigar to-day, might be found occupied by a shoemaker or tailor to-morrow; the man who dealt in engravings and such ilk having for his neighbor—and with only a board partition between—he who provided the hungry

wayfarer and office boy with their meridian lunch of ham sandwich and coffee for five cents. Even the narrow side-walk in favorable weather was so densely occupied by the itinerant vender of smallwares from the proprietor with basket set on edge of curb, filled with patent mouse-traps, warranted to coax the vermin into its wire-bound prison, to the speculator in pop-corn and peanuts, as to create great discomfort to the pedestrians. And

the razor strop man, known to every New Yorker, as also the visitor in transit opened shop in the morning by wheeling his van close to the curb near Cedar street, and therefrom held forth to the crowd until the sun, in its westward journeying, kissed the slated roof of the sacred structure with hoydenish sun-beams ere it passed away for the day behind the towering modern edifices on the western side of the street: then, he with his van—lightened much or little, according to the variations of trade—took a hurried departure to return again with the sun-beams to renew his monotonous jargon and trade.

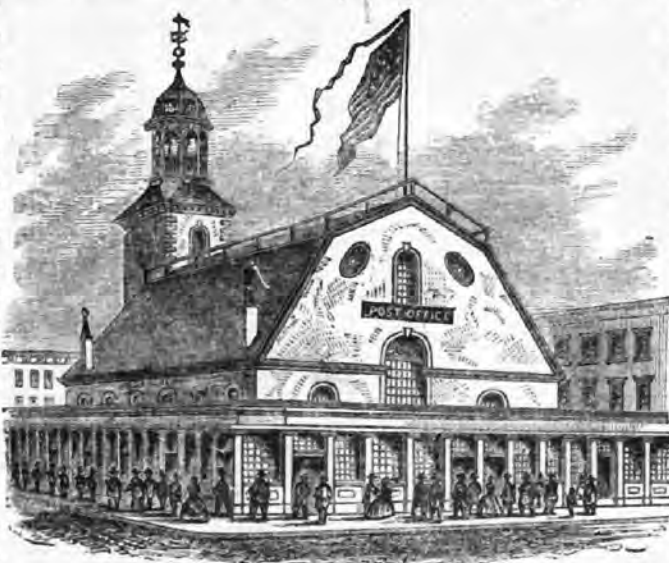
With the leasing of the premises to Mr. Conant, the property became liable to the city for taxes, which, not having been paid up to the time of its sale, had accumulated to about \$20,000.

The Chamber of Commerce, in 1871, appointed a committee, consisting of George Opdyke, A. A.

Low, and W. E. Dodge, to set before Congress the Chamber's claim in equity upon the Post-Office site when the Government had no further use for the same, requesting that they be allowed to come in title thereof for the original cost to the latter of \$200,000. Bills authorizing this were introduced into several congresses without the desired effect. After this failure, bills were presented in Congress, asking for the sale of the property at not less than \$300,000, with the provision that a rebate should be made of \$50,000 to the Chamber of Commerce. These attempts were frustrated, by what influence it is hard to conjecture: suffice it to say, that Mr. Conant held possession in spite of the influential endeavors to oust him. During the summer of 1882 there was a final bill passed, which authorized the sale which took place on October 18th. The bill passed without notice any equitable claim of the Chamber to one-fifth of the purchase money, and the latter body passed thereafter a resolution,

declaring it impossible to compete with others who were eager for its possession. The dimensions of the property are 184½ feet on Nassau street, 115½ on Cedar street, 110½ on Liberty street and 174 feet in the rear; was started on the day of sale at the upset price of \$600,000 and knocked down to the Mutual Life Insurance Co. of this city at an advance of \$50,000, being \$32.50 per square foot.

Ere these lines will reach the reader's notice, the Middle



NEW YORK POST OFFICE,
1865.

Dutch Church of New Amsterdam and "Old Post-Office" of New York City will be counted among the things of the past. In fact the ambitious cardinal in Shakspeare's King Henry VIII aptly illustrates—when he meditates on his own downfall which he perceives in the near future—its condition even now:

· Nay then, farewell!
I have touch'd the highest point of all my greatness,
And from that full meridian of my glory,
I haste now to my setting: I shall fall
Like a bright exhalation in the evening,
And no man see me more.

—CARDINAL WOLSEY.

It does not require a great degree of imagination to picture the days when the honest Hollanders worshipped therein and the contrast between the pleasant poetic past and the harsh practical present—at the risk of being termed old faggish—

strikes the writer as being a matter of regret. For who among the wealth-aspiring, hard working business men of the present day, whose every undertaking, from the partaking with his family of breakfast in the morning to the closely calculated business transaction involving thousands of dollars, is done with the rapidity of a steam engine but unlike that piece of mechanism, scarcely ever even when asleep—if it can be said the business man of the present day ever sleeps—ceases to toil with the brain, thereby refusing the opportunity for lubrication which the machine made by hand enjoys; we repeat: who of these would not exchange places for a season at least with the methodical, dreamy citizen of New Amsterdam, who, oblivious to all but his pipe and mug, who ventured not from home and the dear wife and little ones, appropriated a week or more to con over a business matter, involving at the most a sum of dollars considered by our business man of to-day a mere bagatelle, who delighted to see and enjoyed with such a boisterous guffam the frolics of the young folk upon the green-being too plethoric to take any other part therein—that his Falstaffian proportions shook like a ship at sea; who cavilled not thereat if his neighbor's domicile towered a story higher than his own humble mansion; who, in fact, was satisfied with the world and himself, and, therefore, assumed not the weary, worn, and cadaverous appearance of he whom we see now-a-days racing through our business thoroughfares as if life were at stake.

And these highways which hem in the sacred precincts of the old building, with the clatter and din of business all devoted to the golden god, have at last had removed from their presence, forever, the only and last reminder to him or her who passes back and forth that they once were clothed with vernal green; that the birds of the air mingled their notes of joy with the thanksgiving of man, and, wonderful to relate,—the contrast being so pronounced—that the music of youthful voices making merry at eventide, and the pleasant, chatty gossip of dames lost to all the cares of the world, excepting that part of it represented by the group around their own capacious chimney side, in the long, long past, echoed into this the very heart of the business portion of the "Empire City."

THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE AUCTION.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen has just issued a catalogue of the articles accumulated in the Dead-Letter office to be sold at auction in this city, beginning on December 4th next. More than 8,000 articles will be thus disposed of, including jewelry, books, toilet articles, and almost everything that could possibly be sent through the mails.

Switzerland has never been noted for wealth of gold coinage, but next year the financial authorities propose to issue gold 20-franc pieces, the first ever coined by the Federal Republic.

A CURIOUS FACT.

A curious fact in connection with the United States Treasury is that there are now outstanding Government bonds to the amount of some twenty million dollars on which interest has ceased. Money to the full value of these bonds has to be kept idle in the Treasury vaults, because it is not deemed safe to presume that the whole of them may not be presented, without notice, for redemption; and when bonds of a certain class fall due, money with which to redeem them is set apart, to remain there till the bonds are taken up. It is a standing joke at the Treasury that bondholders never read the newspapers. No matter how often the lists of bonds on which interest has ceased are published, their publication is without apparent effect. A gentleman took an old seven-thirty bond to the Treasury recently, and was very angry when told that the interest on it had ceased several years ago. He insisted that he should be paid interest up to date. It is believed that some of the missing bonds were destroyed in the great Chicago and Boston fires, and that others are hoarded by persons who are satisfied to lose the interest so long as they know that the principal is secure, while a considerable proportion of them is supposed to be held by persons who think that the securities are still drawing interest.

The Pacific Mail steam-ship Zealandia left Sydney, Australia, October 5, and arrived at San Francisco October 29, two days ahead of schedule time. Her mails arrived at New York November 4, at eight p. m., by limited train on the Pennsylvania Railway, by arrangement of Ed. S. Pugh, general manager Pennsylvania Railroad, thirty days from Sydney, thus beating the best record two days. The North German Lloyd's steamer Main, which was to have sailed at three p. m. same day, was held back and the mail for Europe was transferred to it by the Fletcher. The Main is due to arrive at Southampton Tuesday, November 14, in time to put the mail into London on the same day. This will be forty days through from Australia, which will beat the best record by either New York or Suez route one day. The mail, which consisted of 278 sacks, was transferred under the direction and supervision of General Superintendent Waring, of the Foreign Department, New York Post-Office.

There are now in the Treasury vault \$90,000,000 of brand new silver dollars, which are lying idle, and \$28,000,000 in fractional currency, making a total of \$118,000,000 in silver coin on hand. The silver dollars—no one wants them—increase at the rate of 3,000,000 each month, 2,000,000 of which are coined by the mints in accordance with the law.

By the late ruling of the post-office department, no advertisement or hand-bill is allowed to be put on the walls or anywhere in a room, the rent of which is paid by the Government for post-office purposes.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

VII.—VENEZUELA.

Venezuela is a republic and lies in the north-west part of South America. It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the west by the United States of Colombia, on the south by Brazil, and on the east by British Guiana, and between the parallels of lat. $1^{\circ}20'$ — $12^{\circ}25'$ N.; long. $59^{\circ}45'$ — $73^{\circ}17'$ W.

Of late years, the country has been variously subdivided. In the year 1854, there were 13 provinces—those of Apuce, Barcelona, Varinas, Barquisimeto, Carabobo, Caracas, Coro, Cumana, Guiana, Maracaybo, Margarita, Merida, and Truxillo—with an aggregate population of 945,408. Afterwards the provinces were increased to 21, by subdividing 8 of the original provinces. In 1863, after the Federals had conquered the Unionists, a confederation was formed and the number of *states* was reduced to 7. But a re-division seems to have been made since then, for we read of there being 20 states.

The area of the country is estimated to embrace 368,235 square miles; and the population is about one million and a half. The capital is Caracas. The coast-line extending from east to west—from the delta of the Orinoco to the boundary of the United States of Colombia—is 1584 miles in length. The most easterly part of the coast-line, 150 miles in length, and formed mostly by the delta, is washed by the Atlantic, and is very low. The waters of the Gulf of Paria beat upon bold and rocky shores. The remainder of the coast-line, including the north shore of the peninsula of Paria, is washed by the Caribbean Sea; and the coast, for the most part low and marshy, is sometimes precipitous, the mountains rising like a wall from the water's edge. With trifling exceptions, the country is abundantly watered. Its great river is the Orinoco, which drains by far the greater part of it, and the course of which is almost wholly within its boundaries. The other greater rivers of Venezuela are affluents of the Orinoco. Numerous streams, small in comparison with the great rivers, flow north into the Caribbean Sea, and the Lake of Maracaybo, which is by far the largest lake in the country. The Andes enter Venezuela from the west, and divide in two branches, the first of which runs north towards the coast, under the names of the Sierra de Perija and the Montes de Oca, but rise no higher than 4200 feet; while the other branch, running in a north-east direction, terminates near the coast, in long. $68^{\circ}30'$ W., and attains a much greater elevation. That part of the north-east branch of the Andes called the Sierra Nevada de Merida, and situated about 100 miles south of Lake Maracaybo, contains the only mountain that rises above the line of perpetual snow,

and the two peaks of which are 15,342 and 15,310 feet high respectively, the loftiest in the country. South and south-east of the Orinoco, are the most mountainous districts of Venezuela. They form a vast, confused, and mostly unexplored region, but none of these mountains rise to the height of the main peaks of the Andes. The country embraces large table-lands, known under the names of *Llanos*, *Paramos*, *Mesas*, and *Punos*. There are extensive, low, marshy tracts along the coasts and the lake and river banks, which, however, are abundantly fertile during the dry season. For the most part, the soil of the country is fertile. In the mountainous district in the south-east, there are great tracts well suited for the production of grain. Of this region, the land not more than 2000 feet above the level of the sea, are known as *tierras caldas*, or hot lands; those between 2000 and 7000 are called *tierras templadas*, temperate lands; and those above 7000 feet are the *tierras frias*, cold lands, in which the average temperature is 49° F., and which are mostly uninhabited.

The warmest tracts are the palm-lands; and the sago-palm, cocoa palm, and others, grow here to a most colossal size, and yield most valuable products. Among the forest trees are the mahogany, satin-wood, rosewood, black and white ebony, and caoutchouc; and there are forests of the Cinchona or Peruvian-bark tree. The cocoa and coffee trees, sugar-cane, indigo, and cotton-plants are cultivated; also vegetables of great variety, and tobacco is a profitable crop. Among the wild animals are the puma, ounce, and wild-cat, and the jaguar which is now becoming scarce. The alligator, crocodile, boa-constrictor, and rattle-snake are found.

The east-coast of Venezuela was discovered by Columbus in 1498; Ojeda and Vespucci followed in 1499, and, entering Lake Maracaybo, they found an Indian village constructed on piles, to prevent the evil effects of inundation, and they named the place Venezuela, or little Venice, a name which afterwards spread to the whole country. The first settlement was made at Cumana in 1520, by the Spaniards; and Venezuela remained subject to Spain till it claimed independence in 1811. It then returned to allegiance to Spain, but again revolted in 1813, and, forming with New Granada and Ecuador the republic of Colombia, was declared independent in 1819. In 1831, the states separated. In 1865, Juan Falcon became president, but fled in 1868, when the Unionists overcame the Federals. In 1870, the Federals regained their supremacy, and appointed A. Guzman Blanco president.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

1859.—Arms (trophy, wheat sheaf and horse) between branches and surmounted by two cornucopias. "CORREO DE VENEZUELA" at top in two lines, the lower one being curved. Below the arms is "LIBERTAD." At bottom of stamp is the value in words. $\frac{1}{2}$ real, yellow, orange; 2 reales, red, rose and brick-red; lined background. 1 real,

blue, dark-blue. Checkered background. These stamps exist in two series: one on blue paper and one on white paper.

1861.—Arms on white ground. "CORREO DE VENEZUELA" in curved line at top. At bottom value in straight line in words. Elaborately ornamented throughout. $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo, green; $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, grey; 1 centavo, grey-brown. Colored imprint.

1863.—Eagle with wings spread, holding in the right talon a spear and in the left a branch in pearly circle on solid ground. Seven stars above circle. "VENEZUELA" in ribbon below circle. In a straight line at top is "FEDERACION." At bottom is the value in words. Ornamental frame and corners. There were 5 values in this issue, viz.: $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, pale red; 1 centavo, slate; $\frac{1}{2}$ real, orange, yellow; 1 real, blue; 2 reales, green. Colored imprint. Rectangular in shape.

1867.—Arms (usual design, except that below them is DIOS Y FEDERACION) in octagonal frame with the inscription on frame "CORREO DE LOS E. E. U. U. DE VENEZA." and value in words. Ornamental corners. Bordering of double lines. $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, green; 1 centavo, blue-green; $\frac{1}{2}$ real, pink; 1 real, red; 2 reales, yellow. Square in shape. Colored imprint.

1874.—Same. Surcharged in black with very minute inscription in two lines, viz.: "ESTAMPILLAS DE CORREOS," below CONTRASENA." This inscription is oft repeated across each row in a sheet of stamps. 5 values, viz.: 1 centavo, slate; 2 centavos, green; $\frac{1}{2}$ real, rose; 1 real, vermilion; 2 reales; yellow. The inscription is found sometimes upside down and some have the "s" in "CORREOS" left out.

1880.—Bust in centre in oval. At top over oval is "VENEZUELA" in curved line, below "CENTS." In bottom corner is the figure of value enclosed in a square. Ornamented throughout. 5 values, viz.: 5 cents, blue; 10 cents, red; 25 cents, yellow; 50 cents, brown; 1 bolivar, green.

INLAND POSTAGE.

1871.—Bust in centre of oval on lined background. At top of oval "ESCUELAS." At bottom the value and the word "FUERTE." Ornaments in corners. Border of one line. The values are 1, 2 and 3 real, rose; 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 centavo, yellow.

1879.—Bust in centre of oval of pearls and single line. At top "ESCUELAS;" at bottom "CENTESIMO" in the lowest value and in the higher values "CENTESIMOS." At sides of the value at the bottom is the value in large number in oval. The rest of the stamp is made up of flourishes, curves, etc. The values are: 1 bolivar, red; 1 centesimo, yellow; 5 centesimos, yellow; 10 centesimos, blue; 30 centesimos, blue; 50 centesimos, blue; 90 centesimos, blue; 1 venezolana, red. Unperforated. This issue has minute description running across the base, repeated many times.

1880.—Same design as 1879, only perforated. 5 centesimos, yellow; 10 centesimos, yellow; 25 cen-

tesimos, yellow; 50 centesimos, yellow, and 1 bolivar, blue.

1882.—Bust in center of oval of pearls. At top in half circle of drapery, which is suspended from upright posts on either hand, is the word "CENTESIMOS" or "BOLIVAR" which ever value it happens to be. Figure of value in curve in each corner. Perforated. 5 centimos, green; 10 centimos, brown; 25 centimos, orange; 50 centimos, blue; 1 bolivar, carmine.

LOCAL STAMPS.

LA GUAIRA AND ST. THOMAS.

These stamps are used on the steamers running between the ports named on them.

1864.—1. Steamship sailing to right, below which is "PAQUETE," the value and "PRO. CABELLO" in different styles of type. On left side "SAN TOMAS." On right side "LA GUAIRA." Black imprint. Unperforated. Values: $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, grey; 1 centavo, rose; 2 centavos, green; 3 centavos, yellow; 4 centavos, blue. 2. Same design as No. 1, except that 1864 is seen in small figures in corners. Colored imprint. Perforated. Values: $\frac{1}{2}$ r, red, and is also seen in blue; 2 reales, green, and is also seen in orange. 3. Same design as No. 2, except that it is roughly lithographed and that the date is larger. Colored imprint. Values and colors same as No. 2.

1869.—Steamship sailing to left in centre, with value in words on ribbon above; J. A. J. & Z. (J. A. Jezaroon & Son) below in fancy type. Below that is Curacao. Fancy marginal frame on which is inscribed at top "PAQUETE." At bottom "SAN TOMAS." On left "LA GUAIRA." On right "PRO. CABELLO." In each corner is the numeral of value in small circle. Colored imprint. Perforated. Values: $\frac{1}{2}$ real, green; 2 reales, rose.

STAMPS.

It is believed that the first postage stamps used in this country was one designed by Mr. E. A. Mitchell, the postmaster of New Haven, in the year 1847. It did not differ much in size or in form from the present Government stamp, but was of a brown color and was printed on ordinary paper, and contained the words, "Paid, New Haven Post-Office. 5 cents. E. A. Mitchell, P.-M." Mr. Mitchell had them printed for the use and convenience of the citizens of New Haven, who had complained to him of the delay sometimes occasioned by their being unable to prepay letters except in office hours. The stamps were sold by the postmaster and accepted as pre-payment when affixed. A high price is put upon specimens of this stamp by collectors, and the present postmaster of New Haven has frequent applications for them.

A good question to ask a letter-carrier. Does your mother know your route?

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them."

Winter, with its drawbacks to some, but withal gratifying to the most of us, has now fairly set in here. I fancy somebody will exclaim, "But what has winter to do with stamp collecting?" Ah! more than you would imagine; in a word, it is the busy time. It must have occurred to collectors, backed with a year or two's experience, before now, that our hobby falls flat during the summer months, in common with all other hobbies strictly confined indoors. The younger class of collectors seek enjoyment in the open air, their stamps being allowed a season of rest until holidays are over, and the nights gradually creep in shorter and shorter. Even to this established rule, I am afraid the old boy is no exception. With whatever keenness the amateur may ply his avocation as a collector, he must find that a little relaxation therefrom is not only pleasant, but fits him to again take up the hobby, with redoubled energy. Stamp collecting, however enjoyable, if followed out, as it ought to be, becomes a work in no mistake, so that the oft-quoted maxim "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is as applicable to Philately, as to work of a weightier and more assiduous nature.

Of course we are merely entering on the busy season, yet I cannot help remarking the dearth of new publications. Not that they are required, for our science is at present fully represented everywhere in a literary sense, but as compared with last year, this falling off is particularly noticeable. At that time a dozen had either appeared or issued announcements, now, endowed with a whole twelvemonth's knowledge and experience they wisely refrain, rather than publish all numbers after the initial one, *ad Kalendas Graecas* and migrate to the paradise of Fiske, jun.,

"The land where the woodbine twineth."

One, however, the Postage Stamp Gazette, has escaped, at least for the present, this sad yet inevitable fate, having made up for lost time by the issue of a triple number, four months after it first had appeared, and that first two months late. Punctuality is the soul of business! yes, but presumably not so in the business of philatelic journalism.

And yet another collapse, the Stamp Dealer's Gazette, to wit. Originally appearing two years ago, it was published by Mr. Walter Morley, and was intended to advocate the interests of the stamp dealing class, but soon had to succumb through lack of support. Mr. Nunn started a new and reduced series at the beginning of the present year, but only the first and second numbers thereof have seen the light.

Various attempts have been made here to bring out an album for philatelists, such an one as would meet the requirements of the bulk of collectors, but with what amount of success I am unable to aver. The "Philatelist Albums" just prepared by Messrs. Nichols, Butler & Co. of Maidenhead, seem to approach nearer the desired end, for this reason they are published in a series of four different books. These embrace separate volumes for postage stamps, post-cards, envelopes and newsbands, and fiscal stamps, so that one can carry out his *penchant*, say for postage stamps in a volume specially got up for that purpose, or he may pursue in addition to this branch, but in another volume, the collecting of post cards. Each of the above volumes is supplied at the moderate rate of seven shillings and six pence each, but for those desiring the work in a handsome garb, it will be furnished in morocco binding and other additions in, keeping therewith at double the above price.

It appears that the current penny postage and receipt stamp has been surcharged "I. R." at the top above the Queen's head, and "official" below in large capitals, indicating that it is intended for the official correspondence of the Inland Revenue department.

With reference to the correspondence in your October number anent our half-crowns, to set matter right I may mention that W. C. S. is quite correct in his statement that these have not been called in and that value suppressed. Either at the date you mention or several years thereafter it was rumored that both the fourpenny and the half crown were to be done away with, to prevent the possibility of confusion with the threepenny and the florin. During the last few years, however, I have observed many half-crowns of recent date, and have before me about a dozen bearing the dates of 1878-81. Mr. Stone is also quite correct when he says that the crown is seldom met with now, in fact, it appears to have passed into disusage. The authorities of the mint must have come to the conclusion that the withdrawal of the half crown would cause much inconvenience. On the other hand the "groats" are getting small by degrees and beautifully less year by year, and will shortly die out altogether. None have been issued since 1856. Since then large numbers have been collected by the several banks throughout the country, and at the present time nearly £20,000 worth is ready for delivery to the mint.

GOOD-BY TO A LITTLE COIN.

The little three-cent piece has been abolished from our coinage and it is being redeemed at the United States Sub-treasuries. The 3-cent pieces now at the Philadelphia Mint would fill three large wagons. They are to be melted and coined over into ten-cent pieces and the new 3-cent pieces are to be nickel. The objection to the silver three-cent piece is that it is too small to handle conveniently.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 1.

DECEMBER, 1882.

No. 9.

"He shall flourish,
And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches
To all the plains about him."

—SHAKESPEARE.

The poet's prophecy, it would seem—from a retrospect of this fast expiring year, the annual balance sheets of the different governmental household heads and book-keepers, as also the President's annual summing up—can be aptly applied to the present prosperous condition of this nation; for which fact we should have set apart, not one, but many days of thanksgiving, considering how unfavorably in this respect other nations do compare with us. This, also, gives an increased zest, cheerfulness and liberal feeling in the approaching holidays, as witness the throngs—that are trebled, we are sure, to any previous festive season—which crowd our shops and bazaars from the time they open to late in the night. This fact of national prosperity and the remembrance of the many forms in which a kind Providence, as individuals, has so bountifully blessed us, should also be the "open sesame" to our purses, when appealed to by those who have been less fortunate.

The President's message has been largely criticised. Statesmen and would-be-statesmen, wise and otherwise, have sagely commented thereon; but in so grave a matter—where is he who could or would have done better? After all, it is but the thoughts and suggestions of a single human being, as prone to mistakes and liable to please and displease as another, why, therefore, expect perfection? Among the many suggestions made by the President, the one advising cheaper postage (see article under "Postal and Mint Matters") strikes us as being timely; and, without entering into the question of remuneration to the Government, we heartily concur in his views and hope to see it put in practice by becoming a law at an early day, if for no other reason than the following: that it would be beneficial to the masses. One cent saved in three being of no consequence to the wealthy, but a consideration to the poor, which should not be overlooked. Cheap postage means the more frequent use of the pen and that instrument which the crafty diplomat Richelieu "deemed mightier than the sword," when allowed to corrode from disuse, portends ignorance in the people, which, it seems, has become so great in our midst as to alarm the Chief Magistrate, who considers it worthy of the following:

"No survey of our material condition can fail to suggest inquiries as to the moral and intellectual progress of the people. The census returns disclose an alarming state of illiteracy in certain portions of the country where the provision for schools is grossly inadequate. It is a momentous question for the decision of Congress whether immediate and substantial aid should not be extended by the General Government for supplementing the efforts of private beneficence and of State and Territorial legislation in behalf of education."

Who of us, after conning over the above and having the future welfare of the nation and people at heart, cannot consistently lend his advocacy to cheaper postage and kindred means and systems of education, which shall make the latter as free as the air we breathe and as bountiful as the far-reaching hand of the Almighty. And if we lack a revenue that will warrant the same—create it by an increased tax on spirituous liquors and tobacco, and in fact on every luxury not a kin to a necessary of life. We notice, while on this question of cheap postage, that in the House Mr. Caswell (Rep., Wis.) offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Appropriations to embody in the Post-Office Bill a clause reducing postage to two cents, which was adopted. Also that the House Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads unannouncedly agreed to report favorably Mr. Anderson's bill, fixing the rate of letter postage at two cents. The committee think that the stimulus to letter writing, which would be caused by a reduction, would greatly lessen the estimated loss for the first year, which (not counting such increase of letters) would only be \$8,000,000. The entire loss, the report assumes, could be offset by a fair allowance for carrying the official mail matter of the Government.

We trust it will not be deemed an ungracious act or considered forward on the part of a recruit and novice in the ranks of Philatelic journalism, which we may be yet considered by our older contemporaries, still we cannot overcome the impulse to speak "right out in meetin'" against the system of exchanging advertisements, so prevalent among Philatelic publishers. This system is not of late growth, but would seem from our brief experience to have taken deep root and become an intolerable nuisance. Why a dealer in stamps and coins should not pay cash for his advertisement instead of tendering his stock in trade to that amount in lieu thereof, or why one editor should invite another to an exchange of space with a view of advertising one another's publications passes our limited comprehension. We are surprised, with the extent to which this exchange method is carried and would have discredited a truthful statement of same, were it not backed by experience. Deeming it an act of courtesy, we were led into acquiescing in this humbug way of doing business by taking a part therein, trusting that the limited

amount of exchange which it might be the custom to do, would not affect us one way or the other. Before being entirely overwhelmed, however, we feel constrained to cry "you mercy, good brothers, hold enough." In other words, and not to mince matters—although matters minced would be appropriate to this season of the year—we do not propose to continue it, and those not in a position to pay cash need not trouble us with their orders. Hereafter business communications, tendering anything to the contrary, will not be noticed. We trust that our brother publishers will soon find that it is to their interest to conduct their business on a strictly cash basis. A fitting time now presents itself for the inauguration of this better system, being a season when, to a great extent, men are planning improvements on the past and promises of turning over to a new leaf are as countless as the sands of the ocean, and we venture the assertion, that at the end of the approaching year the pages of the cash book will show a balance in the columns to which, mayhap, it had become a stranger; leaving no desire on the part of the accountant to turn backward therein, unless it be to deride the folly which led him, so long, to pursue a course which failed to be remunerative. Wares having merit, advertised judiciously for cash, will not fail to find a ready market.

Patrons of Philatelic and numismatic literature, without a doubt, will appreciate this our endeavor No. 9, and they can consider it a foretaste of that which is to come: for on the first of April next—All Fools' Day, we believe,—we shall be foolish enough to commence our second year by then and thereafter issuing the "E. C. P." in sixteen-page form, none of them to be encroached upon at any time with advertising matter. Of a necessity, the subscription price will be increased to one dollar per year, or those wishing to subscribe now, will be entitled to the first fifteen numbers issued subsequently to January, 1883, for the same price. Knowing their statistical value and that it would interest our readers, we have clipped quite copiously from the different annual reports of the Treasury, Mint, etc. They are overflowing with information; mayhap dry, but still very instructive. It will be a difficult matter—when so much care has been exercised in the whole—to discriminate in favor of any of the well-assorted materials selected for the making up of this number; and if the reader extracts as much pleasure in perusing its columns as the editor has experienced in constructing, we will have attained our reward; so leaving you for the while, he heartily—using the language of the imprudent, but good-souled Rip Van Winkle—wishes "you may live long and prosper," and that no mishap shall come between you and the pleasure of spending a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The design of the new issue for this country is as follows: In centre is a miniature picture of an envelope on which is inscribed the figure of value with "CENTAVO" below it, and back of the envelope is half sun; below envelope is a bugle. All of the above is surrounded by branches. At top "CORREOS." in half circle. At bottom in half circle is "REPUBLICA ARGENTINA." Heavy border. Ornamented in corners. They resemble the 1874 issue of Hungary.

$\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, red-brown.

1 centavo, carmine.

12 centavos, blue.

There is also a new envelope on white laid paper similar to the current envelope stamps of Wurtemberg.

12 centavos grey-blue.

AUSTRIA.—The 2 kr. card for Bohemia is now on red card.

BARDADOES.—The design of the 1882 issue of this place is as follows: Head of queen inclosed in circle enclosed in square, which has four fancy corner pieces. At top over square is "Barbados," at bottom is the value in words. Those already issued are:

$\frac{1}{2}$ pence, green

1 penny red

$2\frac{1}{2}$ pence blue.

3 pence mauve.

4 pence olive.

6 pence brown.

1 shilling red

5 shillings yellow.

BRAZIL.—Through the kindness of Mr. F. F. Peard, who sent us a specimen of the 20 reis cards of this country, we are enabled to give a fuller description than that which we have already given in No. 2. The design of the stamp is the same as the olive 100 reis stamp (adhesive) of 1881 on either hand ornamental flourishes stretching for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch towards the sides of the card. Above the stamp is "BILHETE POSTAL." At bottom is "(Neste Lado so se Esgreve o enderego.)" Below stamp is the usual three lines for the address. An ornamental border and corners make up the remainder of the card.

CANADA.—The design of the new Canada 15 cents is as follows. Head in centre on background of parallel lines in circle. At top in half circle is "CANADA POSTAGE" at bottom in half circle is "Fifteen Cents," below that is the figure "15" in each corner. Ornamental flourishes at top and bottom, but more prominent at the bottom.

15 cts, Slate.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—This place has as a new issue a 1 pence card. Post-card, 1d red-brown on white.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Reply post-card. See T. Martin Wear's article "*Philatelic Notes from Great Britain*," in November number for description, etc.

HAYTI.—It is said that the 5 centimes, green, has been perforated and that the whole set will probably be treated in the same way.

INDIA.—New adhesive in use.

1 anna, lilac.

LABUAN.—New issue like those now in use.

8 cents, red.

LIBERIA.—This place has a new registration envelope of the following design: At top in half circle "LIBERIA" in middle in straight line "Registration," at bottom TEN CENTS."

Envelope 10 cents black.

LUXEMBURG.—New series of the following design came into use on October 1st. At bottom "LUXEMBURG" above that in smaller letters and in smaller oblong "GD. DUCHE DE." Above that large rectangle containing figure of value; the rest of the stamp is taken up by the arms of the duchy. The values are as follows:

1 centime, lilac.

2 centimes, grey

4 centimes, yellow

5 centimes, green.

10 centimes, carmine

12½ centimes, blue.

20 centimes, orange.

25 centimes, blue.

30 centimes, green,

50 centimes, brown.

1 franc Violet.

5 francs, brown.

MEXICO.—We are indebted to Mr. B. M. Hammond for the following. "Two new Mexican postal cards are out, 3c and 5c values, of entirely new design, too complicated to explain. they bear "1882" issue, 3c impressed stamp, and 2c and 3c same respectively. The 1879 two cent is again in use, with colors slightly changed. (This will make 2c 1882 scarce) 1882 issues to date consist of 2, 3, 6, 12 and 24c. stamps. Look out for a full new set in the near future."

A curious envelope has been seen by us of a peculiar design. On the right hand side at the top is a 5 centavos, chocolate stamp, and on the left two 10 centavos, green stamps, one at the top and the other at the bottom. The design is the same as the 1874 issue of envelope stamps.

NEW ZEALAND.—The one penny 1882 red for this colony is watermarked "N. Z. with star beneath," and its design is as follows: Queen in centre, around which is an oval composed of two lines separated from each other by a space one-sixteenth of an inch wide. In this space at the top is NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE, and below is ONE PENNY. In each corner is an ornamental corner piece. The stamp is surrounded by a parallel lined border. Lined background. The stamp is printed on white paper.

QUEENSLAND.—Mr. Dawson A. Vindin has kindly sent us a specimen of the 2 pence blue 1882 Queensland stamp. The design is as follows: head of Victoria in centre of stamp, surrounding it is on oval of two lines each line being

about one-eighth of inch from the other. Between the lines at the top "QUEENSLAND" at bottom "Two PENCE." Between the letter "T" of two and "Q" of Queensland on one side and "D" of Queensland and last "E" of pence is a fancy ornament. A dotted border surrounds the stamp. In each corner of the stamp is a fancy corner piece. It has a background of lines and is printed on white paper.

RAMPOUR.—New set as follows:

½ anna, orange.

1 anna, brown.

2 anna, blue.

3 anna, red.

4 anna, green.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—This place has a new ½d adhesive. ½ pence green.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—Has a penny card as a new issue, 1d. carmine on buff.

TRANSVAAL.—The 4d has been seen surcharged in black, "EEN PENNY," The 3d stamp has been surcharged ½d.

URUGUAY.—2 centavos, carmine. is the new issue for this place.

VICTORIA.—The design of the new 4d. adhesive for this place is as follows: Head of queen in centre o. oval on groundwork of parallel lines. At top in half circle "VICTORIA" at bottom "FOUR PENCE." Fancy ornaments on sides and in the corners makes the stamp look as if it had been pulled from under some monolithic object of Egypt, *Guia del Coleccionista de Sellos de Correos* mentions two envelope stamps, the design of which is as follows; head of queen in centre; around it is two ovals, the inner one being pearls, outside of these circles at the top is the value in words; at the bottom is "VICTORIA." Imprint in relief.

1 penny, green.

2 pence, red.

WURTEMBERG.—New issue, post-card. 5 pfennig, violet on buff.

A LUCKY FIND.

The "find" of old gold coins lately made in Paris by two laborers who were engaged in the demolition of the house in the Rue Vieille du Temple once occupied by Marshal d'Effiat, will afford numismatians an exceptional opportunity of adding some choice pieces to their collections. The coins were stored away in a copper trunk, and their intrinsic value, simply as old gold, amounts to 108,000 francs. According to the French law of treasure-trove the finders are entitled to a half share, and they elected to take it in current coin by weight. They thus become the fortunate possessors of upward of £2,060, and the coins are being catalogued preparatory to being sold at public auction. There are nearly 8,000 pieces in all, and they include coins of Jean le Bon, Charles V., Guillaume de la Garde, Jeanne de Naples, Louis I., Comte de Provence, and others of equal interest and rarity. One coin in particular, of Guillaume de Beauregard, is said to be unique of its kind.

POSTAL AND MINT ITEMS.

\$718,800,806 IN COIN.

FIGURES AT WHICH THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT PLACES OUR METALLIC CIRCULATION.

The report of the Director of the Mint of the operations of the Mints and Assay Offices during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, shows that the imports of foreign gold coin and bullion were in the first half of the year \$30,100,230 greater, but during the last half \$28,311,047 less, than the exports, the net gain for the year being only \$1,789,183. The total amount of gold deposited was \$66,756,653, which was \$74,000,000 less than the preceding year, while the silver purchased for coinage and deposited for bars was about \$3,000,000 greater, and amounted to \$33,720,491. Notwithstanding the decrease in the deposits of gold, the coinage was greater than that of any previous year in the history of the Mint. At the commencement of the year there was on hand \$86,548,697 of uncoined gold bullion, \$32,848,471 of which, in addition to the deposits of the year, was consumed in coinage. The total coinage was 11,266,003 pieces, of the value of \$89,413,447.50, being nearly \$11,000,000 more than in any previous year. About one-half of the coinage was in eagles, one-third in half eagles, and the remainder in double eagles. The silver coinage consisted of \$27,772,075 in silver dollars and \$11,313.75 in fractional coin, a total of \$27,783,388.75. Of the minor or base metal coins 46,865,725 pieces, of a value of 644,757.75 were struck. The demand for five-cent nickel pieces was quite large, and the stock of that coin in the Treasury became depleted. The Secretary of the Treasury, therefore, directed that the coinage be resumed, and 4,400,775 pieces, of a value of \$220,038.75, were struck during the year. The remainder of the minor coinage consisted principally of one-cent pieces. Gold bars of the value of \$37,505,120.04 were manufactured, 12,147,674.90 of which were of fine gold for depositors at the New York Assay Office. Fine silver bars of the value of \$7,769,898.15 were also made, chiefly at the same institution.

The purchases of silver for coinage during the year amounted to 23,627,229.37 ounces of standard silver, at a cost of \$24,136,942.19, an average of \$1.0215 per ounce. The average London price for silver was 51.13-16 pence per ounce of British standard fineness, equivalent to \$1.0226 per ounce United States standard, and the average New York price was \$1.02419 per ounce standard. The profits of the silver coinage amounted to \$3,440,887.15, of which \$3,438,829.41 was from the coinage of the dollar and \$2,057.74 from fractional coin. Of the total profits, \$64,026.11 was paid for transportation and \$15,055.99 for wastage and loss on sale of sweeps. Of the coinage of the silver dollar during the year the Mints distributed \$15,747,463, leaving in the Mints \$35,365,672, the balance of this and previous years' coinage.

The production of gold for the fiscal year is estimated at \$31,500,000 and of silver \$44,700,000, a decline of \$5,000,000 in gold and an increase of \$2,600,000 in silver upon the estimated production for the previous fiscal year. The consumption of the precious metals in the United States for use in the arts during the year is estimated at \$12,000,000 of gold and \$7,000,000 of silver, of which \$7,000,000 of gold and \$6,000,000 of silver was of domestic production. There were issued from the New York Assay Office for the use of manufacturers \$1,500,000 more of gold and \$800,000 more of silver bars than in the preceding year.

The total coin of the country is estimated to have been at the beginning of the year \$439,776,753 gold and \$171,459,766 silver, a total of 611,236,519; and at the close of the year \$500,776,753 gold and \$199,459,766 silver; total, \$700,236,519, a gain of \$61,000,000 in gold coin and \$28,000,000 in silver. The gains from coinage, less re-coinage, were \$88,814,091 in gold and \$27,651,816 in silver, and by the imports of United States silver coin, \$517,778; but the export of United States gold coin was 25,008,659 greater than its import, and, including \$2,700,000 used in the arts, reduced the gain in gold coinage to about \$61,000,000. Of the gold coin about \$87,000,000 belonged to the Treasury, \$104,000,000 to the national banks, and \$310,000,000 to the general public, including other banks; of the standard dollars \$33,000,000 belonged to the Treasury and \$86,000,000 to the banks and general public. Of the total metallic circulation \$148,000,000 belonged to the Treasury, \$112,000,000 to the national banks, and \$441,000,000 was in general circulation. Up to Oct. 1, there had been a further net gain to the coinage of \$11,308,851 of gold and \$7,036 of silver, making the circulation of the United States coin \$512,191,036 of gold and \$206,609,770 of silver, a total of \$718,800,806. Besides this gain there was also in the Treasury gold bullion of the value of \$51,440,420, and silver bullion costing \$3,343,365, making a total of United States coin and of bullion awaiting coinage of gold \$563,631,456, and of silver \$209,953,335.

The issue of standard silver dollars from the mints for the week ended November 11th was \$723,400, as against \$444,000 for the corresponding period of last year.

In San Francisco, at the Stock Board, sales were made of 2,000 Confederate bonds at \$2.50 cash, and of 10,000 at \$2.50 seller 90 days.

The amount of money paid during one week at the Post-Office, New York City, for postage stamps and box rents was nearly \$86,000.

The number of letters forwarded in one day by the European steamships was 101,717.

CHEAP POSTAGE.

The President in his last message, given to the public a few days ago, says in regard to the Post-Office Department :

The report of the Postmaster-General gives evidence of the satisfactory condition of that department, and contains many valuable data and accompanying suggestions which cannot fail to be of interest. The information which it affords that the receipts for the fiscal year have exceeded the expenditures must be very gratifying to Congress and to the people of the country. As matters which may fairly claim particular attention I refer you to his observations in reference to the advisability of changing the present basis for fixing salaries and allowances, of extending the money order system and of enlarging the functions of the postal establishment so as to put under its control the telegraph system of the country, though from this last and most important recommendation I must withhold my concurrence.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.

At the last session of Congress several bills were introduced into the House of Representatives for the reduction of letter postage to the rate of two cents per half ounce. I have given much study and reflection to this subject and am thoroughly persuaded that such a reduction would be for the best interests of the public. It has been the policy of the government from its foundation to defray, as far as possible, the expenses of carrying the mails by a direct tax in the form of postage. It has never been claimed, however, that this service ought to be productive of a net revenue. As has been stated already, the report of the Postmaster-General shows that there is now a very considerable surplus in his department, and that henceforth the receipts are likely to increase at a much greater ratio than the necessary expenditures. Unless some change is made in the existing laws, the profits of the postal service will, in a very few years, swell the revenues of the government many millions of dollars. The time seems auspicious, therefore, for some reduction in the rates of postage. In what shall that reduction consist? A review of the legislation which has been had upon this subject during the last thirty years discloses that domestic letters constitute the only class of mail matter which has never been favored by a substantial reduction of rates. I am convinced that the burden of maintaining the service falls most unequally upon that class, and that more than any other it is entitled to present relief. That such relief may be extended without detriment to other public interests will be discovered upon reviewing the results of former reductions. Immediately prior to the act of 1845 the postage upon a letter composed of a single sheet was as follows:—If conveyed 30 miles or less, 6 cents; between 30 and 80 miles, 10 cents; between 80 and 150 miles, 12½ cents; between 150 and 400 miles, 18½ cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. By the act of

1845 the postage upon a single letter conveyed for any distance under 300 miles was fixed at 5 cents, and for any greater distance 10 cents. By the act of 1851 it was provided that a single letter, if prepaid, should be carried any distance not exceeding 3,000 miles for 3 cents and any greater distance 6 cents. It will be noticed that both of these reductions were of a radical character and relatively quite as important as that which is now proposed. In each case there ensued a temporary loss of revenue, but a sudden and large influx of business which substantially repaired that loss within three years. Unless the experience of past legislation in this country and elsewhere goes for naught, it may be safely predicted that the stimulus of 33½ per centum reduction in the tax for carriage would at once increase the number of letters consigned to the mails. The advantages of secrecy would lead to a very general substitution of sealed packets for postal cards and open circulars, and in divers other ways the volume of first-class matter would be enormously augmented. Such increase amounted in England in the first year after the adoption of penny postage to more than 125 per cent. As a result of careful estimates, the details of which cannot be here set out, I have become convinced that the deficiency for the first year after the proposed reduction would not exceed 7 per cent. of the expenditures, or \$3,000,000; while the deficiency, after the reduction of 1845, was more than 14 per cent., and after that of 1851 was 27 per cent.

Another interesting comparison is afforded by statistics furnished me by the Post-Office Department. The act of 1845 was passed in face of the fact that there existed a deficiency of more than \$30,000. That of 1851 was encouraged by the slight surplus of \$132,000. The excess of revenue in the next fiscal year is likely to be \$3,500,000. If Congress should approve these suggestions it may be deemed desirable to supply, to some extent the deficiency which must for a time result by increasing the charge for carrying merchandise, which is now only sixteen cents per pound. But even without such an increase I am confident that the receipts under the diminished rates would equal the expenditures after the lapse of three or four years.

The receipts for the fiscal year on account of the Post-Office Department were \$41,368,002 and the expenditures \$39,265,299. Of these amounts \$20,211,991, or about one-half, was received and expended directly by postmasters without being deposited in the Treasury.

In India the letters are carried in leather bags on men's shoulders, who are relieved every five miles.

The salary of the Omaha postmaster is \$2,900 a year; Lincoln, \$2,600; Nebraska City, \$2,700; Fremont, \$2,100; North Platte, \$2,000; Plattsmouth, \$2,000.

THE TREASURY.

The Treasurer in his last report, when speaking of the assets and liabilities of the Government, says that—

“The most noteworthy change of the last year is the decrease of the gold coin and bullion held by the Treasury from \$176,791,566 41 to \$ 53,047,941 12, and the increase of the standard silver dollar from \$65,949,279 to \$92,015,350, a decrease in the gold of \$23,743,612.29, and an increase in the silver dollars of \$26,076,071. Deducting the amount held for the redemption of gold certificates, the gold belonging to the Government in the Treasury on the 30th of September was \$154,987,371.29 in 1879; \$128,160,085.77 in 1880; \$169,552,746 41 in 1881, and \$148,140,524.12 in 1882. Notwithstanding the decrease in the last year, the gold owned by the Government is nearly \$20,000,000 more than two years ago, the amount held last year having been swelled by the deposit of gold coin for exchange on the West and South. Deducting in like manner the silver certificates actually outstanding—the standard silver dollars owned by the Government were \$30,366,054 on September 30, 1879; \$ 5,355,363 on the same date in 1880; \$13,108,839 in 1881, and \$28,699,970 in 1882.”

During the year there has been an increase of \$3,075,192 in the one-dollar notes outstanding; \$2,378,503 in two-dollar notes; \$488,860 in fifty-dollar notes; \$1,521,730 in one-hundred-dollar notes; \$361,000 in five-hundred-dollar notes; \$311,000 in one-thousand-dollar notes, and \$2,000,000 in ten-thousand-dollar notes; and a decrease of \$2,226,538 in five-dollar notes; \$4,205,621 in ten-dollar notes; \$3,614,126 in twenty-dollar notes, and \$35,000 in five-thousand-dollar notes. The number of notes outstanding at the close of the fiscal year was 63,083,047, as against 59,839,669 outstanding on June 30, 1881. The amount of one's and two's outstanding has increased \$14,010,945 in three years. Under the provision for the payment of the express charges on worn and mutilated notes the redemptions have much increased, the amount redeemed during the fiscal year being \$79,520,424, as against \$54,545,334 redeemed in 1881. The number of notes redeemed increased from \$14,235,006 to \$17,362,320.

The amount of standard silver dollars coined from February 28, 1878, the date of the act requiring their coinage, to October 31, 1882, is \$128,329,880, of which \$93,006,382 remains in the Treasury and \$35,323,498, or about 37½ per cent., is in circulation. The proportion of the total coinage in circulation on September 30, 1881, was 4½ per cent. Of the \$30,007,175 coined during the last 13 months, \$2,950,072 has gone into circulation and \$27,057,103 remains in the Treasury. During seven months of that period the dollars returned to the Treasury exceeded in amount those issued, the number in circulation running down from \$34,050,123 on December 31, 1881, to \$31,560,755 on October 31, 1882.

The denominations of the minor coin in the Treasury September 1st were as follows:

Five-cent, nickel.....	\$ 71,200.45
Three-cent, nickel.....	155,376.83
Two-cent, bronze.....	4,834.52
One-cent, bronze, nickel and copper...	192,159 14
Mixed.....	80,944.35

Total.....\$504,515.29

The supply of five-cent nickel coins in the Treasury, which three years ago reached the sum of \$1,184,252.95, was exhausted during the year, and their coinage was resumed by the mint.

FURTHER PROOF.

A most agreeable and instructive method of passing the long winter evenings, was that in which I was a partial participant. Myself and friend, making an evening call upon a neighbor, found the family, from the toddler, who had scarcely emerged from his swaddling clothes, to the grey-haired grandame, deeply interested in a historical dissection of a postage stamp.

It seems, as we afterwards ascertained, that three days of the week were granted to the members of this fire-side circle to get themselves posted in the history of a country, designated by a stamp of the same. Not only were its history inquired into, but the manners and customs of its people, and their men and women of ability, provided a source of inquiry and debate, to an extent scarcely credible to one not having participated in the same: encyclopedias, drawings, history, biography, maps and atlases we found piled in massive pillars of reference around and on the table of the cosy sitting-room, all to be cited to prove points made by the different members, and as authorities for what they claimed to know or tell of the different stamp-issuing countries.

It is needless to add that our visit, besides being very pleasant, tended to awaken long-forgotten lessons in geography and history, which we, when boys, had learned at school, and it needed no urging on the part of our host to accept his invitation to an entertainment of the same kind to take place the following week.

In 1765 “The Stamp Act” was passed, according to which every deed, bond, note, lease, contract, or other legal document must be stamped with a blue or white stamp, in value from three pence to six pounds sterling.

The Post-Office Department has instructed the postmaster at New York to stop advertising the departure of foreign mails. It has cost that office \$12,000 a year for advertising purposes.

The issue of standard dollars from the various Mints during one week in September amounted to \$370,000. For the corresponding week last year the issue was \$534,000.

AUCTION SALES.

COINS, MEDALS, ETC.

W. E. Woodward sold on December 11th and 12th the collection of coins, medals, etc., belonging to George H. Blanchard. The auctioneers were Bangs & Co., of this city.

The catalogue was gotten up in a neat style. The first worthy of notice is lot 122, which included an 1852 dollar, and was "originally a proof, still in a very fine condition; *extremely rare*." Price of lot, \$36.50.

We next find lot 1186 selling for \$31.25. This included an 1851 dollar, which is "original; has been in circulation, but still fine." *All American dollars of this date are rare, and originals are excessively so, nearly all of those in collections being restrikes.*

Next comes lot 910. This was an album, bound in full Turkey morocco, and contained the autographs of Jefferson Davis and his cabinet, together with those of the House of Representatives and Senate at Montgomery, and various members of the Confederate Government and other men distinguished in the Confederacy. It contained also a letter from John C. Breckenridge, and an original poem of seven verses by Alex. Dimitry. This collection was formed at Montgomery in January, 1862, by Willing Yancey Harrel. This valuable book has been somewhat abused, having apparently been scribbled in by children, and soiled by much handling. However, the party buying it was considered fortunate in becoming its possessor at the price of \$24.00.

Lot 505 included an 1802 half-cent; one of the finest half dates ever seen; the obverse is nearly perfect, the reverse very fine; *in this condition one of the rarest of the half-cents.* Brought \$15.60.

Lot 1116 next included an 1853 gold eagle. An eagle standing, in his beak a scroll on which is inscribed "Liberty"; reverse, a tablet inscribed "United States Assay Office of Gold, San Francisco, Cal., 1853;" the work is seen above and below; the obverse of this piece is handsome in design; fine and *rare*. This lot brought \$14.80.

Lot 1175 included an "elegant gold badge, bar and pin, inscribed in black enamel 'Co. F,' in the centre of the badge '9,' around the centre in gold and enamel, 'Ratione aut Vi,' on the lower limb of the cross 'N. G.,' beautiful, unique and costly. This lot cost the buyer \$14.50.

Lot 305, containing a half-dime, sold for \$12.50. This half-dime, of 1794 issue, in fine condition, scarcely circulated at all, and is *extremely rare*.

Lot 394.—An 1804 cent. Broken die, the break showing but little; very fine one indeed for this date; so little worn that every hair shows plainly; obverse and reverse are both equally good; *extremely rare*. Brought \$11.50.

Another badge of gold and enamel, with a heavy ribbon and an eagle pin, sold for \$11.00. This badge bears on its five limbs a winged caduceus, a laurel wreath, a shield, a sword and fasces, and in the centre M. S. in gold, the whole backed by a silver star inscribed "Brevet-Major W. J. McDermott. Authorized by order of Surgeon-General U. S. A., C. H. Craue, Surg., U. S. A., Oct., 1865." A superb and unique badge of fine workmanship and great cost.

Lot 743.—873 medals struck to commemorate the fete of St. John, 1878, in Canada; reverse, maple twigs, "souvenir"; brass, silver plated. They brought \$10.91.

Lot 739.—684 pieces sold for \$10.26. View of the Church of St. Anne de Beaupre; reverse, the Holy Family; Pilgrimage medal, struck in tin.

Lot 756.—A number of 1868 gold half dollars. Octagonal in shape. Proofs. Sold for \$10.40.

We append a few more lots below, with the description of each lot as given by Mr. Woodward in the catalogue.

Lot 5.—East India Company; a great rarity, some with native inscriptions; mostly fine; 25 pieces, \$3.13

Lot 35.—Canada, Nova Scotia, etc.; all of the old unauthorized issues and all good to fine, half-penny size; some duplicates, but a great variety. 7 pieces, \$3.85.

Lot 38.—The same; mostly of government coinage, various denominations, good to fine. 73 pieces, \$3.28.

Lot 93.—1798 dollar. Thirteen stars; reverse small eagle; fine, *very rare*; \$5.60.

Lot 108.—1836 dollar. Splendid proof; the obverse a trifle haymarked; the reverse perfect. Few specimens are to be found so little marked as this one; \$9.70.

Lot 124.—1855 dollar. Fine condition; barely circulated; *very rare*; \$4.50.

Lot 146.—1794 half-dollar. Unusually fine one for this date; *rare*; \$5.60.

Lot 150.—1802 half-dollar. Uncommonly good for this date; not quite fine; *rare*; \$4.00.

Lot 185.—1836 half-dollar. Reeded edge; fine, though a little circulated; *rare*; \$6.00.

Lot 203.—1852. Phil. mint; sharp impression; very fine, barely circulated; *rare*; \$4.60.

Lot 216.—1796 quarter-dollar. Very good one; much better than usual, though not fine; *rare*; \$5.

Lot 217.—1804 quarter-dollar. Better than the last and equally as rare; \$5.

Lot 260.—1802 dime. Very good, both obverse and reverse, though not quite fine; *rare*; \$5.

Lot 314.—1805 half-dime. Considerably circulated and a trifle bruised; still very good; the date fine; the *rarest* half-dime, except 1802; \$8.50.

When lot 823 was reached, one of the gentlemen present asked Mr. Woodward if it was a genuine "Auctopi" cent.* He answered in the affirmative, and then others thought it was not. One gentleman offered to wager \$10 to one that it was not genuine. He gave as his reason that the tail end of the "R" in "Auctori" was scratched out, so as to make the cent appear to be a genuine "Auctopi." Mr. Woodward bought it for 20 cents. This coin we did not see ourselves.

Several ancient counterfeit coins were sold. One of them cost the owner \$13.00, as he purchased it as genuine. It is one of Antiochus VIII. of Greece; head to right, laureated; reverse, tomb of Sardau-palus; tetradrachm struck for Tarsus; it was illustrated in the Dohrmann catalogue, and though purchased as genuine at a large price, was withdrawn from that sale as doubtful. There were several other false Greek coins. Sales were large and results satisfactory. For want of space we have been forced to brevity, which, in future reports, we will obviate by reserving a space which, as guides to the collector, these sales are entitled to.

We are informed that Mr. Woodward holds another sale Dec. 13, 1882, of Pre-Historic Objects from the cabinets of Prof. J. Grier Ralston and Mr. Norman Spang. Also that on Dec. 20, 1882, Dr. George W. Massamora will hold a sale of coins, medals and postage stamps at Wm. Seemüller's & Co., 11 S. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.

*Lot 823 included 1787 Connecticut cent; "Auctopi," not much circulated, *rare*. This is as it is described in the catalogue.

A FEW FACTS FOR COLLECTORS.

Since the Rev. R. B. Earee's "Notes for Collectors" has been written, published and copied extensively in other Philatelic Journals, it has awakened us up to the fact that an occasional "Few facts for Collectors" would not be a miss; therefore we are impelled to put the following before our Philatelic friends, and hope they will prove of sufficient interest to warrant our continued research.

A fifty centimes stamp was authorized for France in 1850, but from unknown cause it was never issued.

Chiffre Taxe, an appellation applied to a certain kind of French stamp, we will say for the benefit of our readers, means insufficiently paid, and *Chiffre Taxe* stamps are put on all letters whose postage has not been all paid or has not been paid at all.

Certain firms have their name printed around the stamp, both in our own country and in Great Britain. Though the government of both countries allows it, we would not regard them as stamps. Although others may have a different opinion, it is what we think about such stamps.

The stamps of Modena, Parma and Romagne were suppressed in April of the year 1860, and the stamps of the kingdom of Italy substituted.

We find it recorded, that the Connell 5c. stamp of New Brunswick was a trial stamp. We do not see how it could be a trial stamp, when it is said that a number had been printed and even gone through the mails and would have been used longer, if usage of same had not been stopped by authority.

The stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company were used by that company in coast-trade by their vessels.

It is a noticeable fact, that in several of the North American colonies, when only half the postage marked on the stamps was required, they were cut in half obliquely and each half used separately.

The 1855 issue of both Cuba and Spain was printed on blue paper, water-marked in curves around the stamp; but in 1856 the same design was issued, but on white paper and with the water-mark in oblique cross-lines, and in 1857 without the water-mark. The shades vary in the 2 cuartos, 4 cuartos and 2 reales, being described in some albums as the 1855 issue 2 r. brown and the 1856 and 1857 issues violet.

The 5c., green, of the 1850 issue of Geneva was used when united by a label, above which was inscribed "10 Port Cantonal Cents," and served for both "Port Cantonal" and "Port Local."

The stamps of Tuscany were suppressed in October, 1860, and those of Italy substituted. Two Sicilies in 1861.

The shades of color vary in 1857 and 1861 United States 3c. and the 1861 5 cents. There is a 4 cents envelope of the United States, composed of the 1

and 3 cent on the same envelope. The color is blue and red.

The paper on which the Confederate States Baton Rouge stamp was printed, had a ground-work of green lines. The Memphis, Tenn., stamp and M. C. Callaway were the same way.

There are two series of the 1859 issue of Venezuela. One on white and the other on blue paper.

The newspaper stamps used in Austrian Italy are those in use in Austria. When Lombardy was annexed to Italy in 1859, these stamps were then only used in Venetia.

The shades of color vary in the following stamps: Baden, 1862 issue, three and six kreuzer; 1860 issue of British Guiana and in the 1861 issue Cape of Good Hope 1 and 4 pence.

There are two series of the 1860 issue of India. One on white and the other on blue paper.

If collectors will take notice, they will find that the first issue of Newfoundland differ slightly in design one stamp from another. There is a difference in the 1858-62 issue of Portugal, both in design and shade of color.

United States "postage-due stamps" were issued in 1879. France issued and used unpaid-letter stamps in 1859, being the first country to use them; Italy, Bavaria, and Turkey followed in 1863. In all, ten countries issued and used them before the United States.

But wherever it originated, there is no doubt that it is now in successful operation, nor that it leaves Congress without excuse for delay in repealing the statute which forms the only obstacle to the discontinuance of the absurd system of "holding for postage," that so largely and needlessly adds to the number of the petty miseries of human life here, besides being the cause of many other miseries that are by no means petty.

It will be observed by the last report of the Postmaster-General, that during the year ending June 30, 1881, 279,244 domestic short-paid letters, presumably posted in good faith, and the prompt delivery of which was of more or less importance to their writers or addressees, were "held for postage and sent to the Dead-Letter Office.

These "jottings" will be continued monthly, if readers will manifest their interest in same, by taking note of others that may come to their notice during the month. We know that they have them and we wish to become their possessors, for the benefit of other devotees at the shrine of Philately.

The competition of girls to obtain appointments in the London Post-office telegraph offices is rather increasing than abating. An examination was held on September 27, at which there were no less than 800 candidates for thirty appointments. The salary is small, commencing at 10s. per week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We deem it a duty to our readers to make the following corrections which G. M. N. has the kindness to call our attention to. He writes thus:

To the Editor of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR—Allow me to correct two or three errors which occur in the article in your October number, entitled "Chili adhesive stamp."

I.—Second issue, the writer states that the 1 centavo was green, instead of which it was yellow.

II.—The same applies to the issue of 1867-8, instead of which the color was orange.

III.—The same also applies to the issue of 1877-8, when the 1 centavo is stated to have been issued in green, but it was grey, and the 2c. instead of being light-red, as stated, is decidedly of an orange tint. Yours respectfully,

G. M. N.

Error number three was occasioned by the printer. Ourselves are to blame for the others, and were occasioned by lack of care and anxiety to get the number into the hands of the printer. We are now in a better position to supervise and closely examine proof than heretofore, and hope to make such mistakes an impossibility in the future.

J. T. writes: "Does the dictionary advertised in the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST possess more value in regard to completeness than others of the same date, etc."

We cannot speak from our own knowledge of "others" as possessing the one referred to we consider more superfluous. This we do know: that in 1876 we purchased one and found it most complete up to date of issuance. That we also possess one of the volumes referred to by our correspondent and find it a whole library in itself. What superior holiday gift than a copy of the book under discussion, it would be difficult for us to conceive. For price you had better write to the publishers.

The following, from Mr. M. H. LEWIS, speaks volumes:

DEAR SIR—The October "EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST" came safely to hand some time ago. What a pleasant surprise it was! What vast improvement it has been guilty of! I can honestly say, without hesitation, it is the most readable, best gotten up and best paying adv. med um of any of the Philatelic papers in the U. S. Please reserve half column space for Christmas number."

That sauce is about the most appetizing that we have received since we commenced catering for the cravings of the Philatelic public's appetite.

Only one more of the score that we have received in commendation of our last issue have we room at present to quote. Mr. A. Dawson, of the Merchants' National Bank, sends us the following:

"I am very much pleased with the style of the "EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST," and if only continued in the same careful manner, I cannot see why it will not make a place for itself; and fill, by your magazine a long felt void in Philatelic literature. I will use my influence among friends to aid in its circulation."

Now, that, dear reader, is about as piquant as the celery with which you garnished your turkey last Thanksgiving. We are ever so much indebted to our patron above quoted for his words of encouragement, and pledge him, as also others of our admirers, that we will leave no honorable methods untried or efforts spared, in obtaining and retaining that standard of excellence they require in filling the vacancy mentioned.

EXCHANGES.

T. Martin Wears, Rosemount, Downfield, near Dundee, Scotland, is anxious to procure unbound volumes of standard obsolete American stamp publications. Parties having any of these will please send detailed lists. Vol. 8 of "The Philatelist" and seven numbers of the "Stamp Collectors' Magazine" for disposal.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We have not forgotten our many welcome monthly visitors, and only omitted mention of their reception in our last two issues from lack of space; so we hasten to make reparation ere our conduct may be misconstrued into a lack of courtesy: "The Philatelic Monthly," "New Jersey Philatelist," "The Globe" (Vienna), "New South Wales Stamp Collectors' Magazine," "The Curiosity Shop," "Granite State Philatelist," "The Stamp Collectors' Journal," "Le Moniteur des Timbrophiles," "Guia del Coleccionista," "Agents Dispatch," "The Philatelic Triumph," "The Bugle," "The Monthly Reporter," "The Tribune and Firm-er," "The Electric Light," "Amateur Journal," "The Blade," "Squibs," "The Agents' Herald," "Union Exchange List," "Young Folks' Gazette," "Agents' and Advertisers' Monthly," "The Collector," and would respectfully request from their respective publishers copies of the following papers for November and December: "The Stamp World," "The Collectors' Bureau," "The Collectors' Library Table," "The Useful Instructor," "The Gem" (West Chester), "The Monthly Reporter," "Our Directory and Gazette" (Lansdale, Pa.).

EDITOR.

Postmaster Ringer, of Washington, speaking of some experiments made with a tricycle in collecting the mail, said: "It is a good thing. A man can make his collections in about one-third the time that is required on foot. If we had eight tricycles, I think we could collect from every box in the District every hour, or at least in every two hours. It would be a thing for the city. I don't know whether the department will purchase them for us or not. We have been making these experiments on our own responsibility.



* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, January, 1883.

No. 10

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

BY A. M. C.

VIII.—PARAGUAY.

Paraguay is, at the present time one of the smallest countries of South America, and also, like most of the other countries of South America, a republic. It lies in lat. 22° to $27^{\circ}30'$ south and from $54^{\circ}32'$ to $58^{\circ}40'$ west long., thus forming the peninsula between the rivers Parana and Paraguay.

The area is variously estimated at from 57,000 to 90,000 square miles. The population, previous to 1865, was estimated at from 450,000 to 1,300,000, but in 1873, according to an official return, it had fallen to 221,079.

The northern portion of Paraguay is, in general, undulating, covered by low, gently-swelling ridges, separated by large grass plains, dotted with palms; but the southern portion is one of the most fertile districts of South America, consisting of hills and gentle slopes richly wooded, of wide savannas, which afford excellent pasture ground, and of rich alluvial plains, some of which, indeed, are marshy, or covered with shallow pools of water, (one lake, that of Ypao, deserving special notice), but a large proportion are of extraordinary fertility and highly cultivated. The banks of the rivers Parana and Paraguay are occasionally studded with forests of great extent; but generally the low lands are destitute of trees.

The climate, for a tropical country, is temperate, the temperature occasionally rising to 100° in summer, but in winter being usually about 45° . In geological structure, the southern part belongs generally to the tertiary formation; the north and east presenting grey-wacks rocks in some districts.

The natural productions are varied, although they do not include the precious metals or other minerals common in South America. Much valuable timber is found in the forests, and the wooded districts situated upon the rivers possess a ready means of transport. Among the trees are several species of dye-wood, several trees which yield valuable juices, as the India-rubber and its cognate trees; and an especially valuable shrub, called the *Mate* or Paraguay tea-tree, which forms one of the chief articles of commerce, being in general use throughout La Plata, Chili, Peru, and other parts of South America. The tree grows wild in the north-eastern districts, and the gathering of its leaves gives employment in the season to a large

number of the native population. Many trees also yield valuable gums. Wax and honey are collected in abundance, as is also cochineal, and the medicinal plants are very numerous. The chief cultivated crops are maize, rice, coffee, cocoa, indigo, mandioc, tobacco, sugar-cane, and cotton.

Nearly three-fourths of the land is national property, consisting partly of the lands formerly held by the Jesuit missions, partly of lands never assigned to individuals, partly of lands confiscated in the course of the revolutionary ordeal through which the country has passed. The national estates have for the most part been let out in small tenements, at moderate rents.

Under the dictator Francis, 1814-40, agriculture made considerable progress. The few manufactures are sugar, rum, cotton and woolen cloths, and leather. The commerce of the country is chiefly in the hands of the government, which holds a monopoly of the export of Paraguay tea.

The established religion is the Roman Catholic the ecclesiastical head of which is the Bishop of Asuncion. Education is very widely diffused, and it is said that there are but few of the people who are not able to read or write.

Paraguay was discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1526, but the first colony was settled in 1535 by Pedro de Mendez, who founded the city of Asuncion, and established Paraguay as a province of the viceroyalty of Peru. The warlike native tribe of the Guaranis however, a people who possessed a certain degree of civilization, and professed a dualistic religion, long successfully resisted the Spanish arms, and refused to receive either the religion or social usages of the invaders. In the latter half of the 16th century, the Jesuit missionaries were sent to the aid of the first preachers of Christianity in Paraguay; but for a long time they were almost entirely successful, the effect of their preaching being in a great degree marred by the profligate and cruel conduct of the Spanish adventurers, who formed the staple of the early colonial population. In the 17th century, the home government consented to place in their hands the entire administration, civil as well as religious, of the province; which, from its not possessing any of the precious metals, was of little value as a source of revenue; and in order to guard the natives against the evil influences of the bad example of European Christians, gave to the Jesuits the right to exclude all other Europeans from the colony. From this time forward the progress of civilization, as well as of Christianity was rapid. The legislation, the adminis-

tration, and the social organization of the settlement were shaped according to the model of a primitive Christian community, or, rather, of many committees under one administration; and the accounts which have been preserved of its condition appear to present a realization of the ideal of a Christian Utopia; On the expulsion of the Jesuits from Paraguay in 1768, the history of which is involved in much controversy, the province was again made subject to the Spanish viceroy. For a time the fruits of the older civilization maintained themselves, but as the ancient organization fell to the ground, much of the work of so many years was undone; the communities lapsed into disorganization, and by degrees much of the old barbarism returned.

In 1776 Paraguay was transferred to the newly-formed vice-royalty of Rio de La Plata; and in 1810 it joined with the other states in declaring its independence of the mother kingdom of Spain, which, owing to its isolated position, it was the earliest of them all to establish completely. In 1814 Dr. Francia, originally a lawyer, and the secretary of the first revolutionary junta, was proclaimed dictator for three years; and in 1817 his term of office was made perpetual. He continued to hold it till his death in 1840, when anarchy ensued for two years; but in 1842 a national Congress elected two nephews of the dictator, Don Alonzo and Don Carlos Antonio Lopez, joint consuls of the republic. In 1844, a new constitution was proclaimed, and Don Carlos was elected sole President, with dictatorial power, which he exercised till his death in 1862, when he was succeeded by his son, Don Francisco Solano Lopez, whose name has become notorious in connection with the tragic struggle of 1865-70, in which the Paraguayans made a heroic but unavailing fight against the combined forces of Brazil, the Argentine Confederation and Uruguay. The war was brought to a close by the defeat and death of Lopez, at the battle of Aquidaban, March 1st, 1870. In June, 1870, a Congress voted a new constitution, which was proclaimed on the 25th of November. It is modelled on that of the Argentine Confederation, the legislative authority being vested in a Congress of two houses, and the executive in a President, elected for six years.

POSTAGE STAMPS—ADHESIVE.

1870 issue.—Lion in centre, supporting pole with liberty cap on top on lined disk, in differently shaped forms with the inscription "REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY," and value surrounding it. Figures of value in each corner. Colored imprint. Rectangle. The values are three, viz:

- 1 real, rose.
- 2 reales, blue.
- 3 reales, black.

1879 issue.—Lion, etc., in centre. At top, in straight lines, "REPUBLICA PARAGUAY," at sides "CENTAVOS." At bottom the value in words; at bottom corners the figures of value.

- 5 cent buff,
- 5 reales, orange.
- 10 reales, red.

1881 issue.—Each stamp is like the 1870 issue, except the 10 centavo, which is like the 10 reales of the 1879 issue, only that 10 reales is changed to 10 centavos, and is changed in color to green.

- 1 cent. blue,
- 2 cent. carmine.
- 4 cent. brown.
- 10 cent. green.

PROVISIONALS.

1879 issue.—5 centavos surcharged on 1 real rose, of 1870 general issue.

5 centavos surcharged on 2 reales, blue, of 1870 general issue.

1881 issue.—5 centavos surcharged in black, also in blue on the 3 reales of 1870 general issue.

1 centavo surcharged on 10 centavos of the 1881 general issue.

2 centavos surcharged on 10 centavos of the 1881 general issue.

4 centavos surcharged on 10 centavos of the 1881 general issue.

1 centavo surcharged on the 5 real of 1879 general issue.

1 centavo surcharged on the 10 reales of 1879 general issue.

ADDITIONS TO THE POSTAL BLACK LIST.—The Postmaster-General has declared the following named concerns to be fraudulent, and has excluded their correspondence from the mails:—M. J. Carlisle & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Chase & Co., New Haven, Conn.; H. T. Williams & Co., Boston and Newtown, Mass.; Alias Magnet Watch Co., of Newtown, and Cottage Library, Ashland, Mass.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The post-office department expects an unprecedented demand for stamped envelopes, as, by instruction from the department, all postmasters have reduced their stock as far as possible, so that the Government can have all the advantage from the new contract, which is 7 per cent. lower than the one now in force. The consequence is that probably the greater part of the 45,000 postmasters will write for stamped envelopes at the beginning of the year, and the demand will for some time be far beyond the ability of the department to satisfy.

There are over 300 telephone wires now in use in Honolulu, and some of the planters are cutting their sugar at night by the aid of electric light.

The opposition to two-cent postage will, it is said, come from Democrats who do not want the next Congress to have a deficiency to make up.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

*"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them,"*

Four or five years ago, the study of Philately was at a discount, and the papers which had ministered to it *ab initio* almost, from want of support were forced to fall to the ground, although in previous years they had enjoyed a long season of prosperity. Such was the state of matters in Britain at that time, and in America, so far as I can learn, they were in much the same condition. It is gratifying, however, to be able to say that matters did not remain thus long, for towards the end of 1878, and the beginning of the following year, the place of the old monthlies was ably filled by a trio of periodicals, which still survive. It is to an eventful epoch in the history of these, that I have to draw the attention of the reader. We are called on to celebrate their fiftieth and jubilee numbers.

*While floating on the pathless stream,
Freighted with many a scribbled ream,
Their happy lot may chance to see
A second month of jubilee.*

This event is one on which the philatelic publisher may well feel justly proud, it happens so rarely, as the majority collapse long ere that time; and I question if a solitary half dozen out of the hundreds that have been projected can show us their jubilee number.

The Philatelic Society of London has just come to a final decision *in re* Chalmers versus Rowland Hill. The matter is referred to in my article on "The Stamps of Great Britain," Part I—New Jersey Philatelist, for October last, and this decision is supplementary to the paper read to the London Society, on 5th November, 1881, by Mr. Pearson Hill, son of the late Sir Rowland Hill. This paper brought to notice that a certain Patrick Chalmers of London, claimed that his father had anticipated Sir Rowland in the postage stamp idea, and that the latter had surreptitiously filched his plan from the Fifth Report of the Government Commission of Post-Office Enquiry, published in April, 1836. Various pamphlets to this effect have been published by Mr. Chalmers. The vindication by Mr. Pearson Hill of his father in reply to these charges is to the effect that James Chalmers himself never dreamt of claiming what his son now does for him, and in proof of this produces an original letter by him dated 18th May, 1840, stating that he was unaware Sir Rowland had "suggested anything like the same scheme," and waives all claim whatever to participate in the reward offered by the Government. With respect to taking his idea from the aforesaid Fifth Report, Mr. Hill again demonstrates the absurdity and impossibility of such a proceeding, as Sir R. Hill's evidence in support of his plan for postal reform was given early the next year after this report was issued, and before

the very same Commissioners who signed it. In short as has been described the dealings of Mr. Chalmers with this celebrated Parliamentary Blue Book are rather "ingenious than ingenuous." It is only now that the Society had come to any decision in the matter, although a whole year has elapsed since Mr. Pearson Hill read his paper to it, and since that time although Mr. Chalmers has repeatedly called upon to frame a reply to that document for its consideration, he has failed to take that advantage of the opportunity afforded him, or in any way to comply with their request. Having regard to the whole facts, the Society finds that Mr. Chalmers has failed to substantiate any of the allegations put forward by him, and in particular that his father anticipated Sir Rowland Hill in suggesting the use of postage stamps, or that the latter was indebted to the Fifth Report for any of his ideas in connection therewith.

Forged stamps, it appears are rather rife just now and a good many exposures are being made. There is a very persistent individual one John Huskisson of 13 Edinburg Street, Liverpool, who has been selling the usual German bogies, and has got exposed for his pains. John however is not to be done in this fashion, and forthwith changes his name or gets some other one to adhibit his to the same price list of forged stamps—J. Davidson Forres of 37 Claribel Street, Liverpool, is the person. It appears too that a certain small dealer in England has been disposing of vile concoctions of the green four cents of Prince Edward's Island—that much forged stamp. Since this is the only stamp in the whole baker's dozen of the series for this island that the forger has emitted it would be well to pay particular regard to this value and make sure of its true character. Another forgery and one likely to mislead is the old Perkin's penny with the Cyprian surcharges. A large quantity of forgeries of these is known to be in circulation, and it is no easy matter to find out unmistakable proofs of their truth or falsity. Those which have been exposed were printed on the old British red penny without letters in the upper angles. As the ones surcharged for use in the Cyprus Post-Office were not done on this issue, these can safely be condemned, but I doubt the bulk of the counterfeits will be found on the correct issue, as this one is less expensive than the former issue. A comparison however of the post office obliterations with those of undoubted genuineness would be of great service, as those forged will generally be found to bear the London cancelling marks. The word "Cyprus" too is printed much smaller than it should be. E. Bennett of 14 Camden Passage, High Street, Islington, London is their maker, who retails them at the moderate sum of twopence per dozen.

Dr. Viner has contributed the article I spoke of to the October number of *Stamp News*, and a highly interesting article in every respect it is. The Doctor has been so energetic a collector from the time

he took the hobby up, twenty-three years now, that no one could possibly be better qualified to treat of the subject "Philately in its infancy" than himself. Speaking of its rise he mentions 1854, as the date of the first collection he ever saw. This collection was mounted in what would now appear to us, a novel manner; numbered about a hundred specimens and these were arranged on a large chart, having the names of the different countries in a column on the left side. This style had been adopted from one in use by a Mr. Scales "who may boast, if living, to be the first known collector in England." And then the Doctor goes on to tell us of such bargains he made in the exchange line, as fairly make our mouths water. How at the Exchange in the Luxembourg Gardens and the Champs Elysees, he remembered "a lady bringing an old letter with four of the green Spanish 5 reales of 1853, creating a perfect *furor*." They had never been seen before and the Doctor succeeded in exchanging one for an unused six-penny kevis, and shortly after gave an eight-penny, unused laureated of New South Wales, which had cost him only eight-pence, now unobtainable in that state and worth more than eight shillings used; for an unused 12 centos, of the same date, now also a most valuable stamp. In contrast with the primitive fashion of exchanging, then the sole means of obtaining stamps, the Doctor justly points out that the stamp collecting of to-day is simply a matter of pounds, shillings and pence. And so it is. Almost any stamp can be obtained for money, and there are few stamps but what a dealer will be able to supply. Altogether the article treads on untrodden ground, and, no doubt, were the elder class of collectors aware of the interest such have for us, their pens would surely not be idle. Look what the collectors of America alone could tell us! Why will not S. Allan Taylor, T. W. Kline, W. H. Bruce, I. M. Chute, and others, too numerous to mention, not bestir themselves?

Since the withdrawal of the two shilling adhesive, it has been found necessary to have a value intervening between the one and five shillings. To supply this want, a half-crown stamp is in preparation, and we may expect to see it in circulation in the course of a month or two. No stamp of this value has ever been in use. The two-shillings brown, whose place it presumably takes, was in the beginning of 1880 changed in color from blue to brown, consequent on the 2d. value being altered from a dull pink to blue. A few months after the two-shilling was altogether suppressed, and now used copies in brown can command a price of four shillings, and very soon they will not be got at that same.

On and after the 1st January, 1883, all 3d. and 6d. postage stamps issued will be printed in a purple color and surcharged with their values in red. The reason for this alteration, and what looks wonderfully like an extra precaution, have not yet been made public, but the red surcharge on a purple stamp does not seem so distinctive as it might be. Just now the three-penny and six-penny are printed respectively pink and grey.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 1.

JANUARY, 1883.

No. 10

The holidays having passed with the usual accompaniments of well wishes, peace offerings, regrets for the past and good resolutions for the future; the merrymakings of those well-to-do in this world's goods from a satiety having ceased, and the radiant light of the golden lamp of philanthropy, guided by the hand of the large-hearted, having been shed across the path of the unfortunate with the profusion noticeable of this festive season, perhaps having attended to those or the many other duties suggestive of the period, our friends, the collector, may now, untrammelled, buckle on their armor, and enter the fray with thirst for all that is instructive and amusing in their hobby, undiminished by reason of any little pleasurable extravagances they have been led to commit during their vacation. Also that they will profit by their dearly bought experience of the past, and bestow their patronage *only* on those journals who show their appreciation of the same by catering solely for their pleasure and instruction. Whether they reenter the lists with ardor unabated or not, we wish by these few lines to assure them that during the year 1883, we shall do our utmost to produce for them month after month an offering of philatelic and numismatic reading matter that will reinspire the faltering, serve to satisfy the appetite of the most voracious, and force even those most experienced in collecting, to commend it one to the other, and cry, in accord, like the famished parish boy so well depicted by the pen of Dickens—"for more." We shall lend our aid and every honorable endeavor to illustrate to them that a meritorious sheet pertaining to their literature can be constructed, conducted and made to outlive a butterfly's existence and that contrary to what they have been accustomed to witness in the *literature* of their hobbies, that of journals at their very inception donning the garb of imbecility—we shall with a tithe of that kind assistance and patronage once accorded them that are numbered, from inherent faultiness, among the

things that were, wax strong with age. To make our undertaking remunerative is but a secondary consideration, and your commendation the first importance; the contrary rule having been to a great extent the cause heretofore of the collector not getting the value of his subscription money, even when the latter has been reduced to a most niggardly pittance. We court a just and unbiased censorship from the fraternity, and while bestowing the same upon our journal and its conduct during the year, trust they will also keep an eye on those whilom *philatelic* and *numismatic* sheets that give to their deluded subscribers a corner lot and mansion built in the *renaissance* style, and note the unselfish zeal they display in *taking in* mankind in general and the collector in particular, as sharers of their bounty, and making them happy with diamond prizes and *sich*. And all of this benevolence practiced simply to get rid of their sheets. Verily, wonders will never cease when a *sane* business man, in this lucre acquiring age, leaves his business transactions open to the very damaging assertion that he is giving away dollars for nickels, or "two n lamps for for an old one."

A most important bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Anderson of Kansas, anti-monopolist, is one to establish a Government postal telegraph. The bill provides for issuing bonds for \$3,000,000, redeemable in twenty years and payable in thirty years at three per cent. \$300,000 to be retained each year to be applied to the redemption of bonds. The main line is to extend from Portland, Me., to Topeka, Kan. with branches to all points which it may be deemed advisable to reach. Offices are at first to be established only in carrier post-offices, and then, if considered feasible by the Postmaster-General, in smaller offices, with the proviso that if the receipts are insufficient to meet the expenditures, the postmaster at the office where the deficiency occurs shall make good the deficiency. The uniform rate of twenty-five cents for ten words will be the tariff, unless the Postmaster-General, because of competition or other causes, shall deem it advisable to reduce the rate.

The bill is designed to establish a postal telegraph system similar to that of England without the expenditure of a single dollar by the Government of the United States, and it is believed by the framer that long before the expiration of the

thirty years, a ten-cent rate of tariff will be the rule all over the United States.

At the risk of arousing the jealous ire and no end of comments from the penny quarterly and monthly *philatelic advertising press*, owing to its not being *strictly philatelic*, we have chosen to make this number sixteen pages, simply to give the reader the benefit of Mr. Price's argument in favor of Postal Telegraphy. As the subject is paramount among business and even private circles, we deem it a duty and pleasure, although looking at it in the light of dollars and cents, a loss to ourselves, still, the soundness and good common sense of his argument struck us as being so powerful and withal the best since the subject has been mooted that we could not resist the temptation to share it with our readers. It is a subject that, had we a really non-partisan and reformed civil service, would have many *attractions* for us all. It is a subject that has sooner or later to be determined in all its bearings, and also one like cheap postage, which we are so near realizing, and that six months ago, had the appearance of being realized, and secured only by the coming generation, which will have to be agitated before being fully understood. Those who do not like to con over matter of that ilk can without any difficulty find sufficient to interest them in the remaining dozen pages, and as their contract with us calls for eight pages only up to the 1st of April, they cannot, with any semblance of justness, call us to account for publishing the same. But we would advise them to read it. It is pregnant with useful instruction, and in language so simple yet so striking, that he even who runs can comprehend its purport. With his argument, Mr. Price gave some very useful statistical figures, which we, for want of room, have had to omit. We hope the perusal of it in our columns will be the means of obtaining many adherents, which, if it does, our aim in publishing it will be fulfilled.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations has amended the Post Office Appropriation bill as follows: To fix July 1, 1883, as the date when the reduction of the rate of letter postage from 3 cents to 2 cents shall go into effect, instead of January 2, 1884, as proposed by the House of Representatives.

NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—This place has emitted a new newspaper wrapper.

½ centavo, brown, on buff paper.

AZORES.—It is said that the 5 reis, ten reis, twenty-five reis and fifty reis appear with "ACORES" in much smaller surcharge than usual.

BOLIVAR.—As a new issue, this state has two new adhesives. Design is too complicated to explain fully. In the centre of each is a bust, and they bear "CORREOS DE BOLIVAR.—E. E. U. U. DE COLOMBIA," and the value below in words and figures.

5 pesos blue, red centre.

10 pesos red-brown, blue centre.

BRAZIL.—An addition to the new set is a 10 cent reis, adhesive.

10 reis, black.

CANADA.—We are again indebted to Mr. F. F. Peard for a specimen of a new issue. He has sent us a specimen of the 1c x 1c reply postal card. The design is the same as the 1c. blue; except that it is printed in a lead color, and on the half for the reply between the inscription "CANADA POST-CARD," and "THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE," is the word "REPLY," enclosed in parenthesis. A two cent card will be issued soon, but whether a reply card or not Mr. Peard failed to let us know. Probably by next issue we will have one to describe.

Reply card, 1c. x 1c. lead on buff card.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—This place has as a new issue a registration envelope. The design is as follows: Head of Queen Victoria in centre in circle. In netted circle is "CAPE OF GOOD HOPE REGISTRATION—FOUR PENCE," surrounded by thick dotted circle.

Registration envelope, 4d. blue on white.

CHILI.—Two new postals have been issued. At the top is "TARJETA POSTAL" in fancy scroll. In right hand corner is the stamp, bust, "COLON," "2," and "CENTAVOS," at bottom of stamp is "REPUBLICA DE CHILI," "Sr." and three lines in centre. At the bottom in left half of card is inscribed "EN ESTE LADO DEBE ESCRIBIRSE UNICAMENTE LA DIRECCION."

2 centavos, red.

2x2 centavos, red.

CUNDINAMARCA.—This place has a new one peso stamp. Lithographed. Colored impression on white paper. The design is as follows: Arms inside of circle in centre. Inscription around same in circle is "ESTADO SOBERANO DE CUNDINAMARCA—CORREOS. At top "E. E. U. U. DE COLOMBIA." At bottom "UN PESO." In top corners in circles is the figure of value, and in ovals at bottom is the same. Branches run up on either side from the bottom.

1 peso brown.

FIJI.—A new 5 shilling stamp of the same design as that of the lately issued one shilling stamp 5 shillings, black and rose.

FRANCE.—The unpaid letter stamps we mentioned in a former number as being in preparation have been issued. They are of the same design as the 30 centimes 1881 issue.

1 centime, black.

2 " "

3 " "

4 " "

5 " "

10 " "

15 " "

20 " "

40 " "

60 " "

75 " "

1 francs "

2 " "

5 " "

Newspapers wrappers have been issued also;

1 centime, lilac.

2 centimes, red-brown.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—*The Philatelic Monthly* says: "The 5 pfennig cards come with '982' and '1082' on the lower corner."

GUINEA.—The 100, 200 and 300 reis Cape Verde come surcharged "GUINE" in small type, smaller than usual, for use in Guinea.

100 reis lilac, surcharged in black.

200 " orange, " "

300 " brown, " "

NICARAUGUA.—*The Philatelic Monthly* says: "Mr. Goeben sends us a specimen of a new 10 centavos stamp for Nicaragua. This country has entered the Postal Union and proposes to signalize the event by the issue of a new series of stamps; The one before us is a beautiful engraving, printed in violet. The arms are in the centre enclosed in a triangle; "Union Postal Universal" above; "Republica de Nicaragua" below value in each corner."

10 centavos, violet.

ORANGE RIVER REPUBLIC.—This state has as a new issue ½ pence surcharged in black on the 5 shillings of the issue of 1878.

½d. surcharged in black on 5s. green

QUEENSLAND.—The six pence comes surcharged in black "ONE PENNY."

1d. surcharged in black on 6d. green.

TRINIDAD.—This place has in preparation the following: ½, 1 and 2½ pence; 1 and 5 shillings. We have not been told what the color is to be, as yet.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.—A new series of telegraph stamps have been issued, They are:

5 centavos, blue.

10 centavos rose.

20 centavos brown.

50 centavos, violet.

1 peso black imp. on green paper.

The 5 centavos and the others are alike in design except the 1 peso, which is different from the rest.

UNITED STATES.—Chicago has a local post lately opened. The authorities are trying to suppress it, and they have only to succeed to make the only stamp they have issued rare. We have been favored with a specimen of the stamp through the kindness of Mr. C. H. Mekeel. Father Time is seen in the centre with mail-sack in hand on which is inscribed "A.C.D. At the top in quarter circle is the word "ALLEN'S;" at the bottom in quarter circle is "DISPATCH;" At the bottom in straight line is the address, "125 CLARK ST." Under Father Time is the word "City" in red letters. Perforated. One cent, rose.

SOME RARE COINS.

A CHAT WITH A NEW YORK NUMISMATICIAN AND
ARCHÆOLOGIST.

I think, says the New York correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, that there is only one numismatist in the country at present. I refer to Gaston Fouardent of Lafayette Place, who is so skilled in knowledge of coins in classical archæology and in antiquarian lore of all sorts, that others are scarcely to be mentioned in comparison. He is descended from a long line of archæologists, and has made antique remains, ruins and statues the study of his life. He is pretty well known now as the Nemesis of Di Cosnola. I met Mr. Feuardent yesterday, and casually asked a few questions about coins.

"The highest price modern coin," he said, "is the United States silver dollar of 1804. There are, I believe, only two in existence, and these change hands at the rate of about \$1000 apiece. A few years ago some officer of the mint found the old die of this rare dollar, and struck off some 60 of them. He was found out and the dollars were destroyed and the die broke. A five sovereign gold piece of King Charles I recently sold in England for \$1600, but that was a fancy price, and hardly to be maintained. In London \$3,900 has been paid for a rare copper coin of the Roman Emperor Geta. I, myself, sold to Louis Napoleon the most valuable coin in the world. When I first heard of this I was at dinner with some gentlemen in London. One of them told about a ragged stroller who had that day offered to sell to him a splendid gold coin from Central Asia nearly as large as the palm of his hand. He sent him off as a mountebank and swindler. The description of the coin fired my imagination in a way that all collectors will understand. I hastily excused myself, called a cab, and went out to the suburbs to a wretched quarter where I knew these Indian traders were wont to congregate. I searched some hours before I found the man from Bokhara, and got him out of his squalid bed. We went into a room alone, and there, removing his outer clothing, the tawny man drew from his arm a sweaty bag, and from the bag he brought forth the most magnificent coin I had ever seen. It was obviously a genuine antique, stamped by King Eucratides of India, one of the successors of Alexander the Great. I was much excited, but strove to appear cool. On the obverse was an engraved head of the kinf on the reverse a fine relief of Castor and Pollux. It bore date about 185 B. C. He said the coin had at first been found by seven men, but they got in to a deadly feud over it, and five were slain. He and a friend were the only survivors. He put an extravagant price on it, but I refused to pay it. At last I offered him £1,000—about \$5,000—and gave him only 10 minutes to consider the proposition. After that I told him I should take off \$100 each minute from my offer. Before the 10 min-

utes were up the coin was mine. I carried it to France and showed it to the Emperor, Napoleon. He offered me \$6,000 for it, and I accepted it as a command that so rare a treasure should never leave France. It may now be seen in Paris among the antique trophies, honored by being placed in a case all by itself beneath the eye of the sentinel.

It is the finest coin in the world."

M. Feuardent led the way to a case where some hundreds or thousands of coins were displayed. The oldest money looked like a buckshot that had been flattened against a stone wall. On one side was a slight depression, where the metal had received the dab of a piece of iron while hot. A century or two later came the art of engraving coins, which rose to a high point under the Roman republic.

"Is it true," I asked, "that the older a coin is, the rarer it is?"

"It is not only true, but it is almost the reverse of the truth. Some of the oldest coins in the world are very common. Remember that the earth was the bank of the ancients. Whenever they wanted to be sure of keeping money they secretly hid it in the ground. The general of an encamped roman army buried his treasure: along came the Goths and swept them away, and the money was lost, to be recovered by some curious or accidental delver hundreds or thousands of years later. Remember, too, that not only the nations coined, but the cities and towns, and that they coined not once or twice, but constantly at short intervals. The emperor Marius reigned only three days, but his coins are still common. Copper coins of Constantine the Great were found not many years ago buried in a heap in Germany. There was a pile as high as a man—cords of them, I suppose—and they are now so common that they bring only one cent!

"The best coins ever cast are those of about the year 400 B. C. Noble bas-reliefs of the time of Phidias then appear, making the finest imaginable monuments of the numismatic art. Some people say of these pieces, 'How well these are struck for such an easy period!' This betokens either ignorance or gross affectation. So far from deprecating criticism, the coins of those times have never since been equalled, or approached as works of art. The counterfeit seems to have appeared by the side of the first official engraver. Almost every ancient coin had its counterfeit, and of some there are more counterfeit than genuine coins."

There is a great demand throughout the country for dimes, which have of late been made only of recoined three, five and twenty-cent pieces.

WHERE A DOLLAR MAKES A MILLIONAIRE.

A Russian traveler in the Malay peninsula claims to have found in use there the smallest "coin" in the world. It is a minute wafer made from the juice of a tree. Its value is about one millionth part of a dollar.—*Scientific American*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Publisher Illing writes that he is forced to postpone (for a period) the publication of his "Annual," owing to his visit to England. When he returns, he will publish "The Advertising World," with which will be merged "The Philatelic Triumph."

A correspondent, located in Providence, R. I., informs us that Gibson (stamp dealer) has failed to respond. He says, "My order, enclosing stamp for same, also return postage, and again a postal card calling his attention to his omission in filling order, has been entirely ignored. On seeing his advertisement, I sent for circulars, which I received; then mailed 60 cents for an order; result, no reply. In both instances I was careful to omit nothing in the address given in the advertisement above spoken of." "Twere well, possibly, that Mr. Gibson should be reminded that "Honesty is the best Policy."

Another gentleman (Mr. Dawson), calls our attention to the fact "that changes have been recently made in the U. S. 6 and 10 cent present issue; have not seen any remarks on the subject in any of the papers." The 10 cent we have noticed in a former number. The changes are simply in the shade of color, both being now printed somewhat dark. If not that, it is due to the fading of color in those printed heretofore.

F. L. W. writes as follows: "Please inform me as to the cheapest, secure method of transmitting through the mails valuable small packets; if by registration, the method of same, and at what offices, if any distinction is made by the authorities."

By registered letter. All postmasters throughout the United States are required by law to register letters when asked to do so. It costs ten cents extra to "register;" the postmaster gives a receipt for the letter, and when it is received by the one addressed, he or she signs a receipt for it, which is transmitted back at once to the sender at the mailing office.

A subscriber writes to this effect: "Where did the coöperative storekeeping scheme originate and who were its originators. What was its object and what success did it meet with at the outset?"

Coöperative storekeeping in London began with the Civil Service Supply Association, in the year 1864. The Association was composed at first of a few post-office clerks, and was gradually enlarged by the admission of other members of the civil service. Its main object was cheapness, not savings. It furnished goods to members at wholesale price, plus expenses and a small advance to cover contingencies. In the course of ten years this small advance had resulted in the accumulation of a fund of \$400,000 over and above current requirements.

PUBLICATIONS.

We have received a copy of Mr. L. W. Durbin's (publisher, Fifth & Library Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.) Stamp Catalogue, being the eleventh edition and the first to arrive for the year 1883. It is one of the most comprehensive volumes devoted to that purpose that we have seen in a long period. Each country's issue, in the form of tabular statements, fill up one hundred of its pages, and, as a further guide to the collector, sixty more of its pages are well illustrated with nigh one thousand cuts. It is surprising how the publisher can afford to sell, *postfree*, this *standard* work for the mere pittance—when compared to its intrinsic value—of twenty-five cents. His remarks in its preface, we are sure, all dealers and collectors having had business transactions with Mr. Durbin, will heartily concur in. He says: "Our stock is very large and collectors can depend upon having their orders by mail filled promptly and as satisfactorily as if they called in person. It is needless to add, that collectors will get from us only genuine stamps in good condition. The reputation we have acquired in the past thirteen years is an assurance of that, but if more is needed, a written guarantee upon any particular stamp sold will be given whenever desired." What further could one ask?

N. S. Leebeck's Illustrated and Descriptive Stamp Catalogue before us. Although it bears the imprint 1882, it is a volume of that kind which never grows old, as at every research the reader finds something new. It is bound in stamped gilt-mottled muslin cover, and its interior made resplendent with clean brevier type and nigh 2000 illustrations. One very good feature in this book is the guard leaves distributed throughout with an unstinted hand, upon which supplementary blank leaves can be mounted when a collector wishes to keep a check list of their stamps. The author, in his preface, strikes terror to the heart of even the initiated, when he recounts the difficulties besetting the compilers of catalogues for stamps, for he says: "None but those who have ever tried to compile a catalogue of postage stamps can have an idea of the work it is with numerous 'authorities' before you (Mount Brown, Gray Pemberton, Dr. Magnus, and others), all of whom disagree, more or less, on dates and color, and it is left to the compiler to use that information which he considers best." This work is GIVEN AWAY (post-free) for the nominal sum of one dollar, at 97 Wall Street, New York City.

R. W. Mercer's Numismatic Directory and Guide, a most worthy and reliable work and one indispensable to the coin collector, was received some time ago, but notice of same—owing to our very limited space—has been repeatedly crowded out. It contains the names and addresses of collectors of the United States, Confederate States, colonial and foreign coins, medals, tokens, badges, metal

cards, etc., including paper money, bonds and scrip; a most complete list of numismatic societies, authors and publications devoted to the numismatic art. Choice bits of information to the collector and statistical data are scattered at intervals throughout its pages. It is printed on a very fine quality of paper, with clear, legible type, contains nigh on to ninety pages, and must have caused its author a great deal of time and pains to collate, which he has done unflinchingly and with success. Mr. Mercer, like all liberal-minded and enterprising business men, has a decided distaste for anything that smacks of exclusiveness in business. He says: "While a few monopolists may consider the Directory detrimental to their interests, we hope with the majority it will meet with favor, have a tendency to equalize trade as well as prices, create a greater interest, enlarge business and be a mutual benefit to all." And so do we. His address is 147 Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Elizur Wright, whose address is Box 109, Boston, Mass., offers to send a copy of his book, "*Myron Holley, and What He Did for Liberty and True Religion*," to any public or circulating library in the State of New York, without any other charge than nine cents for postage enclosed in the application; and any newspaper inserting this notice, will be entitled to a copy of the book on the same terms.—*N. Y. Post*.

Messrs. C. H. Mekeel & Co. promise the philatelic public an early issuance of their "*Universal Philatelists' Directory and Guide*," to be re-compiled annually; and furthermore, that it shall be second to none in the direction of completeness of any that is now or may in the future be issued. We believe there is ample room in that direction.

A CURIOUS ADDRESS.

Sometimes we read of odd ways in addressing letters. This form of nonsense is not new by any means, as the following incident will show.

While the comedian Hay was performing at Bolton, England, in 1802, he received a curiously marked envelope, containing a letter from Charles Diblin, another actor:—

"Postman, take this sheet away
And carry it to Mr. Hay;
And whether you ride mare or colt on;
Stop at the theatre, Bolton,
If in what county you inquire,
Merely mention Lancashire."

THE FRANKLIN DOCUMENTS.

The collection of State papers and other documents relating to Dr. Benjamin Franklin, was handed a short time ago to the Hon. James Russell Lowell, the American Minister, for delivery to the United States Government.

MINERALS.

A choice collection of mineral specimens, artistically arranged on plate-glass shelves in deftly constructed mahogany and ebony cabinets, is a pleasurable sight, even if he, who passes an hour or two in the pastime, be no enthusiast. Besides its attractiveness, volumes of the world's history appear in each crystalline foliations of these mines plucked from the innermost recesses of mother earth. Through the courtesy of Mr. Hugh N. Camp, of Fordham Heights, this city, we were allowed a short time ago an indulgence of the above description. Among the many beautiful pieces shown us was an iron pyrites from Denver, Colorado; we have seen many fine specimens of pyrites, but this is the most beautiful. The cubes of which its surfaces are formed measure about one inch and sparkle like meteors traveling through space. A rare piece of molybdate of lead, saffron-colored and constructed like obelisks or shafts, the whole forming a group or field like that of icebergs, sat cheek by jowl with its fellows, a piece of native silver from Lake Superior, and a large type of magnetic iron ore.

Beautiful pieces of smoky quartz crystal from Pike's Peak, Col., a fine piece of native sulphur from Humboldt, Nev., and fluor spar and galena (mixed) from Kentucky, vied one with the other in quaint geometrical designs and prismatic colors. Native copper from Cornwall, Eng., a piece of emerald nickel from Lancaster, Pa. fine piece of crystallized quartz from Ellenville, N. Y., are by no means (especially the latter, which is prized highly by its owner,) the least in this creditable collection.

Mingled through the collection above quoted are many curios, which Mr. Camp, during his travels, and otherwise, has come in possession of. Two rings from the "Land of the Midnight Sun" (Lapland), one either bronze or iron, the other approaching in color to the prevailing style *old gold*, and a spoon carved from reindeer horn, possess a unique appearance and remind one of the many stories related of those queer and ice-bound, pigmy representatives of human nature. A stalactite from the cave in Lauray Valley, Va. has rare merit as a curiosity. A cone, fourteen inches long, from one of the large pine trees of California, another from the "Sequoia Giganta," and a piece of wood from the "Fallen Monarch," fairly and well represent our afar off sister state, the home of the golden genii and "forty-niners."

We would love dearly to spread (metaphorically speaking) before our readers this gentleman's splendid collection of shells, but, fearing that the "chair will call us to order" as having wandered from the question ("our themes"), we will defer speaking thereof, assuring the "chair" that it has failed in securing a rare treat—not in having lost a pen description of the shell collection by the writer, but in not having banqueted his or her vision on so fine a sight.

AUCTION SALES.

RELICS OF THE STONE AGE IN AMERICA AND EUROPE.

Mr. W. E. Woodward disposed of his fifty-third sale on December 13, consisting of Pre-historic Stone Objects selected from the cabinets of Prof. J. Grier Ralston and Mr. Norman Spang.

This sale contained many rare specimens of primitive industry on this continent, South America and Europe, all of which brought fair prices.

The auctioneers were Bangs & Co. of this city. The sale was well attended, the bidding on some lots was spirited, lots setting out with quite a nominal price, much to the chagrin of the early bidders, would rapidly rise to as many dollars as they had offered in cents. Deeming it of interest to the reader, we give some of Mr. Woodward's most applicable descriptions and comments. The lot which brought the highest price was 249 and consisted of a "carving from a mound in Northwestern Georgia; a figure of a man with physiognomy unmistakably Indian; with the exception of his head-gear, the costume of this Indian reminds one of the uniform of the Georgia major, who, when in full dress, wore only a dickey and a pair of spurs. This man is entirely naked with the exception of a helmet. Though the artist did not strictly adhere to nature, and though the figure is far from perfect, regarded from an anatomical view, it is yet a wonderful piece of work. It cost the former owner forty dollars, and it is certainly a most rare and remarkable object; it is full length, and in height 5½ inches;" it sold for ten dollars.

Lot 325 sold also for ten dollars. It consisted of a "pipe from the Ralston collection found in an ancient Indian graveyard at Lancaster, Pennsylvania; in form it is similar to that of the modern clay pipe. The stem seven and one-half inches in length; at the mouthpiece three-eighths of an inch in diameter, regularly expanding to three-quarters of an inch and from a graceful curve upwards it is enlarged, forming the bowl, which rises to a height of two inches, with a diameter at the top of one and one-quarter inches; facing the smoke is a well-carved Indian face; perfect and "one of the most desirable pipes I have ever met with."

Lot 98. "Spear heads; the best lot in the sale; all of large size and nearly every one is very fine." This lot included twenty-four pieces which sold for thirty cents a piece, thus making the price of the lot \$7.20.

Lot 242. "Bird Amulet, Hicksville Township, Defiance County, Ohio; the body triangular, slightly convex at the bottom, the tail much spread and rounded, the head elongated, with prominent eyes; has the characteristic diagonal perforations; material metamorphic slate; highly finished and absolutely perfect; one of the finest objects of this class that has ever been discovered; *excessively rare*; Length 5½ inches. Height, 2 inches." Brought \$7.00.

Lot 262 consisted of 13 jewelry points, "each one a gem. "Points of this quality find ready sale for \$1.00 each." Brought 51 cents a piece, which made the price of the lot \$6.63.

Lot 253 consisted of a "boat-shaped ornament from Seneca County, Ohio, symmetrical, sides slightly expanded, ends rounded; hollowed out to a uniform thickness; two small perforations in the bottom, equidistant from the centre; ribbon slate, of beautiful workmanship, perfect and

most rare. Size 3¼x1½ inches." This lot brought \$6.00.

Lots 199, 243, 244, 256, 261, 326 and 467 sold for \$5.00 each and are described below.

Lot 199 included a grooved axe, from earthworks in Ohio; diorite, beautifully made, polished and perfect; "one of the finest that I have ever seen." Size 3½x2½ inches.

Lot 243. Bird Amulet from Ohio, "in general form resembling the last, but the head is without eyes, and curves downward; the tail is less expanded, and the body is shorter; metamorphic slate material; though less elegant, it is about as perfect as lot 242, which brought seven dollars, and equally as rare. Size, four and three-quarters by one and three-quarter inches."

Lot 244. Amulet from Ohio; "unlike any that I have ever met with; the body is triangular, nearly twice as high as the breadth of the base, the back slightly curving inward, the head resembles rather a quadruped than a bird; the eyes are large and prominent, and the mouth well defined; the material a drab-colored stone, and the workmanship of the finest description; very rare. Size, four and one-half by one and one-half inches."

Lot 256. "Banner stone, Stark county, Ohio; much in the form of an old-fashioned cocked hat; striped slate; perfect and rare. Size, two and three-quarters by one and one-half."

Lot 261. "Star-shaped head of a battle-club from Peru; ring-form, with six pointed projections, of which one is broken off, and three others are injured; granite, finely wrought; *VERY RARE* and desirable, nothing of the kind being found, except in South America;" the total diameter of the star is five and one-half inches, and the thickness is one and one-half inches."

Lot 326. "Pipe of catlinite; in form a tomahawk, the head much elongated, making a bowl two and seven-eighths inches in height; the stem a perforated handle; sold with the pipe as two pieces; the pipe is symmetrical, ornamented with carving, and a very fine piece of work; has been broken, but most neatly mended. Size, seven and three-eighths by four inches. The stem is about one inch in diameter and seventeen inches long. Sold as one piece."

Lot 467. "Fish spear head of bone; flat, with polished flint flakes inserted in the sides, five in each edge, pointed at both ends; perfect, and *extremely rare*; archaeologists state that not above six or eight of these objects are known; from Sweden; length, six inches."

Lot 490 "consisted of a slung shot of quartzite, from the Marquesas Islands; egg-shape, perforated through one end; perfectly symmetrical, finely finished; *very rare*. Two and three-quarters by one and seven-eighths in size." This lot brought four dollars and sixty cents. All told there was 591 lots, which were placed on exhibition for two days prior to the sale, the latter commencing at 3 p. m. of the 15th, taking some six hours ere the last lot was disposed of.

AUCTION SALE.

Mr. E. Frossard's Catalogue of American and Foreign Coins, in which he announces the sale thereof at auction, received. The sale takes place at 2 p. m., Jan. 27, 1883, at the salesroom of Messrs. Bangs & Co., 739-741 Broadway, New York City. The collection, which includes Masonic and war medals, siege coins, rare pattern pieces, numismatic works, etc., will be placed on exhibition at 9 a. m. of same day. Orders for this sale will be faithfully executed by Mr. Frossard, whose address is Irvington, on the Hudson, N. Y.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

ADDRESS BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRADE, SCRANTON, PA., NOVEMBER 20, 1882, BY J. A. PRICE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

The question of governmental control of electric communication is one that the people now in active life must meet. Forty years of telegraphy and of progress have placed rapid communication among the vital considerations of society, and made it one of the essentials to modern thought and living. The cardinal elements of man's existence upon the face of the earth are, the comparatively free use of land, water, light, air, and communication with his fellows.

All government is of men; its province is to secure protection and happiness to the governed. Nothing more. Particularly do we ascribe these attributes to Republics. Ours is an ideal Republic, founded upon the suffrage of millions, with a mission to afford the highest gratification to the greatest number, and to exercise the least possible restraint. It has had a hundred years of trial. In the main, it has been progressive; it has kept step with modern improvements.

Progress is built upon knowledge, and knowledge, in turn, springs goddess-born from the brain of the race in frequent and constant communication. The power to write and to print, second only to the power to talk, backed by the agency of postal delivery, has lifted men to higher levels. Mind has rubbed against mind, until all are bright. Hence, governments owe their people the greatest facilities of communication. nothing should be left to individual enterprise that pertains to the welfare of all. Feudalism, or individual aggrandisement, has in times past appropriated land and water, to the privation and discomfort of men; despotism, or individual usurpation, in taxing the window, has monopolized light itself; but these dark spots appear mainly upon the page of history. Civilization, however, must not now pause and imitate, feebly or otherwise, the harsher examples, and deny to men material blessings—natural rights.

Gladstone somewhere asserts that this century has made greater progress than all the previous ages of the world combined. America has pushed to the front, and leads the field. She has no competitor. All are distanced. Statistics leave no room for doubt upon this subject. It is natural, then, for the average citizen, not to settle down in a dotage of contentment, but to desire the highest possible modicum of benefit, advancement, privilege.

The transmission of intelligence is a governmental function. It has come to be so admitted; yet, previous to the time of James I. of England, only three hundred years ago, this fact would have been stoutly contested. The growing importance of the post-roads opened, and the post-lines established, by that monarch have produced

conviction. The consideration that applies to the post is no less potent when demanded for the wire; to carry a letter and to deliver a telegraphic message are of one and the same import. Any argument that sustains or destroys, involves alike one and the other. Who questions the efficient government service in postal delivery? Has it not become a marvel of civilization? It reaches everywhere; knows neither heat nor cold; pauses not for light or darkness; at all times searching for men—and finding them. It is the pulse of civilization. We demand for the wire what is given with joyous and universal acclaim to the post.

It is a circumstance, fortunate to the present discussion, that we have the mighty influence of brilliant example upon the subject. Experience is certainly a safe guide. It is our right to use it. We point with a generous enthusiasm to the accomplishments of our Anglo-Saxon brethren in postal telegraphy, after twelve years of practical operation. A short history of its inception and progress, with the record of administration, cannot be misapplied.

The original Telegraph Act of Great Britain, in 1868, designed "to furnish cheaper, more widely extended, and more expeditious system of communication to the public." This is true statesmanship—an act of beneficial administration.

As a matter of history, the cause of a "Post-Telegraph" was first advocated by Mr. Allen, a member of Parliament, in 1854, only ten years subsequent to Professor Morse's first message, "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?" over the Baltimore and Washington line, in 1844—the first in America and in the world. Again by Mr. Baines in 1856, and by Mr. Ricardo in 1861, and finally, being taken up by the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce leading and other chambers scattered over the United Kingdom following—institutions similar to the American Boards of Trade—it was vitalized into existence. Constant agitation formed public opinion, and public opinion in turn made servants of legislators, until the Act of 1868 was obtained. The actual transfer of the property of the old telegraph companies to the government did not take place until January 29, 1870. Under the Act of Establishment it was stipulated that rates should be reduced; not to exceed a maximum standard of tariff rates, and that the public should be absolutely and completely placed in possession of the privilege of electric communication.

For the purpose of this presentation, the question is, Has the English system of post-telegraph fulfilled its promises to the government and the people?

The government undertook to establish the following results:

First. The reduction and simplification of charges upon messages.

Second. The extension of wire to outlying and post-towns not on railways, to districts of cities, and localities not provided with telegraphic communication.

Third. Complete separation of commercial from railway telegraphy, and for purposes of safety, to relieve the railway of commercial messages.

Fourth. Free traffic in the collection of press-news, with low rates, however collected, and thus to destroy the persistent monopoly of the old companies in the transmission of public news.

Examining the first, we find that the cost of messages as adopted in 1863 by the united companies, was as follows :

20 words, under 100 miles,	1s.
20 words, between 100 and 200 miles, 1s. 6d.	
20 words, over 200 miles	2s.
20 words, from England to Ireland, 3s. to 6s.	

with half-rates upon extra words. There were also subordinate branch lines, upon which extra or terminal charges were made; for instance, the charges from London to Granton, a town four miles out of Edinburgh, was 2s. to Edinburgh, and 1s. additional to Granton; also, the charge from London to Penarth Docks, three miles from Cardiff, was 1s. 6d. to Cardiff and 6d. additional to Penarth Docks. The newspaper press charges varied according to the value of the news and the eagerness of the public for it—or, in other words, it was sold to those who had the greater means to pay for it. The free words, such as names and addresses, were, under the old companies, limited to ten. This was the most favorable position of telegraphy to the public previous to the operation of the Act of 1868.

By the Act, the tariff rate was fixed at a maximum, viz., twenty words, names and addresses not limited, one shilling, irrespective of distance or terminal delivery within one mile. With an admirable spirit of liberality, the Postmaster-General was empowered to fix charges, which must not exceed the maximum specified. The rates have never been changed, although the power still rests in the general office. Press rates went down to 1s. for one hundred words in the night and for seventy-five words in the daytime. The average of this reduction was more than one-half—a noble daring in behalf of public welfare.

The question of efficiency seems almost dominant, that of revenue, never; and it appears, as with the proverbial wisdom of a Solomon, that in making a wise choice all else has been added. The English postal telegraph system has been a profitable enterprise from the first.

Starting, then, with the assertion that the object of the government in the assumption of the old telegraph system of the United Kingdom, and its subsequent increase, was to stimulate trade, to economize capital, to facilitate commerce, and to encourage manufactures, we may with profit examine in detail the result of the labor for years. It is universally accepted that the public have been accommodated in the largest measure of usefulness, that lines have been extended, and that the highest facilities have been acquired.

The report of the Hon. Henry Fawcett, August 14, 1880, makes the following exhibit, contrasting the condition before and after governmental control :

	1869	1880
Number of offices,	2,488	5,331
Number of instruments.	2,200	8,151
Number of operators.	2,514	5,611
Number of messengers.	1,471	4,648
Miles of line	5,651	23,156
Miles of wire.	48,990	100,851
Miles of sub-marine cable	139	707
Yds. of pneumatic tubes	4,844	48,620
Number of messages sent 6,500,000	26,547,137	

At the time of the transfer, there were no duplex or quadruplex instruments, but in 1880 there were 392 duplex instruments and 6 quadruplex circuits. Pneumatic tubes were only in London Manchester and Birmingham. They now exist in the seven principal cities of the realm.

In the principle of the pneumatic tube, yet in its infancy, we see one of the giant forces of communication. Outrunning steam and surpassing electricity—for the pneumatic tube can carry a package—it is destined to become even greater than either. In it we see time reduced to a minimum in the delivery of articles that have length, breadth, thickness and weight—letters or merchandise, perhaps; we see hours shrunken into minutes—from ocean to ocean, a day's transit.

The news distribution has kept pace with that of commercial enterprise.

	1869	1880
Number of towns receiving news,	145	313
Number of newspapers receiving news 173	518	

Who but the public has been benefitted by this astonishing increase? No private enterprise would have dared so great an innovation as decreasing rates to one-half and quadrupling the facilities. The private companies sent from London 6,000 words daily when Parliament was in session, and 4,000 at other times. These figures increased under governmental control to 25,697 words during the session and 21,702 at other times.

With what result, is shown in the following table of gross revenue and net return, after the working expenses were paid :

	GROSS REVENUE	NET RETURN
1870	£	£ 38,487
1871	908,351	303,457
1872	1,095,375	159,835
1873	1,306,055	114,975
1874	1,403,793	115,676
1875	1,448,823	59,732
1876	1,479,477	245,116
1877	1,474,814	189,317
1878	1,486,990	169,428
1879	1,448,043	257,500
1880	1,549,866	340,942

The increase in the number of telegrams after the transfer exhibits how fully the people were reached—the increase being regular and almost proportionate.

1870-71... 9,850,177	Telegrams.	Telegrams.	1876-77... 21,726,143
1871-72... 12,473,796			1877-78... 22,171,867
1872-73... 15,535,783			1878-79... 24,459,775
1873-74... 17,821,530			1879-80... 26,547,137
1874-75... 19,253,120			1880-81... 29,411,982
1875-76... 20,973,535			1881-82... 31,345,861

The total amount paid the companies and expended upon the plant to March, 1879, was £10,121,575, and upon this sum, after allowing the government service, without pay, a dividend result of 2.48 per cent. was obtained. So consistent an increase, and so clear a showing, would warrant the advocates of governmental assumption in challenging the empty assertions of the opposition in the matter of the possibilities of a successful issue. In th language of a homely phrase, "what has been done, can be done again." The people of America are as worthy as those of England their needs as great.

And in passing, permit me to add that whatever the faults the government of Great Britain may have, it is vigilant over the smaller necessities of its people. It strives to make its people happy in the possession of the most abundant means of communication, in postal saving deposits, and in money interchanges such as no other country possesses.

We have dwelt upon this conspicuous example, and prefer to leave it with little comment, to carry its own weight of conviction. Other countries are joining the innovation, and requiring a unity of management in all the methods of communication among the people. It exists in Germany, in Australia, in Belgium, and in Switzerland, and it has been found universally that government service only affords complete satisfaction, that no private enterprise can be relied on to do the work as the government does it, and that every change from private monopoly to government has been accompanied with a marked reduction in charges, and the greatest extension of lines and terminal facilities. These are the facts.

We have, however, no need to go abroad to sustain the general argument, although we are voiceless in example and experience. Let us contemplate America, a territory of 3,025,600 square miles, rich in soil, in mineral and in climate, as against 3,815,382 square miles, comprising the whole of Europe, of fitful climate and a varied surface. Europe has seventeen different general governments, and a population, according to Drs. Behan and Wagner, of 327,743,000. America has one government, and a population of 50,155,783, with capacity of increase to 400,000,000 and a probability, within the next one hundred years, at the present rate, to 250,000,000.

We have 10,000 miles of frontier, of which 3,500 are sea-coast, 1,600 of gulf-coast, and 1,500 of lake coast. We have the productive belt of the North temperate zone, between parallels 39 and 43, nearly 3,000 miles long—the Yellow Corn line, where prosperity is enduring, and in which

the great problems of civilization and of government are to be solved.

The growth of these American States is something of a wonder, and finds no parallel anywhere or at any time, historically or geographically.

The chief items of wealth, estimated, consist of

Railways	\$ 5,220,000,000
Farms	9,615,000,000
Cattle	1,820,000,000
Manufactures	5,255,000,000
Houses ..	13,360,000,000
Furniture	5,420,000,000
Forests, mines and canals.	2,793,000,000
Bullion	720,000,000
Shipping	315,000,000
Public works	5,252,000,000

\$49,770,000,000

The assessed valuation for purposes of taxation was \$16,962,755,893, according to the census of 1880. In 1840 the wealth of Great Britain was five times as great as that of the United States. In 1880 the estimate reaches six billions of dollars in excess of Great Britain.

The rapid increase in the number of farms indicates substantial wealth, and entitles us to the proud distinction of being the World's Great Farm. The table shows:

1850 ... 1,449,073	1870 ... 2,659,985
1860 ... 2,044,077	1880 ... 4,008,907

51 per cent. increase since 1870.

The value of the farm product in 1879 was \$2,220,992,002. Since 1840 we have increased the grain product from 35 bushels to each inhabitant to 52 bushels in 1880. The value of all crops per individual has risen from \$24 in 1840 to \$40 in 1880; that of cattle from \$22 to \$36 per inhabitant. This shows a greater proportionate increase than does our population, the one being three-fold and the other five. Our increase in the value of manufactures has been five-fold since 1850; that of railroads more than ten-fold.

Since the record of immigration was begun in 1830, we have received over 13,000,000 of foreign population. The tide sweeps on. For the year ending June 30, 1882, we received 789,003 persons, an excess over 1881 of 119,572. It has barely begun. The distant thunder of the great moving mass to come is heard by those accustomed to observe closely.

Besides our broad area, with its plentitude of resources and means of development, our people have exhibited an ingenuity that is truly marvelous, and can only be compared with the vastness of our domain. Original invention, from the calling of the lightning to the latest achievements with sound-waves and electric illumination and felicitous combinations of mechanical principles, has been pushed with surprising energy. The secrets of the Creator are being demanded not singly and alone, but in battalions. Amid all the wealth of natural resources that can scarcely be

calculated, we have achieved results that have seemingly reversed the adage, that necessity is the mother of invention. The Patent Office has issued, up to November 7, 1882, 267,313 letters for mechanical invention, and 23,637 for designs and reissues. For the year ending November 7, 1882, 163 mechanical and 1,151 design and re-issue patents; for the week ending November 7, 353 of the former and 17 of the latter. This herculean accumulation of labor exhibits the brilliant spirit of our people. The patent office reveals only a portion of the vast energy that is going on around us.

There are 781,689 different business enterprises in the country; the earth is fairly iron-ribbed, from ocean to ocean and from zone to zone, with 107,000 miles of railway; the lonely and trackless seas have become crowded as city thoroughfares; printed pages of useful knowledge fall daily like autumn-leaves, and while the air is truly netted with the electric gossamer, we have but one system, a monopoly of rapid communication, in the hands of selfishness and ambition—a monopoly without restraint. Practically there seems to be no adequate means of handling the telegraphic tendency to monopoly. Then, if this be so, and as it appears from all the facts, there is only one monopoly that should be permitted, one that can be tolerated with safety, and that is not individual, but governmental.

This noiseless growth, so fairly incomprehensible in magnitude, must not find us lacking. Ideas too, must grow. As well expect the stage-coach and ox-drag to answer the purposes of communication and transportation to-day, because it did in the day of our grandfathers. It is better to understand that advancing science, increasing population, and altered circumstances constantly develop new functions and demand new features and adoptions—that the pinafore of the child neither suits nor fits the man; that the net that held the cub will not restrain the lion. It is better to believe that a government that has the right to demand the life of its citizen in an emergency, must make cause with all reasonable advancement, and extend the best arts as natural and inalienable inheritance.

The telegraph and the telephone have become actual and vast necessities; they possess a public character which we must not forget or disregard; they have become factors in life and society, and as such they must be above the control of society, and as such must be above the control of individuals, even as light or air. In the hands of mere speculators for dividends they never can be worked to the advantage of people or of government. Shareholders must be consulted before public interests. Whereas under governmental control it would be cheapness and efficiency first, and revenue afterward.

The history of electric communication under Republican institutions exhibits the grossest ten-

dency to unwarranted and intolerable monopoly. The Western Union Company has absorbed every competitor. Its capital is eighty millions of dollars, composed in part of original plant—a small amount for the purchase of competitors it had already ruined, and a large balance of stock dividends, in which villainy and legality are nicely but ferociously compounded. A fairly estimated cost of the present Western Union system of land-wire is said to be less than twenty millions of dollars, and yet the people are paying, according to the Western Union Company's president, Norvin Green, a "handsome profit" on eighty millions of dollars.

Ocean-telegraphy has likewise submitted to the inevitable, and stand with a capital of fifty-five millions of dollars for that which cost but twenty one millions, and maintains its tariff of fifty cents a word for messages. During the brief existence of the French Cable Company, messages were forwarded at twelve and one-half cents a word.

The Bell Telephone Company, youngest at once and greatest in audacity and assumption, has absorbed its rivals, Gray and Edison, and has gone on purchasing, at any cost, all the patents upon springs, wires and screws, until now, with a capital of fifteen millions of dollars, representing that which is estimated to have cost only three millions, it stands demanding tribute to its magnified proportions.

Nor is this all. These interests—the Western Union Company, the International Cable Company, and the Bell Telephone Company—are virtually one and the same creature. They carry grist to the same mill—the Western Union. Summing all together, we find that at an original cost of \$44,000,000, the people are paying profitable returns, and, for ocean-wire and for telephone, exorbitant returns, upon a capitalization of \$150,000,000—and paying at a rate exceeding \$20,000,000 per annum.

We submit the following brief outline, showing the abuses to which we allude: The capital of the Western Union Company in 1858 was \$385,700; in 1866 it had expanded to \$22,000,000, of which \$3,322,000 was issued to purchase competing lines, and the balance, or nearly \$18,000,000, was passed into stock dividends; the stock, as a natural consequence, fell to twenty-five cents on the dollar; yet, by maintaining high service-rates and terrorizing all tendency to competition, it soon made this inflated paper capital pay. The purchase of the United States Company, a plant that had cost about \$1,500,000 was made the excuse of a new issue of Western Union stock of \$7,216,300. The stock of the American Telegraph Company, which had been diluted some ten-fold, amounting at the time of the purchase to \$3,833,100 was again the cause of the issue of \$11,833,100 of Western Union stock. And, not satisfied with this daring flagrant outrage upon common hones-

ty, a bonded debt of over \$6,000,00 was hung upon the neck of the organization. In turn the Atlantic and Pacific Company, with a capital of \$15,000,000 was absorbed, as also the American Union Company, until the Western Union runs its capitalization up to the enormous sum of eighty millions of dollars. Some of these latter-day lines were undoubtedly projected simply to afford the Western Union an opportunity and an excuse, as a kind of mantle of decency, to cover its system of Cyclopean plunder.

The importance of electric communication, being the master of intelligence and the dictator of values, is fully appreciated by the men who sit with the hand upon the key. The attempt to control the Associated Press marks the direction. The English companies, before the transfer, held all matters of news, as to character and time of delivery, a matter of private privilege, until the spirited sense of justice of the Anglo-Saxon was aroused. What security have we? Since the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States upon the Dartmouth College case, wherein it was held that no power can impose any control over franchises once granted, without the acceptance of the corporation, we may well conclude that, as the case now stands in the matter of rapid communication, the people are absolutely and unqualifiedly helpless. Under the new system, the English government has no priority, no preference in the transmission of intelligence of any kind whatever. Under our system, the Western Union and the Associated Press now have an arbitrary and a despotic power, when they choose to exercise it. Men will do more than they ought. Abuses will enter with arbitrary power. It is only a question of time.

There can be but one remedy now, and that remedy is governmental control. It has surpassed the power of the individual or possible association of individuals. It is a natural adjunct to the postal service, it is the transmission of intelligence, and is a governmental function. Let it be constituted the public benefactor, which it is capable of becoming.

The telegraph is not yet sufficiently in the hands of the people. The tariff-rates make a practical exclusion of the masses. Surprising as it may seem, the general public are not the habitual users of electric communication. It serves the purposes of speculation, and is used mainly by stock-brokers, mining agents, ship-brokers, racing and betting-men, fish-mongers, fruit-merchants, and others engaged in business of a speculative character, or who deal in articles of a perishable nature. Within all reasonable consideration, it should be made the vehicle of communication in the hand of the average common citizen, and this can be done only by rates that are made upon the basis of actual values. So long as it may possess the power of inflation and monopoly, it can never reach the masses. Like the

penny postage, thanks to the blessed memory of Rowland Hill, it has been made in England of infinite benefit to a large class, and America may safely and profitably imitate her example.

In America the proportion is about two persons to every message per year. Our disposition to use the system is great, greater than any other nation. The Postmaster-General, in 1872, estimated that the entire actual cost of the telegraph system up to that time was \$11,800,000. This was supposed to be a most careful and exhaustive computation. The estimate now reaches \$17,000,000; and in connection with our postal department the telegraph system can be made self-sustaining and profitable at one cent per word, irrespective of distance, names and addresses free. Nay, more; the number of offices can be increased beyond the present to within a very small percentage of the total number of post-offices, which now is 46,618, efficient service maintained, thousands of population served that are not now, and the revenue not fall below the profit line.

Mr. William S. Crosby, of the Chicago Board of Trade a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the cost of construction and the expense of maintenance of telegraph lines, makes the assertion that the Merchants' Line, now doing business between Chicago and Milwaukee, charges only five cents for ten words, and obtains from the plant fifty per cent. dividends; and that, taking into consideration the large cities between New York and Chicago, the same tariff rates could be maintained there also. No more need be said as to the enormously high rates our people are paying for electric communication, which, under governmental control, would necessarily be reduced to a minimum, to the infinite blessing of every interest and of the nation.

We point with satisfaction to the trial of governmental telegraphy in England. It establishes the fact. The same is true of other European States. Germany is a conspicuous example; telegraphy, no longer connected with the post-office, is a department in itself, under a director-general. It is, however, under governmental control. It yields a revenue of nearly twenty per cent. upon the investment, besides furnishing communication upon the basis of England, of about one cent. per word, irrespective of distance. The net revenue is increasing from year to year. According to the returns at the International Telegraph Office at Berne, Germany sent 60,312,458 messages during the last year. George von Chauvin, a son of the Director-General of Telegraphs, testified before a British Parliamentary Committee that the telegraph success of Germany was due to her perfect system; that the aim of the government was to afford the people the best facility of communication at the lowest figure; that it never had been abused, and was gaining in popular favor.

The facilities for the interchange of ideas may be taken as a standard of civilization. For instance, the number of pieces of mail-matter handled in one year is as follows :

	Letters.	Miscellaneous.
Europe....	3,567,000,000	2,267,000,000
Asia.....	175,000,000	30,000,000
Africa.....	11,000,000	2,000,000
America....	1,246,000,000	1,147,000,000

Reduce the computation to a per-capita basis, and we have the average number of times each person uses postal facilities: Europe 18.50, Asia 0.81, Africa 1.46, America 28.31, constituting as nearly as may be a ratio between postal service and general intelligence. The same is true of the individual nations of Europe.

We claim that the telegraph properly belongs to the modern social life, as it now exists, with its new ideas, its quickened habits, and its enlarged customs, as did the slower post delivery fifty years ago, to the condition then. The business life of the present day, involving immense questions of commerce and grave and intricate industrial problems, cannot be conducted, nor its progress maintained, without all the appliances of rapid communication. If this be admitted, then it is equally certain that such an element of importance should never be subject to the will of individual management.

There is only one substantial objection that can be raised to governmental control of telegraphic service, viz., the increased patronage in the hands of the government. This is not vital. Its logic can be urged against the postal department. It is not conclusive, for while one may assert that it will, another may, with equal candor, assert that it will not be abused. Can we surpass abuses that exist? Is it possible to deny that we are suffering already? A United States Senate Committee says: "With the rapid and inevitable progress of combination and consolidation, these colossal organizations are daily becoming stronger and more imperious. The day is not distant, if it is not already arrived, when it will be the duty of the statesmen to enquire whether there is less danger in having the property and industrial interests of the people thus wholly at the mercy of a few men who recognize no responsibility but their stockholders, and no principle of action but personal and corporate aggrandizement than in adding somewhat to the power and patronage of a government directly responsible to the people and entirely under their control." These words are not hot with temper, arising from the fury of debate, but the cold reflection of a committee-room.

Admitting, then, all that may be said, it becomes but a choice of evils. In such an extremity I am with the government. What is the government for? If my fellow-citizen has power to oppress me, I am helpless; if my government does the same thing, it is my right, it is my duty, to exhaust every remedy to correct the evil, wisely and intelligently; that failing, a final and severer remedy

may be found in revolution. The benefit of choice is on the side of the government.

But the day is coming when the substantial departments of the government of the United States will be removed from the turmoil and vicissitudes of political contention; when official tenure will not hang upon elections; when men may serve with patriotic devotion, and with pride; when party leadership can inspire neither fear nor favor; when men in office can have the courage of the hearthstone. Then let the waves of party contentions dash against the rock-bound in-trenchment of a patriotic civil service, and break, as they will, into helpless fragments, while we continue to hope that independence of character, of thought, and of action shall ever hold in check the tendency to partisan destruction. It is cruel to withhold so vast a benefit for so slight an apprehension of evil, which, if an evil it be, lies with ourselves to cure. Remember, that if a Republican government wrongs its citizens, it is by their own crime or neglect.

Estimate electric communication at its proper value to the territory we inhabit, to the wide and spreading population, to the increasing product, to the spirited genius of our people, to our infinite resources, and to our future needs, and in turn weigh all the government service of our experience in comparison to that of individuals anywhere, and conclude, if we can, that it is better to hug the delusive old phantoms of simplicity that dwell only in memory, amid the strong-willed bustling millions of the day.

Life is a warfare. The struggle is toilsome and incessant. Society is but the battalions constantly wheeling about us. Everywhere the strife goes on. Whatever may lessen the slaughter, relieve the labor, preserve the army, and gain the victory is to be approved. When Germany marched against France in 1870, approaching by north, by south, and by east, she did it with the precision of a most deadly science. The State telegraph followed the field-telegraph. It was known when men were wanted, and trains of soldiers were pushed ahead of trains of supplies; if the crisis of the hour demanded ammunition, trains of men were held and the supplies went forward. The field-telegraph was always in the front, close to the enemy's line; it ran along trenches, it moved to and fro with the march of men; it was swung among trees, hung to light stakes, that were pushed into the ground by hand, insulated wires carried the current under ground, that men and trains might pass over them: the click of the instrument was heard at the head of the division of the regiment, and of the company, mingling with the rattle of musketry and the thunder of artillery, more deadly than either. It sat undisturbed in the presence of the enemy, and amid the smoke of the fray, while the carnage went on around. Its terrible hammer-stroke was dealing the blows that were crushing France. Ancient and mighty fortresses of the frontier sank to rise no more—Metz fell—Paris was invested—under the merciless click of the instrument, which was no less prompt and faithful in giving back the shouts of victory—the war ended, peace proclaimed. Eminent soldiers say that the Franco-Prussian war could not have been conducted upon the scale of extent and rapidity that it was without the telegraph as controlled in Germany.

The illustration is fitting and ample in daily affairs. The future of civilization is indissolubly linked with electric communication upon the largest and most extensive scale such as government only can provide.

* T H E *

PHILATELICAL LIBRARY
J. K. TIFFANY

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, February, 1883.

No. 11

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

I. R.

When we consider the losses which our working classes have sustained of late years by the failure of various savings banks, our Government ought to follow the example of other good governments, and, without longer delay, step forward and offer to the people the opportunity for safe investments of small sums by means of the various post-offices.

During a recent visit in Canada we were agreeably surprised to see how rapidly this institution has increased. During the fourteen years it has been established, the number of banks has increased from 21 in 1863 to 308 in 1882. The number of depositors from 3,247 to nearly 100,000, and the amounts deposited from \$200,000 to \$6,500,000, which at present has accumulated by interest, etc., to \$9,500,000, now standing to the credit of all open accounts. The cost of maintaining this establishment was in 1870 one-half of one per cent. of the amount of deposits, and has been since reduced to less than one-third of one per cent., showing a most economical and honest management, of which the result was that the depositors have been credited with \$1,686 111.79 interest. We are indebted for these figures to J. C. Stewart, Esq., Superintendent of the Savings Bank Branch of the Canadian Postal Service. We insert here, for information, the regulations for the Post Office Savings Bank, Canada.

1.—Post Office Savings Banks are open daily for the receipt and repayment of deposits, during the ordinary hours of post office business.

2.—The direct security of the Dominion is given by the statute for all deposits made.

3.—Any person may have a deposit account, and may deposit yearly any number of dollars, from \$1 up to \$300, or more with the permission of the postmaster-general.

4.—Deposits may be made by married women, and deposits so made, or made by women who shall afterwards marry, will be repaid to any such woman.

5.—As respects children under ten years of age, money may be deposited

Firstly—By a parent or guardian as trustee for the child, in which case the deposit can be withdrawn by the trustee until the child shall attain the age of ten years, after which time the repayment will be made only on the joint receipts of both trustee and child.

Secondly—In the child's own name—and, if so deposited, repayment will not be made until the child shall attain the age of ten years.

6.—A depositor in any of the Savings Bank Post Offices may continue his deposits at any other of such offices, without notice or change of pass book, and can withdraw money at that Savings Bank Office which is most convenient to him. For instance, if he make his first deposit at the savings bank at Coburg, he may make further deposits at, or withdraw his money through, the Post Office Bank at Collingwood or Quebec, Sarnia, Brockville, or any place which may be convenient to him, whether he continue to reside at Coburg or remove to some other place.

7.—Each depositor is supplied with a pass book, which is to be produced to the postmaster every time the depositor pays in or withdraws money, and the sums paid in or withdrawn are entered therein by the postmaster receiving or paying the same.

8.—Each depositor's account is kept in the postmaster-general's office in Ottawa, and in addition to the post-master's receipt in the pass book, a direct acknowledgment from the postmaster-general for each sum paid in is sent to the depositor. If this acknowledgment does not reach the depositor within ten days from the date of his deposit, he must apply immediately to the postmaster-general, by letter, being careful to give his address, and, if necessary, write again, because the postmaster's receipt or entry in the pass book is not sufficient without the further receipt for the money from Ottawa.

9.—Every depositor must send his book once a year, viz.: on the anniversary of his first deposit, for comparison with the books of the department, and for insertion of interest. The book will be returned to him by mail. At no other time should a depositor suffer his book to be out of his own possession.

10.—When a depositor wishes to withdraw money he can do so by applying to the postmaster-general, who will send him by return mail a check for the amount payable at whatever Savings Bank Post Office the depositor may have named in his application.

11.—Interest at the rate of four cent. per annum is allowed on deposits, and the interest is added to the principal on the 30th June in each year.

12.—Postmasters are forbidden by law to disclose the name of any depositor, or the amount of any sum deposited or withdrawn.

13.—No charge is made to depositors on paying in or drawing out money, nor for pass books, nor for postage on communications with the postmaster-general in relation to their deposits.

14.—The postmaster-general is always ready to receive and attend to all applications, complaints, or other communications addressed to him by depositors or others, relative to Post Office Savings Bank business.

Next to the 308 offices now established, others are continually added from time to time.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN*

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them,"

January 1st, 1883, is a date that ought to be remembered by every philatelist who takes any interest whatever in the stamps of Great Britain. Two adhesives and six post-cards, exclusive of official stamps and sundry postal flats relating thereto, is no trifling installment to the set of a single country in one month, especially when these emanate from a country rather conservative in regard to its stamps, and one as content with the effigy of its sovereign now, as it was almost half a century ago, when the profile was first taken. Before proceeding to describe the batch of novelties awaiting notice, I may point to an important alteration which comes in force on the above mentioned date in terms of the Act of Parliament (45 and 46 Victoria, chapter 72) passed last session. It enacts that all stamp duties up to 2s. 6d. on and after that date can be paid by postage stamps, while on the other hand, Inland Revenue stamps will be available for postal purposes up to a like amount. Previously, separate stamps procurable from the office of inland revenue, had to be provided for duties above one penny—this postage stamp was assimilated with the receipt on July, 1881—and, of course, others above this amount were available for postage and telegraph purposes only. This further assimilation will confer an additional boon, and we may soon expect to have adhesives of all values doing service for three whole departments. We may doubtless trace the object of the additional value of half a crown in preparation to the above cause.

The Postal Union cards are of the following values: 1d. 1½d. 2d. and their reply 2d. 3d. and 4d. The first named are intended for places in Class A of the Postal Union, as Cyprus, Canada, Turkey &c. the three penny for Chili, Bermudas, the United States of Colombia, &c. and the four penny for Aden, India, Persia, &c. With the exception of the 1d. and 1½d., all the above values are quite new. They all have 4 lines of inscription, viz.: 1st: "Union Postale Universelle," in medium block letters. 2d: "Post-card—Great Britain and Ireland" in large capitals. 3d: "Grande Bretagne et Irlande" in small Roman capitals. 4th. "The address only to be written on this side" in small block letters. The reply cards, which, like those intended for inland transmission, are perforated along the bend, have the following in small letters in the lower left-hand corner and occupy four lines. "The annexed card is intended for the answer—(La carte cjointo est destinere a la response). The word "Reply" appears on the other half under the inscriptions as in the half-penny. The old designs for the 1d. and 1½ values

have been retained, thus there is only a new one needed, and that for the 2d.

The stamp of the penny value consists of the effigy of her majesty, on the octagon within a rectangular frame having a label at top and bottom, the former with the word "Postage," and the latter "One Penny." At the ends and sides are small ornaments, which give to the frame the appearance of being placed upon a lozenge, the corners of which project beyond it. In the 1½d. value the head is enclosed in a pointed ornamental oval, the words "Postage" above, and "Three half pence" below, meeting in a curve. In my opinion, these surpass in design the new two-penny, which has the diademed profile of her majesty, to left in a solid circular disc, surrounded by a double lined frame, "Postage" above, "Two pence" below, in an arched frame joined by two perpendicular ones. The ornamental spandrels of the frame jut out at the four corners; they are of triangular form, and a border of pearls traverses each, while each inner triangle has an ornament in the shape of a shamrock on a white ground. No extra charge beyond full value is made, and they are nearly an inch longer than those they supersede. Printed chocolate on a cream colored card.

POSTAL UNION CARDS.

Single 1d. chocolate on light buff.

" 1½d. " "

" 2d. " "

Reply 1d. x 1d. " "

" 1½d. x 1½d. " "

" 2d. x 2d. " "

All gauge, 139 x 89 m. m.

The object of printing the 3d. and 6d. adhesives in purple, and surcharging their values in red, is hard to fathom. For my own part, I should be inclined to think, now that the 6d. bears the official surcharges, its *raison d'être* was to render the use of the official available for no other purpose than was indicated upon it. Because the last issue would be officially surcharged, and there would thus be in effect a stamp totally distinct for official and general use. At least this is my idea, which can be taken for what it is worth.

Adhesives 3 and 6d. rect.

Purple, with values surcharged in red.

In addition to the penny stamp surcharged officially mentioned by me a couple of months ago, the half-penny and the 6d. bear also this surcharge, which is in block letters, 4 m. m. high. These are used for sending letters and packets of an official character to the small sub-offices. The penny appeared on November 1st, the other two several weeks thereafter. A correspondent writing to the *Record* says they are used only in the collectors and surveyors office of the Internal Revenue department, which hitherto has been obliged to use the ordinary adhesives, and the District Surveyors had, in every case, to purchase the stamps for each quarter out of their own pockets, the amount being only repaid by the head office once a quarter. In large towns, of course, the surveyors came under heavy advances, to obviate which the introduction of these surcharged stamps has been established. It is also stated that they will only frank local correspondence, and that a letter to London must bear an ordinary adhesive. Of course, there will likely be restrictions as to their use for purposes other than official. Since the new six penny has now its value surcharged upon it, it is not at all likely that the official surcharges will be made on those so treated, but on the obsolete grey stamp instead.

OFFICIAL ADHESIVE STAMPS.

½d. rect. green. 1d. lilac and 6d. grey.

Surcharged in black "I. R. Official."

NEW ISSUES.

BOLIVAR.—A new issue as follows: 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 centavos, and 1, 5 and 10 pesos, has appeared.

CANADA.—The three cents, red, current issue, exist *imperfecte*.

COSTA RICA.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ real, blue, has been surcharged 1 cto. in red. A new set of stamps were issued on the 1st ult. consequent on the entry of Costa Rica into the Postal Union.

RUSSIA.—The 14, 35 and 70 copecks, and the $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 roubles issued on 1st January, are now in circulation.

PERSIA.—Three new values having the head of Shah in oval wreath, have put in an appearance.

NICARAGUA.—There is but one type for the six values lately issued, and that type not near as pretty as the ones it supersedes.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—We have a provisional in the shape of the Fourpence surcharged 3d. in black.

FARIDKOT.—Two stamps, both of the value of 1 anna each, have been imputed to this mystical place, and strange to say, one of these supersedes the other, which has now become obsolete, and will not likely, for some time at least, be had for love nor money.

GIGANTIC MAILS.

The enormous amount of business transacted by and through the General Post Office of this city in one year, is fairly illustrated by the quantity done in one day during the month of November last. In addition to the heavy mails brought by the City of Montreal, she brought the mails of the steamer Gellert, which was compelled to put back to port with disabled machinery. The combined mails brought by the steamer required five four-horse trucks to convey them from the steamer to the Post Office. Following the City of Montreal was the steamer Gallia, from Liverpool. It required four four-horse trucks to draw her mails to the Post Office. Altogether, there were 600 sacks of foreign mail-matter received, and each sack is nearly twice as large as the largest mail sack used in the domestic service. The domestic mails were also very heavy, particularly the local mails leaving the city.

NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

Andrew Wilson, a letter-carrier of thirteen years standing was arrested by Post-office Inspector Newcome, and taken before United States Commissioner Shields, charged with neglecting the delivery of ninety letters from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning. Several down-town merchants were put to serious inconvenience and loss

through Wilson's neglect, and made complaints to Postmaster Pearson, who referred the matter to Inspector Newcome. Wilson could give no excuse for his negligence. Commissioner Shields held him in \$500 bail for examination.

The outcome of Wilson's delinquency will prove no doubt as severe as did Newcome.

A NOTORIOUS NOTE NOTED.

Chief Drummond, of the Secret Service Agency in this city, received Sunday, from a merchant in this city, a photo-lithographic counterfeit five-dollar United States Treasury note, and sent it to the Secret Service Division of the Treasury at Washington. The note is of the series of 1875, check-letter A. This is the first counterfeit note of that check-letter yet discovered, although another of the same series, letter D, has been in circulation for about two years. The new issue is not dangerous, except with unobserving people, as it is printed on poor paper, while the engraving, both in black and green tints, is blurred. The letters and figures, however, are good.

STOPPAGE vs. SHORTAGE.

The Postmaster-General has issued an order forbidding the delivery of letters to five Chicago firms nominally engaged in business as grain and stock brokers. Through advertisements they solicited investments of money, asserting that by a combination of small sums in one operation they were able to secure extraordinary returns. Occasionally, for the purpose of tempting their victims into making further investments, they remitted to them small sums of money. In the end the money was not returned, the victims being informed that it had been lost in a turn of the market. The frauds were of great magnitude, the five firms receiving as much as \$10,000 a day through the mail.

A Connecticut man has invented a machine for counting money. Editors have long felt the want of some such labor-saving machinery, and now if the Connecticut man will put an attachment on his machine to enable a man to get money as fast as it will count it, he can sell the contrivance for seven dollars and a half.

The meanest slight a girl can put upon an admirer is to use a postal card in refusing an offer of marriage. It proves that she doesn't actually care two cents for him.

To err is human, but the way New Jersey Bank cashiers have been doing it is almost inhuman.

The presiding officer of a caucus is called the chair, because everybody likes to sit down on him.

Since the recent hotel fires the landlords find themselves, like the feeble-minded class, a little empty in the upper stories.

NEW ISSUES.

AUSTRIAN ITALY.—This place has a new five soldi Postal Union Card.

AZORES.—In addition to those chronicled in our last number appearing with the surcharge "Acores" smaller than usual we have the 2½ reis and the 20 reis.

BARBADOES.—It is nigh time the postal authorities of this place stopped. They have already thrust upon the collector a large number of adhesives, etc., and now we are compelled to chronicle the following additions:

A one penny envelope.

One penny and four pence registration envelope.

One-half and one penny news-wrappers.

One-half and one penny postal cards.

The one penny envelope is made of white laid paper, and the stamp is printed in red thereon. At top "BARBADOS POSTAGE," at bottom "ONE PENNY."

The registration envelopes have as usual the stamps printed on the flap, and letter "R" in large type on the face, with the usual inscription on the same. The stamp which is circular is printed on the one penny in carmine, and on the four pence in grey, and bears in each case the following: "BARBADOS REGISTRATION FEE," and "ONE PENNY" in one, and "FOUR PENCE" in the other, printed on a netted circle, inside of which is a sort of chain circle, inside of which is the embossed head of Queen Victoria looking to the left side of stamp. The stamps vary in design slightly in both, and the four pence has three sizes.

The new wrappers are of manilla paper. The design of the stamp, which is rectangular in shape, is as follows: Head of Queen Victoria to left on solid ground in circle, with the word "BARBADOS" above and "HALF-PENNY" below in curved ribbons. Ornamented spandrels in corner. The one-pence wrapper differs from the half-penny. A notice is at the top of the wrapper in five lines. The half-penny is colored red-brown and the one penny magenta.

The two postal cards differ so much that we are compelled to describe each one separately. The half-penny one has the stamp in the upper right-hand corner, and bears the inscription, "POST CARD—BARBADOS—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE," in three lines, with the words Post and Card separated from each other by the British coat-of-arms. The stamp on the half-penny card is like the stamp on the half-penny wrapper. The one penny card is for the Postal Union, and has inscribed on its face, "UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE—BARBADOS (BARBADE)—POST CARD—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE," with Post and Card separated as in the half-penny card. The stamp is rounded at the top and bottom, and with "BARBADOS" at top, and "ONE PENNY" at the bottom. The color of the card is white.

Half-penny, brown, for general use, on white card.

One penny, carmine, for Postal Union, on white card.

BELGIUM.—It is said that this country will soon issue a two-franc stamp. This country has also issued a new sort of postal card that can be sealed, and is termed a "Carte-Lettre," i. e., letter card. It is merely a card, blue outside and white inside, folded at the top, and is perforated near the edges, which are gummed, thus enabling the sender to seal the card. The inscription on the face is in two lines, and is, "CARTE LETTRE—KAART-BRIEF." A little lower down is the one letter "M." There is also an inscription on the left side as follows: "A ouvrir le long du pointille," with the equivalent in the Flemish tongue. The stamp is the same design as the current ten centimes. This card is similar to the Helsingfors card.

BOLIVAR.—The design of a new set for this place for the year 1882, is as follows: In the centre of fancy circle on lined ground is the head of Simon Bolivar, the *Libertador*, or described by some as the Washington of South America, turned to the left-hand side of stamp. The fancy circle mentioned above is made up of the following inscriptions and devices. In the centre, on each side of circle, the arms divide the circle into two halves, in the upper half is "CORREOS DE BOLIVAR;" the lower half is divided by a line running from one coat-of-arms to the other; above this line there is eleven oblong curved blocks, nine of which are occupied by five-pointed stars—one star in each block, and under the line is E. E. U. U. DE [1882] COLOMBIA. Over the *de* in "Correos de Bolivar," is the figure "5" in a fancy oblong block, and the same figure is seen at the bottom of stamp in a heart shaped block. "Cinco Centavos" is at the bottom in curved line, "Cinco" on the left and "Centavos" on the right of the figure at the bottom. Ornamented spandrels. The above description does not apply to the whole set, but to the 5 centavos only, the others differ somewhat in the make-up. The values and colors are the same as the issue of 1880.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A new band has been issued for this the most southern colony of Africa. The inscription, "CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—HALF-PENNY," is in an oval band, inside of which is the head of Queen Victoria on solid ground. Ornamented spandrels. Buff paper. Rectangular. Half-penny grey on buff. It is said a new two-pence adhesive has been issued, if so, we have not as yet received it.

FRANCE.—A new envelope has been issued, 5 centimes, green, on green paper.

LUXEMBURG.—In addition to the adhesive we chronicled in No. 9 we have four postal cards surcharged "S. P." 5 cent, lilac; 10 cent, bistre; 50 cent, lilac; 10x10 bistre. And we have the following adhesives surcharged "S. P." for official use. 1 cent, violet; 2 cent, grey; 4 cent, yellow; 5 cent, green; 10 cent, carmine; 12½ cent, blue; 20 cent, yellow; 25 cent, blue; 30 cent, green; 50 cent, brown; 1 franc, lilac; 5 francs, brown. For description of design see No. 9.

UNITED STATES.—Through the kindness of Mr. F. L. Mills we are enabled to note the issuance of a new local stamp by a company lately started in Cincinnati. In centre is a figure of a postman in the act of distributing letters, his mail bag at his side, with the letters C. C. D. engraved thereon. At the top of stamp, in half circle, is the word "CINCINNATI," while at the bottom, in rounded line, is "CITY DELIVERY," below that is a straight line dividing the same from the address, "64 W. 3d St." Ornamented spandrels in upper corner only. It is perforated, and is printed on white paper in a rose color. No value appears, but Mr. Mills informs us its value is one cent. The authorities are endeavoring to suppress it, which, if they do, will make it a rarity.

THE PHILATELIC PRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN DURING 1882.

A REVIEW: BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

MAGAZINES treating of postage stamps, and having for their aim the advancement of Philately, ought, I consider, to merit a larger share of attention from the class they are intended for than they do. Stamp collectors are dispersed so much throughout the length and breadth of the land, that it is only through a perusal of these that they can expect to be posted up in the current affairs of their science; and perhaps it would not be bordering too much on the prophetic were any one to assert that when these die, knowledge respecting stamps will die with them. Not that there is the remotest hazard of so dire a calamity ever happening far less happening now, for the philatelic press not only of Great Britain, but of America, France, Belgium, Germany and Australia, was never stronger than at the present moment.

I have been actuated to write a short account of all these journals which have been published in Great Britain during the year just come to a close, because I considered the propriety of jotting down a few facts just now, when these facts are green in my memory, apart from the interest they possess to our readers, will tend to lessen the labors of the Philatelic Historian in years hence. The endeavor has been, in order to insure completeness, to include every work—no matter how short-lived, and no matter how insignificant; these will be found duly recorded in their proper place. I hope no occasion need be found to question its accuracy, and with regard to dates of issue, a matter of so much importance, I may remark in passing that I have before me a sure guide, in the shape of a complete list of journals, against which I have periodically affixed the several dates of their receipt.

But before going directly *in medias res*, I will venture a word or two on the harbingers of journals in the principal countries. Britain takes the lead with *The Monthly Advertiser*, afterwards known as *The Stamp Collectors' Review*. Its first number was issued on the 15th of December, 1862, its last in June, 1863, in all there were issued nineteen numbers, making a volume of 148 pages. In speaking, however, of Britain's first magazine, it would be disrespectful were we to omit all mention of *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, which followed this one in the short space of two months, and attained the greatest success, in point of years which has ever fallen to the lot of any journal, if we except *Le Timbre Poste* of Moens (Brussels, Belgium), started contemporaneous with it, and is just now as fresh and interesting as ever it was. By February, 1883, it will have done twenty years gallant service in behalf of stamp collecting, and tanks not only in respect to age, but also in respect to fitness, as the leading stamp journal in the whole universe. *Floreat! floreat!!* It is not

generally known in the States that the *Stamp Collectors' Record*, published by S. Allen Taylor, was the first of its kind in America. No. 1 saw the light in February, 1864, which, in conjunction with the following number, dated from Montreal, Canada. No further number appeared until December of that year, when the first of a new series was issued at Albany, N.Y. About a year after the same paper hailed from Boston, Mass., where it collapsed after a chequered existence of about ten years, and where its editor still remains, one of the many American worthies. As leaders Germany had her *Magazin für Briefmarken Sammler* started in 1863, while France followed suit with *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* in the succeeding year, both of which are no more, so that *Le Timbre Poste* aforesaid alone remains *Le Timbre Poste* of yesterday and of to-day.

We will now pursue the subject title of our article.

When the publishers of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* in 1874, found themselves unable to carry it on, not wishing to disown all connection with philatelic journalism, they started Alfred Smith & Co.'s *Monthly Circular* retaining the services of their editor, who supplies a chronicle of newly issued stamps, accompanied by an editorial styled the "*Philatelic News Letter*." Of course, as the name indicates, it is meant more to supply the place of an advertising sheet of the publishers than rank as a stamp magazine. However, it is the oldest of its class here, and will very soon attain its centenary number.

The Foreign Stamp Collectors' Journal dates from November, 1878, and has thus entered on its fifth volume, Vol. IV comprises ten numbers, two of which, the January and August, are double. During the first part of the year it could not be held up as an example of punctuality, but since August there has been no cause for complaint on this score. On its entrance into a new volume the above title ceases to become applicable, and it is henceforth known as "*The Stamp Collectors' Journal, Coin Collectors' News, and Antiquarian Gazette*," treating of philately, numismatics, and bric-a-brac subjects. "*Notes for Collectors*," by T. W. Cheveley, its former editor, is the most important philatelic contribution.

There can be no question of doubt as to the name of the leading journal in Great Britain—it is *The Philatelic Record*, the organ of the *Philatelic Society of London*. As such it contains the monthly reports of the proceedings of the society, including the accurate and detailed lists drawn up by that body. When on February, 1879, it issued its initial number, this consisted of half-a-dozen 8vo. pages; the first number of the present volume has twenty-eight! For the first two years it was issued at a yearly subscription of half-a-crown, but on this sum being found unremunerative, on its entrance into volume three it was raised to 3s. 6d. The volume consists of twelve numbers,

three of which are edited by Captain Edward B. Evans, and I think I betray no trust in stating that the remainder are edited by Mr. Burnett, the energetic Secretary to the Philatelic Society. The leading article is on "The Stamps of Japan," accompanied by illustrations of the Japanese alphabet and numerals, along with copious engravings. That the editor has ideas, and does not scruple to give expression to them in language as original as it is pungent, will best be verified on a reference to the magazine itself, issued punctually on the last week of each month.

No. 1 of *The Philatelist's Gazette* appeared one month after the *Record*, and has had the advantage or disadvantage of half-a-dozen different proprietors. The first four numbers bore no indication of who owned the paper, but there are good grounds for believing it owed its origin to C. N. Butler & Co. From them it passed into the hands of A. I. & W. Ashton, who kept it to the close of number twelve. Mr. Feldwicke, of Brighton, brought forth the two succeeding numbers; then the paper again changed hands, passing to H. A. Everett, who continued as publisher and editor till the close of the second volume, after which its size was reduced from quarto to octavo. It was the property of Messrs. Fredk. E. Tozer & Co. until within the last two months, when it was purchased by Mr. Arthur of Dunfermline, Scotland. With the present year it has adopted a quarterly, instead of a monthly, form of publication.

The only journal of any standing that has collapsed this year is *The Philatelic Review*. Appearing in January, 1880, it accepted advertisements from dealers for its first two numbers only, and announced in its third the discontinuance of these amongst other reasons "inasmuch as the many existing publications insert advertisements for almost any sum dealers offered them." The seven numbers constituting vol. I. were of demy octavo size, No. 8, the first number of vol. II, of quarto. On No. 19 being issued this completed the second volume, after which seven numbers appeared. Punctuality was no strong point of the publishers, as latterly each number was a clear month behind time. Last number issued—27—April, 1882.

The initial number of *The Philatelic Times*, of size somewhat smaller than the following issues, appeared in November, 1881, and ran to a dozen octavo pages, enlarged to sixteen. Despite the fact that in No. 4 an enlargement to twenty pages was promised, No. 5 numbered only eight, the larger evidently being too good to last long. From that time the arrangement between subscribers has been everything but satisfactory. A party subscribing from the commencement pays 1s. 6d. as a yearly subscription, but as the price is reduced to 6d. he agrees to have his name put down for two years subscription from No. 5. Here he hopes the matter will rest—but no! In the April number it is stated that *only* one thousand can be taken at 6d.; on that number being exceeded the

charge will be doubled. On the very same page we find that the rate should have been 6d. extra to Europe, U. S., &c. There was not much chance however, of the thousand being exceeded, since the editor has stated publicly that he sends out *nearly* 700 copies, "but *very few* are subscribers." In July again a change comes over the *Times*, which is on the completion of vol. I, to be succeeded by "Gales' Miscellany of Fact, Fiction and Philately," the subscription to the Miscellany will be 2s. After everybody had fancied the P. T. gone, the August number turns up in November! In it we are told the September number will appear on 10th October! and in it we find the variable publisher says naught about the Miscellany, but mentions a quarterly that will succeed the monthly issue at two shillings per annum. It does not require a great prophet to tell us that the days of *The Philatelic Times*, *Gales' Miscellany* or *Quarterly*, published or to be published by G. H. Gale, *alias* J. Bishop, are numbered, for he himself has said as much,

As a journal to supply the wants of collectors only, Mr. Herdman issued the first and only number of *The Philatelic Star* in March, 1881; in October of the same year was issued the first number of *The Philatelic Globe*; in April, 1882, both papers were amalgamated under the latter title. It is published bi monthly, five numbers have appeared, and are of the usual 8vo. size.

The Stamp Collectors' Friend can hardly be called a stamp journal, but inasmuch as it has appeared, it behoves us to note it. The publishers term themselves "The Stamp Collectors' Co-operative Association," but except through the vehicle of this glary-flary-hand-bill-sheet have not been heard of before nor since. We were told to look out for No. 2, and have been doing so since April last.

The only journal of any consequence started this year—indeed the only one started this year that survives—is *The Stamp News*. The first six numbers, consisting of eight pages, were issued with uncommon regularity, since then their appearance has been rather tardy. No. 7 and 8 were enlarged to twelve pages, consequent on the incorporation with the *Philatelic Review*; No. 9 and 10 combined, contain twenty pages. The publishers are very energetic in procuring the services of so eminent philatelists as the Rev. R. B. Earle and Dr. Viner. "Notes for Collectors," a series of articles intended to supply the requirements of young collectors, by the former, were commenced in the first number and are still being continued.

No. 1 of *The Philotypist* issued on January 1st, was Omega as well as Alpha. This singular word is pronounced *Fee-loby-pist*, and means literally, "Stamp Amateur." The paper consisted of sixteen octavo pages, without advertisements excepting the announcements by the publishers. I was informed by them, at the time of its collapse, that the reason of its discontinuance was want of time

on their part, but doubt the real reason was want of support on the part of stamp collectors.

Of equal duration was the Royal Philatelist, and of the same size, published by A. H. Mahon & Co, 36 Brainerd Street, Tue Brook, Liverpool, a dishonest firm.

The Stamp Dealers' Gazette, originally published two years ago, was again started at the beginning of the year, and two numbers were issued in the new guise at one half-penny each. Eight columns, four pages, octavo; last number issued in April.

In the shape of The Philatelic Observer we are presented with another of the same kind. Numbers, of eight-page size, issued for the months of January and February.

No. 1 of the Postage Stamp Gazette, appeared two months late, and the following was not issued for three or four months thereafter, so that it is no easy matter to know whether to relegate it to the majority or to the minority.



A NEW CONFEDERATE.

What is it? This stamp was taken from an old confederate scrap book purchased at Richmond, Va. by one of our correspondents. He writes: "Is it a bona fide stamp or an essay? If any of our fraternity has ever met with such a stamp, used or unused, we will thank them for all information concerning it. We were about to say it was *unique*, but we remember what the Irishman said to his companion when he turned over the stone and found a snake, "Watch out, Pat, where there is *two* there is always *one*. However, we don't wish to infer that this stamp has anything to do with a snake story. Will be very grateful for further information."

IGNORAMUS.

An Oil City young man, who has been speculating on the wrong side of the market, received a letter from his sweetheart, the other day, asking why he did not write to her. He answered on a postal card; "Am waiting for the passage of the two-cent postal act."

KAURL.

No one would suppose, except the initiated, that the above word was the name of a certain coin. But it is. It is found on the Indian coasts, and in particular abundance on those of the Maldivé Islands, and is one of their principal exports. It is a small shell, the *Cypraea moneta*, and is used for money in the East Indies and Africa. It is not a

very beautiful shell, and is of a yellow or white color, often with a yellow ring about an inch in length, and nearly as broad as long. The Hindoos call it a *kaurl*, while in England it is known as the *cowry*. The value varies at different places, but is always small. In Bengal 3200 *kaurls* are reckoned equal to a *rupee*, which is equal to about forty-eight cents of our money, so one *kaurl* or *cowry*, is worth about three two-hundredths of a cent. *Kaurls* to the value of 200,000 *rupees* are said to have been at one time imported annually into Bengal, and as 3200 *kaurls* are reckoned equal to one *rupee*, this would make the amount of *kaurl*s imported in one year six hundred and forty millions. The value of this enormous amount of shells would be in our money ninety-six thousand dollars. The *kaurl* was used by Great Britain at one time in trade with the west of Africa, being used mostly in the slave trade.

FIJIAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

The postage stamps of the British Colony of Fiji are amongst its many peculiarities. They were struck by the Government which crowned Thakombau, who was born about 1815, king, and bear his initials, C. R. A peculiarity exists in the Fijian language. You must pronounce an *m* before the *b*. Moreover, you must always sound the letter *n* before *d*, *y* and *q*. Again, the sound of *th* is represented by the letter *c*, hence the initials C. R. (Cacobau Rex) stand for Thakombau Rex.

In the present necessity for rigid economy no new stamps are issued, but the letters V. R. (Victoria Rex) partially obliterate the letters C. R., or rather, blend with them. Of course the first issue of Fiji, as indicated on that issue, was printed and used by the Fijian Times, as the British Government had none issued at the time for this colony.

HEAVY STAMP COLLECTING.

Three men were arrested in January, at Boyd's City Despatch Office, No. 1 Park Place, this City, where they are employed as clerks and carriers, on bench warrants issued on the complaint of Mary Blackham, for burglary and larceny, in having effected an entrance to an iron safe, and taking therefrom proprietary stamps of the value of \$3,000 during the closing months of 1882. It is alleged that they have stolen stamps of the value of \$20,000 within the last three years. Roundsmen Cruise and Strause recovered stamps of the value of \$1,000 at the residence of one of them in Norfolk Street. The accused men were committed for examination.

Lucius E. Hawley, the night public school teacher, indicted for using cancelled postage stamps, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, and stand committed until paid. The fine was paid, and Hawley was discharged.

three of which are edited by Captain Edward B. Evans, and I think I betray no trust in stating that the remainder are edited by Mr. Burnett, the energetic Secretary to the Philatelic Society. The leading article is on "The Stamps of Japan," accompanied by illustrations of the Japanese alphabet and numerals, along with copious engravings. That the editor has ideas, and does not scruple to give expression to them in language as original as it is pungent, will best be verified on a reference to the magazine itself, issued punctually on the last week of each month.

No. 1 of *The Philatelist's Gazette* appeared one month after the *Record*, and has had the advantage or disadvantage of half-a-dozen different proprietors. The first four numbers bore no indication of who owned the paper, but there are good grounds for believing it owed its origin to C. N. Butler & Co. From them it passed into the hands of A. I. & W. Ashton, who kept it to the close of number twelve. Mr. Feldwicke, of Brighton, brought forth the two succeeding numbers; then the paper again changed hands, passing to H. A. Everett, who continued as publisher and editor till the close of the second volume, after which its size was reduced from quarto to octavo. It was the property of Messrs. Fredk. E. Tozer & Co. until within the last two months, when it was purchased by Mr. Arthur of Dunfermline, Scotland. With the present year it has adopted a quarterly, instead of a monthly, form of publication.

The only journal of any standing that has collapsed this year is *The Philatelic Review*. Appearing in January, 1880, it accepted advertisements from dealers for its first two numbers only, and announced in its third the discontinuance of these amongst other reasons "inasmuch as the many existing publications insert advertisements for almost any sum dealers offered them." The seven numbers constituting vol. I. were of demy octavo size, No. 8, the first number of vol. II, of quarto. On No. 19 being issued this completed the second volume, after which seven numbers appeared. Punctuality was no strong point of the publishers, as latterly each number was a clear month behind time. Last number issued—27—April, 1882.

The initial number of *The Philatelic Times*, of size somewhat smaller than the following issues, appeared in November, 1881, and ran to a dozen octavo pages, enlarged to sixteen. Despite the fact that in No. 4 an enlargement to twenty pages was promised, No. 5 numbered only eight, the larger evidently being too good to last long. From that time the arrangement between subscribers has been everything but satisfactory. A party subscribing from the commencement pays 1s. 6d. as a yearly subscription, but as the price is reduced to 6d. he agrees to have his name put down for two years subscription from No. 5. Here he hopes the matter will rest—but no! In the April number it is stated that *only* one thousand can be taken at 6d.; on that number being exceeded the

charge will be doubled. On the very same page we find that the rate should have been 6d. extra to Europe, U. S., &c. There was not much chance however, of the thousand being exceeded, since the editor has stated publicly that he sends out *nearly* 700 copies, "but *very few* are subscribers." In July again a change comes over the *Times*, which is on the completion of vol. I, to be succeeded by "Gales' Miscellany of Fact, Fiction and Philately," the subscription to the Miscellany will be 2s. After everybody had fancied the P. T. gone, the August number turns up in November! In it we are told the September number will appear on 10th October! and in it we find the variable publisher says naught about the Miscellany, but mentions a quarterly that will succeed the monthly issue at two shillings per annum. It does not require a great prophet to tell us that the days of *The Philatelic Times*, *Gales' Miscellany* or *Quarterly*, published or to be published by G. H. Gale, *alias* J. Bishop, are numbered, for he himself has said as much,

As a journal to supply the wants of collectors only, Mr. Herdman issued the first and only number of *The Philatelic Star* in March, 1881; in October of the same year was issued the first number of *The Philatelic Globe*; in April, 1882, both papers were amalgamated under the latter title. It is published bi monthly, five numbers have appeared, and are of the usual 8vo. size.

The Stamp Collectors' Friend can hardly be called a stamp journal, but inasmuch as it has appeared, it behoves us to note it. The publishers term themselves "The Stamp Collectors' Co-operative Association," but except through the vehicle of this glary-flary-hand-bill-sheet have not been heard of before nor since. We were told to look out for No. 2, and have been doing so since April last.

The only journal of any consequence started this year—indeed the only one started this year that survives—is *The Stamp News*. The first six numbers, consisting of eight pages, were issued with uncommon regularity, since then their appearance has been rather tardy. No. 7 and 8 were enlarged to twelve pages, consequent on the incorporation with the *Philatelic Review*; No. 9 and 10 combined, contain twenty pages. The publishers are very energetic in procuring the services of so eminent philatelists as the Rev. R. B. Earle and Dr. Viner. "Notes for Collectors," a series of articles intended to supply the requirements of young collectors, by the former, were commenced in the first number and are still being continued.

No. 1 of *The Philotypist* issued on January 1st, was Omega as well as Alpha. This singular word is pronounced *Fee-loby-pis!*, and means literally, "Stamp Amateur." The paper consisted of sixteen octavo pages, without advertisements excepting the announcements by the publishers. I was informed by them, at the time of its collapse, that the reason of its discontinuance was want of time

on their part, but doubt the real reason was want of support on the part of stamp collectors.

Of equal duration was the Royal Philatelist, and of the same size, published by A. H. Mahon & Co, 36 Brainerd Street, Tue Brook, Liverpool, a dishonest firm.

The Stamp Dealers' Gazette, originally published two years ago, was again started at the beginning of the year, and two numbers were issued in the new guise at one half-penny each. Eight columns, four pages, octavo; last number issued in April.

In the shape of The Philatelic Observer we are presented with another of the same kind. Numbers, of eight-page size, issued for the months of January and February.

No. 1 of the Postage Stamp Gazette, appeared two months late, and the following was not issued for three or four months thereafter, so that it is no easy matter to know whether to relegate it to the majority or to the minority.



A NEW CONFEDERATE.

What is it? This stamp was taken from an old confederate scrap book purchased at Richmond, Va. by one of our correspondents. He writes: "Is it a bona fide stamp or an essay? If any of our fraternity has ever met with such a stamp, used or unused, we will thank them for all information concerning it. We were about to say it was *unique*, but we remember what the Irishman said to his companion when he turned over the stone and found a snake, "Watch out, Pat, where there is *two* there is always *one*. However, we don't wish to infer that this stamp has anything to do with a snake story. Will be very grateful for further information."

IGNORAMUS.

An Oil City young man, who has been speculating on the wrong side of the market, received a letter from his sweetheart, the other day, asking why he did not write to her. He answered on a postal card; "Am waiting for the passage of the two-cent postal act."

KAURI.

No one would suppose, except the initiated, that the above word was the name of a certain coin. But it is. It is found on the Indian coasts, and in particular abundance on those of the Maldivé Islands, and is one of their principal exports. It is a small shell, the *Cypræa moneta*, and is used for money in the East Indies and Africa. It is not a

very beautiful shell, and is of a yellow or white color, often with a yellow ring, about an inch in length, and nearly as broad as long. The Hindoos call it a *kauri*, while in England it is known as the *cowry*. The value varies at different places, but is always small. In Bengal 3200 *kauris* are reckoned equal to a *rupee*, which is equal to about forty-eight cents of our money, so one *kauri* or *cowry*, is worth about three two-hundredths of a cent. *Kauris* to the value of 200,000 *rupees* are said to have been at one time imported annually into Bengal, and as 3200 *kauris* are reckoned equal to one *rupee*, this would make the amount of *kauris* imported in one year six hundred and forty millions. The value of this enormous amount of shells would be in our money ninety-six thousand dollars. The *kauri* was used by Great Britain at one time in trade with the west of Africa, being used mostly in the slave trade.

FIJIAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

The postage stamps of the British Colony of Fiji are amongst its many peculiarities. They were struck by the Government which crowned Thakombau, who was born about 1815, king, and bear his initials, C. R. A peculiarity exists in the Fijian language. You must pronounce an *m* before the *b*. Moreover, you must always sound the letter *n* before *d*, *g* and *q*. Again, the sound of *th* is represented by the letter *c*, hence the initials C. R. (Cacobau Rex) stand for Thakombau Rex.

In the present necessity for rigid economy no new stamps are issued, but the letters V. R. (Victoria Rex) partially obliterate the letters C. R., or rather, blend with them. Of course the first issue of Fiji, as indicated on that issue, was printed and used by the Fijian Times, as the British Government had none issued at the time for this colony.

HEAVY STAMP COLLECTING.

Three men were arrested in January, at Boyd's City Despatch Office, No. 1 Park Place, this City, where they are employed as clerks and carriers, on bench warrants issued on the complaint of Mary Blackham, for burglary and larceny, in having effected an entrance to an iron safe, and taking therefrom proprietary stamps of the value of \$3,000 during the closing months of 1882. It is alleged that they have stolen stamps of the value of \$20,000 within the last three years. Roundmen Cruise and Strause recovered stamps of the value of \$1,000 at the residence of one of them in Norfolk Street. The accused men were committed for examination.

Lucius E. Hawley, the night public school teacher, indicted for using cancelled postage stamps, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, and stand committed until paid. The fine was paid, and Hawley was discharged.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 1. FEBRUARY, 1883. No. 11

N. DE P. says: I do not think there is any room for a stamp paper anywhere. There is not enough interest in stamps manifested. All that can be told about stamps has been told years ago, and has been rehashed and retold, and revamped and rearranged until collectors are sick of it. All the Ph. Journal a collector wants is a well compiled catalogue that tells him all he needs to know. A collector's mission is to collect stamps, not to study them. Nobody *studies* stamps, though many like to indulge in lofty and grandiloquent talks about study because the word has a high dignified sound about it. The dealers study not stamps, but how best to sell them. Philately is an amusement, not a science. Webster calls it a mania; perhaps he is right. "Post Officeately" is a still thinner science than Philately."

We are rather pleased than otherwise upon the receipt of this not very flattering epistle—first, on account of its manifest sincerity and candor, second, for the opportunity it affords the reader of hearing both sides to the question—being in receipt of the views on the affirmative side through the philatelic press—without which no subject can be fully understood or matter properly debated. His discourse is glib and fluent, as one who fully understands, and is posted upon what he has written, which withal but faintly disguises what appears to us in the undercurrent a captious fault-finding spirit. The fact that our correspondent has figured in various roles, and quoted largely for many years as authority for what he flippantly terms "amusement," lends an importance to the above communication which it otherwise would not, another proof, perhaps, that his is a cynic's view of the situation, superinduced, no doubt, by not finding our hobby "all that his fancy had painted it." His somewhat harsh strictures concerning "Post Officeately" are not justified by the facts, as it was altogether foreign to our object—and we have a higher opinion of the intelligence of our readers—than attempt to foist upon them postal matters as philatelic news. However, we are not so thin-skinned as to take umbrage thereat but, on the contrary, expect and wish a FAIR re-

view of our work; and to be frequently and oftentimes wilfully MISUNDERSTOOD we recognize as being one of the penalties attached to the onerous task of journalism. Our views differ widely with that of our correspondent in respect to there "being room for a stamp paper anywhere," particularly in America, as no enterprise presents so WIDE a field to the journalist as the establishment of a *first-class* magazine devoted to Philately; furthermore, that the "interest manifested in stamps"—taking it for granted that all collectors are not *hunk heads*, and do STUDY that to which they have and continue to devote so much of their valuable time—only remains latent, and awaits to be aroused from an enforced apathy when it receives proper nourishment in the way of *first-class* literature, And if it is granted that the stamp collector is gifted with a degree of intellect even equal with the average of mankind, it follows that his intellectual cravings must be catered for as in the case of other devotees to science, hobbies, pleasures, amusements, manias, not the stereotyped packet advertisement of the dealer, the self-laudation of the chromo-bestowing editor, or a profusely illustrated price current, but with a periodical whose high order of entertainment cannot be called into question, whose every issuance will excite a fresh interest in our topics, and will, in that particular at least, be the superior of a stamp catalogue, though it may be excellent as such, still is simply a printed account of stock from which a buyer may select his purchases, and only taking the widest latitude can they be construed as literature. In ascending to that plane of excellence above referred to we shall endeavor to procure the association and assistance of a *literati* whose stock in trade shall be other than that of the "revamped and rehashed" school, and so avoid the *nauseous* doses so bluntly alluded to by our correspondent, which perhaps has heretofore been administered without a decent regard to the collector's fund of patience and health. If further proof were needed of our disbelief in the correspondent's statement that there is nothing new to be said about stamps and the interest manifested therein, the very fact of the slowly but *steadily* increasing subscription list of the "Empire City Philatelist" would be sufficient; but we do so far agree with him in asserting that our amusing hobby is at a very low ebb when its supporters tamely swallow without a qualm of repugnance such sheets of *slang* and

vituperation as is issued by J. C. Rasmussen, and such dawdling nonentities as the ever-promising and never-fulfilling Smith, Ralston and Co.'s Library Table, and attribute this supineness and lamentable condition to the guidance of unskilled and mercenary hands into which to a great extent Philatelic journalism has fallen, the editor's aim seeming to be to make his enterprise pay by devoting twenty-five per cent. of his space to advertising, to the exclusion of other matter, thus enriching himself at the expense of and loss to the subscriber. We were aware, before our correspondent's writing—as we have said before—that postal matters were not strictly philatelic news, and would say, that owing to the dearth of the latter—a lack, by-the-way, that we see more prominently manifested in older journals than our own—we were forced to select matter as close akin to stamp news as possible, therefore you have "Post Office-ately," which has been received very favorably for just what it was given, "*Postal News*." Possibly there are dealers—as N. de P. avers—who do not make a study of their wares, but we would ask him in good faith if they are not an anomaly in this age of keen competitive business warfare.

We doubt not that those who are so economical with their time as to be jealous of the moment's unintentionally spent in study, devote a maximum degree of the same to the one and sole purpose of SELLING their customers.

Philatelists are not forced, however, to accept as gospel truths the views of a single individual, no matter how well he may be versed in the hobby, and as our correspondent's criticism is composed of a series of assertions, with no accompanying arguments on the *flanks as supports*—which possibly are held in *reserve*—the matter is debatable, and the question and columns opened to those who feel called upon to enter the lists to do combat in the cause of our "amusement."

CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE.

The report of the special commission which recently examined the Post office in this city, says:

"The efficiency of the service in New York ranks high. While there may be faults, it is a fact, nevertheless, that the service is nearer perfection, all the details being considered, than in any other city in this country. From the Postmaster's room down through the different divisions of the office to the small suburban station, every station is governed by a system so complete and so perfectly maintained that the result can only be of the highest

order. Everything connected with the handling of vast quantities of mail matter at the general office, as well as in all sections of the city, is so complete that the admiration of every person who will examine and consider will be at once expressed. Every employee has certain duties to perform within a certain time, and he is held as accountable for his work as he would be were he employed at any other occupation where great care and promptness must necessarily be exercised. The rules are rigidly enforced, and insubordination is not allowed. Every employee respects his superior officer, of whom he seeks instruction when in doubt. In fact, the entire service of handling the mails in New York is so satisfactory that we feel unable to suggest any special recommendations for its improvement. Great credit is due to the present corps of efficient officers of this service, many of whom have spent the greater portions of their lives perfecting the great work in New York."

Every one who has business of any kind with the Post Office will agree with the Commissioners in the high praise bestowed by them upon its management. They have been unable to make a single suggestion looking to greater efficiency, and award it the place of honor as the best conducted institution of the kind in the country. It would be fortunate for New York if all its public departments were administered in a like manner.

What is said of the manner of making appointments is especially deserving of attention. "All applicants are treated alike, no matter who recommends them or to what political organization the applicant may belong." This impartiality of treatment is what real civil-service reform would secure in all departments of the Government. Its practice in our Post-office has not proved destructive of patriotism. It has not established an offensive office-holding class. The applicants for places are examined "in penmanship, in arithmetic, in geography, in English grammar, in the history of the United States, and in such public matters as may be necessary "to test general capacity or special fitness for the postal service." This certainly is "practical." It does not require familiarity with Sanscrit, or Greek, or abstruse astronomical problems. It is precisely a practical test such as this that real civil-service reform would secure in all departments of the Government. Objection to this reform is sometimes founded on the assertion that it is merely theoretical. The New York Post-office, however, has made an earnest experiment with the principle, and, as these objectors lay such stress on the value of facts as compared with arguments, the results of the experiment ought to be conclusive with them.

THE NEW FIVE-CENT PIECE.



The above is a representation of the new five-cent piece, the coinage of which was begun on February 1st at the Philadelphia Mint. The Treasury Department not being satisfied with the old five-cent piece, Congress, in its last session, voted a new design, which was approved of, and authority given to the Department for the coining of a new piece.

After the consent of Congress was obtained, Colonel A. L. Snowden, Superintendent of the Mint, set to work for a new design, the result being made apparent in the above illustrations of both reverse and obverse, and in a more tangible form, mayhap, ere this reaches our readers, by the jingling of the same in their pockets. By the illustrations it will be seen that the new piece is an improvement over the old, as the latter was so near the three-cent piece in size as to be taken for the same when one had to rely upon the sense of touch alone, but the one illustrated above is between that of the large three-cent and twenty-cent piece. The new piece is of the same weight as the old, and of the same alloy—the proportion being twenty-five of nickel and seventy-five of copper, in that respect having a Vanderbilt scent about it. The coining of the old piece was stopped the day the new one was begun—on February 1st.

Obverse:—A Roman numeral indicating the denomination of the coin in the centre of a wreath composed of cotton, wheat and corn, the principal products of the country. This is surrounded with the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," and "United States of America."

Reverse:—A classical head of the Goddess of Liberty, with the inscription of "Liberty" on the tiara, and surrounded by thirteen stars, with the date "1883" beneath. It has a plain edge. Has already formed the stock for a brisk trade by our curb-stone merchants, and sell like hot cakes at an advance of from 25 to 100 per cent.; and, lastly, will pass very well for a quarter—in the contribution box.

UNCLE SAM'S MINT DROPS.

Superintendent Snowden, of the United States Mint, reports that during the month of January there were coined 78,900 eagles and 65,000 half eagles, making a total gold coinage of \$1,116,000. 1,000,000 silver dollars were coined and 660,000 dimes, the total silver coinage amounting to \$1,066,000. The base metal coinage comprised \$72,650 worth of 5 cent pieces and \$30,400 of 1 cent pieces—\$112,050 in all. The total value of the coinage for the month was therefore \$2,294,050

COINING AND STORING SILVER DOLLARS.

The issue of standard silver dollars from the mints for the week ending December 23 was reported as \$776,999, as against \$421,490 for the corresponding period of last year.

Secretary Folger needs more vaults in which to put the silver dollars that are being coined at the rate of two millions per month. He may as well put them in the abandoned mine under Wilkesbarre for all the demand he will have for them for, although any one can get them who has greenbacks or treasury notes, they continue to accumulate in Treasury vaults instead of individual money drawers and trousers pockets. They cannot be sent abroad, for no other nation will take at its face value a dollar coin that is really worth only about eighty cents. The people should understand that silver dollars are not coined because they are worth their price, for they are not, else the Secretary would not need new vaults. The silver dollars continue to lie idle and menace our financial stability because not even half a dozen Congressmen are honest enough to insist on the coinage ceasing and to explain to the country the entire change in the status of silver.

A very little unprejudiced examination of the question should be sufficient to cause immediate action. Take, for example, the result of the last three years coinage of say, seventy-five millions nominal value. The labor and materials used up in the production of this amount of silver bullion had to be paid for out of the active capital of the nation. If it had been expended in the production of wheat, corn, or cotton, the product would have been sold abroad, and the proceeds, increased probably by a profit, returned to replenish the fund of active capital. What has been done with this silver? The government practically offering a premium for it, being compelled to purchase, the whole product has gone into the vaults of the Treasury, where it lies dormant, serving no useful purpose (the previous coinage having supplied all the people were willing to use), actually incurring expense for keeping instead of earning interest, and really depleting the fund of working capital to the full extent of the cost of its production, say not less than \$60,000,000. As this working capital is the life-blood of our industries, such depletion is a manifest injury to all, but especially so to the laboring classes, whose employment is dependent upon its abundance. A great outcry is made, and not without good reason, when a wealthy speculator locks up capital to the injury of business, for his own selfish purposes, but here is a law which compels the Secretary of the Treasury to do the same thing, not for a few days as the speculator may do, but for an indefinite period, and to an extent that no private individual could possibly reach.

ALL'S NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS.

PLEASING POSSIBILITIES AS TO THE NEW FIVE CENT NICKEL—A FORTUNATE DISCOVERY.

Cashier Floyd, at the Sub-Treasury, in Wall St., met a very specious impostor yesterday. It was one of the new five cent nickels masquerading as a five dollar gold piece. The disguise was dangerously perfect and it was so easily assumed. The plebian coin had simply been treated to an electrotype bath and had taken on a coat of bright copper. It had all the lustre of the royal metal and nine men out of ten, if their attention had not been directed to it, would have accepted it for gold. It happens that the five dollar gold piece and the nickel are precisely of a size. It also happens that the face of the two coins are so nearly alike that only one accustomed to handling the two would be apt to detect the difference. The head of Liberty on the nickel is larger than on the gold piece, but the same young lady with the Grecian profile seems to have sat as the model for both.

The reverse of the nickel contains nothing that a five dollar piece might not have. By a curious omission there is nothing whatever to show the value except a V, which just as well represents five dollars or five cents.

"Any boy, with an electrotyping machine, can go into the business of converting five cent nickels into five-dollar gold pieces," said a sub-treasury official; "it's as easy as lying. There's millions in it. There is nothing in the new coin to show its real value, and the counterfeit is a most dangerous one. It would be almost certain to deceive an immigrant or a foreigner. Even a native who is not accustomed to seeing five dollar pieces—and they are not very plentiful in general circulation—would be very apt to be imposed upon by it."

"IN GOD WE TRUST."

A correspondent, signing himself "One who trusts," writes to the *N. Y. Herald*—"Why was the motto 'In God We Trust' omitted from the new five cent piece? The new coin is certainly a handsome one, but the chief beauty of the piece is gone with the expression of confidence in Providence. Who ordered the expurgation of the grand old words? Was it by accident that they were omitted or is this another instance of the godless spirit which is creeping into our national institutions?"

An unspeakable blessing—a dumb wife.

The best sugar in the market cannot be beet.

Italian music is fine because it is ground so much on the streets.

Giving her away. Testing her avoidupois on the grocer's scales.

Despise not little things. Even a tack will turn when trodden on.

MOVING ON THEIR WORKS.

Senator Edmunds, in debate, said what the United States needed now more than anything else was the construction of the postal telegraph at first between the great cities and intermediate points and extended gradually until every post-office in the country should have or be within immediate reach of a postal telegraph. This ought to be done, and it would be done within a very few years, and he hoped to move in the matter at the next session of Congress if no one else did sooner. But he begged the stock operators in New York not to suppose that he for one was in favor of the United States buying out any telegraph company. He wished the government to build its own postal telegraph and manage it in its own way, leaving those engaged in the same business as a private pursuit to continue it as such. When the United States provided for the carriage of merchandise by the postal service, it was not thought necessary to buy out the express companies, neither should the transmission of intelligence by telegraph involve the purchase of the existing telegraph lines. Electricity was just as much a part of the forces of nature and of the resources of the world for the transmission of intelligence as a locomotive or a post horse, and it was too late to say that this agency was not as much as any other at the command of the Post Office department under the constitution.

UNCEREMONIOUS LEAVE TAKING.

A firm known as Matthews, Corley & Staley, who have been doing a letter and package delivery business in St. Louis, for the past month or two in direct competition with the Post Office Department, closed up yesterday on receiving a notification from the United States District Attorney that they must either do so or be prosecuted. The same firm are said to have been in Cincinnati a short time ago. It is alleged that after receiving the notification from the District Attorney the members of the firm stationed here went away without paying their letter carriers and other employees, some twenty in number, and left a large amount of unredeemed stamps in the hands of purchasers, who will suffer a considerable loss in the aggregate. It is estimated that the letters alone carried by the concern diminished the revenue of the post-office fully \$2,000.

A country girl who was being treated to ice-cream for the first time, was asked by her "young man" how she liked it. "It tastes very good," she replied, "but I always like my pudding hot."

Long Hide, an Indian chief of Lower California, committed suicide at the age of 130 years. When this meets the eye of Samuel J. he will probably be ashamed of himself for his want of courage.



THE HALF SHEKEL OR BEKAH.

By ROBERT MORRIS, LL.D., NUMISMATIST.

B. C. 143.

Coins were first issued about 750 B. C., and the use of coin money among the Jews could not have been known prior to the taking of Samaria by the Assyrians, B. C. 721. Hezekiah being King of Judah. About a century later, the Jews forfeited their sovereignty, and never regained it until by the patriotic daring of the Maccabees, B. C. 150 and the nation was redeemed from the "yoke of the heathen." and a new era opened. This occurred B. C. 142, by which time the use of coined money was acknowledged by all civilized people throughout the world. An era from which the new departure was made, begun B. C., 142, and the people from that time dated their contracts "in the first year," etc. This sovereignty of course carried with it *the right to coin money*, and the first was struck at Jerusalem (as specimens prove) about 134 B. C. It was a silver coin denominated a shekel, a word denoting a *standard* (like the Greek static). Half shekels were struck the same year, of which our cut is a representation. The weight of the half shekel is about 110 grains; the value in Federal money about thirty cents.

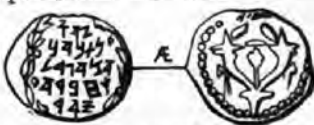
Obverse. A cup or chalice, above it the Hebrew letter (Samaritan form) *aleph*, implying the year one, or B. C. 143,

Inscription. (Translated) "half-shekel," *Chalziha-Shekel*.

Reverse. A triple lily.

Inscription. *Jerusalem Kedoshah*. "Jerusalem the holy."

Two centuries later, when the Jewish nation was under the Roman yoke, that government ordained an annual tax upon each Jewish man in the world, consisting of one of these coins, the half shekel. This was for the repair, preservation and support of the Temple and its service.



THE LEPTON (WIDOW'S MITE.)

About B. C. 100.

This is a specimen of the smaller coins, issued in bronze as aliquot parts of the shekel. They

were struck at Jerusalem to accommodate the poorer classes in their daily traffic, and more especially in the temple offerings. All taxes or tributes, designed for the benefit of the temple, were paid in *Jewish coin alone*, that is, in shekels and their aliquots (*Jahn's Biblical Archaeology, Sect. 24*). And as the Jews were not a commercial nation, their money not being current beyond their own boundaries, the quantity minted was inadequate to the great national collections. Money-changers therefore took their seats in the corridor of the temple on the 15th of the month Adar, and for a profit exchanged Hebrew money for all other coins. As fast as it accumulated in the sacred chests, the priests, who doubtless participated in the profits, brought it back to the brokers, and so it may have been bought and sold many times in the day.

The mass of the Jewish people being extremely poor, and the offerings of gratitude to God being often very trifling in value, such money as the above was struck to accommodate them. It is of copper. Its value computed in federal currency cannot be exactly given.

Reverse. No device. But an inscription in Hebrew (Samaritan character) which reads, Jonathan Hakkohem Haggadol Vecheber Hajehudim, "Jonathan the High Priest and the Confederation of the Jews." The border is a wreath either of olive or laurel, probably the former,

Reverse. Two horns of plenty (cornua-copia) with a poppy head in the center.

This coin was struck under the administration of Alexander Jannæus, called for his cruelty *the Thracian*. His era is B. C. 105-78, when he died of strong drink.—*R. W. Mercer's Directory*.

IN COMPETITION WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

In January last, the police of Chicago captured counterfeiters and a quantity of implements comprising twenty-seven moulds, bars of metal, plating solution, milling machine, etc., and 175 dollar pieces in various stages of manufacture. The police for some time have been watching Harry D. Fipp, a crook, and arrested him. He struggled, and threw away a parcel, which was found to contain a number of counterfeit dollars. Search was made for his partner, the notorious Doc Williams, and he was arrested in a room in Van Buren street. He gave up all the materials in his possession. The counterfeiters had moulded a \$10 gold piece and were ready to begin work. The police have also an unknown woman in custody, whose name they will not divulge, who can tell the names of others of the gang. The prisoners were handed over to the government for prosecution.

RARE DOMESTIC COINS.

SOME OF THE PRICES PAID FOR SCARCE PIECES.

A numismatic guide recently compiled by A. M. Smith, of Philadelphia, and fostered by the Mint as an authentic treatise upon rare coins and their values, contains a complete list of domestic pieces which command a premium in the market. The rarest United States coin is the double-eagle of 1849, of which there is only one in existence, belonging to the United States Mint cabinet. The next in rarity is the half-eagle of 1815, for one of which, it is said the King of Sweden, to complete his collection of United States coins, paid the enormous price of \$2,000. Only five known specimens of this half-eagle are in existence. Another rare coin is the silver dollar of 1804. There are but ten genuine pieces, all of which are now held by collectors. Several restrikes have been made, but to obtain a fine one from the original die would cost at least \$1,000. The half-dollars of 1796 and 1797, if in fine condition, bring \$40; of the two the 1796 is the rarer, and usually, sells at a still higher rate.

The quarter-dollars of 1823 and 1827, if in good condition, sell readily at \$30 each, but if in strictly fine preservation, double that sum is cheerfully paid. Of the dimes there are none of extreme rarity; still, among the rare coins of that denomination that of 1804 is the rarest, and, if in a good condition, it can be bought at from \$5 to \$10, but a real fine specimen would bring a great deal more. Among the half-dimes, that of 1802 is the rarest, and a very fine piece with that date sells readily at \$100.

There are other United States coins which are much sought after, and yet pass from hand to hand only for their face value. The condition of the piece is essential to an understanding of the premium value of any coin of rarity. The age of a coin is not always a guarantee of premium above face value. A coin brilliant, as if fresh from the coining press, is considered and known as "proof," while one which is free from the uses and abuses of circulated money, is known as "uncirculated," and ranks second to the "proof" in premium value.

The following prices will be remitted by any numismatists on receipt of the coins in good condition. None of any other dates than those mentioned are rare:

United States silver dollars of 1804, \$500; 1794, 1838, 1839, 1851, 1852, each \$20; 1858, \$10; 1798, small eagle, 15 stars, \$6; 1798, small eagle, \$3; 1836, \$3.50; 1799, five stars facing, \$2; 1854, 1855, 1856, \$2; 1795, 1796, 1797, 1801, 1802, 1803, \$1.50 each; Trade dollars of 1879, 1880, and 1881 are very rare, as only a few hundred of each, as proof for collectors, were struck, and command a premium.

Half dollars—1794, \$3; 1796, \$25; 1797, \$20; 1801 \$2; 1802, \$3; 1815, \$2.50; 1836, receded or unlettered edge, \$1.50; 1838, with an O over the date, \$10; 1852, if in good condition, \$2; 1853, without sun around eagle or arrows near date, \$10.

Quarter-Dollars—1823 and 1827, \$20 each; 1853, without sun rays back of eagle and no arrows near date, \$4; 1796 and 1804, \$2 each.

Dimes of 1804 are worth \$5 each; those of 1796, 1797, 1798, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1822, if in good condition, are worth from \$1 to \$2 each; 1795, 1846, and 1838 (without stars), if in good condition are worth from 50 cents to \$1 each.

Small three-cent silver coins—All the issues of the three-cent silver coins, from 1863 to 1873, inclusive, in fine condition, from 15 cents to 25 cents each.

A fine specimen two-cent copper coin of 1873 is worth 50 cents. Of the copper cents the rarest are those issued in 1793, 1799, and 1804. Provided they are in good condition they bring from \$3 to \$5 apiece; but if fine, they sell at higher prices. The copper cent of 1809, if in a good state of preservation is worth 50 cents. The cents with the following dates, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1800, 1805, 1806, 1808, 1811, 1813, and 1823, provided they are in good condition, bring a slight premium, but when in a poor, or even only fair condition they are only worth their face value.

The nickel cent of 1856 is worth \$1. Of the half-cents the issue of 1796 is worth \$5; those of 1793, \$1; while those of 1794, 1795, 1797, 1802 and 1811 are worth from 25 to 50 cents each, provided they are in a good state of preservation; 1831, 1836, 1840 to 1848, inclusive, 1849, with very small date, 1852, \$3.50 each.

AN INTERESTING RELIC.

There was recently found by Captain Latham, on Great Gull Island, a curious old ring, made of gold, of antique workmanship, bearing the letters "L. G." and the impression of a bird. One of Captain Latham's friends, to whom he showed it, recognized the seal as that used by Lion Gardiner on letters when he was commander of Saybrook Fort, in 1635-39. "Ye Worshipful Lion Gardiner" was afterward "Ye Lord of ye Isle of Wight," now Gardiner's Island. How the ring got on Great Gull Island is a mystery. Captain Latham thinks that it must have been taken when the island was pillaged by Spanish pirates, many years ago, and lost by some of the pirates. It is a great curiosity and very much prized by the finder.

CORRESPONDENCE.

W. S. inquires:—"Are there any U.S. laws making it incumbent upon persons occupying positions on thoroughfares that may interfere with the rapid transportation of the mails, to give the carrier thereof prior right of way?"

An act of Congress declares that "any person who shall knowingly and wilfully obstruct or retard the passage of the mail" shall be liable to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for every offence.

THE BELLEVILLE TOKENS.

Of these tokens there are at least six varieties, which may be briefly described as follows:

- I.—Obverse "J. Gibbs, Manufacturer of Medals, Tokens, &c., Belleville, N. J." Rev. A. Ship "Agriculture and Commerce," copper size 18.
- II.—Obverse like the reverse of the last Rev. A. Cow or Steer. "A friend to the constitution." Copper 18.
- III.—Obverse a bouquet closely resembling that on some of the Canadian Un Sou series. "W. Gibbs, Agriculturist, New York." Rev. like the obverse of No. II. Copper 18.
- IV.—Obverse a bouquet "T. D. Seaman, Butcher, Belleville." Rev. like reverse of No. III. and obverse of No. II. Copper 18.
- V.—Obverse "Good for one ride to the bearer." Rev. "Belleville & New York U. S. M. Stage. Gibbs." Copper 17.
- VI.—Obverse a queer nondescript device curious and unaccountable, an eagle standing, with an oval shield to the left, on which is an anchor, the whole within a circle of thirteen stars. "T. Duseman, Butcher, Belleville," Rev. a bouquet "Agriculture and Commerce Bas Canada."

Of these tokens Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 are scarce, No. 5 is extremely rare, and No. 6 is not uncommon.

Regarding the origin of these pieces, some discussion has occurred. Sandham placing No. 6 in his work amongst the coins of Canada, and Mr. McCachlan, of Montreal, the author of a very valuable monograph on Canadian Numismatics, now in course of publication in the American Journal of Numismatics, has so far followed Mr. Sandham's example, as to place the same token in his list of coins of the Province of Quebec as No. 58, and in the same series, Nos. 67, 71 and 72 he states have for obverse the same as No. 6 of this list. Matters are a little mixed up by the fact that there is a Belleville in New Jersey and another in Canada, and the devices are as mixed as the nomenclature, it seems to me, however, that a simple line of reasoning from the evidence offered by the tokens themselves, prove them to be of New Jersey origin.

1st.—No. 1 was made by Gibbs at Belleville, N. J.

2d.—No. 2 has for obverse the reverse of No. 1.

3d.—No. 3 has for reverse the obverse of No. 2.

4th.—No. 4 has reverse the same as No. 3.

5th.—No. 5 is identified with Gibbs and with Belleville, N. J. as in close proximity to New York.

6th.—On No. 6 it is quite evident that the name T. Duseman was an error for T. D. Seaman, also of Belleville.

The tokens make it certain that Gibbs a die sinker, formerly worked at Belleville, N. J. at which place it is certain there were copper works, An easy, and from the circumstances, a probable solution of the whole mystery, if it be a mystery, is that Gibbs was employed to make dies for some party interested in copper currency for Canada, that he made the Bas Canada die in question and used it with no less than three reverses. On its use with the third reverse, the die broke. It was then discarded, and was used with the erroneous die of Seaman, to save cutting a new obverse, that the error was discovered and both dies discarded and that then obverse No. 4 was made and used with obverse of No. 2 as a reverse.

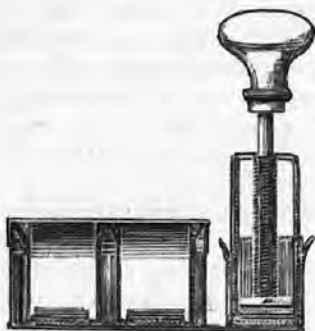
W—————

LIGHT WEIGHT COIN PROPERLY MARKED.

Treasurer Gilfillan has made a statement to the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the manner of marking light weight gold coin and redeeming clipped silver coin at its bullion value instead of at its coinage value by weight. He states that "it is the practice of Sub-Treasury officers to mark gold coins, which when tendered at their full face value in payment of public dues, upon being weighed, are found to be short of the weight at which they can, under the law, be accepted at their full face value. This is done because of the action of banks and others in paying out a full face valuation coins which have been repeatedly returned to the treasury officials because below the least current weight. To avoid the labor of weighing the same coins over and over again, the coins are marked when they are rejected. The mark is in no sense a mutilation, as it takes away none of the substance of the coin. It does not destroy the legal tender quality of the coin; nothing under the law can do that which does not destroy the identity of the piece as a gold coin. Gold coins, however mutilated or abraded, are a legal tender at their weight. The marking does not affect their value. They are not light because they are branded, but they are branded because they are light. As to silver coins, the principle was established nearly two hundred years ago, that the public should bear the loss upon clipped silver pieces. There is no existing law authorizing the treasury to take mutilated coin otherwise than by weight, and if the history of clipped coin in England in 1695 is regarded, there probably never will be. Since the action of the mint in receiving mutilated silver coin at its bullion value by weight, such coin has been discredited by the public and has virtually disappeared from circulation. Silver coins, however much reduced in weight by a natural abrasion, are redeemable at any sub-treasury at full face value. It would be small penalty or none at all against clipping should clipped pieces be redeemed at their coinage value by weight.

PATENT STAMP STICKER.

FRANCIS C. GRAVES, HARTFORD, CONN.



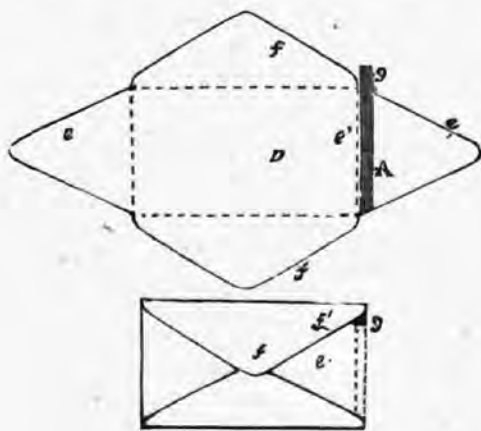
Claim.—1. In a portable hand stamp-sticker, the combination, with a stamp receptacle open at the top and bottom, of spring stamp-retaining arms attached to opposite sides of the receptacle and extending under its lower end, a guide-frame composed of a single strip of metal, the ends of which are secured to the sides of the stamp-receptacle, a rod extending above and arranged to reciprocate in said frame, a knob secured to the upper end of the rod, and a diaphragm attached to its lower end, and a spring encircling the rod and interposed between the guide-frame and the diaphragm substantially as set forth.

2. In a moistening-box, the combination, with one or more pads located therein, of chamber situated on opposite sides of said wells, fibrous material located in said chambers, and a fibrous layer extending from the chambers to the well, substantially as set forth.

3. In a moistening-box, the combination, with one or more wells and pads located therein, of chambers situated on opposite sides of said wells, fibrous material located in said chambers, a fibrous layer extending from the chambers to the wells, and a wire-netting interposed between the bottoms of the wells and the fibrous layer substantially as set forth.

PATENT ENVELOPE.

PAUL BUSSE, BALTIMORE, MD.



Claim.—1. An envelope provided with flat tearing strip, A, attached to the inner side and crosswise of one of the end flaps, e, and having a projecting end, g, of the strip folded back between the outer side of the end flap and the overlapping side flap, f, whereby the projecting end may be almost or entirely hid from view, as set forth.

2. An envelope provided with a flat-tearing-strip A, one side of which is gummed and attached to the inner side and crosswise of one of the end flaps, e, and having a projecting end, g, of the strip folded back, with the gummed side, b, against the outer side of the end-flap, whereby all liability of the projecting end to adhere to another envelope is avoided, as set forth.

VALUE OF FOREIGN COINS.

COUNTRY.	Monetary Unit.	Standard.	Value in U. S. Money.	COUNTRY.	Monetary Unit.	Standard.	Value in U. S. Money.
Argentina Republic	Peso	Gold and Silver	.96 5	Italy	Lira	Gold and Silver	.19 3
Austria	Florin	Silver	40.1	Japan	Yen	Silver	.87 6
Belgium	Franc	Gold and Silver	19.3	Liberia	Dollar	Gold	1.00
Bolivia	Boliviano	Silver	.81 2	Mexico	Dollar	Silver	.88 2
Brazil	Milreis of 1,000 reis.	Gold	33.6	Netherlands	Guilder	Gold and Silver	40.2
British Possessions in N. A.	Dollar	Gold and Silver	\$1.00	Norway	Krone	Gold	26.5
Chili	Peso	Gold and Silver	.91 2	Peru	Sol	Silver	81.2
Cuba	Peso	Gold and Silver	.58 2	Portugal	Risbeal of 1,000 reis.	Gold	1.08
Denmark	Crown	Gold	26.8	Russia	Rouble of 100 copeck	Silver	.65
Ecuador	Peso	Silver	81.2	Sandwich Islands	Peseta of 100 centim	Gold	1.00
Egypt	Piaster	Gold and Silver	49.9	Spain	Crown	Gold and Silver	19.3
France	Franc	Gold and Silver	19.3	Sweden	Riksdaler	Gold	26.8
Great Britain	Pound sterling	Gold and Silver	4.86 6 1/4	Switzerland	Rand	Gold and Silver	19.2
Greece	Drachma	Gold and Silver	19.3	Tripoli	Mahab of 20 piasters	Silver	73.3
German Empire	Mark	Gold	23.8	Turkey	Piaster	Gold	94.4
Hayti	Gourde	Gold and Silver	96.6	United States of Columbia	Peso	Silver	81.2
India	Rupree of 16 annas.	Silver	38.6	Venezuela	Bolivar	Gold and Silver	19.3

THE VIRGINIA HALF PENNY.

BY N. DE P.

In days of old, when Oliver
Smote off the Stuarts crown,
And on our Mother Albion's throne
Without remorse sat down.

Virginia in her new found home,
Far o'er the watery way,
With filial loyalty refused
Obedience to his sway.

Then frowning in contemptuous wrath.
I'll send my ships, said he,
I'll teach her at the cannon's mouth
What words to say to me.

Then to that exiled prince she turned,
Who, far in foreign climes
Had sought for refuge far and near,
'Midst dark and troublous times.

Who from the haughty court of Spain
Forced in his need to flee,
Partook in Flanders ill at ease,
Cold hospitality.

O heir of England, mighty line,
And Scotland's ancient race,
Come thou and reign our sovereign lord,
With all thy kingly grace.

Charles, to this language of the heart
Exulting-made reply:
I'll go, and in your brave new land
My better fortunes try.

And on the broad Potomac's shore
Gay palace halls I'll raise,
And the red savages will make
Rich pageants for my plays.

Then all in readiness he stood,
To brave the raging main,
While many a shadow strangely bright,
Swept through his dazzled brain.

When one with silent voice drew near,
Whose fiat none may stay,
Whose palseying touch, whose glance
The mightiest forms obey.

Down fell stout Cromwell in the trance
Which never more may break,
While he whose sire on scaffold fell,
Was called the crown to take.

Was called the sceptre's power to wield,
And cliffs were red with flame.
And shouts from town to hamlet spoke
As back the wanderer came.

Yet lingering in his grateful mind,
Gleamed out her image fair,
Who sought him in his low estate
And vowed allegiance rare.

And mingled with his lion shield
His thistle and our shamrock green.
As token of a king's regard,
Virginia's arms were seen.

While history touched her graven page,
With pencil like the sun,
Who in her maiden blush the name
Of Old Dominion won.

A shipment of \$100,000 was sent from the Sub-Treasury, in this city, through Wells, Fargo & Co., to the United States fleet on the Pacific, by the Steamer City of Para, which arrived at Aspinwall on December 29. The money—American Gold Coin—was packed in two small kegs, weighing in the neighborhood of 200 pounds each. The kegs were received in Panama the same evening, and stored for safe keeping in the Panama Railroad Company's vault. Delivery was not made until Monday, January 1, when, on opening the vault, it was discovered that one keg was missing. No locks had been broken, either of the doors of the freight house in which the vault is situated or of the vault itself. All possible measures were taken to discover the thieves or the booty, but without complete success. A number of developments are taking place through the prosecution of the suspects arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the robbery. Up to the present, however, the money has not been recovered nor have the real culprits been arrested, but in the correspondence taken from some of the arrested persons, it appears that a plot was formed in Barranquilla last year to purchase a small steamer in New York, take her up the Magdalena River and capture the first heavy remittance of bullion. Those arrested claim to be innocent, and have asked Mr. Turpin, the United States Consul, to interfere in their behalf. A declaration has been made by a woman that she saw, prior to the robbery, a key similar to the vault key which was shown to her; and should her statement be corroborated, one of the employees of the railroad company, who is now under arrest, will certainly be criminated.

The Philadelphia *Record* wants all the grammars thrown out of public schools. This wouldn't be such a bad idea. Some editor might happen along and pick one up.



* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 1.

New York, March, 1883.

No. 12



FERDINAND MEYER, a prominent philatelist, died on December 31, 1882, after lingering ten years. His name was well-known by all friends of Philately, and his death will be very much regretted by them, and we take the present opportunity to honor his memory by publishing a brief notice of his life and doings connected with Philately.

Born in the year 1846 at Franzenbad, in Bohemia, where his father occupied the position of assistant postmaster, he spent his boyhood there. Later on, he visited the college in the city of Eger, and as from boyhood on he found special pleasure in the study of natural science, especially for Chemistry and Physics, he devoted his life to the study of pharmacy, and in 1862 he apprenticed himself to the learned chemist and pharmacist, Dr. Zinth, in Tepl. After his apprenticeship, he practiced in many pharmacies in Austria and Switzerland until 1868, when he entered the University of Prag, where he graduated 3 years afterwards, receiving the title of a Doctor of Pharmacy. He next served as pharmacist in the military hospital at Prag, and in 1872 he returned to his native place, where he settled down.

In 1860 he commenced his philatelic activity, and received from his father, the postmaster, a collection, which he revised after his own idea. Meyer was a scientific philatelist.

His first honors as a philatelic journalist he acquired through his chemical philatelic composition, which gave him great prominence, as it appeared in *Die Welt-Post*, a German philatelic paper, for which he contributed. His next great work was about "The Post-marks of the Ottoman Empire," dedicated to the the editor of *Die Welt-Post*, which gave him great fame, and for which a Parisian society awarded him a diploma. A year after he edited his second great work, "Afghanistan, its stamps and postmarks." This work made a great sensation on account of his discoveries, and for it he received a silver medal. This work was also published in French. His greatest work was undoubtedly his "Dictionary for Stamp Collectors."

Meyer had a great many influential friends, who, when he died, showed their devotion by attending his obsequies in large numbers, who gave vent to their feelings by numerous and costly floral offerings. His last words were: "I have done." As long as there are Philatelists, the name of Ferdinand Meyer should never be forgotten.—*Well Post*.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

In the September issue of this paper was given No. 4 of the above series, under the title of British Guiana. The article published entered as fully into the subject as the material at hand and other circumstances warranted. We now offer a more extended review of the same subject by a new correspondent

IX—BRITISH GUIANA.

By W. C. STONE.

Issue of 1850.

Comparatively little is known of this issue, all the stamps being exceedingly rare. The 2c. has only been brought to light during the past few years. The stamps are plainly type set, and very much resemble a post-mark. Name in irregular circle, with value in straight line in centre. Thick wove paper, unperforated.

2 cents	black on rose,
4 "	" " yellow.
8 "	" " green.
12 "	" " blue, indigo.

The 4c. also exists on thin wove paper. As a security against forgery, each stamp was marked in ink with the postmaster's initials (E. D. W.) or more rarely with those of his clerk (E. T. E. D.) Catalogues of 1862 and 1863 made no mention whatever of this issue.

Issue of 1851.

These stamps were engraved in London by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons. Perforated reprints appeared in 1864. The originals were never perforated. "Petimus" is incorrectly spelled "Patimus." Ship in shield, value above, name at sides "Damus patimus que vicissim" in two lines below. Long upright rectangle.

1 cent,	black on magenta.
4 cents,	black on blue.

Issue of 1853.

Ship in oval, lettered with motto, "Postage" above, name at sides, value in words below, date in corners. Unperforated.

1 cent	vermillion.
4 cents	blue.

Later on, the dies of both these stamps were retouched, a white line being added over the value in each, and the 4c. with a white line around the date numerals. This type is scarce. Perforated reprints were issued in 1864.

Issue of 1860.

This issue is similar in design to the last, the date being changed to 1860. These stamps were perforated 12 and 13.

1 cent	rose pink.
1 cent	red brown.
1 cent	dark brown.
2 cents	orange.
4 cents	blue.
VIII cents	pink.
XII cents	grey, lilac.
XXIV cents	green.

This last stamp had only a short currency, and the three one cent stamps are all quite uncommon

Issue of 1863.

These three stamps are much larger than the previous issue, and have a ship in circle, lettered with motto, name above, value below, date in corners. Perforated 12 and 13.

VI cents	blue.
XXIV cents	green.
XLVIII cents	rose.

There are numerous color varieties of these three stamps.

In 1869, the following stamps of the 1860 issue were slightly altered, the numerals of value being placed much closer to the word cents. Perforated 10.

1 cent	black.
2 cents	yellow.
4 cents	blue.
VIII cents	rose.
XII cents	grey, lilac.

In 1875 all the current set except the 48c. were perforated 15.

Issue of July, 1876.

In contracting for these stamps, the colonial authorities were informed by the engravers, Mess. De la Rue & Co., that if they adopted the Queen's head for a design, it could be produced for £65 less than the old design. But the authorities would not "give up the ship." Ship in flatted oval, lettered with motto "Postage" above, name at sides, value below. Watermarked "C. C." under a crown. Perforated 14.

1 cent	grey.
2 cent	orange.
4 cent	blue.
6 cent	brown.
8 cent	rose.
12 cent	mauve.
24 cent	green.
48 cent	red brown.
96 cent	bistre.

The 8c. did not appear with the rest of the set, but came out a short time after, and the 48c. has not as yet been issued to the public. The watermark of the entire set has recently been changed to "C. A." and crown,

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE.

An envelope for registered letters was issued early in 1881. There are four sizes of envelopes, corresponding to the four largest of Gt. Britain, and like them, are linen lined, and are the work of the same makers. "British Guiana Registered Letter" in large capitals in single line at top, and inscriptions, as on the English envelopes, in two lines below. Rectangular space for stamp in upper right hand corner. In the lower left-hand corner is a small rectangle with "Name and address of sender," in upper part of it. The stamp is on the flap, and has an embossed head of Victoria to left in circular frame inscribed "British Guiana, Registration Fee, Fourcents,"

4 cents, red.

POST CARD.

In June, 1879, a type set card was issued. The stamp is of the same type as the current adhesives, and is in the upper right hand corner. Arms in circle in centre. "Universal Postal Union, British Guiana, Suyaui Brittanique" and the usual instructions.

3 cents carmine on buff.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

In June, 1875, several values of the 1860-3 issue were surcharged with the word "Official" in block letters. The surcharge is red on the 1c. and black on the other values.

1 cent black.
2 cents orange.
8 cents rose.
12 cents lilac.
24 cents green.

Other values than the above may have been surcharged, but I am not certain, I do not mention them.

In 1877 the current issue received the same surcharge,

1 cent grey.
2 cents orange.
4 cents blue.
6 cents brown.
8 cents rose.
12 cents mauve.
24 cents green.
48 cents red-brown.
96 cents bistro. (?)

PROVISIONAL STAMPS.

Few, if any, countries have equalled British Guiana in the issue of these stamps. Either very small quantities of the regular issues are ordered at a time, or else the inhabitants are of a very literary turn of mind, since their correspondence is so rushing as to so often exhaust the stock of stamps on hand,

Issue of 1856.

Ship, with motto in two lines above and below, in rectangle "British," above, "Guiana" below, "Postage" at left, value in words at right.

1 cent, black on yellow brown (?)
4 cents black on magenta,
4 cents black on blue,

These were type set, and were each marked in ink with the postmaster's initials, and were not sold to the public, being affixed to the letters by the clerks. They are among the rarest stamps known, and command fancy prices wherever offered for sale. The existence of the 1c. is not fully determined, but it is thought by good authorities that such a stamp was used.

Issue of 1862.

Fancy type set border around name and full value. Postmasters initials written in center. Small square.

1 cent black on pink.
2 cents black on yellow.
4 cents black on blue.

The 1c. and 2c. exist with borders composed of pearls, crossed ovals and grapes; the 4c with quartrefal, fleurs-de-lis, and ornamented triangles. Like the previous issue, these stamps are very rare. Errors exist with "Guiana" and "British,"

Issue of 1878-9.

These are simply the current high values and the officials, with the word "Official" or the value or both, struck out by an ink bar.

1 CENT STAMPS.

One horizontal and one vertical bar.

1863. VI cents blue.
1876. 6 cents brown.
6 cents brown, official.
4 cents blue official.

One horizontal bar.

1866. 1 cent black, official.
1876. 1 cent grey, official.
Two horizontal bars.
1876. 6 cents brown.

2 CENT STAMPS.

One horizontal bar.

1876. 2 cents orange, official.
One horizontal and one vertical bar
1860. VIII cents, rose, official
1876. 8 cents rose, official.

Issue of 1881.

Dec. 21st.

These are surcharged with a numeral of value in black, the original value being struck out by a black bar.

1876. 1 on 96c. bistro.
2 on 96c. bistro (2 var)

Dec. 28th.

1863. 1 on XLVIII cents carmine,
 1876. 1 on 48 cents red-brown official.
 1 on 12 cents mauve, official.
 2 on 12 cents mauve official.
 2 on 24 cents green, official.

Varieties of the figure 2 exist, some having curly tails and some straight. Several other surcharges are announced by some papers, but they lack official confirmation.

Issue of 1882.

On the 7th of January, four type set stamps were put in circulation. The design is somewhat of a combination of those of the 1856 and 1862 issues. Ornamental border of St. Andrew's crosses, with ship (or brig) in centre in plain rectangle, "Postage" above, name at sides, value below, date in corners. Pin perforated about 12½

Ship in centre.

1 cent black on rose.

- 2 cents black on yellow.

Brig in centre.

1 cent black on rose.

2 cents black on yellow.

As a precaution against forgeries, each stamp has the word "specimen" perforated diagonally across it. None of the last (1881-2) issues are likely to become very common, and I advise my readers to secure specimens at once before they become scarcer.

FORGERIES.

Forgeries exist of all the issues except the current one. Those of the 1860 issue have "Petimus-que incorrectly spelled "Retimusque." The 6c. 1873 has three white lines between the circle and the label containing the values. There is nothing there in the genuine. The 24c. of the same issue has "Vicissjm" for "Vicissim." The forgeries are generally cancelled with a diamond-shaped grid-iron, or "A. O. 1" between curved lines. The genuine have "A O 3" or "A. O 4." For a more detailed description of the various forgeries, I refer the reader to that excellent work, "Album Weeds."

The British Museum has just acquired an interesting collection of thirty-nine silver objects which were found together on the site of ancient Babylon. The collection consists of fragments of silver dishes, the broken handle of a vase, and coins most of which have been clipped. "It is easy to see," remarks *The Academy*, "that all have been broken purposely by a practiced hand. with the view of using the metal again; and we may fairly conclude that the collection is the remains of a silversmith's or coiner's shop. Among the coins is a Lycian one in good preservation. So far as can be judged from the vase handle and dishes, the art is distinctly Babylonian under Persian influence, and the workshop may date from the conquest of Alexander.

SUNLIGHT IN DARK PLACES.

BY F. F. PEARD, TORONTO, ONTARIO

There is in this city a lot of vile counterfeits gotten up by some scurrilous person or persons, a few of which we will mention for the benefit of collectors. First comes the 3 pence Nova Scotia. This forgery is very badly engraved; the background being entirely omitted; it is also printed in a very light shade of blue. Next we have the rare 8½ cent. To persons who have never seen the original, it might be easily passed for genuine, the only difference being that it is slightly smaller and printed in a light bronze green, whereas the genuine is of a darker shade. The next and last of Nova Scotia is the 2 cent. This is easily distinguished from the genuine, as it is only about two-thirds the size of the original; this is also very badly engraved. The next is the 1 real 1840 issue of Paraguay. in the counterfeit the lion is in a rampant position, instead of being erect; also the shaded lines at back are very coarse, and irregular.

BOLIVIA.—The stamps counterfeited of this country are the 100 and 500 centavos, 1869. these forgeries are very badly executed, there being two stars behind scenery instead of one as in the originals, also the house and supposed llama are omitted, there being a confused mass of rocks in the space allotted them, the engraving of the whole stamp is also very poor. Values

100 cent dark orange instead of yellow.

500 cents black.

SUEZ CANAL.—The 10 centimes is the counterfeit appended to this place. The engraving is fair, but the smoke issuing from the smoke stack ascends almost perpendicularly, whereas in the original it assumes the horizontal. Value

20 centimes dark blue.

TURKS ISLANDS.—The counterfeits for this colony are very poor imitations, the name reads *Turks Island* instead of *Turks Islands*, the letters are irregular and the value extends considerably to the right hand side of the stamp. Printed on very thin paper. Values

1 penny light carmine.

1 shilling blue instead of green.

ANTIGUA.—The forger seems to have got out of his depth when he attempted the 4 pence of this colony. The diamonds are omitted from the sides, also the shading at back of Queen's head, the ornamental angles are omitted, and a small figure substituted. Value

4 pence blue.

Counterfeit five dollar notes on the Fifth National Bank were being circulated in the upper portion of New York City recently. The police, however, promptly informed the shopkeepers of the existence of the same.

NEW ISSUES.

ANTIOQUIA.—The two and one-half centavos and the five centavos of the issue of 1879 have been changed in color.

2½ centavos from blue to green.

5 centavos from green to violet.

ATJEH.—The first stamp issued by this place is a badly executed one from the looks of the cut in one of our exchanges. This place is a state in Northern Sumatra, and is under the rule of the Dutch. Its inhabitants are Musselmen who are governed by a Sultan. In the centre of the stamp is a scimeter, at the top is ATIEH; at the bottom is the word REAL, in the upper corners is a star and crescent, in the bottom corners is the figure "1." The above is all on a background of square holes,

BANGKOK.—Straits Settlements stamps surcharged with a "B" in large type are used for postage in Bangkok. The 8 cents orange, 8 cents lilac and 12 cents blue are the only ones so surcharged. The 8 cents lilac bears the new watermark, the others the old.

BARBADOES.—A four pence green of the new type has been issued. White paper. Watermarked C. A. and crown.

4 pence, green.

BAVARIA.—New cards have been issued.

Reply: 3x3 pfennig, green.

Single: 5 pfennig, lilac.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The one pence of the issue of 1872 comes surcharged "2D" in black.

2 pence surcharged on 1 pence, lilac.

BULGARIA.—New values as follows:

10 statinka, rose.

15 " purple.

25 " blue.

CEYLON.—New provisional, surcharged 16 cts. on 24 cts. green. Surcharge is in the following manner:

SIXTEEN

16

CENTS.

COPENHAGEN.—Specimens of the local 10 ore cards come with "2 Oplag" on the lower right hand corner.

DENMARK.—New adhesives, 20 ore blue, and 40 ore, pink.

DOMINICA.—The current one pence adhesives are cut in halves to provide half-pence provisionals, which value is surcharged on each half thus: "½." Another provisional has been made by surcharging the one pence of the 1874 issue thus: "2 D."

2 pence, surcharged on 1 penny, lilac.

FRANCE.—A variety of the 30 centimes telegraph card, with plan of Paris thereon, has turned up. The "V" in "service" in the line "ENTETE DE LA CARTE; Service telegraphique" is upright, and does not slope as it should. It appears thus in the variety: *Service*. It should appear: *Service*.

GOLD COAST.—The one pence, blue stamp has been cut in half to make a provisional half-pence.

½ pence blue.

INDIA.—A new series has been issued as follows. The design is the same as the lately issued 1 anna, brown.

½ anna green.

9 pies carmine.

1 anna brown.

2 anna blue.

3 anna orange.

4 anna ———

6 anna ———

8 anna violet.

1 rupee ———

JAPAN.—New newspaper wrapper. Value, one quarter sen.

MEXICO.—New Postal Union cards. Too complicated to explain. One bears a one and two centavos stamp, the other a two and three centavos.

3c. (1 and 2) carmine and blue.

5c. (2 and 3) blue, carmine and green.

They measure 126x80 m. m.

NEW CALEDONIA.—We have new stamps from this colony. Their values are 5 and 25 centimes respectively. The 5 centimes is surcharged on the 40 centimes red of France in the following manner:

N. C. E.

5

The 25 centimes is surcharged on the 75 centimes, carmine of France in the following manner like the 5 centimes.

N. C. E.

25

The surcharges are in black.

NICARAUGUA.—Our readers will remember that on page 86, we made mention of a new 10 cent violet. It is now known that the following new values exist, the design in all being the same as the 10 cent.

1 centavos, green.

2 centavos, carmine.

15 centavos } violet.

20 centavos }

PERSIA.—New stamps of the value of 5 and 10 shahis respectively were lately issued.

5 shahis green.

10 shahis carmine and ochre.

The 5 francs is mentioned as being printed in white, black and lake, with a deep red border.

PORTUGAL.—The 25 reis envelopes bear an impressed stamp of the same design as that of the adhesive 25 reis of 1881.

Three new cards have also been issued, viz.: 10 reis brown stamp on white card; 20 reis, blue stamp on white card; 20x20 reis brown stamp on buff card.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—Two new provisionals have been issued as follows: 6 reis surcharged on 10 reis green and 4½ reis surcharged on 5 reis black.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The new 25 cents de peso is now in circulation.

QUEENSLAND.—The new 6 pence green of this place is of the same design as the two pence which we described on page 74. There is a new ten shillings also lately issued of the same design as the two shillings, the design of which is as follows;—Head of Victoria on lined background in centre of upright lined and beaded oval. In each corner the figure "2" is seen in small circles. At top **QUEENSLAND** at bottom **TWO SHILLINGS**, Ornamental borders, dashes, etc., make up the rest of the stamp.

10 shillings, brown.

ROUMANIA.—Two new cards have been issued One a 5 bani, black; and the other a 10 bani rose. The latter is similar to the 1862 issue of Wurtemberg.

SELANGOR.—We find the 2 cents Straits Settlements surcharged "Selangor" for use in Selangor.

SEYCHELLES.—The 8 cents has been changed to 4 cents, and the cards of Mauritius of the value of 4 and 6 cents respectively have been surcharged "POST OFFICE, SEYCHELLES, V. R."

SHANGHAI.—Postal cards have appeared (unstamped) with the inscription "SHANGHAI POST CARD, OFFICE CARD — FOR USE OF VOLUNTEERS ONLY.—The values and colors are as follows:

20 cabs,	lilac,
40 "	rose.
60 "	green.
80 "	blue.
100 "	bistre.

SWEDEN.—The unpaid postage stamps 24 and 50 ore have been surcharged; the 24 ore thus:

TIO ORE

The 50 ore thus:

TJUGO ORE

10 ore on 24 ore and 20 ore on 50 ore.

VENEZUELA.—The new postage stamps for this place have been issued. For description see page 56, bottom of second column.

VICTORIA.—There has just been issued a new newsband, of the same design and value as the one penny adhesive.

URUGUAY.—"FUERA DE HORA" has been surcharged on the new 1 and 2 centesimi stamps.

Mr. Randall of the present Congress is said to be a convert to the scheme to abolish postage on newspapers mailed from publication offices, and will assist Mr. Townshend in putting it through.

CUPID AS A STAMP COLLECTOR.

A pretty story comes in one of the Vienna papers. It is headed "Count and Ballerine." For some time past an advertisement has appeared every day in one of the Vienna papers asking the owners of used postage stamps for contributions. The advertiser, it is now found out, is a young lady of the ballet; she needs some millions of stamps. The reason why is thus told: Last summer she went with Count Anton to Reichenau. The Count was not young, but generous. The ballerine was unhappy, however, and expressed her opinions on marriage to him very pointedly. At last the Count promised to lead the fair danseuse to the altar on one condition—if she would collect as many used postage stamps as would paper the walls of his grand salon. She took him at his word. It is said the walls are now covered with many thousands of stamps, but the plafond is still white, and the Vienna paper calls on the population of Vienna to assist in the work. "Up, ye postage stamp collectors of Vienna! Pour out the abundance of your stamp collections, so that the two loving faithful hearts may at last be united"

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

*"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them,"*

A correspondent of our illustrious contemporary, *The Times*, has made a notable "discovery" (?). He has found, while perusing a work called "Memoirs d'Angleterre" written in French and published at the Hague in 1698, that "a Mr. William Dockwra may fairly be credited with the discovery of the principle which Sir Rowland Hill has so successfully elaborated in our own days." Leaving out the question altogether as to the priority of the claim of this Dockwra—Docwra or Docwray, as he is sometimes called—who carried on for some time one of those *local* posts, which had increased to so great numbers by the time the uniform rate of one penny was broached, it may be interesting to consider what the *Times* correspondent unhesitatingly dubs a discovery. It is perhaps not to be expected that we should find him posted up in the full histories of the old and new post offices, laid down with such perspicuity in Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby's book, but had he consulted any history of London or work dealing with the metropolis of two hundred years back, he would have found the whole question, without the necessity of turning to any foreign work whatever. "Old and New London" vol. II. page 209, may be consulted with advantage. From this work anyone will see that not Dockwra, but

Robert Murray, an upholsterer, it was, who in 1683 suggested the idea of a post from one part of London to another, established it, and for letters not exceeding one pound in weight charged one penny in the city and suburbs, and two pence for any distance within a ten-mile radius. It was not until several years thereafter that Dockwra's name became associated with this local post, when it was assigned to him by Murray, its founder. As to the stir at present respecting Rowland Hill's title to be termed originator of the penny post, a pamphlet, anent which "The position of Sir Rowland Hill made plain," has just been published. I hope to have something fresh to impart soon.

The color of the three penny and sixpenny adhesives has not, I find, been altered to purple as was stated in the official announcement, but to a kind of lilac, in hue resembling our current penny. The surcharge 3d and 6d are in lake, the numerals are 9 m. m. and the letters 5 m. m. high. It will be observed that this change has been effected upon plate 21 of the threepenny and plate 18 of the sixpenny. "The contemplation of these," says the *Record*, "fills us with disgust, and has almost determined us to abandon the collection of postage stamps in favor of that of railway tickets!" All registered envelopes are now issued stamped with the large R in block capital, and provincial postmasters have been supplied with a hand-stamp bearing this letter, with which they are instructed to stamp all their envelopes in stock, not already so treated. The Postmaster-General intimates that a cheaper class of stamped envelopes called "commercial" are now sold to the public at the following prices:—1 envelope 1½d 2, 2½d. 3, 3½d. 4, 4½d. 5, 5½d. 10, 10½d. 20 1-9d. 240 21s. They are of white paper with thin printed flaps, and measure 136x80 m. m. The existing B (5¼x3¾ ins-blue) and D (4¼x2¾ white) sizes will cease to be issued by the Controller of Stamps, Inland Revenue, when the old stock are exhausted. The first issue of reply post cards on a stout material had the perforation along the bend, strengthened by a strip of paper. This perforation is now replaced by a narrow piece of linen, forming a hinge; while the thin ones have the holes farther apart, so as to correspond with the foreign reply-paid series.

At the end of each volume of the *Philatelic Record*, a photograph of some one eminent in stamp matters is presented to the subscribers, and is intended to form a frontispiece to the book. Portraits of Pemberton, Philbrick and Viner have already been supplied, and with the fourth volume just completed, we have a likeness of the late Victoriano G. de Ysasi. For a good few years Senor de Ysasi occupied the worthy position of Vice-President to the London Philatelic Society, of which he became a member shortly after its formation. When that society was engaged in the preparation of its first catalogue—Spain and

colonies—no small share of the work devolved on him, and this he willingly undertook. Indeed, it is questionable if there is in existence a finer collection of the stamps of these places, than the one he so diligently brought together, all mounted on loose folio sized sheets, and preserved securely in a cabinet. He was wont to allude to his stamps as his "grand-children." Although himself a Spaniard, he had been resident in England for about thirty years, and it was one of his plans, destined never to be fulfilled, to divide his residence between the land of his birth and the land of his adoption. Senor de Ysasi met a sad fate. He was one of the killed in the railway collision at Blackburn Station, which happened on the 8th August, 1881. His philatelic friends were represented at the funeral by Mr. Philbrick, Q. C. Mr. Burnett, and Captain Evans.

Of late years, death has been making sad havoc in our ranks, and the demise of two other collectors has here to be recorded. Mr. William Vipond was a collector of and writer on stamps, belonging to the older school. His name may not be familiar to collectors of the present day, but his contributions to the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* will live for many a year to come. The last addition he made to the literature of our science is an article in the *Philatelic Journal* of 1872, entitled "Franks, Posts, and Cancelling Marks." On the 31st December last, "after ten years severe suffering" expired Ferdinand Thaddeus Meyer, of Franzensbad, Bohemia, at the early age of thirty-four. Herr Meyer, who was a frequent contributor to the *Welt-Post*, published besides, monographs on the stamps of Turkey and Afghanistan. His *Hand Book for Postage Stamp Collectors* was much appreciated in Germany.

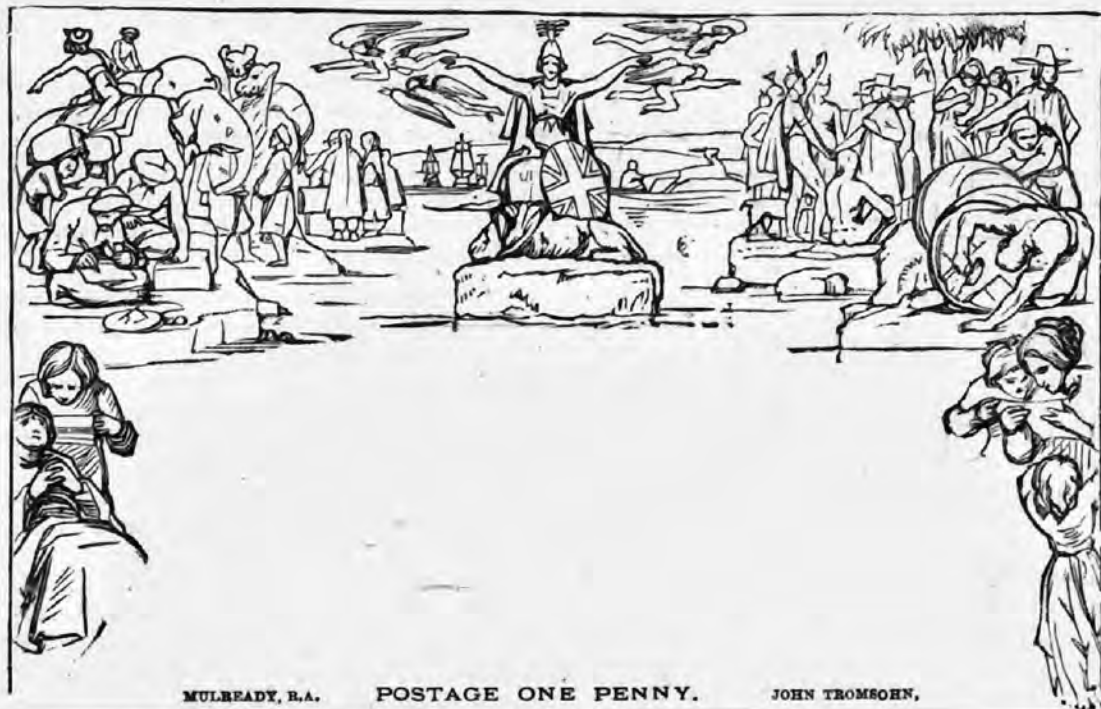
George Augustus Sala, in his "Echoes of the week," in the *Illustrated London News* of 3d February, says a correspondent signing himself "A lover of Useful Knowledge," asks to be told something about the "Mulready" postal envelope, and the probable value of a clean and unmarked specimen. Mr. Sala manages to impart something concerning the "Mulready," but has not the remotest idea of the value of an envelope "clean and unmarked." "I do not collect that class of curiosities," he says. They usually fetch from a dollar to one and a half, but as the whole of the surplus stock was destroyed, whether used or unused does not regulate the price to any appreciable extent. Mulready's design, although eminently artistic, was a complete failure in every respect with the public, and so few of the specimens were required and so many destroyed—Messrs. Clowes manufactured them at the rate of half a million a day—that a machine had to be constructed for the purpose; the attempt to do the work by fire in close stoves (fear of robbery forbade the use of open ones) having absolutely failed." (*Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. 1. page 395). *Punch* especially

“went for” poor Mulready, both with pen and pencil, and the caricature of Leech literally laughed his envelope into extinction. Following is a

squib which I have raked up from an old volume (*Punch* vol. 3. page 88) July to December, 1842. It must be new to almost everybody.

DACTYLS TO MR. MULREADY.

Inscribed on a Government Envelope.



MULREADY, R.A.

POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

JOHN TROMSORN.

Hail! O Mulready! Thou etcher of penny envelopes.

How can we praise the ethereal air of the garment

That hangs down behind from the shoulders of Mrs. Britannia?

What is the thing that is perched on the top of her helmet?

Is it a wasp, with its head cut off, stuck on its tail there?

And how sublime is the shadowing forth of her power.

The wonderful size of her arms, and their masculine muscles,

Each arm far more in circumference than is her head-piece,

As if 'were to show that her strength is more than her judgment!

Mighty Britannia! enthroned on her tight little island,

Sending abroad o'er the earth, to its uttermost quarters,

Air - swimming angels - celestial "General Postmen."

Types of the swiftness enjoined by the new "penny postage :

Some does she send with her right hand, and some from the other

One to the region where Penn shaketh hands with the Indians—

A symbol that now, when so cheap is the postage of letters,

We'll see every hand on the face of the earth with a Penn in it,

One flies away into Lapland—and one into Turkey—

And one to take part in a snug little Chinese Committee,

Praise we the symbol of ships sailing against mountains,

Showing that nothing on earth can retard our progressing—

Praise we the thought that could show us the terrible vastness

Of the consumption of ink from the "increased facilities"—

Showing that now it is sent, not in bottles, but hogsheads!

Great is thy genius Mulready, and thou shalt live ever,

By Fame handed down to Posterity in an Envelope.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 1. MARCH, 1883. No. 12

CORRESPONDENCE.

In our issue of January, we noted the fact that a certain industrious citizen by the name of Allen had entered into a sharp competition with the government by establishing a postal service in and for the goodly burghers of the City of Chicago. Under the date of Feb. 16, and after the February issue had gone to press, J. B. Marshall sent us the following :

"The private post-office scheme of Edward Allen has come to a sudden and mournful end. Last November Allen started out with a private local express, called "Allen's City Dispatch," which was formed for the purpose of distributing letters and small parcels within the city for very low rates, in fact, about the same rates as the postal service charged. His business was quite profitable, and he employed nearly a score of carriers. He also used postage-stamps which he sold to his patrons, bearing the words "Allen's City Dispatch, 1 cent." Similar schemes were started in other cities, but the postal authorities soon dropped on them. Allen, however, seemed to bear a charmed life here, notwithstanding repeated articles in the daily papers suggesting that he was infringing on governmental prerogatives. At last the pressure became too great, and information was filed against Allen, in the United States District Court, under Sec. 3982 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which specifically forbid the prosecution of any such enterprise under a penalty of \$150. Allen, when his attention was called to the law, claimed he was innocent of any intention of wrong-doing. When the information was filed, however, he pleaded guilty, and Judge Blodgett fined him \$150 and costs.

3 varieties of stamps were issued, of like design, but in three colors :

Rose on white.

Rose on Orange.

Black on White.

The figures being of the latter colors respectively, and the color of the paper the former, an odd way, we think, for coloring stamps.



Apropos to the above, and that which has appeared heretofore in our January and February issues concerning these local enterprises, a correspondent, in rather a hair-splitting style of argument, inasmuch as it suits his humor to quibble at what should or should not be termed a stamp, and whether, as they carried letters but incidentally, they could rightfully be termed letter posts, discourses thus :

"It is written me by a very excellent authority that the Chicago post is, as far as the stamps are concerned, of small account. It delivers circulars and small parcels, and incidentally, letters, but only incidentally, in fact, very exceedingly incidentally. *Its stamps are not stamps*, but business labels merely, and their sale to collectors as stamps is a kindred imposition to the trick of selling the large, green registration label to collectors as U. S. registered letter stamps. The Chicago label, I am well-advised, is of this quality, and I doubt not the proprietor is quite willing to take 1c and 2c each for them. Why not? If anybody wishes to buy his labels or business card at 2c each, why should he not sell them?

The government of the United States can, in short order, stop any post, city or other, that carries letters or written communications, but it has no power over the delivery of printed matter, whether circulars or newspapers. Three or four years ago it stopped by brief and summary process Guy's Despatch in Philadelphia. New York City has a charter granted previous to the revolution, which it is claimed gives it the power to license carriers of letters and other things. This is the reason why Boyd's Despatch exists under the shadow of the Post Office, as also Easson's (Hussey's) office on Cedar Street. I am very strongly of the opinion that the Chicago dealers have prompted the "post" owner to have stamps for collectors, anyhow, even if he did not apply them as stamps, it would be a comfortably profitable thing for him to do, and be a source of profit to both Chicago postmen and Chicago stamp dealers. I think it a probable enough presumption, and the St. Louis and Cincinnati concerns you mentioned in your February issue are probably in the same category."

Apropos again to the above, we quote from the "Post Office Bulletin" of Cincinnati, that "the St. Louis City Delivery Company that carried letters below government rates has retired from business. They did a thriving business a while selling stamps which are now worthless. Their sixteen carriers are waiting for their pay." In closing, we would call our correspondent's attention to Webster's definition of the word Label. "A narrow slip of silk, paper, parchment, etc., affixed to any thing, denoting its contents, ownership and the like; as, the label of a bottle or a package." Also to the fact that the woods are full of authorities, so much so that they clash one with the other at every step, and that mayhap it would lend an additional interest to the matter if he would disclose to the readers of the "E. C. P." as they are all of an inquisitive and inquiring turn of mind, the name of this "excellent authority" that he prates so glibly about.

Query wants to know who are the members of the firm called the "Laurel Stamp Co., Box 5, Oberlin, Ohio, and publishers of the 'Curiosity Collector.'" The following will answer Queriest and possibly others of our readers.

OBERLIN, O., March 7, 1883.

Editor *Empire City Philatelist*.

Yours of the 5th inst', inquiring concerning our company, at hand. We cheerfully give you the information you desire, and trust it will not be uninteresting to your readers.

The Laurel Stamp Company was organized in the year 1880 by three experienced stamp collectors, the object being to make valuable additions to their already large collections of stamps, and also to realize a profit from the sale of the stamps that would pay them for the time they would be obliged to devote to the business. Their expectations were more than realized, and in March, 1882 a fourth partner was taken into the company, and a curiosity department was added to the business.

Under this head, coins, birds' eggs, Confederate money, etc. are bought and sold. Early in the year 1883, the company, seeing the need of a paper that should be devoted to curiosities, decided to publish a curiosity paper, and chose as a name "The Curiosity Collector." February 15th the first number was issued, and though we have as yet issued but one number, we have every reason to believe it will be a success.

ERNEST E. HAYNES,

Secretary Laurel Stamp Co.

1817 PINE STREET,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Feb. 28, 1883.

Editor *Empire City Philatelist*.

No doubt you have received some complaints from correspondents in regard to my negligence in filling their orders recently. I therefore desire to state to all enquiring friends that, owing to severe sickness, my physician advised me to leave St. Louis for this city, where I intend to carry on the stamp and coin business, as of old. I am now very happy to state to the readers of the "E. C. P." that the climate here has had the good effect of completely restoring me to health, so that I am now "upon my feet again." All my stock is still at St. Louis in charge of trustworthy friends, however, I expect everything to arrive shortly, when I shall give my personal attention to all correspondence and orders.

Trusting you will find space in your columns for these few lines of explanation, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

E. F. GAMBS.

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMP.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen has returned to the American Bank Note Company one of the designs thought to be most appropriate for the new ten cent postage stamps with a request that it be worked over, in order to simplify the lettering. The designs submitted all bear the head of Washington. The selection of the stamp may not be made for some weeks.

WILLIAM P. BROWN.

Mr. William P. Brown, who is well-known in this city amongst philatelists, both as a dealer and collector, sailed a few weeks ago for Yokohama, Japan. It is not generally known that Mr. Brown has a father living in that far-off country. Dr. Nathan Brown is well-known as a missionary, who has been, since 1870, located at Yokohama, translating the scriptures into the Japanese language. In early life he spent twenty years as a missionary to India, where the subject of our sketch was born. On his return to this country, the reverend doctor became the editor of the *American Baptist* which post he continued to fill up to the time of his departure to Japan. Our philatelic friend is by no means a stranger in the city for which he is journeying, as he has already spent two years in Yokohama.

Mr. Brown's object in this visit is to spend at least one year with his father, and as the latter has journeyed far upon that road to the great and mysterious hereafter, to take a final leave of his parent ere the latter enters the chilling waters of the river which bars the passage of mortals to the beautiful and peaceful haven on the opposite shore. We sincerely wish Mr. Brown a swift and pleasant voyage, and that our readers will join with us in bidding him Au Revoir.

The new style postal card, with a flap over the writing, is soon to go into general use, but the flap will never protect the contents of a postal card from being read. Nothing but a time lock, or a burglar proof safe, will maintain the purity of the postal-card.

Secretary Folger has ordered the word "cents" to be added to the new "five" nickel. This is well. The value of a coin should not be left to be guessed at. It is a pity the Secretary or somebody else hasn't authority to direct that about sixteen cents worth more of silver be added to the clipped dollar of the daddies.

James Gilfillan, Treasurer of the United States recently tendered his resignation, to take effect on April 1. Mr. Gilfillan has accepted the position of treasurer and manager of the Mutual Trust Company, of this city, at a higher salary than he now receives.

A firm at Hazelhurst, Mississippi, recently attempted to introduce pennies in that town. It ordered \$50 worth of them, but finding that they would not take with the people, was forced to return them.

Eighteen years ago an Atlanta man was given a letter to mail. He posted it last Thursday. Such unusual expedition is remarkable, and is being commented upon by the newspapers all over the country.

OUR RAREST CANADIAN COINS.

By R. W. McLACHLAN.

The North West Company Token.

Although most of the history of our early Canadian tokens has been lost, facts worthy of record concerning them come to light from time to time.

The "North West Token" is the rarest of the series. I only know of two specimens; one of these is in the collection of Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Clarence, Ont., and the other is owned by Mr. Gerald E. Hart of Montreal. Both of these coins are pierced, although otherwise in good condition. The former was purchased six months ago from Mr. W. Elliott Woodward, of Boston. The latter was first advertised in a German catalogue and purchased for a small sum by the Rev. Benjamin Foltz of Illinois, thence coming into the possession of Mr. Mott of this city. It was sold at auction in New York, Mr. Balmano being the purchaser. On the occasion of the Balmano sale, it found its way back to Montreal as the property of Mr. Hart. The pieces referred to have been sold at prices ranging from twenty to nearly forty dollars.

I cannot account for its rarity except by the supposition that the vessel in which the tokens were shipped was lost at sea. Vast quantities of copper tokens were imported into Canada about that time, and although these spurious coins were seized, the law was so framed that in every instance where the matter was brought into court, the coins had to be delivered over to the importers. It is just possible that this shipment may have been seized and the proper course to obtain possession of it been neglected. In any case no specimen has ever been picked up in circulation in Canada or found in the early formed Canadian collections.

The token is evidently of Birmingham workmanship, as nearly all the tokens circulating at that time in Canada came from that city. Still the order of art is much inferior to that of the ordinary English and Canadian tokens of that period.

Christmas mentions this coin in his article on the "Copper Coinage of the British Colonies in America," which appeared in the *Namismatic Chronicle* of 1862. Sandham also in "*Coins of Canada*," describes it on page 22 as No. 13, with the remark that "This coin is exceedingly rare, no specimen known to be in Canada." It may be

described as follows:—*Obv.*—Token. *Ex.*—1820. Laureated bust of George IV to the right. *Rev.*—NORTH WEST COMPANY. A beaver to the right. Edge engraved, Brass, size 28 millimetres.

The North West Company was the successor of the old French Fur Company, although for a time after the Conquest it remained in the hands of the French Canadians, the stock coming gradually into the hands of Scotch capitalists it was at length controlled by the latter nationality. One of the chief partners in the company was D. McTavish, whose brother, also a partner in the company, erected the large unfinished mansion on the side of the mountain, which was long known as the Hapnted House.

The headquarters of the company were at Montreal, and every spring about the end of April, the *voyageurs* assembled at the office of the company, now occupied as the Canada Hotel, proceeding to Lachine, where there was a large storehouse filled with supplies, they embarked in canoes and paddled their way with full cargoes up the Ottawa, through Lake Temiscouang, then across to Lake Nipissing, and down French River to the Georgian Bay, thence to Lake Superior, through Sault-Ste. Marie, skirting along the North shore of the lake, they landed at Fort William, near what is now called Prince Arthur's Landing. There they were met by other *voyageurs* with their cargoes of furs from the interior. After exchanging freight each company returned to their starting point. These voyages were made annually, and occupied most of the summer.

The North West Company traded mainly with the Southern and Western part of the North West territory, while the Hudson's Bay Company occupied the country to the North, reaching England by way of Davis' Straits. The members of the North West Company were far more enterprising, pushing their trade north and west they discovered the Mackenzie River, and the best passes through the Rocky Mountains. Encroaching on the territory claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company, a rivalry between the two sprang up, becoming at length so fierce that open war was declared between their respective *voyageurs*, and many a skirmish was fought between these hardy traders of the North. This struggle did much to retard the settlement of the Red River. A colony founded by the Earl of Selkirk was almost exterminated by the opposition of this company.

The prolonging of the struggle somewhat crippled the company, and a large sum of money was borrowed from David David, a wealthy banker of Montreal, who, fearing that the security was not safe, withdrew his loans. Shortly afterwards, in 1834, the company failed. Its assets and rights were sold to the Hudson's Bay Company, when its creditors were paid off by a settlement of one shilling and eight pence on the pound. Thus passed out of existence one of the great factors in the discovery of the Northwest, that "Great Lone Land," the *El Dorado* of the Dominion, which is now attracting so much attention.

The M' Auslane Token.

In Sandham's "*Coins of Canada*," only ten pieces are described as relating to Newfoundland. It is true he mentions eleven. As his No. 10 is unknown to collectors, I have come to the conclusion that it does not exist. At present over 50 varieties belonging to the Island have come under the notice of collectors. Most of these are different dates of the government issues struck since the appearance of that work, but seven or eight varieties of an earlier date have become known. Among the most interesting of these is the M'Auslane token. It is of the highest degree of rarity as only one specimen is known. It was for many years in the collection of Mr. R. Frenzels, an extensive collector of copper coins in London, England.

About two years ago his collection was offered for sale, and purchasing the whole of the Canadian collection (two hundred and fifty in number) I became possessor of this specimen.

The coin is similar in art and design to a number of tokens issued as advertisements in England, about fifty or sixty years ago. This I believe was the purpose for which this piece was issued for it is too small to circulate as a farthing, and nothing less than a half penny ever circulated to any extent on the island. This will, to a great extent, account for its rarity as unless it had been put into circulation, few could be preserved until the present time.

The following is its description:

Obv.:—PETER | M'AUSLANE | ST. JOHNS | NEWFOUND-
LAND.

Between "St. Johns" and "Newfoundland" is a small ornamental scroll or twig.

Rev.:—SELLS | ALL SORTS | OF SHOP AND | STORE |
GOODS.

Edge plain, Brass, size 19½ millimetres.

Peter M'Auslane was for a number of years a blacksmith at St. Johns. But afterwards opening out a general store, he did an extensive business in that town. He died about forty years ago, having amassed considerable wealth, and handed his name down to posterity by this rare little token.

The Owen Ropery Token.

As the Government of Great Britain neglected altogether the supply of a suitable currency for her North American colonies, the colonists were compelled to accept as change anything in the shape of a coin coming within their territory. At one time it would consist of the dilapidated old coinage of France; next, of worn Spanish silver coins; and at another time of an unbounded supply of shiplasters. Each of these, in their turn, were driven out of circulation by floods of copper tokens imported from Birmingham. Although most of these have no special reference to Canada, several bear the name of some of our early Canadian men of business, and are therefore highly interesting to us.

Of these, on account of its great rarity, the Owen Ropery token has always been esteemed by Canadian collectors one of the gems of their collections. It is supposed to have been struck in Birmingham, about the year 1824, and although a number were probably put into circulation at that time, only one or two have been found at the present day. While vast quantities of copper coins were from time to time imported, and traders unable almost to find room to stow away their copper change, such coins seemed to disappear, no one knew whither, there would be a dearth of change until a fresh supply was imported by enterprising traders. We may thus account for the scarcity of some of our earliest tokens. Only five specimens are known, three in collections in Montreal, one in Clarence, Ont., and another in England. Of these, two, in a worn condition, were picked up in circulation in Montreal, another was sold in New York in 1860 with the Robertson collection. It was put up with a lot of 132 pieces which were bought for one and a half cents each by Mr. E. Groh, when Mr. Groh's collection was sold, Mr. Hennessey became its purchaser by paying five dollars for it. It is now valued at from five to ten dollars.

This piece was first described by the Rev. H. Christmas, but the R. has been omitted from the initials of Owen's name and the ship on the reverse was described as a sloop. Sandham in his work, illustrates it on plate V. fig 5 and remarks that "No specimen of this coin has been met with in this City."

This token is similar to many of those appearing about that time. A ship seems to have been a favorite design with the manufacturers of those tokens. Many have a similar ship without legend, it may therefore be inferred that the obverse die of the Owen's token was previously used in striking one of the varieties of the "Ships Colonies & Commerce" tokens. The circle of twisted ropes on the reverse is appropriate to the business of the issuer of the token.

Description. *Obv.*:—A ship under full sail to right.

Rev.:—R. W. OWEN | MONTREAL | ROPERY
within a circle of twisted cordage.

Edge engrailed, copper—size 27 millimetres.

Owen's ropery was established about the year 1824 or a little earlier. It was a small affair situated in Gain street in the eastern part of the city, and consisted of an open shed by the side of a fence, under which was a wheel turned by hand. The quantity of hemp used was less than four tons per annum, and a small supply of lines rather than ropes, the product. In 1825, Mr. J. A. Converse, whose father was an extensive iron founder in Troy, N. Y., came here and established a much larger ropery, and Owen, finding that his small hand-power concern could not compete with it, sold out to Converse. The purchase was not an extensive one, consisting mainly of two tons of hemp and the wheel. Owen afterward removed to Kingston, when he induced the Government to establish a ropery in connection with the Penitentiary, but this venture also proving unsuccessful, the Government advertised for another manager, and Mr. Converse sent up his foreman, Coyle to run it, but as the project did not pay, it was abandoned. Mr. Converse, who is still alive, remembers that there was a coin issued by Owen, but knows nothing about its design or the number struck. He is still proprietor of the Montreal Cordage Works. These works now consume over ten tons of hemp per day, nearly three times as much as the annual consumption of Owen's factory. — *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*.

CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT PRECIOUS METALS.

"Newspaper tales of the treasures of Oriental princes contain sometimes enormous accounts of precious metals and jewelry. But even the highest numbers given to-day reach scarcely the treasure mentioned by ancient authorities. King Croesus presented to the temple in Delphi 214 talents, nearly \$2,000,000 of gold; Phidias used for the statue of Minerva in the Parthenon 40 talents; and in the treasury of Ptolemaeus Philadelphus were 740,000 talents of gold, about \$13,000,000 Verres, during his short praetorship in Sicily, appropriated more than \$6,000,000 of costly objects simply by what he called confiscation. About the mines of precious metals and their production before Christ nothing is sufficiently known. But the immense amount of money coined in those times, the costly treasures and implements reported to have been in existence, warrant the supposition of their wealth. The first gold coins, stamped only on one side, belong to Asia Minor, and the stater from Phocæia, with the seal, the emblem of the State, dates 600 years before Christ. It was followed by the Persian gold coins of Darius. Both seem to have been made of gold washed out of the alluvial layers of the Pactolus River. The money of Greece was originally of silver. The money of the Romans was at first copper, later silver; gold coins appear not before Sylla. Pompeius and Caesar, mostly coined for the triumphal honors of those men. Later, in the time of the Emperors, large numbers of gold coins appear.

"A greater amount of gold and silver in coins or ware is hidden in the ground in uncertain war times, and afterward forgotten or not found. In Germany, the construction of roads and railways brought many such treasures to the light, which, according to the date of the coins, had been sev-

eral hundred years in the ground. In Eastern Prussia alone, during the first half of this century, were found about one hundred pounds of golden Arabic or Kufic coins, which must have been hidden twelve hundred years and more, which proves that the tradeway in those times passed through Prussia. The well-known Hildesheim silver found in 1867, near the battle-field of Arminius and Varns, has brought to light extremely tasteful silver vessels after twelve centuries.

Iron or earthen pots, filled with coins during the Thirty Years War, are by no means rare. The discoveries by Schliemann in Troy, and Mycææ, and similar findings in Italy, are many centuries older. In Italy, such findings contained sometimes 30,000 coins, but curiously enough, till now no hidden treasure is discovered which antedates the time of Sylla. More than 50,000 denares are quoted by Momsen in about a dozen different findings. The treasure hidden during the first and second century after Christ contains very large numbers of gold coins, and contrasts obviously with the usual amounts during the next century. The visitor at the Copenhagen Museum will remember the heavy, solid Roman gold pieces found in the Northern peat swamps.

The treasuries of the Roman Catholic churches and monasteries contain still in some countries, an immense amount of precious metals, which may be considered as lost forever to circulation, except in extreme calamities.

THE RAMOZ-RUIZ COLLECTION OF ART AND ANTIQUITY.

The various objects consist in all of upward of 2,000 pieces. Two hundred of the pieces are made of gold, 100 of stone, some of wood, some of copper or another kind of fused metal, and many are ceramic. They are now the property of Mr. W. W. Randall, the United States Consul at Savanilla, in the United States of Colombia, South America. Mr. Randall bought them from Senor Gonzalo Ramos-Ruiz, a native of Colombia, and famous in learned circles for his knowledge of archaeology. Senor Ramoz-Ruiz spent ten years, in infinite patience and a large amount of money in collecting these treasures of antiquity. The Colombian government assisted him in his researches, but when the collection was made, found itself too poor to pay the stipulated price for it. Mr. Randall, seeing the value of the treasure trove, purchased the collection known as the Ramos-Ruiz, and added to it about two hundred specimens of his own. At General di Cesnola's suggestion, he will exhibit it at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Some of the noserings, formed of solid gold, are quite ponderous, and must have been a sore tax on the wearer, especially if pocket handkerchiefs or sneezing were fashionable in those days. There are gold coins of various size and weights which proves that the Chibchas worked on a hard money basis. The little golden hawk bells are very pretty and musical. Very curious are the "calendars" to regulate and calculate the Innations. The stone axes, chisels, and jade knives show the instruments with which this ingenious people wrought. The ceramics comprise many of the idols. The sun and moon were worshipped by the Chibchas, the monkey was the emblem of generation, and that sprightly animal figures largely in the collection, as does also the frog, their emblem of happiness. Indeed the collection is in every way unique and valuable, and will afford as much interest to the curious as it will speculation and possible information to the learned. The genuineness of the collection is vouched for by a sealed and autograph letter from Senor Wallis, the Secretary of State for the United States of Colombia.

HOW MONEY IS MADE.

By J. T. WOOD.

There are two kinds of money made in this country. One is printed on paper, the other is made of gold, of silver, of copper, and of nickel.

The paper money is made by the United States chiefly, and it is paid out or issued to the people sometimes by the United States and sometimes by banks. It is not really money itself, but a promise to pay money when that is asked for. True money is made of metal, gold and silver, and copper, which is worth almost as much as it passes for. This is made by the government of mints.

The United States has its greatest and oldest mint in Philadelphia. It fronts on Chestnut st. near to Broad; and there is a bill in Congress now that proposes to buy much of the land between the mint and Broad street, and enlarge the mint-building so that it can do more that it does now. There is another mint in New Orleans, and another in San Francisco, and there are two others of less size, as well as assay offices, which test the fineness of gold and silver, and mark that on the metals, but do not make money.

The Philadelphia Mint was built in 1833, though there had been a smaller one there for forty years previous. It is made of marble, and it is fire-proof, and so strong that robbers cannot break in. If they did get in at night, they would find twelve armed men ready to capture them.

There is a flight of steps, and there are twelve great columns in front. Inside the front door there is a rotunda, and the offices for the treasurer and cashier are on either side. The rotunda leads to a hall, from which the visitors enter rooms occupied for weighing, assaying, melting, separating, rolling, annealing, cleaning, coining and counting the gold and silver. These occupy all the rear part of the building.

Up stairs there is a cabinet containing many coins, of all countries and ages. There is such a "mite" as the Testament says the widow gave. There are coins that were made two or three hundred years ago—about seven hundred years before Christ was born. And there are drachmas, talents, rose-nobles, ducats, jves, crowns, francs, florins, sesterces, doubloons and many other species of the coin of former ages, even angels.

The rooms used by the director, coiner, engraver, and other officers of the mint are up-stairs. The steam engine and boilers, the shops and the artesian well that furnishes the water, are all in the cellar.

Most of the gold, silver, copper and nickel used is brought to the rear doors. The gold now comes chiefly from Montana, and the silver is brought from Nevada and Colorado in bricks that weigh 85 or 125 pounds each, and are worth \$1,000 to \$2,000 apiece. From 40 to 50 tons of silver comes every four days, and it is piled up like pigs of

lead or iron inside. Gold comes in bars, too, chiefly from the assay offices.

The first thing done when the metal is received is to weigh it: and more than \$600,000,000 of gold alone has been weighed in this mint. If that amount were distributed equally among the people, it would give every man and woman and boy and girl in the country about \$12. The scales which are used will weigh a feather or a ton.

When it has been weighed, the metal is carried into another room and mixed with borax and melted in great pots and cast in moulds. A small piece is then cut off, so that the mint can find how fine it is, and what it is worth. This is done in the assay rooms; and there are different ways of assaying gold and silver, and they are quite intricate, and very sure. Then the persons who brought the gold and silver are paid.

Now the metals are ready to be coined. They are first passed through great rollers of steel, which make the bars equally thick; then they are cut into the size of the coin to be made; then they are carried to the stamping machines.

Each of these machines work by steam, and a lady attends every one. They work very fast; there is a sort of punch or die of the hardest steel in each machine. One die is below and another above. The unstamped coin is passed between these dies, and when they come together the coin is stamped into \$20 pieces, or 5-cent pieces, or whatever else it is worth.

It is then put into another machine, which mills the edges and makes them rough; and then the money has been made.

As it would be very difficult to count so many pieces as we count our pocket money, little boxes called counters have been made. Each one holds an exact sum, and in this way a vast sum is quickly and accurately counted.

When the money has all been made and counted it is packed away in great safes and kept until the United States Treasurer at Washington orders where it shall be sent, or until it is paid out, according to order.

Such is the mint, and in this way money is made.

No other country produces so much of both metals as the United States. During the war, specie was sent to Europe to pay for things bought there; and less gold and silver was mined, and paper money was used; but now gold and silver are paid out when they are desired.

Gold and silver are the best materials for money because they have a real value, and that does not change much.

Whenever any of our readers visit Philadelphia they should certainly go to the mint. There are very gentlemanly men there; whose only business is to conduct visitors, and explain the things they see. And most visitors will see more specie than any one of them ever had for a Christmas present

GOVERNMENT PROFIT ON COINAGE.

A considerable source of profit to the United States Government is the amount of paper money and coin which is never presented for redemption. Much of this is destroyed by fire. Some of it is buried or hid in places known to no person alive. A large quantity of the coin is melted to make sterling silverware. Considerable amounts of both paper money and coin are exported, never to return. Not long ago a United States bond, issued about 1819, was presented at the Sub-Treasury in this city. The interest on it had ceased over fifty years. It had come back from Europe through Baring Brothers. The outstanding principal of the public debt of the United States last year was nearly two billions of dollars, chiefly represented by bonds and Treasury notes. It would be, of course, impossible to say how much of this will ever be presented for redemption. But some idea may be formed from the fact that \$57,965 of it was issued so long ago that the date is not recorded. It appears in the report as "old debt" that may safely be put down as profit. There is an item of \$82,525 of Treasury notes issued prior to 1836. Some of them were issued nearly fifty years ago, and will not, in all probability, ever be presented for redemption. One thousand one hundred and four dollars of the Mexican indemnity of 1846 has never been claimed. The last of the fractional currency was issued under the act of June 6, 1864, yet, although nearly twenty years have elapsed, \$7,077,247 has not been presented for redemption. Some of this is held as a curiosity. Some of it is still used by banks and merchants for transmitting small sums by mail. Several New York banks have considerable sums of new fractional currency which they distribute for the accommodation of their customers.

As to the coin, the Government derives considerable profit from it. The silver in one thousand silver dollars costs, on an average, about \$803.75. The coinage of a silver dollar costs about $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents. The total cost of 1000 silver dollars to the Government is therefore \$816.25. Since the organization of the Mint, in 1793, 127,190,618 silver dollars have been coined, on which the Government has received a profit of over twenty-three millions of dollars.

In the same period \$122,758,510 was coined into half dollars. At the same rate of cost for coinage the Government profited \$19,395,769 on these. The total silver coinage of the Government since 1793 is \$347,766,792. Estimating the profit on the halves, quarters, and subsidiary coins at the same rate as on the dollars, the total profit received by the Government on its silver coinage has been about sixty-four millions of dollars.

In the coinage of the five-cent nickels the Government reserved to itself the liberal profit of nearly 50 per cent. This gave to the Government last year the handsome revenue of over \$100,000 from nickels alone. The wide margin between

the intrinsic value of the five-cent nickel and its face value led to extreme counterfeiting. Several years ago an assay was made of some of the counterfeit nickels, and it was discovered that the counterfeiters had put into their coins more valuable metal than the Government uses in making the genuine coins.—*N. Y. Sun.*

BESIEGING THE MINT.

Continual demands are made at the Mint by coin collectors, numismatic societies and others for proof coins, or sets representative of a year's coinage. To meet this demand special coins are struck and sold at rates proportional to the extra labor involved. These sets are in gold, silver and copper-nickel. The regular proof set of gold coins is sold for \$43; the silver and minor coins, \$4.05, and, exclusive of the trade-dollar, \$3.05. The minor coins, embracing the old and new five-cent coin, the three-cent piece and the bronze penny, are sold at eighteen cents the set. The stamping of the new five-cent coin has increased the mania for collection, and ceaseless requests are made for the set containing the old and new half-dime piece. Many demands are also made for the bicentennial medal which was distributed during the parade of the bicentennial celebration. This medal has now been struck in silver, and is being sold in large numbers. Large demands are likewise received from the Northwestern States Mississippi valley and Pacific coast, where there are few small coins for the new five-cent piece. The demand has been great for some time past, but has now been greatly increased by the description of the new coin. The mint supplies the coin in amounts of \$5 each, and the parties to whom the coins are sent pay for the expressage, but if sent in sums of \$20 the expressage is paid by the mint itself.

GETTING AT THE FACTS.

One who has not thought of it will be surprised at the number of dimes, nickels and cents it takes to make up the yearly loss, and have a supply to "go round." The U. S. Mint reports for the last fiscal year the new coinage of nearly seventy millions of these three pieces alone, viz: 38,581,100 cents; 11,476,600 five cents; and 3,911,100 dimes. If packed closely, the cents would fill 562 bushel boxes; the nickels, 334 boxes; and the dimes 42 boxes. The 25-cent and 3-cent pieces will make up the 1,000 bushels. The curious may verify this by estimating the diameter of dimes at 5-7-inch, of copper cents $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, of nickels 5-6-inch; and the thickness of dimes 1-22 inch, of cents 1-18 inch, and of nickels 1-14. The copper cents are a convenient small measure of length, being just $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch across—a row of 8 making half a foot, 4 a quarter foot, and so on. The copper cent weighs 48 grains—or about 9 to the ounce, or 146 to the pound, avoirdupois.

BY THE WAY.

The San Francisco Mint enjoys the doubtful honor of being at the present time the receptacle of more silver dollars than any other of the U. S. coin manufactories.

"A Pittsburgh despatch reports the finding of a chest containing some \$27,000 in old gold and silver coins by a man who was directed to the place by a dream."—What a lie-on he must be.

The English Mint, though long by tradition the most wonderful institution of the kind in the world, has at last outgrown its antiquated machinery, and it became necessary not only to renew a considerable portion of it, but also to supply new engines.

The question is seriously talked of in diplomatic circles, in view of our expected close relations with the Malagasy people, and more particularly to accommodate their chief ambassador, Kavoninapitrimasivo, who is now sojourning at Washington, of building an extension to the English alphabet.

New counterfeit quarter dollars of the date of 1878 were put in circulation in this city a short time ago. They are plated with silver, and their weight is about six postage stamps less than the weight of the good coins. The edge of the counterfeit is slightly imperfect.

The Chief of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department has been advised that a most dangerous counterfeit of the standard silver dollar has made its appearance in Ohio and Indiana. The base coin is the exact weight, ring and appearance of the genuine, and resists the acid test unless the outer coating of silver is penetrated. It would readily be accepted as genuine by merchants. Several of the pieces have only been discovered upon reaching a sub-Treasury.

The police at Morgan City, near New Orleans, arrested a man named G. F. McCord, alias Mack, charged with having passed, as five dollar gold pieces, a number of gilded new nickels. On being arrested and searched, several of these nickels, gilded so as to resemble gold pieces, were found upon his person. The United States Marshal at New Orleans was immediately informed of the arrest, when an affidavit was made before Commissioner Hunt, charging McCord with having passed counterfeit money. A telegram was then sent to Morgan City, to the police authorities, to hold the prisoner till he could be turned over to a Deputy United States Marshal.

AUCTION SALES.

The Clement-Ferguson collection of coins was sold lately at Bang's store. In the words of a clerk, the prices were "red-hot." the agent of some "rich collector out West" bidding in nearly everything, as at several previous sales. The highest price was \$80 for a "first bronze" or "Æs," struck during the reign of Titus in 81 A. D. commemorative of the taking of Jerusalem. An English crown of Cromwell's time brought \$45; another of Elizabeth's reign \$37; another of 1641, \$21; and a silver death medal of 1658, \$20.25. \$240 for a Decadrachm of Syracuse of (about) 406 B. C.; \$75 for a silver medal of Gustavus Adolphus; \$65.50 for a shekel of Simon Maccabeus, 143 B. C.; \$45 for a "Parilon of Edward the Black Prince," 1375 A. D.; \$38 for a Tetradrachm of Macedonia, 359 B. C., and \$37 for a silver medal of Admiral Van Tromp, 1653 A. D. The proceeds of the sale, 956 lots, were nearly \$3,800.

Since our last issue the following sales have taken place at the office of Bangs & Co., 739 B'way, this city.

MARCH 1 and 2.—A collection of copper and silver coins, fine English tokens, autographs, rare old newspapers, etc. Contained 963 lots, was catalogued by Mr. John W. Hazeltine, and was varied and attractive enough to suit the most fastidious.

MARCH 16 and 17.—1082 lots of Historical coins and medals, catalogued by Mr. H. P. Smith, 269 W. 52d Street, of this city. This collection contained volumes of lore that should have convulsed the eager student of history with spasms of Ecstasies.

March 20.—A collection of U. S. coins and medals containing 639 lots, compiled in a masterly manner by Messrs. S. H. & H. Chapman of Philadelphia. In this sale the student of the rare in domestic coins and medals enjoyed a feast of both mind and vision.

Messrs. Scott & Co., at Leavitt's salesroom, this city, offered on March 12th 618 parcels of U. S. department stamps, the property of H. B. Seagrave. Philatelists not attending this sale certainly lost a chance of adding to their collection rarities that will not frequently be found under the auctioneer's hammer.

For April 4th, Mr. A. Von Vagen of Baltimore has catalogued 526 lots of U. S. and foreign postage stamps, which will be sold on that date at 71 South Charles St., Baltimore, Md., by Wm. Seemuller & Co. There are parcels amongst them that should arouse the covetousness of philatelists and will no doubt excite a ripple of friendly competition when brought to the block.



Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 2.

New York, April, 1883.

No. 1

DEATH OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL HOWE.

Postmaster-General Timothy O. Howe died at the home of his nephew, Col. James H. Howe, in Kenosha, Wis., March 26. He contracted a severe cold about a week prior while at Green Bay, and returned to Kenosha feeling quite ill. His indisposition quickly developed into pneumonia, and he was considered dangerously ill up to Saturday morning, when there seemed to be a decided improvement, and his friends felt hopeful, but on Saturday night he became worse, and continued to sink rapidly, passing away quietly. The latest despatches had indicated that he was only suffering from a very severe cold, with very little prospect of pneumonia. Accordingly the news created a profound sensation in administration circles. The President was visibly affected. Judge Howe was much esteemed in the cabinet, and, although less demonstrative than some, his counsels were much sought, and his advice was always respected. He was, in fact, one of the most trusted of President Arthur's counsellors. All speak in the highest terms of Judge Howe's administration of the post-office department. Assistant Postmaster-General Elmer, who was in the department under the administration of Mr. James, speaks of the conduct of affairs by Mr. Howe in an extremely favorable way. Mr. Howe is the only cabinet officer who has died in office since General Rawlins, Grant's first Secretary of War.

Mr. Howe was a native of Maine, where he was born in 1816. He studied law, and made his entry into politics as a member of the Maine Legislature in 1845. In that year he removed to Wisconsin, where he continued to take interest in politics.

In 1857 Mr. Howe appeared to be the leading candidate for the office of United States Senator. He was the most able available man. The people were with him and he was admired for his courage no less than for his legal skill. But a matter arose which prevented his election. Before the Republican legislators went into caucus for the Senatorial nomination, they passed certain State rights resolutions which declared each state to be the final judge of the laws of the United States. Mr. Howe could not see his way to subscribe to these resolutions, and in reply to a circular letter mailed to each of the candidates, he denied the right of a State court to pass final judgment upon the United States law. There was a pitched battle which resulted in the defeat of Mr. Howe and the election of Mr. Doolittle. The next Senatorial elec-

tion was held in the winter of 1861. Mr. Howe was sustained by his own friends, who believed in him. Mr. Howe entered the Senate at a critical time. Secession was rampant. Mr. Lincoln in his message had set forth very clearly what his duty was to the country at large and what were the obligations of his oath. In the debate that followed the spokesman of one party declared that the inaugural was a war message, while the other side declared it to be a peace message. Amid this distraction of opinion Mr. Howe made his first speech. He told the Southern gentlemen that whether the message meant peace or war depended upon themselves—upon the course they should pursue. These were just the words need to be said, and had marked effect. He was re-elected twice, and was succeeded in 1879 by Matthew H. Carpenter. In the Senate Mr. Howe served as Chairman of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, Library, and Claims. He was an earnest opponent of President Johnson's policy, and voted for his impeachment. He refused a seat on the bench of the United States Supreme Court offered by President Grant, and to the end was one of the firmest of the "Grant men," taking an active part in the third-term movement. In 1881 he was appointed one of the delegates to the International Monetary Conference at Paris, and in December, 1881 was made Postmaster-General in place of Thomas L. James. Secretary Folger and Judge Howe were probably more intimate socially than any other members of the cabinet.

On the day of the funeral, the post-office buildings were heavily draped with mourning in honor of the late Postmaster-General. He was held in universal respect and esteem by his subordinates, and his death has cast a visible gloom over the entire department. The only other Postmaster-General who died in service was Aaron V. Brown, of Tennessee, whose death occurred on March 8, 1859. It was mentioned as a singular coincidence that since May last, ex-Postmaster-Generals Denison, Maynard and Jewell have died.

The President has appointed Walter Q. Gresham of Indiana, to be Postmaster-General.

Mr. Gresham was born in Indiana, and is a resident of New Albany. In 1869 he was appointed United States District Judge for Indiana, and still holds that position. His political views have been liberal, and he was in sympathy with the Liberal Republican movement at its start in 1872.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

X—COSTA RICA.

By W. C. STONE.

The Republic of Costa Rica is the most southern of the five Central American States. In area it comprises about 26,000 square miles. The population is estimated to be about 180,000, of which about one-third are Indians. The country is chiefly mountainous, containing a large number of volcanoes. The principal rivers are the Tempisque, Grande, Macho, San Carlos and Sarapiquí. The chief lakes are Locorra, Raventado, Laguna, Ermosa and Surtidor. The pursuits of the people are chiefly agricultural. Good pasturage is found in some parts, and cattle, sheep, goats and hogs are extensively raised. Coffee, sugar, maize, tobacco and indigo are the chief products. Mahogany, chestnut, oak and various dyewoods are found in plenty in the forests. The climate is variable in different parts, but is chiefly mild and healthy. Rich gold mines are found in some parts, and copper, iron, lead and coal are also found, but are not worked. The country is divided into six provinces: San Jose, Cartago, Alajuela, Heredia, Guanacaste and Punta Arenas. San Jose, the capital, has about 26,000 inhabitants. The government consists of a President, elected for four years, and a Congress of one chamber, called the Congress Constitutional, chosen for the same time, one-half the chamber being elected every two years. Two Vice-Presidents are elected annually in May by the Congress. The present President is Prospero Fernandez, whose term began the 10th of August, 1882. Owing to the numerous civil wars and insurrections the Presidential term is very seldom entirely filled out. The foreign debt consists of two loans and amounts to some £3,400,000, at 6 and 7 per cent. Both loans have, however, been practically repudiated, as no interest has been paid for years. A railroad between Alajuela and Limon, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is in course of construction, seventy-five miles out of one hundred and fifteen being completed. There are about three hundred and eighty-eight miles of telegraph lines.

Costa Rica was discovered by Columbus October 5, 1502, and was named by him Costa Rica y Castilla de Oro, "rich coast and castle of gold." From that time until 1821 it became with the rest of Central America, apart of the Mexican Republic. July 1, 1823, it became a member of the confederation of the five states of Central America, namely: Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In 1840 Costa Rica withdrew and formed an independent government under the Presidency of Don Braulio Carillo. A

constitution was adopted in 1847, providing for a President, Vice-President and House of Representatives of twelve members. This has since been modified several times, the present one bearing date of December 22, 1871. Negotiations have been going on for several years for another Central American Confederacy, but jealousy of each other has prevented its consummation.

The monetary unit is the peso, or dollar, of eight reals or one hundred centavos.

The first issue of stamps occurred in December, 1862, and consisted of two values. The design consisted of a marine view, with mountains in the background and five stars arched overhead in a fancy frame, with "Correos de Costa Rica," in two labels across the upper corners. Value in words below, numeral of value between "Porte—Rea es" above. Imperforate.

$\frac{1}{2}$ (medio) real blue.

$\frac{2}{2}$ (dos) reals red.

In April, 1863, these two stamps were issued perforated 14. In January, 1864, a 1 peso, orange, was issued, and in March a four reals, green. These four stamps remained in use for seventeen years. In February, 1881, a two centavo was issued. It consisted of the $\frac{1}{2}$ real, blue, surcharged "2 cts." in red.

On the first of January, 1883, the republic entered the Universal Postal Union. A new set of stamps had been ordered from New York, but as these did not arrive in time, provisionals were prepared by surcharging the old issue with a new value.

1 centavo, red on $\frac{1}{2}$ r blue.

5 " " " " 2 r red.

10 " " " " 2 r red.

20 " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ r green.

The surcharge is similar to that on the 2c. The numeral on the last three is only about half as high as that on the 1c., and they also bear the letters U. P. U.

The new set bears the portrait of some officer in uniform, in oval inscribed "Union Postal Universal. Costa Rica." Numerals of value in all corners except upper right hand, which bears the date (1 Eno 1883) of the Republic's entrance into the Postal Union. Perf. 12.

1 centavo green.

2 " " carmine.

5 " " purple.

10 " " orange.

40 " " blue.

I am a little surprised to find no 20c. in the set, as it seemed to be needed by the fact of the surcharged provisional, and am inclined to think that it will turn up before long. Whose portrait adorns the stamp has not yet been discovered, but I am inclined to think that it is that of President Fernandez.

Two post cards appeared at the same time as the above set, but I have not seen them as yet and can only copy the description given of them in the papers. "Tarjeta Postal" at top. Below in curved label "Union Postal Universal," crossed by the letters "C. R." Below, "Escribase de este lado la direction y la comunicacion del otro." In the right upper corner is the stamp bearing the same portrait as the adhesives, with "Republica de Costa Rica" above and "Dos (2) Centavos" below.

2 centavos, black on brown.

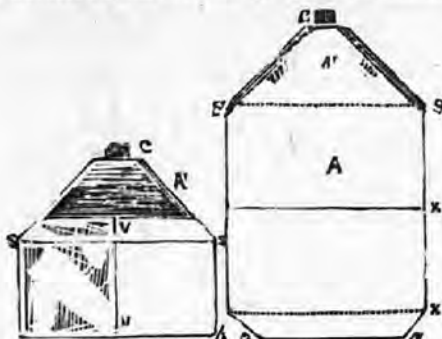
4 " " ?

I have been unable to learn whether the 4c. is a reply paid card or not.

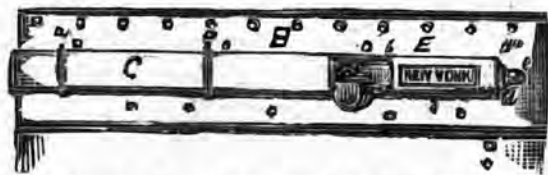
REGENT PATENTS.

COMBINED LETTER SHEET AND ENVELOPE. THOMAS BREEN, KNOWLTON, Pa. Filed April 20, 1882.

Claim.—The process of folding a letter-sheet by folding first at the line *x x*, then folding corner *h h* to meet at the intersection of lines *v v* and *s s*, and then folding the sheet at line *s s*, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.



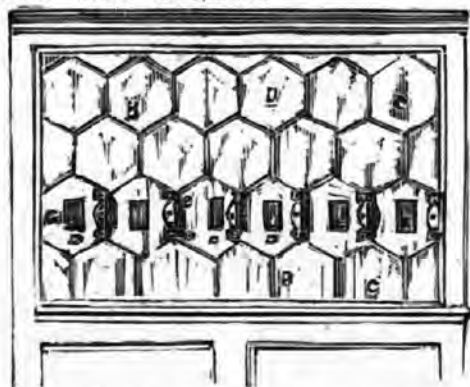
MAIL BAG. ISRAEL H. NORTHRUP, New York, N. Y. Filed Aug. 28, 1882.



Claim.—1. In a mail bag, the capping-strap *C*, provided with a rigid end, *E*, having slop *b*, opening *f*, shoulder *d*, and a projecting upturned point *e*, as and for the purpose described.

2. In a mail-bag fastening, the combination of two or more vertical and one horizontal staples with a capping strap having a rigid slotted end and a projecting point arranged to enter the end staple beyond the lock, all constructed to operate as and for the purpose described.

POST-OFFICE BOX. JESSE A. HOWE, Norwalk, Ohio. Filed Oct. 7, 1882.



Claim.—1. The combination, with a group of boxes of regular polygonal forms, arranged in rows with laterally-projecting angles, the projecting angles of each row fitting the re-entrant angles

of adjacent rows of a frame embracing said group of boxes, and provided with devices by which it may be detachably locked edgewise to similar frames embracing similar groups, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a series of adjacent boxes and their doors, of a hinge for each door provided with a lateral extending stop arranged to limit the inward movement of the free edge of an adjacent door, substantially as specified.

3. A series of groups of boxes inclosed in separate frames, having grooved interlocking sides, substantially as described.

4. A series of post-office letter-boxes having their sides inclined to meet at angles at the bottoms of the boxes, substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.

SUNLIGHT IN DARK PLACES.

By F. F. PEARD.

DANISH WEST INDIES, — The counterfeits for this colony are the 1, 3, 7, 14 cents 1872-77 issue, the period after *cents* is about the space of two letters instead of coming directly after the *s*. the figures of value in oval are very crooked and irregular, the hyphen connecting *dansk* and *vestindiske* is omitted, also the engraving is very bad. The rest of the set might be classed with these, but as yet these are the only values we have seen. Values 1 cent green and violet. 3 cent. blue and rose. 7 cent yellow and violet instead of orange and lilac. 14 cent lilac and green instead of mauve and green.

PERU.—The 2, 5 and 10c. are the forgeries appended to this country the 2c. mauve 1874 is very poorly executed and easily detected when placed beside the fine engraving of the original, the principal points of the forgeries are, the pearls at top and bottom of "dos centavos" are left out and a plain line instituted in their place, the figures 2 in corners are badly formed and very crooked. The 5 and 10c. of 1877 issue are very well engraved, but the spandels in lower corners and wreath at the top of the sheets are omitted. Values 2c. dark violet instead of mauve. 5c. blue. 10c. green.

PERSIA.—The counterfeits for this country are 1, 2, 5, 10 shahi 1877, the head of the Shah is fairly done, but the shading of lines at the back of his head and shoulders are very poorly executed. also the lions tail curls but once instead of twice as in the originals. Engraving poor. Values 1 shah mauve. 2 shahs green. 5 shahs rose. 10 shahs blue.

SIERRA LEONE.—This colony has two counterfeits existing in the 1d and 3 half pence, the word "postage" in the 1d. stamp is considerably smaller than in the original stamps, and the lines in the shading at back of Queen's head are irregular and distant from each other. The 3 half pence is the same make-up as the 1d. with the exception that the ornamental angles are plainer. Values 1d brick red instead of carmine. 3 half pence mauve,

NEW ISSUES.

ANGOLA.—A change has taken place in the forty reis stamps. It has been changed from blue to yellow.

AUSTRIA.—A new card has been issued of the value of 5 kreuzers and is printed in rose and black on white card.

BANGKOK.—In addition to those mentioned on page 117, there has been issued a 4 and 6 cents St's. Settlements surcharged "B."

CEYLON.—Another new issue has appeared. It is a provisional 20 cents surcharged on 64 cents. The surcharge is similar to the 16 cents surcharge on the 24 cents, as shown on page 117.

20 cents surcharged on 64 cents brown.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—In addition to the Confederate States stamp we mentioned on page 103, we have another one to chronicle. The *Timbre Poste* claims to have received from a Mr. Tapping a new Confederate local, hailing from Houston, Texas. It bears POST OFFICE and HOUSTON, TEXAS. It is printed on blue paper in a dark red color.

CUNDINAMARCA.—There has been issued a 50 centavos lilac of the same design as the one peso mentioned on page 86.

CURACAO.—A double 5 cent card was to be issued, and may at this writing be in circulation. It was to be printed on buff card in a carmine color.

COSTA RICA.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ real has been surcharged 1 centavos and 5 centavos, the 2 reales has been surcharged 20 centavos with the usual initials for Universal Postal Union, viz.: "U. P. U."

DOMINICA.—The fraction " $\frac{1}{2}$ " which we spoke of on page 117 as appearing on each half of the divided one-penny stamps of this place is about 14 centimeters in height.

GERMANY.—*Le Moniteur de Timbrophiles* in a late number says that a sheet of the 5 pfennig stamps now current was sold to the public at Leipzig, unperforated.

GRENADA.—A one penny red (De la Rue type) is in use and the one penny orange fiscal has been surcharged POSTAGE and will be used as a postage stamp.

JAPAN.—The color of the 1 and 2 sen has been changed, the former to green and the latter to rose.

LUXEMBURG.—According to *Le Timbre Poste* a new series of telegraph stamps has been issued. They are:

- 5 centimes, grey.
- 25 centimes orange.
- 50 centimes green.
- 1 franc rose,
- 2 francs ultramarine.

MARTINIQUE.—An unstamped postal card has been issued, and is printed in black ink on a pink colored card.

MEXICO.—3 and 5 centavos cards have been is-

sued, as also a new 10 cent envelope with two 5c. red brown stamps in each of the upper corners.

Card: 3c. blue and red.

" 5c. blue, red and green.

Envelope: 10c. red-brown.

NORWAY.—The letters in the phrase "*paar dem side, etc.*," on the 6 ore cards now appear smaller.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—A new postal with INDIA PORTUGUEZA—BILHETE POSTAL with the stamp in the upper right hand corner has been issued. It is printed in blue and its value is $\frac{1}{2}$ tanga.

UNITED STATES.—Under date of March 20, Mr. B. M. Hammond, of San Antonio, writes:

"A short time since, the Wells, Fargo & Co.'s extended their lines to this city, and now have in use the following 'Franked Envelopes,' that I have never seen catalogued, viz.:

1st. 3c. green on white env. of 1874 Plimpton series, with usual black frank, (having for lettering "Paid, Wells, Fargo & Co. over our California and coast routes.")

2d. 6c. red on amber of 1875 (Plimpton) series, large size, with same frank as described.

3d. The 5c. brown on amber "Garfield" envelope, bearing a new frank printed in green, inscribed as follows: "Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, Charges paid, California and Mexican coast, routes, paid 10 cents."

4th. Large size 10c. brown on amber envelope, 1875 series, with new green frank bearing words "Express de Wells, Fargo y Ca. Franco en la Republica Mexicana. paid 20 cents."

A. K. M. writes: "I received last week, on a circular from New Zealand, a stamp, of which I have never seen a description in your paper. In style of design it resembles the 1d. Postage and Inland Revenue of Great Britain. It is worded as follows: "New Zealand Postage and Revenue, one penny. Its color is the same as the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. newspaper stamp of New Zealand. Is it a new stamp? I do not find it mentioned in any catalogue."

On page 74 will be found a description of the above quoted stamp. Ed.

THERE'S MILLIONS IN IT,

The largest requisition for postage stamps ever made in the United States was sent to the department at Washington by Postmaster Pearson on the 2d of this month. The number of stamps called for was 21,220,000, representing a value of \$453,000. The reason of this large application is found in the fact that the Post Office has 'safe' accommodation now for thirty days' supply instead of only fifteen.

BY THE WAY

TONS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—Postmaster Pearson has prepared tables from which it appears that 9 tons of postage stamps, 62 tons of envelopes, 113 tons of postal cards, and 17 tons of newspaper wrappers were sold in the year ending December 31, 1882. The value of the newspaper and periodical stamps sold was \$439,802.88, and total receipts of the office were \$4,228,575.29. The number and value of the different kinds of postage stamps sold were as follows:

1 cent stamps,.....	43,209,648	\$432,096.48
2 cent stamps,.....	30,281,185	605,623.70
3 cent stamps,.....	43,720,162	1,311,604.86
5 cent stamps,.....	3,856,328	192,816.40
6 cent stamps,.....	1,470,901	88,254.06
10 cent stamps,.....	1,508,052	150,805.20
15 cent stamps,.....	354,377	53,156.55
30 cent stamps,.....	157,506	47,251.80
90 cent stamps,.....	13,702	12,331.80
Stamped envelopes,.....	17,322,450	460,533.38
Postal cards, 1 and 2 cts.	35,431,050	355,051.00
Newspaper wrappers....	5,715,150	69,247.18
Total sales, . . .	183,040,511	3,778,772.41

A WANDERING MISSIVE.—Some stories have been related of letters making world-wide perigrinations in search of somebody, but the experiences of a postal waif recently deposited among the treasures of the post-office at Elberfeld, Germany, are exceptionally remarkable. The letter was posted there July 3, 1872, its destination being Nicola-jrewisk, Siberia, where a sailor son of the writer then was. When it arrived, he had left with his ship; so the letter, recrossing Siberia, returned in three years to Elberfeld. The writer, learning that his son was then at Hong Kong, redirected the envelope, and once more, in October, 1876, the letter started on its travels. When it reached China the sailor had left. The wandering missive had followed about from one place to another, always arriving just too late, until it at length found its way back again to the Elberfeld post-office, where it is henceforth to be preserved.

THE AGONY OVER.—A new device for the new five cent nickel piece has been adopted. On the reverse the legend *E Pluribus Unum* has been taken from below the wreath and placed above it, and the word cents is inscribed below the Roman numeral V. The superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia received instructions to commence the coinage of the new piece as soon as practicable.

THE FIRST LINE of post offices were established December 31, 1775, and Dr. Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General.

WE ARE PROMISED by Mr. F. H. Schwartz, publisher, of 1407 North 12th Street, Philadelphia, the first issue of *The Philatelic News* on April 1st, 1883. A very auspicious day we consider, and trust it will have the same success as another sheet we know of issued about the same time one year ago.

MR. GAMBS also promises an addition to philatelic literature, the initial number to appear shortly under the title of *The California Philatelist*." May the best win.

SHOULD THE CHINESE GO.—A Chinese coin 3,000 years old has been found by some gold miners who were digging a claim on the Pacific coast of British Colombia. It is supposed that it was left there by Chinese mariners who were wrecked on the coast at that early day. If the right of discovery contributed a right to live in a country, it is evident that the Chinese should be allowed to stay in America.

WEBSTER DEFINES *stamp collector* as "an officer who receives or collects stamp duties; one who collects postage on other stamps."

Philately: "A collection of postage stamps of various issues."

Philatelist: "One who makes a collection of postage stamps."

Quite a different definition than that given by our correspondent and quoted on our editorial page in our February issue.

THE INCREASE of revenue from postage stamps for 1882 almost equalled the entire receipts of 1851. Of the \$40,000,000 expended in postage stamps, \$25,000,000 were paid for three cent stamps. The last reduction in letter postage was in 1851, when a change from five cent per half ounce to three cents was made without detriment to the service.

THE TWO CENT CHECK STAMP is not required by law to be used after July 1st next. The law provides for the redemption of stamps not used, if they are presented for payment within three years from the time of purchase from the government. Check off another rarity in stamps, ye revenue stamp collectors!

MR. ARTHUR, of Dunfermline, Scotland, has retired from his business in stamps, and owing to scarcity of time to devote to journalism, has turned over the *Philatelist Gazette* to the care and skill of Mr. T. Martin Wears.

MR. M. H. LEWIS, of Derby, Iowa, has sold out his entire stock of philatelic supplies to C. C. Simmons, of Chariton, same state.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

"A child's among you takin' notes,
An' faith, he'll prent them,"

It is rumored here, with more or less certainty, that the postal authorities have reason to fear that a wholesale manufactory of postage stamps and postal orders has lately been going on secretly. Investigations are at present being made into the matter. That the postal orders have been extensively stolen and forged is a matter we have been cognizant of for some time past, but the counterfeiting of the adhesive stamps, although no doubt quite true, needs confirmation. It is quite within the range of your journal, no doubt to interest itself in postal orders, etc., and will interest your readers to learn the immense numbers in circulation. I may remark, in passing, that as they were devised to provide a simpler and cheaper way of remitting money, it was estimated that about two millions would be issued annually, but the scheme met with so favorable a reception that for a like period, double the number is now required. The system has been little over two years in force.

The sham postage stamps is a matter that concerns us more immediately, and, although as yet I have no further tidings on the subject to impart, yet I have to announce a thorough reconstruction of our adhesives, such a reformation as is unparalleled in the annals of the stamps of Great Britain. With the exception of the penny and half-penny, there is no room for improvement in these; all are to be altered, so instead of giving this month, as I expected, the design of the 2s. 6d., I will be enabled to give, besides, the new designs chosen for over a dozen. It will be necessary to lump them into three separate categories; first five of 3d. and under, then those of 4d., up to 1s., and lastly those of 2s. 6d. to £5. As I mentioned, the 1d. remains unaltered, with the profile in an oval, the 1½d. has the Queen's head within a horseshoe, the 2d. head in a circle, the 2½d. in a square, and the 3d. in a hexagon. This class is all to be printed in that shabby light purple indigenuous to the current penny. If anyone is desirous to witness the poverty in hue possessed by this stamp, he should compare it along-side one of the better looking Garfields. The next class consisting of the values 4d. oval, 5d. horseshoe, 6d. circle, 9d. square, and 1s. hexagon, is to be of green color, I announced an entirely new value, 2s. 6d. some time back. This I understand is to be something after the present £1. The £1 was issued on 25th September, 1878, and consists of the diademed profile of the Queen on horizontal lines in an octagon enclosed in ornamental rectangular frame, bearing the angular letters and the

plate numeral. Of the other two high values, the 5s. and 10s. are to retain their present design somewhat modified. The £1 and the £5 are to be borrowed from the telegraph stamps of these values, both of which will apparently now become obsolete. They are of large oblong shape, with the numerals in the upper angles, letters in the lower, and have at present the "shamrock" watermark. All up to 1s. will be of the usual size, though the 2d., 2½d. and 3d., and the corresponding values which do not correspond of 6d. 9d. and 1s. will be oblong-rectangular, instead of upright ones, and all on "crown 1880" paper. It is supposed that the £1 will have three crowns, and the 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and £5 will either be on "large anchor" paper or on a new kind.

The inland revenue stamps in the hands of the stamp distributors have now been called in, and the duties which have hitherto been denoted by these stamps of the values of 2d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., and 2s. 6d., or by a combination of these stamps, are now denoted by the ordinary postage stamps; one or more may be necessary to be used to make up the requisite amount, care being taken, however, in every case to cancel the stamp by writing the name (or initials) and the date across it. Until the 2s. 6d. value is provided, that amount of duty may be denoted, either by the present Inland Revenue stamp at 2s. 6d. or by the necessary number of stamps at lower rates, and, although no more of the superseded Inland Revenues will be supplied to postmasters for sale to the public, yet any such which may already be in the possession of the public, may continue to be used for the payment of Inland Revenue duties, and they may be used also in payment of postage. The 2d. and 3d. have been little known and less used. The last of the 2d. dated, embossed, issued from Somerset House were dated 1880.

There is a marked falling off perceptible in the philatelic press of Great Britain for the present year. The numbers that have been issued can very easily be summed up on the fingers. Alfred Smith & Co.'s *Circular*, the *Stamp Collector's Journal*, and the *Record*, each contribute three numbers to the list, which, with the first number of the *Philatelic Referee* added thereto, embraces all stamp papers published here for 1883; Three monthly magazines, in contrast with treble this number at the same time last year, in contrast with treble this number at present being published in the United States! Granting all manner of indulgence, granting three month's grace, the *Stamp News*, *Philatelic Globe* and *Times*, will figure in the obituary. Giving the *pas* to the latest arrival, the only initial number that has reached us for a considerable time, I will have a word or two with the *Philatelic Referee*. It bears the date of 18th January, notwithstanding the fact that its new issues are "for the past 3 months, September-December." A slight acquaintance with arithmetic will enable the veriest schoolboy to demonstrate how that from September to December is four months; and about as

slight an acquaintance with stamp collecting will enable him also to show how that the new issues extend over a period of five months, viz.: September to January inclusive. The list of new issues is the only article, and under the head of Great Britain, we have the compiler bemoaning the pendency of novelties in the mother country, and in spite of this chronicling, no less than five surcharged adhesives and four new post cards. These latter, by the way, should number seven, but the manner in which he has lumped them together is confusion and worse confounded. The Stamp Collector's Journal, too, of February last, has got so thoroughly muddled in that one dozen lined editorial, yclept "Philately" that for a contradictory, aimless and illogical paragraph, I could safely back it against any other in existence. On referring to the issues of Great Britain, it will be evident that I have outdistanced the editor in the matter of novelties. Although the January number was not to hand until the beginning of the month following, no mention is made therein of the new foreign reply cards issued three weeks previously, while I have the specimens in my possession, an article written on them, despatched off to America, and appearing in the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST before the same occurrence here is noted in this British magazine! And bear in mind this is only one of a series of similar occurrences.

In a communication received from its editor, I learn that the 25th edition of Oppen's Album will soon be out—these editions are required at about the rate of a volume per annum. The first edition, as well as the five succeeding ones, were brought out by a German professor, who, in 1865, finding he had not the leisure to devote to it, disposed of the work to Messrs. Stevens of London, proprietors of *The Family Friend*. As an editor they sought the services of Dr. Gray of the British Museum, who referred them to Dr. Viner, then editing the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*. Ever since that date Dr. Viner's name has been indissolubly associated with Oppen's Album, having already prepared no less than eighteen successive volumes.

I have just received a novelty in the shape of a price-list, which, so far as my experience goes, is unique. The dealer in question has his name figuring conspicuously at the head of his list, but his address is rendered very conspicuous by its absence. Of course, it would not just be politic to advertise this addressless individual here by name, and at the most, it's his matter entirely, yet I cannot withhold exposing him as a warning to youthful dealers, and a fair example of the harum scarum trader.

IMPORTANT ALTERATIONS ON UNITED STATES STAMPS.

The *Tembre-Poste* says that Mr. Tiffany writes, that since the 1st November last, the current stamps of the United States appear to be printed typographically, and differ from the former printing on certain details of design.

ONE CENT.—The ornaments of the frame in the upper corners are white in the old stamps, in the new they are shaded, and the lines of the background are closer.

THREE CENTS.—The differences are easier seen than described. The lines of the ground are less distinct, and the color is green blue.

SIX CENTS.—The ground is shown clearly in all parts of the old stamps, which is not the case in the last edition. There are four vertical lines from the outside up to the extremity of the scroll, before there were five; lower down there are fifteen lines up to the interior projecting frames there are only twelve at present.

TEN CENTS.—The observation as to the impression of the former values holds good in this value. In the old issue there were seven vertical lines to the left, commencing from the outer line of the oval, and finishing with the line of the escutcheon, the number is now reduced to five.

- 1 cent ultramarine.
- 3 cent green blue.
- 6 cent pale pink.
- 10 cent dark brown,

T. M. W.

NEW JERSEY'S STAR ROUTE.

Mr. William Jackson writes to call public attention to the star route mail service in that part of the State of New Jersey in which he lives, Hoboken. He says that a friend of his, in a business way, mailed a postal card to him on the 3d inst., to which a prompt reply was requested. Mr. Jackson adds that the postal card arrived safely at his house on the 9th inst. The post-office where the postal card was mailed was, Mr. Jackson says, just twenty-one yards distant from his house.

STAMP DEALING IN THE "HUB."

In Boston, Otis Gray Randall, a State street broker, reputed to be worth \$1,500,000 or more, was arrested on a warrant charging him with receiving stolen property. It is alleged that he has been in the habit of purchasing from office boys postage stamps which have been stolen from various offices. In one instance, it is claimed that he paid 25 cents for 44 cents worth of two cent stamps. His transactions of this sort are alleged to amount to about \$17. Randall is a notary public and a commissioner of insolvency, and stands high. He gave bail, and his case will come up in the police court shortly.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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No 1.

CHEAPER POSTAGE.

THE LATE CONGRESS passed a law which will be hailed with general satisfaction by the people, namely, the reduction of the rate of postage on letters to two cents. The United States may now be considered as standing at the head of the nations in the matter of cheap postal facilities. We are indebted to Mother England for teaching us the A B C of popular postal transmission; for a score of years her rate has been two cents. But no such costs, difficulties and distances have had to be overcome in carrying the mails in Great Britain as in this country. Her postal routes are short, her total area being only about one hundred and twenty-two thousand square miles, while ours is not far from three and a half millions of square miles.

Many of our important towns are from one to four thousand miles apart by the postal routes, over which we have been carrying letters for three cents. Under the new rates of two cents, the quantity of letters to be carried will doubtless be greatly augmented.

The new two cent rate goes into operation October 1. The post-office authorities are engaged in repairing a new two cent stamp, with which to inaugurate the happy event. During the discussion over the matter of two cent postage in the Senate, January 19th, Mr. Platt made the following remarks:

"The additional charge of one cent on drop letters in cities having free delivery was a real burden which ought to be removed. The frequency of mails ought to be increased. The telegraph was now the rich man's mail, but the people would soon demand that it be brought within the reach of all. It was not easy to understand how the government, which boasted of its progressive spirit, should be content to use the slow railroad and steamboat for the transmission of messages, leaving the telegraphy in the hands of substantially a single corporation. Gentlemen who were disposed to make war upon monopolies ought to turn their attention to this, the greatest in the world in proportion to its capital. Its receipts last year were \$17,000,000; its acknowledged profits \$7,000,000—more than 40 per cent of its receipts; and its real profits, no one knew how much. And its present value were trifling in comparison with those anticipated by its president, who estimated that by 1885 they would amount to \$16,000,000. The transmission of letters and messages was a government function, which ought never have been allowed to go into private hands, and Congress should take steps before the coming storm to pass the telegraph system of the country into the hands of the government."

Now that postage on half-ounce letters is to be reduced for all distances to two cents, the next step for the friends of cheap postage might well be to urge a reduction of the rate on half-ounce city letters to one cent.

This would be simply pursuing its natural end, the new movement namely, that of taking off one cent from the old prices for carrying closed letters. If the government can afford to take a letter from New York across the Rocky Mountains to San Francisco, or down to the Gulf of Mexico at Key West for two cents, it can certainly afford to take it from one street to another in the same city for one cent.

Besides, the post-office revenues largely increased with the introduction of one cent postal cards, and with the delivery of city unsealed circulars at one cent each. There is hardly a doubt that after the new letter rate shall have been thoroughly tested, and its first extra outlay of expenses made up, it will be so vindicated by its results as to show that a further reduction to one cent is practicable.

There is one good thing about this two cent postage. The swarm of spring poets won't be compelled to face the dreadful fact that the stamp on the envelope is worth three times as much as the poem inside. It will only be worth twice as much.

ANOTHER ACCOMMODATION for the public will also soon come into vogue, namely, the issue of postal notes for small sums.

Within a few months—July at the earliest and September at the latest—the American citizen will have the opportunity of trying a new method of transmitting small sums of money through the mails. He may, for instance, ask the local post master for a \$2.50 postal note, and will hand him \$2.53. In return he will receive a slip of paper about the size of a "greenback," at the left of which will be printed three columns of figures, one representing dollars, one dimes, and one cents.

In other columns are years, months and days. The postmaster will punch out from this slip figures representing \$2.50, and the year, month and day on which the note is purchased. The bearer of this note is entitled to receive the sum specified on presenting it, properly endorsed, at the office where it is made payable. The system is not so safe as the postal order or the registered letter, but it is cheaper, and involves a minimum of red tape. No application is necessary as the note is bought as easy as a postage stamp may be slipped into an envelope, and forwarded to its destination without the frequently tedious delay necessitated by waiting for forms to be filled out and numbers to be registered. It will, in short, almost take the place of the lost and lamented fractional currency, which was so convenient when one wished to send fractional parts of a dollar to a correspondent.

A similar system has been in use in Great Britain for two years, and during the second of these years notes to the amount of over ten million dollars were sold at the different offices of the United Kingdom.

An extract from the last annual report of the Postmaster-General in England gives the result of one year's trial of postal orders, which is substantially the same as the proposed notes. No less than \$4,462,920 postal orders, amounting to £2,006,917 were issued. The average time they were in circulation was six days, showing that there was no foundation for the idea that they would be used as currency.

That our readers may understand the nature of it, we append the full text of the section authorizing the issue:

"That for the transmission of small sums, under \$5, through the mails the postmaster-general may authorize postmasters at money-order offices to issue money-orders without corresponding advices on an engraved form to be prescribed and furnished by him, and a money order issued on such new form shall be designated and known as a "postal note," and a fee of three cents shall be charged for the issue thereof. Every postmaster who shall issue a postal note under the authority of the postmaster-general shall make the same payable to bearer when duly accepted at any money-order office which the remitter thereof may select, and a postal note shall in like manner be payable to bearer at the office of issue; and after a postal note has been paid, to whomsoever it has been paid, the United States shall not be liable for any further claim for the amount thereof, but a postal note shall become invalid and not payable upon the expiration of three calendar months from the last day of the month during which the same was issued, and the holder, to obtain the amount of an invalid post note, must forward to the superintendent of the money-order system at Washington, D. C., together with an application in such manner and form as the postmaster-general may prescribe, for a duplicate thereof payable to such holder, and an additional fee of three cents shall be charged and exacted for the issue of the duplicate."

The post-office authorities are making preparations as rapidly as possible for the issue of the note. It is to be engraved with great care, the work upon it to be equal to that on the national bank notes, in order to protect the holder.

It is likely to fill a want long felt. It will have the advantage of cheapness, costing only three cents above the amount of the draft, and of simplicity, being substantially only a check or draft drawn by the postmaster at one station upon the postmaster at another. Above all, little time or trouble will be required for procuring the draft or getting it cashed; and in this city, where, at a busy time of the day, an hour may be wasted in sending a money order or having one paid, this will be a welcome reform.

The postal note will not do away with the money order system, which has been somewhat modified and cheapened, and which will no doubt be as largely used as ever in the transmission of larger sums.

Money orders will be issued for sums not to exceed \$100 in amount at the following scale of charges: For orders not exceeding \$10, 8 cents; for orders exceeding \$10 and not exceeding \$15, 10 cents; for orders exceeding \$15 and not exceeding \$30, 15 cents; exceeding \$30 and not exceeding \$40, 20 cents; exceeding \$40 and not exceeding \$50, 25 cents; exceeding \$50 and not exceeding \$60, 30 cents; exceeding \$60 and not exceeding \$70, 35 cents; exceeding \$70 and not exceeding \$80, 40 cents; exceeding \$80 and not exceeding \$100, 45 cents.

PECULIAR MAIL MATTER.

The United States government has vainly endeavored for years to educate the people up to a proper knowledge of what should not be sent through the mails.

It seems to be impossible to fix permanently in the minds of certain American citizens that nitro-glycerine packages make great confusion when they are stamped, and glassware cannot be kept in shape. Papier-mache clocks, when sent by mail, lose their face value, and horse-collars, mill stones and bath-tubs put the department to a great deal of trouble. There is absolutely nothing that an American will not send by mail if you take your eye off him. Every year the authorities call attention to the fact that hewn lumber, fire-proof safes and patent coffins are inadmissible. Every single year poodles, pet snakes and terrapin get loose in the mail bags, and every year there is a strong suspicion that many New Yorkers, about the 1st of May, are trying to move all their household effects through the Post-office.

MAKING READY FOR A BLIZZARD.

The Governor of Montana sent the following dispatch recently to the Post-office department: "The vigilants at Green Horn, Montana, have removed the Democratic Postmaster by hanging. The government fuel must be scarce, as he was caught barn-burning. The office is now vacant. The sureties have been notified to take charge of the office."

THE WEDGE ENTERED.

The American Postal Telegraph Company was incorporated at Albany on March 28th, for the purpose of buying, constructing, owning, using and maintaining a line or lines of electric telegraph throughout the counties, towns, villages and cities in the State of New York. Capital, \$5,000,000

MONEY HUNTING.

A series of papers, personal and practical, upon the method of finding and recognizing Ancient Coins.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

(Oriental Traveler and Author of various Numismatic works such as "The Coins of the 11 Caesars," etc.)

The first piece of money I ever looked for was a four pence half-penny that I had lost. Sent for a loaf of bread to the bakery, and stopping to play marbles on the road, the little Castilian piece, worn smooth by the millions of fingers that had handled it, dropped out of my waistcoat pocket, and when I got to the bakers, I had no money. The baker, spite of my tears and protestations, scorned to accept my story, or furnish the nutriment. He called me a liar, and ordered me out of the shop. Weeping I departed, and then began a search for money, a veritable bit of "Money Hunting" that has had no parallel in all my subsequent life. There is no specimen of coinage extant that I can ever desiderate as I did that 16th of a dollar. Poor little fellow, I was only six years old, and I knew that unless that bread was provided, I should not only be sent to bed supperless, but with my broadest part excoriated by the whacks to which it was often subjected but never hardened. I remember that I prayed the All-hearing to give me *that day* my bread.

I began just such a hunt as 44 years afterwards I took through the ancient Phœnician city of Gebal on the Mediterranean coast. At every spot in the road where the piece must have been lost, I examined breathlessly each inch of ground, turned over every chip and pebble, walked on all fours, wept and prayed. The sun was going down, it was rapidly getting darker. What would become of me? At last, just as I was at the end of my hunt, about to quit in sheer despair, hesitating whether I would throw myself into the river or run away and never come back, my patience was rewarded; my prayer was heard; who can doubt it? My eye caught the smooth little disc, and with a scream of delight I picked it up. "Poor little fellow, he has fainted." Such was the remark I heard [from the doctor's wife, who passing by in her husband's chaise, had seen me lying senseless and raised me up. The doctor's hartshorn soon relieved me, and I ran for my bread, ran all the way back, and laid it on the supper table at the very last moment of grace. Such, I say, was my first experience in MONEY HUNTING, and the same quick eye and determined and persevering spirit have followed me for twenty years, and made me the Numismatist that I am.

Money hunting demands three qualities in the money hunter. *First.*—He must know what he is looking for. It would make an ant-eater smile to watch some people buying coins in a coin mart. As they don't know what they want, they are sure not to get it. *Second.*—He must know what the

market value is of the objects he does want. Failing in this, he can never know whether he is paying too dear for the whistle or getting bargains *Third.*—He must have the patience and perseverance of Job himself, who might, so far as the record goes, have been a first-class numismatist.

And I might have added two or more qualifications for a good money hunter, viz.: time to spare and money to spend.

But every person in the land has some time, some means to devote to a work which, if properly pursued, and made subordinate to the necessary vocation a person follows, is delightful as a recreation, and instructive as a branch of historical research. I have quite a number of patrons who began with me ten or twelve years ago, began on a small and economical scale, and whose collections of numismatic objects are already respectable, in point of number and value. I append the history of one only of these parties:

He bought a dollar's worth of Roman specimens of me in the winter of 1868-9. This embraced one or two legible coins, and a handful of others worn and corroded, and almost worthless, which, like the sight of a scallawag, ragged, whiskey-soaked and loathsome, still shows what once there was. He cleaned up his poor purchase with infinite pains and plenty of ammonia water. To read them aright, he brightened up his history, found that his Constantine coin had a Christians cross on it, which his Gordianus had not; found many other things that set him to thinking, and soon, by the practice of strict economy, he was able to invest five dollars at a time. Now five dollars at a time will buy something in numismatics, and by 1875 he had a coin cabinet rich with treasures. He had started out with an object, viz.: to get a full set of Roman Emperors, and month by month he filled gap after gap in the series, an Otho (silver) a Nerva, a Julius Caesar with portrait, etc., etc. In 1880 his series contained more than two hundred objects, and he had learned more history through his numismatic specimens, more of Roman mythology, more of warlike events, of victories and defeats, of all that makes the annals of a nation, than goes to the formation of the ordinary collegiate professor.

The reader will perhaps enjoy with me some reminiscences of my own experience in money hunting in Oriental lands. They embrace many years of patient research and in many places. I have for half a day together, patiently followed the *jellah*, as he plodded behind his little plow, giving me the opportunity to inspect the newly-stirred soil. What a variety of objects I have picked up, and the most of them worthless. A copper piece with nothing visible on it but the big M, showing it was a Byzantine, the M standing for Mounia, or the quantity 80, and the specimen not older than the 5th century. Next comes a shell of the Ammonite family. Then the metal stud of a horse's bridle, the remnant possibly of some gal.

lant steed that fell here in deadly strife. Next a copper piece of Alexander Severus (A. D. 220) in fair condition. Next another Byzantine, a trifle older than the last. Then a Greek Imperial in copper, upon whose front I recognize the well-known lineaments of Protus (A. D. 268). Next a Cufic piece (A. D. 700) whose curious forms of Arabic letters would puzzle anybody but an antiquary. Then perhaps the same series over again—and out of the gleanings of half a day's walk, enough to fill a pint cup, and not half a dozen coins sufficiently legible to enter a respectable cabinet.

Considering what difficulty we have had the past year in the United States in getting off our perforated, mutilated and smooth-worn coins, it is plain to see from the tens of thousands of Roman specimens that I have examined, that but few of them would have been current had such rigid rules been in use in the olden times as now. Not one in twenty of them is of standard weight. If of gold or silver, the edges have been filed, or the coin has passed through some process of sweating or abrasion, or there is a hole in it, or in some way it is deficient. If of copper, which was the people's money in all ages, it has been used in traffic until first the prominent letters and lineaments disappear, then the deeper impression, and finally every trace of stampage is gone, and the coin is a mere planchet, only fit for a re-strike.

This seems to be a peculiarity of copper money in the East at the present day, that it is worn smooth and frequently past all recognition. The result is, that if you attempt to pass off much of it, say to the amount of a dozen pieces at a time, the tradesman pulls out his scales on you, and weighing the pieces, shows you their deficiency and heavily discounts them before your eyes. Yet, strange to say, should you be taking the same coins from the same man, he gives them to you by tale, not by weight.

Some of my pleasantest memories of coin hunting in the Orient are connected with Gebal, already mentioned. To understand how so much metallic currency turns up in the old world, we have but to consider that, in the times which numismatic history treats of, the only currency was metallic, gold and silver to a moderate extent, but copper to the extent probably of nine-tenths the popular traffic. This demanded an enormous supply of that circulating medium. Even in the daily purchases of the poorer classes, the number of pieces necessary to a city of ten thousand people was very great, as a moment's reflection will show. But when an army passed through, when a caravan stopped to trade, when a coasting fleet called in port to buy and sell, when the annual crops of corn, wine, oil, wool, etc., came into market, many tons of this money were demanded for the necessary exchanges of products. Now such a city as Gebal, in its days of prosperity, had a population of at least fifty thousand souls. It

was at or near the celebrated shrine of Adonis, visited for centuries by hundreds of thousands of worshippers every year. It always stood in the world's highway of armies and caravans passing up or down the Mediterranean coast, there was no other possible road but by Gebal. Consider then the quantity of popular coinage in use there.

Again, it was always the custom of those times to make mother earth the bank for security of valuables. The existence of safety vaults, such as we see now in every city, is the product of long years of peace and public security; there never was such an institution in Roman times; the nearest to it was the asylums of famous temples, as Ephesus, etc. But the oldest, finest, most convenient vault was that which the banker excavated under his own eye in the earth, and whose secret he entrusted only to his confidants, as the banker of the present day entrusts the combination of his complicated vault locks only to his confidants.

Again the city of Gebal, once densely populated and built up with stately edifices, residences of merchant-princes, the Rothschild's of the period, has been over and over destroyed, burnt by enemies, burnt by accident, overthrown by earthquakes, until the foundations of not less than ten cities lie superimposed, one upon the other, and the present Gebal, a small, contemptible hamlet of scarcely 500 souls, is built upon the top of them all. Viewing this fact in its true light, cannot the reader understand that there must be untold numbers of the cheaper coinage of ancient times lying within those ten strata of foundations? When the Turks a few years since burnt more than two hundred villages in Moldavia, Roumania and other provinces, it was calculated that more than five tons of copper money was buried amidst the ashes and cinders. When the city of Antioch, once the second city of the world for population, luxury, wealth and extent of coinage, was utterly overthrown by a series of earthquakes, it was estimated that a thousand tons of money specimens were submerged, much of it to an unattainable depth, more of it so superficially, that from age to age the natives have picked it out, used the gold and silver, sold the finer specimens of copper to collectors, and cast the rest into the earth as only fit "to be trodden under the foot of man."

Now the reader must be no longer surprised that I found in every fresh plowed furrow, on every water-washed hillside, in every part of ancient cities where the laborer's spade was excavating for foundations or for planting trees, I found specimens of ancient coins. At Gebal, especially, once so populous and rich, the amount of those antiquities lying in the earth is immense. In the single hour that I walked up a ravine north of the village, I gathered a handful, some of them in good condition, of good size and rare classes. In future papers I will extend this line of experience and describe specimens found.

THE GREAT SEAL.

X. Y. Z.

[For *Empire City Philatelist*.]

On the 20th day of June, 1882, occurred the Centennial anniversary of the adoption of the Great Seal of our country, and up to that date but one-half, the obverse, was ever cut. Indeed, I doubt if but few collectors or even citizens were aware of the adoption of a reverse to our Great Seal.

It is somewhat surprising that the reverse has never been officially used either by the State or Treasury departments.

Relative to this seal, and after the description of its obverse, now in use, the report of the committee of Congress adopted June 20, 1782, goes on to say for the reverse of the seal:

"A pyramid unfinished, in the zenith an eye in a triangle surrounded with a glory proper. Over the eye these words, 'Annuit Cœptis' (He has prospered our undertakings); on the base of the pyramid the numerical letters MDCCLXXVI., and underneath the following motto, 'Novus ordo syclorum' (a mighty order of ages is born anew.)"

Aside from its marked symbolic import to the patriotic student of our country's history, this hitherto uncut reverse has peculiar demands of its own upon our attention. Originated and adopted by men, as it was, who lived only upon the threshold of a country whose future is mysteriously boundless, but who nevertheless, fully appreciated all its possibilities. It seems that they designedly collected upon this reverse face of the Great Seal the most potent symbols of antiquity.

The all-seeing Eye is one of the oldest hieroglyphics of the Deity. The triangle also is a cabalistic symbol of the most remote antiquity and is found particularly among the remains of the original peoples, about the earliest home of the human race. The pyramid is the mystery of all ages. It still holds its place as the greatest of the world's wonders, a place to which, in the light of modern studies and discoveries in Egypt, it is becoming even more exalted.

The descent of the mystic Eye and triangle in the form of a capstone to this mysterious monument of all times and nations, is to us as a people most pregnant with significance. The motto, "Novus ordo seclorum," is a quotation from the 4th Eclogue, and was borrowed in turn by Virgil from the mystic Sibylline words; the entire quotation is as follows: "The last age of Cumean song now comes, 'Novus ordo seclorum' (altered from 'Magnus seclorum ordo'), a mighty order of ages is born anew."

Truly, indeed, what nation of the earth has such a seal? The entire design of this reverse to the seal is most unique, and is throughout a most masterly harmony of all that is potent in symbolism.

In April, 1882, Secretary Folger instructed the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia to strike a medal commemoration of the Anniversary, being with the reverse and obverse of the Great Seal.

On Tuesday, June 20, 1882, the medals were ready for delivery at the Philadelphia Mint, having been struck in bronze, showing on the obverse an eagle with expanded wings, with a shield covering the breast. In the right talon is grasped an olive branch and in the left a bundle of thirteen arrows. In the beak is a scroll bearing the national motto, "E Pluribus Unum." Above and back of the eagle's head thirteen stars are seen merging from a cloud, and beyond the cloud at glory spread around. On the reverse, thus recognized for the first time in our national history, is an uncompleted pyramid of thirteen solid blocks, above it the all-seeing Eye surrounded by a triangle and a glory. On the base of the pyramid is the date, in Roman capitals, of Independence, 1776, and beneath it the words, "Novus Ordo Seclorum." On the right and left of the pyramid in the field of the medal are the commemorative dates "1782—1882." At the top of the reverse is the motto, "Annuit Cœptis."

[Copies of this medal may be procured at the Philadelphia Mint, post free, at \$1.65.]

THE HALF SHEKEL.

The half shekel is the oldest tax known in Israel. When the holy tabernacle in the desert was finished and nothing more was wanting but the sockets on which the sanctuary was to stand, and the hooks which were to hold the pillars, then the prophet was commanded to take the sum of the children of Israel, and every man of twenty years and over had to give the tribute unto the Lord the rich were not allowed to give more and the poor were not allowed to give less than the half of a shekel, thus 603,550 half shekels were collected, and from this amount the sockets for the sanctuary and the hooks for the pillars were made. The sanctuary did not stand in need of his contribution, for at the first call of the prophet the means to erect the holy dwelling came in so abundantly that there was "enough and too much." It is therefore evident that the levying of the half shekel was more intended for future lessons than for the then present want. It is to show that every one is in duty bound to uphold the sanctuary of the Lord—at the same time it conveys the truth that rich and poor are equal in the eye of their Maker. The one serves him by using properly the riches with which God's mercy has blessed him. The other serves him not less by bearing with dignity and honesty the poverty which an Allwise Providence has found good to lay upon him. The half shekel is furthermore an emblem of the insufficiency of the individual, it is the strong appeal for union and association.

DRUMMING THEM UP.

For some weeks past Chief Drummond and his officers of the Secret Service Bureau of the Treasury Department have had under surveillance several persons suspected of being engaged in the manufacture and circulation of counterfeit nickels and fifty-cent pieces. They finally traced them to the furnished room house No. 152 Bleecker street. One afternoon recently a secret service officer with Detectives Crowley and McClosky, of the Fifteenth Precinct, gave several raps on the door of the apartment mentioned, when it was on the instant opened by a tall man in his shirt sleeves, who, seeing three strangers, attempted to close the door, but was prevented from doing so. Special Agent Drummond, at a given signal, came up stairs, and told the man he understood he was engaged in crooked work. The man, whose fingers were soiled with some polishing material, put something in his pocket which he had in one hand. The officers then searched the apartment and found in bureau drawers and closets upward of \$100 in finished counterfeit five-cent pieces, done up in dollar packages, about \$19 in bogus half dollars, five sets of moulds, a quantity of base metal, crucibles and other paraphernalia of a counterfeiter. The man found in the room gave his name as James H. Baldwin, said he came from Brandon, Vt., and had been led into the business by a man named Gill, whom he expected to come in every moment.

Closing and locking the door, the officers patiently awaited inside the room until 8:30 o'clock in the evening, when two smart raps and a scratch were heard on the door. As it was cautiously opened Gill stepped quickly inside and was seized by the detectives. Mr. Drummond and his aid seized all the bogus material and tools in the room, while the prisoners were locked up for the night in the Mercer street police station. They were arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Shields, and, in default of \$2,000 bail, each was committed to Ludlow street jail for examination.

On the person of Baldwin were found twenty-four counterfeit nickels and a heavily loaded revolver. Gill is known to have been engaged in this nefarious business for nearly thirty years. He has served a term for passing counterfeit money in the Kings County Penitentiary, and a four years term in the State prison at Trenton, N. J., for a like offense. The counterfeit nickels found on the premises are well made, and calculated to deceive shopkeepers.

HAWAIIAN SMALL CHANGE.

The Treasury Department at Washington has considered favorably the application by the Hawaiian Government for the coinage of its silver money at the United States mints.

THE FEUARDENT-CESNOLA LIBEL SUIT.

The suit for libel brought by Mr. Gaston Feuardent against General di Cesnola, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is expected to come up for hearing in the United States District Court in a short time. The plaintiff claims \$25,000 damages. The evidence collected by the Commissioners sent out to Berlin and London, on behalf of the plaintiff, is expected to arrive by the next steamer. It includes important testimony given by the officials in the Berlin and British museums, London, regarding the authenticity of certain articles in the so-called Cyprus collections. Twenty professional witnesses will be called by the plaintiff, as also a large number by the defence. It is understood that an important witness is now on his way from California who will testify concerning General Cesnola's antecedents. Altogether, the trial will become a *cause celebre*. It was commenced in 1881, and has already cost the plaintiff not much under \$17,000.

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The New York Numismatical Society held its quarter-centennial meeting at the University on March 21st. The society has about 100 resident members, and its collections of coins and books are exceeding valuable. Mr. Sullivan read a paper in which he urged the members of the society to devote themselves to practical work in numismatics and archaeology. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the society should provide a medal of its own for the coming centennial celebration of the evacuation of this city by the English troops.

Among the recent donations to the society were a medal commemorating the battle of Leipsic in 1631, and some coins of the time of Washington's administration.

Commander Gorringer sent for inspection some ancient coins and a specimen of Greek statuary. All the officers of the last year were re-elected. There were two or three papers submitted, but for want of time they were not read.

LIGHT GOLD COIN.

At a meeting of the British Institute of Bankers, a paper on light gold coin was read by Mr. R. H. Inglis Palgrave. Recent inquiries into the condition of the gold coinage of Great Britain showed that about eighteen year's wear would render a sovereign illegally light, and that 55 per cent. of the gold coins now circulating were below the legal currency. The amount of English gold coin in circulation Mr. Palgrave estimated at about £100,000,000, the estimated cost of recoinage which would be £786,000. Withdrawal of light coin must, he argued, proceed side by side with the issue of the full-weight coin, and the cost must necessarily fall either on the government or on the last holder of the coin. If the charge were to fall upon the last holder, injustice would be done, because the circulation of light gold was unequally divided over the whole of the country; and Mr. Palgrave considered that the most desirable method of withdrawing the light coin would be by the government, acting through the Bank of England, exchanging light coins for new ones of full weight under certain conditions, including an allowance for maximum wear on each parcel which would increase according to the age of the coin. A short discussion followed, in which the balance of opinion coincided with the views expressed in the paper.

ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS.

A SERIES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY.

BY THE REV. ROBERT WALSH, LL.D.

The study of Coins and Medals is recommended to our attention by many interesting circumstances—as displaying the most unerring and best preserved monuments of ancient art; as conveying to us the dress of the times to which they belong; as bringing us acquainted with the features and character of the persons they represent, and above all, as illustrating the events which occurred at the period of their impression, and so becoming the standards of history, and the testimony of its truth or falsehood. But while great pains have been taken to illustrate by their means the historical facts of Pagan Greece and Rome; there is no one, I believe, who has thought it worth his while to make them subservient to the more interesting details of the spread and progress of Christianity among mankind; as if that circumstance had so deteriorated the arts, that no Coin or Medal which contained any allusion to it was worthy of the slightest notice of the Medallist.* This affected contempt has enabled me to make a larger collection in the East than I could hope to obtain had I more competitors, and from this collection I shall select a few which may afford a brief illustration of some historical facts in the early ages of Christianity.

The Coins alluded to are of different metals—gold, silver and bronze—and of different dimensions. The fac-similes, however, are represented all of the same size, for the sake of uniformity, and the metal is not mentioned, as the Essay merely adverts to the impression.

In speaking of Coins, the *obverse* means the principal face, on which is generally placed the head of the monarch; the *reverse*, the opposite side, on which is generally some device. The whole surface is called the *field*; letters on the field are called the *inscription*; letters round the edge, the *legend*. The part divided by a line at the bottom is called the *exergue*: † letters in the exergue generally imply the place where the coin was stamped; if several letters form a single character, it is called a *monogram*: these two latter are very obscure and imperfectly known. Mediobarbus and others give them an interpretation very complex; I have rather adopted the conjectures

which are more obvious and simple.

The first I shall mention, as probably the earliest in point of time, is of Hebrew origin. In the year 1812, a peasant in the County of Cork, in Ireland, was digging potatoes, accompanied by his daughter, who picked them up as they were thrown above the ground. Among them she found, encrusted with clay, what she thought to be a large button, and handing it to her father, he rubbed the edge on the sleeve of his coat, and in a short time it became bright, like gold. He now imagined he had gained a prize, and proceeded with it to his landlord, Mr. Corlett, a gentleman of Cork, of the Society of Friends. He further cleaned it, and found it to be an antique medal of singular structure and device. On one side was the head of our Saviour, and on the other a Hebrew inscription; both, however, considerably injured by time. As the place where the potatoes were planted had been the site of a very ancient monastery, coeval with the first introduction of Christianity into Ireland, but of which even the ruins had long since disappeared, it was imagined, with every probability, that this medal had been brought into Ireland by some of the religious community at a very early period, and as such, was an object of great interest. Fac-similes, therefore, were taken from it, and sent about, and in a short time it excited in no slight degree the attention of the learned, and various conjectures were made as to its age and origin. About this time a medal of a similar kind came into my possession, obtained from a Polish Jew at Rostock in Germany; and on comparing it with that found in Ireland, it appeared to be an exact counterpart, and struck from the same die. As it had not suffered the same injuries from attrition and erosion, it was in a highly perfect state of preservation, and the letters, which were much injured in the former, and caused some obscurity in the inscription, were in this sharp and distinct as when they were struck. But the bust of Christ was singularly beautiful: it had a pensive sublimity in its air and character that exactly accorded with our ideas of its great prototype, as if he had sat for the picture; and the execution denoted it to have been the production of an era when the arts were in the highest vigor. It would appear by the testimony of different writers, that it was first mentioned by *Thesrus Ambrosius*, ‡ and after him had been a subject of enquiry by the learned in Europe for more than two centuries; it made its first appearance

* Pinkerton is particularly testy on this subject. Coins of the Byzantine emperors he calls "utterly barbarous," and says "that the admission of a coin of that barbarous nation, the Jews, is justly esteemed a disgrace to a cabinet." The only work on coins published in England before his Essay, was an ingenious little treatise by the Rev. Dr. Jennings; he unluckily noticed some Jewish and Christian coins, and Pinkerton says he would "pass him over in silent contempt, as he is taken up with Jewish shekels and divinity, as in duty bound to pray!"—Pinkerton on Medals, vol. i. p. xiii.

† Out of the work.

‡ The work of *Thesrus Ambrosius* is of great rarity and antiquity; a copy of it was just before discovered in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. Many writers still earlier who have described this coin may yet be found. Those who have subsequently noticed it are—Waserus, Alstedius, Hottingerus, Wagenseil, Leusden, Surenhusius, Rowland and others. After such testimony, who can assent to the gratuitous assumption of Jobert, "quoique elle eut pu être faite par quelque Juif converti au christianisme, est cependant une de ces médailles dont les curieux ne doivent faire aucun état!"—Job. I. 305.

in Rome under Julius II. when the Venus de Medici and other long-lost productions of ancient art were again brought to light; that inferior copies of it were multiplied, with slight variations, but that the original was not a coin, but a tessera, or amulet, struck by the first Jewish converts to Christianity, and worn by them as a pious memorial of their Master; * and finally, that the date was indicated by the Hebrew letter Aleph on the obverse, which then, as well as now, represented the numeral I, and indicated that it was struck in the first year after the resurrection. †

In the annexed medal the obverse represents the head of our Saviour as described in the letter said to be sent by Lentulus to Tiberius, his hair divided after the manner of the Nazarenes, plain to his ears, and waving on his shoulders; his beard thick, not long, but forked, the face beautiful, and the bust fine; over the whole the tunic falls in graceful folds. On the obverse is the Hebrew letter aleph, representing the numeral I., and supposed to stand for the date. On the reverse is this inscription on the field in Hebrew:

משיח טלך נא נשלוט
ואך טארם צישי די

"The Messiah has reigned—he came in peace, and being made the light of man, he lives."



As Christianity expanded itself through the world, its professors began to suffer those persecutions which had been predicted by its Divine Author. The first commenced under Nero, and was renewed with various degrees of severity till the reign of Diocletian, when an effort was made to extirpate the religion of Christ, so extensive and persevering, that nothing less than a divine interposition seemed to have preserved it from total extinction. Diocletian was born in Dalmatia, in the year of Christ 245, and on the death of Numerianus, was saluted Emperor by the army at Chalcedon, near Constantinople, in 284. He was himself a man of mild, philosophic character, but was instigated by his colleague in the Empire,

Galerius Maximianus. This atrocious man was born in Dacia; his father was unknown, but he himself gave out that his mother conceived on the banks of the Danube, by Mars, in the shape of a serpent. Among other observances by which the Christians were now distinguished, was their abstaining from meats offered to idols. This so offended the mother of Galerius, that she made it a pretext for urging her son to persecute them, who was himself greatly inclined to it; and after much entreaty he obtained, in the year 302, from Diocletian, those dreadful edicts which have justly stigmatized the character of that Emperor. Armed with this authority, the Christians who were at this time spread over all the provinces of the vast Roman Empire, were everywhere pursued; and I have visited in the Gulf of Nicodemia and other remoter places in the East, caverns in the sides of nearly inaccessible mountains, where they endeavored to find refuge and concealment during this dismal period. Many of the saints and martyrs recognized by the Greek church perished on this occasion, and they still show in the church of St. Euphemia at Chalcedon, the implements of torture by which she and numbers of her friends were put to death. In this way historians assert that in one province alone 150,000 Christians perished by various kinds of cruel deaths, ‡ and so complete was supposed to be the extirpation of the sect that coins were struck and the following inscriptions were set up, recording the fact that the Christian superstition was now utterly exterminated and the worship of the gods restored by Diocletian, who assumed the name of Jupiter; and Maximian, who took that of Hercules:

DIOCLETIANVS IOVIVS ET
MAXIMIAN : HERCVLVS
CES : AVG :
AMPLIFICATO PER ORIENTEM ET OCCIDENTEM
IMP : ROM :
ET
NOM : CHRISTIANORVM
DELETO QVI
REMP : EVER
TEBANT

DIOCLETTIAN : CES :
AVG : GALERIO IN ORI
ENTE SVPER
TITIONE CHRIST :
VBIQVE DELETA ET CVL
TV DEOR : PROPAGATO

"Diocletian Jove and Maximian Hercules, August Cæsars, having increased the Roman Empire in the east and west, and extirpated the Christians who were overturning the Republic.

"To Diocletian Cæsar and Augustus Galerius in the east, having everywhere extirpated the Christian superstition and restored the worship of the Gods." §

* Elius Lampridius relates that Alexander Severus kept the representation of Christ with that of Apollonius, Abraham, Orpheus, and others, on which he makes the following remark: At vero Paganos imaginem Christi aliquando conservasse, discipulos neglexisse, horret animus omnino cogitare multo minus credere. "The mind shudders to think, much less to believe, that Pagans should preserve a representation of Christ, and his disciples neglect it."—See Num. Ær. Vet. Christ.

† Many learned modern Jews, to whom I have showed the medal, concurred in this conjecture. Years, on coins of that era, are frequently expressed by Greek and Roman letters, representing numerals; the regular dates on Christian coins were not introduced for several centuries after. On this subject, however, I must agree with the Commentator of Jobert. "que la vraie solution de ces Enigmes Numismatiques n'est pas encore trouvee."—Job. ii. 297.

‡ Gibbon calculates that 2,000 persons only were put to death in 10 years, though Eusebius, who lived at the time, affirms that from 10 to 100 a day were executed in the province of Thebais alone.—Euseb. Es. Hist. l. 8. c. iv.

§ These inscriptions were found on beautiful columns at Clunia, in Hispania Tarraconensis. They are preserved in Gruterus, p. cclxxx. n. 3, 4. It is remarkable that Gibbon, who quotes Gruterus for other inscriptions, takes no notice of these.

AUCTION SALES.

As announced on page 128, Vol. 1, No. 12, this paper, Chapman Bros. offered a number of rare coins at auction, on the appointed date. The sale was a success in every way, which no doubt was due to the variety and rarity of the pieces offered, as also the energy displayed by those having the management of same. The highest price paid was for a set of "Season" medals. There were six in all, every one a splendid, sharp proof, and of very fine workmanship. These pieces are exceedingly rare. At the McCoy sale in 1864, a set sold for \$900, and in 1865 another set sold for \$100 less and in the sale we are recording, a set which had been purchased in 1882 for \$153, was sold for \$305. The next highest price was paid for a 1796 half cent. It was of a good color, smooth surface and had a strong bold impression, and in every way "a splendid specimen of this, the rarest of the United States copper coinage." Sold for \$126. Lot 93 was the next highest, and was a 1794 dollar. "Head bold and the face fine. The LIBERTY date and stars strongly struck." A fine one for this date. Sold for \$110. A "necessity piece of James II sold for \$2.30. An Isle of Man Douglas half-penny sold for \$3.75. The following Massachusetts pieces sold for the prices annexed. Pine tree shilling, \$9.52. Another, not so fine, \$4.75. Pine-Tree three pence \$2.75, and an Oak Tree two pence. \$2.75. A "French-American" piece sold for \$34. A 1722 Rosa Americana sold for \$18. A "Vermontensium" piece of Vermont was knocked down at \$9. There were other lots we would like to record, but from want of space are unable to do so. The amount realized by the sale was \$2,279.44.

Mess. S. H. & H. Chapman hold an auction sale at the offices of Mess. Bangs & Co., 741 Broadway, this city, on May 1st, of a collection comprising 703 lots, consisting of foreign coins and medals, in gold, silver and copper, the property of Mr. A. Galpin, of Appleton, Wis. Included in this sale is a small collection of A. P. Sheldon, of N.Y., consisting of foreign copper coins. Lots 521 to 524 consist of American medals, which, along with lot 437, a pattern piece of the 1792 cent, only two others being in existence, one of which sold for \$300, should be sufficient in themselves to sustain, in a great degree—without the aid of the many other rarities scattered through the catalogue which, by the way, is a model one—interest in this May-day sale.

Mr. Geo. W. Cogan offered for sale April 12-13, at Mess. Bangs & Co.'s salesroom, 1059 lots of gold, silver and copper coins and medals, both Foreign and American, the property of the late J. W. Aulick, Esq., Washington, D. C. Judging from the contents of his catalogue, there were many lots, which should have brought good prices keen bidding and any amount of dickering.

H. P. Newlin's collection of United States dimes and half dimes, and other fine coins were sold on April 10th.

Mess. S. H. & H. Chapman, of Philadelphia have recently issued a new medal of George Washington, executed by the late Charles C. Wright, of New York.

Obverse. Bare bust to left; GEORGE WASHINGTON The face is looking forward and upward with a stern and determined expression. *Reverse.* An endless chain of thirteen links, each enclosing the initial of a State; surrounding SI QUÆRIS MONUMENTUM CIRCUMSPICE (If you seek (his) monument look around) in a glory of rays. Of very fine execution, and considered one of Wright's best works. Size 40.

This medal has never before been published, though Mr. Wright died in 1854. Of the obverse ten impressions were made with two other reverses. It is represented on plate VIII, No. 1315, of the above gentlemen's catalogue of the Bushnell collection.

The silver cabinet of Charles P. Britton, of New York, was sold recently by Bangs & Co. and remarkable prices were realized. The bidding was very lively, an amusing feature being the presence of three little boys in knickerbockers, who occasionally contested a coin sharply with the more experienced collectors. The highest price was \$225, for a "quarter" of 1804. Another of 1827 brought \$200. A dollar of 1794 was sold for \$160, a "commercial dollar" of 1872, \$115; a dollar of 1839 \$88; one of 1836, \$78; another of the same date, \$71, and one of 1838, \$70. The highest price paid for a half dollar was \$59, but a number of others brought over \$30 each. A half dime of 1802 brought \$115, and one of 1794 \$37. The proceeds of the whole sale, 473 lots, were \$3,500.

The sale on April 16, by Scott & Co., of a collection of postage and revenue stamps, drew a fairly large assemblage to the auction rooms of George Leavitt & Co. Mr. Sterling, who was the principal purchaser, gave \$24 for a four-cent proprietary medicine stamp. He also bought a \$2.00 blue, red and black United States revenue stamps, said to be very rare, for \$19.50, a \$25 unused United States revenue stamp for \$2.50, a one cent liver pill stamp for \$10.50, and a six cent medicine stamp for \$4.50.

A large collection of books possessing peculiar interest both to the student of American history and to the collector of rare Americana, was sold at auction by Messrs. Bangs & Co. on March 28. It was the library of the late Charles I. Bushnell, the author of "Crumbs for Antiquarians," and of other works and essays bearing on special points of American history. It is especially complete for the time of the Revolution, of the French and Indian wars, and of the war of 1812. Mr. Bushnell's engravings and autographs were sold with his books.



* T H E *

Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 2.

New York, May, 1883.

No. 2

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

A Series of Continued Articles treating of the Geography, History, and People of the Different Countries, and of the Postage Stamps Issued by them.

By A. M. C.

XI—ECUADOR.

As most of the countries of South America are of Spanish origin, it is hardly necessary to give the general reader the derivation of the word Ecuador, but for the benefit of the uninitiated we will say simply that it is derived from the Spanish word *Equator* and should be pronounced as if spelled Ek-wä-dor.

Ecuador, an independent State of South America, lies on the west coast of that continent and measures from north to south about 500 miles and from east to west nearly 800 and has an area of about 250,000 square miles. It has a population of 1,300,000 comprising 600,000 whites of European descent, 650,000 Indians of which 200,000 are uncivilized, 8,000 Africans and 35,000 Mestizoes, i. e. the children of a Spaniard or Creole and a native Indian. Quito, the Capital and largest city has a population of over 80,000. It is one of the highest cities of the globe being 9,600 feet above sea-level, and is nearly under the line of the Equator and although within sight of eleven summits of the Andes which are covered with snow the year round it enjoys a constant spring. Guayaquil, the next largest city is a great commercial emporium. Its imports in 1873 amounted to \$4,617,000 and the exports in 1876 were \$3,304,800. In 1874, there entered and cleared the port 154 British and 221 other vessels, of a total tonnage of 331,683 tons. The *second-class* towns are Riobamba, Puno, Cuenca, and Loxa.

The United States of Columbia bounds it on the north, Brazil on the east, Peru on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west. Toward the east it is drained by the Amazon which receives all the rivers that flow down the eastern slope of the Andes, while the country west of the Andes is drained chiefly by the Mira, the Esmeralda, and Guayaquil which is more available for navigation than any other on the same coast of South America, and this quite bountiful drainage of the land frees the air from those vapors which are injurious to general amenity and salubrity thus helping to make the country habitable and without which some parts of Ecuador that are now pleasant places

would be uninhabitable as is now the case in some of the lowlands.

The Andes which consist of two parallel ranges of mountains cross the country nearly in the line of a meridian and alternate between union and separation sometimes running into what are called knots at times inclose at great elevations, plateaus of which the most important are those of Cuenca, 8,640 feet high, Hambato, 8,860 feet high and Quito, 9,543 feet high, but these plateaus although high are shut out from the world by mountains of occasionally more than equal altitude above their own level. Of these, Chimborazo and Cotapaxi are the most important and rise to a height of 21,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Volcanoes abound and eruptions of the same and earthquakes are frequent. The climate comprises nearly every possible variety under the sun. Hyperborean cold marks the snow-capped mountains and a temperature at once moderate and uniform renders the upland plains so many paradises while on both sides of the dividing ridge intense heat oppresses the lower valleys. In the basin of the Guayaquil there is regularly a wet season between it and Cape San Lorenzo, almost perpetual draught prevails and in the opposite direction the upper tributaries of the Amazon are said to be fed by almost perpetual rains.

The government is republican and appears to have been built on the model of our own country as it has a president, vice-president, senate and house of representatives. The principal exports are cacao, timber, bark, hides, cotton, straw-hats and Peruvian bark (quinine), and the precious metals. The imports are, in order of value, cottons, woolens, wines, spirits, groceries, soaps and candles, hardware, flour, etc. In 1877 a railroad was in course of construction between Puebla and Sibambe and a few cart-roads have recently been made. The Galapagos Islands on the line of the equator 500 miles from the coast belong to Ecuador. They are noted for their peculiar plants and animals.

Ecuador has had her share of troubles as well as the other South American republics. A dispatch dated January 24, 1883, gives a brief account of an attack on Esmeraldas by the "Republican" party, as the revolutionists style themselves, and the final capture of the aforesaid port.

Their first attack on this place was in last August when the revolutionists were defeated. They have succeeded this time. The small force of revolutionists under Col. Luis Vargas T., was divided into three divisions.

The trenches had been built in the heart of the city, but outside and in the streets strong outposts were stationed. These were attacked in three different quarters and promptly driven in. The central division succeeded in the first rush in reaching the square and occupied the houses in it, while the second seized the first line of trenches in front of them. Firing all along the line was continuous and heavy. At length the government party were compelled to shut themselves up in the square of trenches which was built round the landing place. The attackers then commenced to throw up light earthworks for the purpose of laying siege to the place and thus averting the loss of life which

would have followed a hand to hand fight. Firing was kept up all the time, and a machine gun in one of the trenches was kept steadily at work.

After forty-four hours passed in a series of skirmishes, feints and different manœuvres in which a number of lives were lost, the besieged commenced to abandon their positions, but prior to doing so the stores and dwelling houses were sacked and the city was set on fire in three places. Safes were blown open and their contents appropriated, and the soldiers were permitted by their officers to do as they pleased. The attacking party at once entered the city, and the wounded were collected and attended to and the dead buried. The attacking party had thirteen killed and twenty-six wounded, while on the side of the Dictator there were some forty killed and an equal number wounded. The defeated government troops embarked on board the steamer Huacho and have since landed at Guayaquil.

A government has already been nominated, and a triumvirate has been formed, consisting of Don Pedro Carbos, Don Francisco J. Montalvo and Don Eloy Alfaro, the latter having been appointed Supreme Director until such time as the members of the triumvirate can meet in a city in Ecuador. It is known that one of the first measures which will be adopted by Alfaro is the expulsion of the Jesuits and the establishment of restrictions upon the prerogatives of the clergy. An American named Feros was among the killed.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS.

The first recorded issue of postage stamps by this country was in 1865. There was only two values, but a number of varieties which we will give later on. The design had in the centre the arms of the republic as follows: land and water scene with sun high in the heavens in a lined-oval at the top of which was an eagle, on the right and left flags and branches. All of the above was inclosed in a large lined and beaded circle, the beads being the innermost. The circle was on a lined ground in a rectangular broad border on which was inscribed at the top ECUADOR CORREOS and at the bottom MEDIO* in one and UN REAL in the other; in each corner was an X and on side in the frame running perpendicularly from top to bottom was a Grecian key border. Colored impression; white paper; rectangular.

FOR INTERIOR USE.

½ real,.....blue. | 1 real,.....green.

FOR FOREIGN USE.

Variety No. 1, white paper, no watermark.

1 real,.....yellow.

" " 2, white paper, watermark—squares.

1 real,.....yellow.

" " 3, blue paper, no watermark,

1 real,.....yellow.

1866 issue:—In this year there was one value but two varieties as will be seen further on. Arms having the same emblems as in the last issue but arranged a little differently in a circle (as in one variety) or an oval (as in the other variety) as the case might be. At the top in wavy ribbon CORREOS ECUADOR and at the bottom in straight ribbon CUATRO REALES. Very beautiful ornamental scroll-work at top, sides and bottom. Colored impression; white paper, no watermark.

Variety No. 1, Arms in oval.

4 reales,.....scarlet.

" " 2, Arms in circle.

4 reales,.....pink.

1872 issue:—Same as 1866 but on blue paper. No watermark.

½ real,.....blue | 1 real,.....yellow.

1873 issue:—Same as 1866 issue with the following exceptions: Grecian border and value is more prominent in the one peso but not so prominent in the half real where it is medium between the one peso and the 1866 issue. The circle instead of a lined and beaded one is made of small square blocks and also the circle-ground in the 1866 issue is plain, but in this is lined—the lines running toward the sides. Outside of the circle the lines run toward the sides also while in the 1866 issue they run up and down. With these few exceptions the stamps of the two issues are alike. Colored impression; white paper, perforated.

½ real,.....blue | 1 peso,.....rose.

Arms, land and water scene in shield instead of oval. Close but rather coarse copy of the 1863 issue of Costa Rica.

1 real,.....yellow.

1881 issue:—In this year there was issued five values. In all the arms are the same as in all the former issues where the land and water scene is set in an oval. Colored impression; white paper, perforated. No watermark.

Variety No. 1—Arms in centre, ECUADOR CORREOS at top in oval ribbon, UN CENTAVO at bottom in straight line. Figure one on each side on large cylinder. Fancy scrolls at top, sides and bottom.

1 centavo,.....brown.

Variety No. 2.—Arms, inscriptions same as variety 1, with following exceptions: Figure two in each of the upper corners and in each of the lower corners, in very large type. DOS CENTAVOS in wavy line at bottom partly but not wholly obliterating the figures two.

2 centavos,.....lake.

Variety 3.—Same as variety 1 with the following exceptions: ECUADOR-CORREOS in straight line at top. CINCO CENTAVOS in curved line at bottom. Figure five in upper right and left parts under ECUADOR CORREOS, and at the bottom corners.

5 centavos,.....blue.

Variety 4.—Same as variety 3 with the exception that VEINTE CENTAVOS is at the bottom in curved line and figure 20 in each upper corner.

20 centavos,.....slate.

Variety 5.—ECUADOR CORREOS at top in wavy ribbon figure 50 on each side. At the top of pillars and at the base of same, below arms, CINCUENTA in curved ribbon and centavos in straight line below.

50 centavos,.....green.

1883 issue:—A late surcharge just come under our notice is in black on the 1 real orange of the 1872 issue and is as follows:

4

C V O S

This surcharge is on the lower part of the stamp.

* On the stamps of Ecuador and also other South American republics Medio means one-half, un means one, and cuatro four.

NEW ISSUES.

BANGKOK.—The 12 cents Straits Settlements surcharged "B" now comes with the new watermark C. C. and crown.

CAPACUA.—The *Philatelic Monthly* says regarding a cut which it displays in the margin: "The design here shown is said by Mr. Moens to be of a series of stamps for the Republic of Capacua. The encyclopædia is silent as to the whereabouts of this Republic, but we are informed that it has been carved out of Bolivia. Time will show whether the stamps are to be accepted or not. The set is said to be as follows: 1 centavo, green; 2 centavos, rose; 5 centavos, blue; 10 centavos, bistre; 20 centavos, violet.

CEYLON.—In addition to the surcharge mentioned on page 132 we have the following:

40 cents	on 50 cents,	blue.
60 "	"	1 rupee (old type) brown
60 "	"	1 " (new ") "
80 "	"	1 " (old ") "
80 "	"	1 " (new ") "

COSTA RICA.—The name of the person whose portrait is on the present new issue that Mr. W. C. Stone was unable to give in his article on page 130 is that of General P. Fernandez.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We have to mention the following surcharges:

5 centimos	on 1 centavo.
25 "	" 5 centavos.
50 "	" 10 "

CONFEDERATE STATES.—According to *Le Timbre Poste* a variety of the 10 cent Baton Rouge has been discovered. This variety is in the spelling of the name McCormack wrong, thus: McCorninck. There is one other variety spelled McGmack, but this variety is not newly discovered. The same Journal chronicles two others Faiville, 5 cents carmine, and Rheatown, blue.

JAPAN.—The color of the 5 sen has been changed to blue.

ORANGE RIVER REPUBLIC.—The latest is a 3 pence, blue.

PERU.—The stamps *Departamentos de Correos timbres* 1881-'82 have been surcharged *Arequipa* with two circles. 10 centavos, blue.

The stamps 5 and 20 centavos of the 1877 issue are surcharged with the Chilian arms.

5 centavos	blue, surcharged violet.
20 "	rose, " black.

SUNGEI UJONG.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue East Indies has been surcharged with a wide oval black band inside of which is a crescent and a star below which is the initials S. U.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue, surcharged in black.

The 4 cents rose of Strait settlements has also been surcharged S. U. in black.

4 cents rose surcharged in black.
(Watermarked) C. A. and crown).

The 2, 4 and 8 cents stamps of Straits Settlements have also been surcharged in black.

2 cents bistre (watermarked C. A. and crown).

4 " rose (" C. C. " "

8 " orange " C. A. " "

UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA.—Reply Card. In the centre at the top is the stamp of the exact design as the 1880 2 centavos, carmine; on the left in largest scroll ETATS-UNIS, on the right DE COLUMBIA. Below the stamps is the inscription *ESCRIBASE ENSEGUNDA LA DIRECCION*. On the left hand side near the centre is the letter A in script type; below that letter is a dotted line, and below the line is *en* and a line below that another line with the following inscription at the bottom near the border: *Y a la vuelta la comunicacion*. Around the above is a fancy border with at the top UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE, at the bottom UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL. On the left, CARTE POSTALE, on the right TARJETA POSTAL.

Reply Card; 2x2 centavos, rose.

ANOTHER RARE ONE.

Once more we are called upon to present to our readers an illustration of a Stamp in the hands of one of our correspondents who claims it to be a veritable local stamp of the year 1849. As we desire to represent all impartially our space is open for criticisms of *Philatelists* who are capable of judging impartially, justly and wisely. We want negative or positive evidence and no whipping the Devil around the stump as was done in regard to the Confederate stamp published a short time ago. We are not asking for the history of other stamps and who are counterfeiters, we want facts to the point. If a philatelist be a philatelist he certainly will say *good* or *bad* or hold his peace. What is wanted is light intelligence, common sense.—*Ed.*



CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR—The color chart having been mentioned quite frequently of late reminds me of another subject that should be agitated, viz: that of measuring.

In measuring, some philatelic publishers in giving the dimensions of a stamp give the same from one extreme edge of the paper to the other, while others measure only the width of the impression made by the cut. Now which is correct? It is my belief that both measurements should be given, because if the width of the cut is given alone, the full width of the stamp is not known while if the reverse is done it only serves to add to the confusion which would be entirely avoided were both measures taken.

A. B. C.

A. B. writes: "Does the postal laws require additional postage on matter returned to the sender on account of imperfect direction?" Our beneficent Uncle recognizes the fact that the age is too fast and progressive to allow a correspondent waste time in addressing a letter legibly, whether it be to a sweetheart, a rich relative on a sick bed or a creditor, consequently allows the sender at a considerable loss to the revenue derived from the mail service—a second opportunity without additional cost to the sender.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

"A child's among you takin' notes,

An' faith, he'll prent them,"

An important addition to philatelic literature generally, but more particularly to that of the United States has been issued from Brussels. I refer to the first part of his work of the stamps of the United States, with which Mr. John R. Tiffany of St. Louis has been engaged for many years back. The work of Mr. Molus "Bibliothèque des Timbrophiles" series; the first part now published treats of the postage stamps and essays, and the second relating to the revenues, Mr Tiffany tells me, is all in manuscript ready for the printer. There are, I understand no fewer than 2,500 varieties in this latter class. The last number of the London Society's magazine devotes some space to the published volume, *Inter alia*, the matter of postal statistics. In 1790, the republic of the United States boasted of seventy-five post offices, 1875 miles of mail-routes, and a postal income of only \$37,935, which, however, showed a surplus of receipts over expenditures of over \$5,000. In 1881 there were 42,989 post offices, 343,888 miles of mail routes, and a revenue of \$36,785,397, against an expenditure of \$39,251,736, showing a deficit of nearly two and one half millions of dollars. The British post office compares rather favorably with this, having earned a net profit of £3,100,745 for the year, according to last official report. It was not until 1851, eleven years after the adoption of the modern postal system in Britain, that the United States government issued stamps. In contrast with Britain, another point is noteworthy, the opposition against the new system came from congress, while here its sole opponent was the post office. It was parliament strongly backed up by the people that made Rowland Hill's suggestion the law of the land. Again American legislators seemed more adverse to giving up the franking privilege than we were.

Talking of Mr. Tiffany, he informs me that the system he pursues in recording the various stamp journals is such that were he at present to publish a second edition of his "Philatelic Library," he could have all matter in the hands of the printer in two or three day's notice. I am glad to hear this, and to find that our literature has so systematic a recorder—and keeper too I may add—one whose stamp collecting dates from 1859, and would take this opportunity of correcting a statement I made anent this subject in the *New Jersey Philatelist* for December last. When I alluded to the difficulties in the way of any one making a complete list of all the stamp papers published since 1874, I was then unaware of the fact that Mr. Tif-

fany has been since then as formerly eager on the outlook, noting down everything as it appears. This list, as well as his unique collection, are, lacking one or two English journals, and Mr. Tiffany has asked my co-operation in the completing of his list, which I willingly render, with the hope that the review of British journals for the past year, which appeared in the *EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST* for February last, will be of some service to him in this respect. The subject is really an important one. This fact will be more apparent in years to come—say two or three dozen years hence.

Their *confreres* over here in acknowledging No. 1 of the *National Philatelist*, the get up of the New York Society, simply own its receipt, without pausing to say anything *pro* or *con*. Perhaps it is that little can be said in its favor, and rather than say aught against it, they wisely abstain from saying anything at all. Perhaps we should all do likewise, since "Speech is silvery, but silence is golden," yet for the good of the members even at the risk of incurring their displeasure, I will frankly give them my sentiments on their first venture. The National Society is a body everyone must think a good deal of, were it only for the persistency of its members in getting up their color chart, but most will feel bound to admit that the idea of forming a triumvirate to edit, has not met with success. *E. g.* the "few words" are disappointing; the second article seems needless; the new issues (mostly cribbage) without illustrations, is dreary, the desultory Notes and Queries have the fault in common with the general aspect of the paper, one who knows precious little of the subject he is talking about, trying to make us believe he knows a great deal. Altogether the *N. P.* is poor, and certainly not what was to be expected of the society—let us hope not a criterion of what its members can do. The only remedy I see, and the advice I willingly give, is to place the paper in the hands of one collector, one with experience, and make him responsible for the paper he edits. Otherwise, under the present management, it will be run out in no time.

An Universal Color Chart is also a matter of the New York Society's, one that deserves greater success. The idea of a chart is no new thing, and it has a little history. Such as it is I may here trace it. About twelve years ago, in view of the difficulties experienced in arriving at an unanimous nomenclature of colors, the advisability of adopting standard of color common to all the world was seriously thought of. Example is always better than precept and to show the diversity of opinion that exists in giving colors of stamps in the catalogues, the 2½d of Great Britain issued in 1874 is described as claret, dull pink, lake-rose, lilac, violet, pink, buff, grey, and red brown; the 3 cents of Curacao is called bistre and stone; the 2 lepta of Greece, cinnamon, light buff, bistre, dark bistre, pale bistre, etc. In short, it is an easy matter to compile lists of such color varieties at the present moment, and although none of these colors can be said to

convey a wrong idea of what the stamp is really like, yet everyone will agree that this is an unsatisfactory state of matters. To remedy it, the National Philatelic Society of New York are doing their level best. So far back as 1878 they made their suggestion to the Congress of Philatelists, held at Paris in that year. This, as well as the report of the French committee thereon, will be found at full length in the "Memoires du Congres International des Timbrophiles." Admitting its necessity, the committee go on to say:

"Is it possible that such a chart can be made? The reporter of the American Society admits that the production of about 100 colors would be sufficient for the purpose, but is it practicable to make this reproduction? Admitting the possibility of finding 100 varieties of ink, it would require that each sheet should pass 100 times through the press, and supposing the first edition should, in order to secure for a considerable period the greatest amount of uniformity possible consist of 500 copies, no fewer than 50,000 operations would be necessary, without reckoning for copies which might be spoilt during the various styles of printing. This alone seems sufficient to demonstrate the impracticability of the proposal."

In short, the suggestion was pooh-poohed, and an exceedingly silly one offered by the French committee instead, although the practicability of having such a chart was shown clearly. Nothing came of either proposal, and as the New York Society was only able to procure 500 subscribers, instead of 1,000, the subject since then has been in abeyance. Another attempt has been made, and if report be reliable, this time with a greater chance of success. It must, however, occur to everyone the English society as well as the French, shows unmistakable symptoms of jealousy. Because the work of its preparations is to be entrusted to the American Bank Note Company, the English society is of opinion that a list of colors employed by that company in the printing of their *taille-douce* stamps will be useless, but as a matter of courtesy they subscribe. If the plan entertained five years ago of having 80 to 100 different colors and shades be still adhered to, I think we would have before us a specimen of every color likely to be required. It seems time enough to criticise the chart when it appears, after an opportunity has been granted us of ascertaining its merits or demerits.

In the House of Commons on 29th March, Dr. Cameron moved a resolution in favor of the introduction of sixpenny telegrams. He estimated that the adoption of this rate per telegram would involve an immediate loss to the revenue of £177,000, and believed that in three or four years this sum would be entirely recouped. The Postmaster General frankly avowed he would like to see it adopted. The motion was affirmed by a majority of 18 in a House of 118. Contrary to expectation, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in submit-

ting the Budget on 5th of April, said it was his intention to put the reduced rate in force as soon as practicable. I have extracted these two verses from a poem in the irrepressible *Punch*, shortly after Dr. Cameron's motion was carried:--

THE SIXPENNY "WIRE."

A SIXPENNY Telegram! Cameron won;
It passed in the Commons, and now the trick's done;

And be any message of weal or of woe,
No shilling's required for a "tizzy" 'twill go;
And all but the post office clerks will admire,
That boon to the public—a Sixpenny "Wire."

So cheap will the telegrams be, that in time
The lover will send off sixpenn'orths of rhyme:
Oh—pet—at—each—long—hour—of
—absence—I—groan—send—but—
twenty—dear—words—just—to—com-
fort—your—own.

Thus the poet, you see, sweeps the post office lyre;
And he'll get it all into a Sixpenny "Wire."

AMENDED POSTAL LAWS.

The Post Office Department has amended section 37 of Postal Laws and Regulations so that free county newspapers may be forwarded to any other office in the county where printed and published without additional charge, but in order to be forwarded outside of the county they should be accompanied with postage sufficient to pay the transient rates thereon. When a regular subscriber of a newspaper removes from the delivery of a Post Office, the Postmaster should advise him that it is his duty to inform the publisher of his change of residence. Postmasters should, in the absence of instructions to forward, accompanied with the transient rate of postage therefor or other instructions, except in case of free county newspapers forwarded to an office within the county, inform the publisher that the paper is not called for. Postmasters are to understand that hereafter, no matter can be forwarded in the mails after it reaches its original address without a new prepayment of postage, except letters which have one full rate paid thereon, namely, 3 cents, and newspapers or other periodicals which are to be forwarded to subscribers from one Post Office to another in the same county where the paper to be forwarded is published and in whole or part printed.

Where matter of the second, third or fourth class has been inadvertently forwarded without the payment of the additional postage required, it is to be rated up with only the amount due, there being no double postage charged in such cases. When a request is sent to a postmaster to have letters forwarded to a new address, drop letters fully prepaid, bearing the card of the writer, should be immediately returned to the writer, giving also information to the changed address.

The forgoing rules are obligatory upon postmasters. No newspaper or postal card can be forwarded after it has reached its original address, but goes direct to the Dead Letter Office.

CHINA STAMPS.

(For the Empire City Philatelist.)

There seems to be some doubt concerning the origin and authenticity of these stamps. Therefore, bent upon solving the question, I sought an interview recently with an intelligent celestial who is known to his countrymen as Wong Ching Foo. This gentleman is editor of the *Chinese-American*, a new paper started some few months ago by an enterprising Yankee named Cole, and as the name indicates is devoted to the interests of the Chinese in America.

From my conversation with Wong Ching Foo—who by the way speaks very good English—it would appear that these stamps are genuine missions, but not governmental. He remarked that they are issued by a local company authorized by the Chinese government to carry the mail from place to place and that these stamps are the only ones issued in the kingdom, that there are only three values and the denominations one, three and five candarins. He further said that it was a long time since he had been "home"—and that this was about the only information he was able to give but he referred your correspondent to Wah Sing the Chinese merchant of Pell street.

I found Wah Sing at home with some twenty or more Chinese friends in his "tea house." Upon introduction I found Wah Sing an admirable and intelligent looking Chinaman, handed him our introductory letter which was written for your correspondent by Mr. Foo in Chinese characters. After reading our letter and exchanging a few remarks on that all absorbing topic the weather, the subject of the stamps was broached, and upon first sight of the stamps I had brought with me, Wah declared them to be "China stamps," and corroborated Foo's statement; but to which he added the following interesting facts.

The Chinese characters in the upper corners in the one candarin interpreted mean that the stamp is worth in United States currency "nearly a cent and a half." Those in the three candarin mean that the intrinsic value of that stamp is five cents, and as we did not have a five candarin with us, we were unable to get the exact value, it is, however, about eight cents. The characters on the right hand side of the stamps mean "Large country in China," those on the left, "Started from that

country." Both of the above gentlemen from the Flowery Kingdom, although pressed with business, were very obliging and furnished all the information they had at hand. Still more facts should be known and would no doubt be interesting to the collector but as I found that the Chinese fund of knowledge in regard to their country's stamps has become exhausted, I was forced for the present at least to give up the search.

With the persistency of all interviewers before parting, we exacted the promise that they would look the matter up so that when I called again, which they pressed me to do at an early day, I might become possessed of their, the stamps' history for the benefit of the readers of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST. "MORE ANON."

Apropos to the above we insert the following sent by another of our correspondents, entitled,—

THE CHINESE POST OFFICE.

Each city has a certain number of licensed companies who make a business of receiving and sending letters and small parcels at charges depending upon weight and distance, but always most moderate; and the companies of the several cities being in partnership, or in confidential relation one with the other, a network of communication of a most efficient character, considering its materials is kept up from one end of China to the other. So much reliance is placed by the public upon the safety and certainty of these conveyance companies that large sums of money in paper, and smaller amounts in cash, are fearlessly consigned to their charge, and instances are rare of the trust being betrayed.

Speed, of course, is less of a consideration than safety, owing to the defective means of communication at present existing.

But the carriers employed by the companies travel at the fastest rate possible under the circumstances, and cover much more ground in the time than was the habit with English postboys previous to the mail-coach days, who never exceeded, even on horseback, their three and a half miles per hour.

Robberies of the bags must at times occur, but the public are at any rate safe from the risk to their letters which our ancestors so frequently incurred through the loitering and drunkenness peculiar to the English postboy tribe.

The practice of using carrier-pigeons for express intelligence is common throughout China, and is largely resorted to by merchants and traders for business purposes.

The pigeons are usually provided with one or more whistles, often of elaborate make and finish, to protect them from the ravages of hawks, etc., en route.

GLEANINGS FOR PHILATELISTS.

Those stamps which represent as regards alphabetical classification the first country in our albums known as and supposed to come from Alsace Lorraine by many Philatelists were not only used in Alsace-Lorraine, but were co-existent with the advance of the Prussian army when Prussia was occupying that part of French territory. They were used as far westward as Le Mans, and as far north as Amiens. They were superseded by the stamps of the German Empire either in the latter part of December 1871 or the early part of January 1872, and it is said that the people of the occupied provinces "never had such cheap postage before." All of the different values can be found with the network pointing right and left and also with the points reversed, the latter occurring by accident caused by the stamps being printed by two impressions.

The stamps of Romagna of which there is only one issue, were in use provisionally a little over four months, having been suppressed by the decree of January 12, 1860. Used specimens are very rare and it is believed that the six bajocchi were never used for postage. The original dies of the set were knocked about and finally came into the possession of an employee of the post who added a border of seven lines to each value to hide the indentations, and in 1869 he made many sheets with all the values printed on one sheet. He termed them essays or proofs.

The one-half peso of the 1858 issue of Peru is very rare. It was issued March 1 and suppressed June 1, 1858. It was printed in two colors, yellow and rose. Of rose there are two shades—light and deep. The rose colored variety is believed to have been an error and is unattainable.

Of Natal stamps the 3 pence rose and 6 pence green of the 1857 issue are the only ones of that issue that can be obtained without much trouble. The other values of the set day by day are getting scarce. One of them, the 9 pence, blue is now attainable only on the breaking up of a collection and not always then.

Of the Modena 1852 issue we might say that the 1 lire, white was watermarked A which was the initial of the maker of the paper—Signor Amici. In the whole set errors are frequent, prominent ones are *cen*, *net* and *ceu* for cent besides numerical errors.

The 40 reis sheets of the 1877 issue of Cape Verde contains by mistake a 40 reis Mozambique stamp and although the error was latterly rectified the 40 reis Mozambique with a 40 reis Cape Verde on either side of it will forever be one of the curiosities of Philately.

There are many obstructions put in the way of Philatelists that deprive them of many rarities. One of these obstructions is the white ants of Ceylon, which along side of another obstruction

we will name further on have made the older issue of Ceylon quite unattainable. The ants are attracted by the gum, and Ceylon stamps after having been left on the envelope for some time are found to have been pierced with holes by these pests. The other and still greater obstruction to Philately is cremation. An issue of *service* envelopes, stamps, etc. was ordered and prepared in 1871, but arrived after a change was made in the currency of the island. Large numbers remained on hand. An order was given for their destruction and the whole lot was burned except a few sheets which, however, were only saved through influence. That lot of stamps if it had been preserved, would have brought a large sum of money, and even when money was sent it was returned with word that "the officials could not undertake to supply them to foreigners."

The location of Nowanggur is not generally known to Philatelists. It is a seaport at the mouth of the Nagna, 160 miles west-south-west from Ahmedabad. It is the principal place of the district of Hallar the greater part of which is held as a *jaghire* by the chief of Nowanuggur who bears the title of Jam of Nowanuggur. He is Jam of 540 villages with a population of 290,000. The place is noted for the brilliant colors of its dyed fabrics and the fine quality of its cloths.

Most of the Transvaal stamps were engraved in Mecklenburg, and large quantities of the sheets were obtained from the printer in the actual and fancy colors, and then obliterated by a circular postmark. But it is not known whether this was done illiterately or by authority of the government.

In regard to United States envelopes it is said that "in 1874 the contract for printing and furnishing the United States envelopes previously held by Reay's was transferred to the Plimpton Company. Great efforts were made by the New York envelope companies to break down the Plimpton contract and the history of the early Plimpton dies is curious." * * * "There were very few engravers in the country of sufficient skill to make dies of the required excellence. The other companies employed all the engravers they could hear of for the sole purpose of keeping them away from the Plimpton Company, hoping thereby to create a default in the terms of the contract, by delaying the presentation of acceptable dies beyond the time named in the contract. The Plimpton Company did the best they could, but could only get inferior workmen. Then the Postmaster General came to the rescue and accepted from them provisionally the bad dies, with the understanding that they should be replaced as soon as better ones could be made. The New York companies then tried to get the committee on postal affairs in Congress to overrule the Postmaster General, and to pronounce the contract in default on account of defective dies of disgraceful execution, but the committee did not see it. * * * All this will explain the obsolete dies of the Plimpton envelopes."

The provisional issue of 1867 of Argentine Republic on their watermarked paper are very difficult to obtain—the 5 centavos excepted, which is easily obtained. The 5 centavos was again issued in September 1872, and the imprint is very bad. This time, the color instead of a clear rose, was a dirty rose over lake.

EVIL EFFECTS OF THE CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM.

A few days ago a registered letter was received at Post Office Station A, addressed to an aged German living in the neighborhood, and was given to the letter carrier for delivery, but was returned to the Station because its owner was not at home, and there was no one on the premises authorized to sign the required receipt. After several other efforts to deliver it, it was sent to the General Post Office; and the German, on calling at the Station and making inquiry about it, was informed of the facts, and furnished with a slip of paper on which was written a certificate that would enable him to obtain the letter on application at the General Post Office.

Armed with this document, he made his way to the big Federal building and was soon wandering through its mazes seeking for the "Registered Letter Department." Observing on the gallery a line of citizens standing outside the closed door of an office, each provided with a slip of paper similar in appearance to the slip he held, he fell in at the foot of the line, which was rather a long one. At intervals of 10 or 15 minutes, the office door opened, a man emerged and departed, a voice called "Next!" The man at the head of the line entered, and the door closed behind him. In about an hour and a half the patient German's time arrived, and, entering the room, he found himself alone with a gentleman of professional aspect who, giving a hasty glance at a slip of paper said:

"That's all right—take off your coat."

"Take off mine goat? Vot you dink I come for? To got shafed? I vant——"

"Oh, that's all right—take off your coat: I can't examine you unless you do."

"Den I vos got to be examined? So? Dot's all right, Is'e bose," and off came the coat.

"Well, take off your waistcoat and shirt; do you think I can examine you with you clothes on?"

"Look here, mine vriend, you dink I vas a tief? You vant to search me? Vell, dot's all right. It peen an honest man, by gracious, und you don't vind no shtolen bropetry my clothes insite. I vas nefer zearch before already——"

"I don't want to search you; I want to examine you. Don't you understand?"

"No, I ton'd understand him at all—but dot's all right—dere's my shirt off, und if I a cold catch dot vill your fault peen."

The professional-looking gentleman placed his hand affectionately on the visitor's shoulder blade and applied his ear to his chest, listening intently; then tapped him on the breast bone and punched him in the small of the back, inquiring if it hurt,

"Hurt? No, dot don't hurt; but maybe if dose foolishness don't stop somepody ellus gits bretty soon hurt."

"Does *that* hurt?" was the next question, accompanied by a gentle thrust among the ribs.

"No, dot don't hurt, but py gracious, if——"

"Oh, be quiet, I'm in a hurry, and have got a dozen more to attend to. Now, can you read this card when I hold it out so?"

"No."

"Can you read it now?" bringing it a few inches nearer.

"No, but you choost pring me out mine sbeg-dagles by my goat bocket, und I read him."

"Oh, that won't do; you eyesight is defective, I'm sorry to say, and you're rejected. Put on your clothes again, quick, please."

"Dot's all right. So I vos recheded, eh? Vell, dot vos nezezzary, I subbose, but it's very vunny, choost the same. Und now I've been recheded und oxamined, und all dose dings vot you do mit me, maybe you don't some objections got to gif me dot rechistered letter?"

"What registered letter?"

"Dot rechistered vat vos sboken apout on dis piece of baper from Station A."

"The dickens! who sent you to me with that? I thought you had come to be examined. Didn't you apply for appointment as a letter carrier?"

"As a letter garrier? No, I don't vant to be a letter garrier. I haf good pusiness got by mine own self; but py gracious, I vants mine rechistered jetter from Germany vat mine bruder sent me by Station A."

"Here," said the professional gentleman opening the door and calling a messenger from the lobby: "show this gentlemen to the Registered Letter Department;" and the bewildered foreigner was conducted to the proper window.

It happened to be the day for the examination, by the Post Office medical officer, of candidates for appointment as letter carriers.

SHOPPING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

An old lady of respectable appearance was recently arrested at a draper's shop in Paris on suspicion that she was circulating counterfeit coin. A clerk had pronounced bad a silver five-franc piece which she offered him, whereupon she had drawn from a large canvas bag another coin of the same denomination, which he likewise rejected. The police authorities found suspended under her dress by a belt and wires five bags containing 240 five-franc pieces, 1,300 francs in gold, six bank-notes of 1,000 francs each, and 100,000 francs in public securities. In reply to questions the old lady gave her name and address, and said that as she lived alone she always carried her fortune about with her; moreover, she doubted that her coin was bad, as she never accepted a piece without examining it. The Commissary of Police sent the silver to a money changer, who at once declared that the shopman was mistaken, as there was not a bad piece among the coins. The lady then readjusted her treasure in its hiding place, and left the police station somewhat disturbed by her adventure.

BY THE WAY.

NEW COUNTERFEIT ten cent pieces have been circulated in Brooklyn.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM will be placed in 334 additional Post Offices on July 1, principally in the Western and Northern states.

LIBEL ON THE BIRD OF FREEDOM.—A Portland (Oregon) Chinese peddler refused an English shilling offered as a two-bit piece, saying:—"No good, Me heap sabe—no chicken on him!"

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT received orders on April 4th for stamps and stamped envelopes worth \$700,000, the largest aggregate ever received in one day.

A RIGHTEOUS SENTENCE—Judge Hoffman of the United States Circuit Court at San Francisco, having decided that gilding the five cent nickel is counterfeiting, a jury recently convicted Charles Ferguson of that crime.

MEXICO MOVING FORWARD.—President Gonzalez has offered a decree declaring that the new Mexican postal code will go into operation on Jan. 1, 1884. It embodies the best features of the American and English systems, reduces inland postage, and entirely reforms the postal system.

SARCASM.—According to the rulings of the Postmaster General, there is nothing to prevent a letter, no matter how badly written or spelled, for passing through the mails as *first-class matter*.

LOUIS D'ARGENCOURT who was convicted in the General Sessions of forgery in the second degree, in having in his possession plates for the manufacture of counterfeits of the notes of the Spanish Bank of Havana, was recently sentenced to State prison for three years and six months.

PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE.—The new combination letter-sheet and envelope and folding postal card, which have been authorized by the government, will probably be in circulation in January, 1884.

IN EVIL COMPANY. The letter sent from Bay City, Mich., bearing on the envelope the sender's business card as "dealer in nitro-glycerine, dynamite, giant powder and high explosives," got the receiver in England into serious trouble, the authorities requiring clear proof that the Michigan man was not a provider of revolutionary materials to Irishmen.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.—English letter carriers sometimes prove as dishonest as American. In a recent case, some two hundred new postage stamps and two thousand circulars and post-cards, with over five hundred letters were found in the lodgings of a carrier.

IN APRIL, POSTMASTER GENERAL GRESHAM approved specifications for the new postal notes, and advertisements were issued at once inviting proposals for printing them.

MORE FIGURES.—The coinage executed at the United States Mint in the City of Philadelphia, during February amounted to 6,265,440 pieces, valued at \$1,100,360. This was composed of 40 double eagles, 40 eagles, 40 half eagles, 40 three-dollar gold pieces, 40 quarter eagles, 1,240 gold dollars, 900,000 silver dollars, 610,000 dimes, 2,224,000 five-cent pieces, and 2,530,000 cents.

UNCOMPLIMENTARY TO THE DOLLAR.—The new two cent postage stamp, which will carry a letter on and after Oct. 1, is to have the head of Washington upon it. Very wisely, we never put the face of the man who "could not tell a lie" upon our money. How it would blush if stamped on the bob-tailed dollar.

HOW WE PROSPER.—The quarterly statement of the Post Office transactions shows the receipt of \$1,064,990 86, the expenditure of \$219,501.01, and a net revenue of \$845,489.85. These figures show an increase in receipts over the corresponding quarter of 1882 of \$49,138 12, and a gain in net revenue of 5½ per cent.

TROOLY ROORAL.—The Manchester (N.H.) *Union* tells about a lady who entered a store in that city and asked for a two-cent postage stamp. Upon being informed by the storekeeper that he had those of the three-cent denomination, she replied that she understood that they had been marked down to two cents—she had read it in the paper. "Well, we haven't marked down here yet; perhaps they have at the post-office," returned the shopkeeper, "you had better inquire there." She went.

THE POST OFFICE received between 700 and 800 notices on moving day (May 1) from business men and others who had changed their addresses and undergone the annual infliction imposed upon the unwary by the truckmen, who at this their harvest season, lurk in byways and on corners, seeking to remove but one load of your household or office fixtures to enable them to spend the remainder of the season in luxurious ease at some seaside resort; sport diamonds which even the retired plumber envies, and alongside of which the hotel clerk's brilliants sink into utter insignificance. "Its an ill wind which blows no good."

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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PRIVATE POSTAL COMPANIES.

Officers of the Post Office Department, in reply to inquiries with regard to the proceedings recently taken to close the private postal companies, say that so far as the investigation has gone it seems to show that the most flagrant violators of law are the companies known as Hussey's Express, Boyd's Despatch Post, the Manhattan District Telegraph Company and the United States Circular Delivery Company, the two organizations last named being one and the same company. The prosecution of this unlawful business by such companies, Post Office officers say, not only results in a loss of large revenue to the department, but materially and in many ways interferes with the proper conduct of the United States postal business and brings undeserved discredit upon the United States postal administration. Investigation shows that in many cases business men in New York have given letters, etc., to subordinates to mail with money to pay postage at government rates, and that such subordinates instead of mailing the letters in the post office, have given them to one of the private postal companies, which would deliver them more cheaply than the government, and have then pocketed the difference between private and government rates. Many of these letters have been lost or delayed, and the writers, attributing such loss or delay to the United States postal authorities, have made complaint of bad service to the department, which was in no way responsible therefore.

The chief offence of these letter-express companies is that they established and maintained machinery for the conveyance of first-class mail matter (sealed letters) "by regular trips or at stated periods." They have the right to distribute unsealed letters, circulars, packages of merchandise, etc., but not sealed letters, and their business has been long unmolested largely because they claimed to do a circular-distributing business. The raids were made under the following sections of the Postal Laws and Regulations:

Penalty for Sending Letters by Private Express.—No person shall transmit by private express or other unlawful means, or deliver to any agent of such unlawful express, or deposit, or cause to be deposited, at any appointed place, for the purpose of being transmitted, any letter or packet; and

for every such offence the party offending shall be liable to a penalty of \$50.

Prohibition of Private Expresses.—No person shall establish any private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, or in any manner cause or provide for the conveyance of the same by regular trips or at stated periods over any post route which is or may be established by law, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town, or place between which the mail is regularly carried; and every person so offending, or aiding or assisting therein, shall for each offence be liable to a penalty of \$150, provided nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting any person from receiving and delivering to the nearest post office or postal car mail matter properly stamped.

Private Carriers forbidden at Carrier Post-offices.—Postmasters at letter-carrier post-offices will under no circumstances deliver first-class mail matter to a private carrier, no matter what credentials he may present, whether it be a printed order from all his employers or a separate order from each one a permanent standing order, or an order renewed every day.

Colonel Parker, Chief Inspector of the Post-Office Department, estimates that the government has been losing about \$1,000 daily for some time past by the operation of the private letter offices located in this city alone, and that similar offices in operation in other large cities, which the government determined to close, bring the annual loss close on to one-half million dollars.

Previous to the establishment of the free delivery system penny posts existed in nearly all cities, but in 1861 the government decided that it had the right to do this business and the penny posts were broken up by arrests and seizures. The public at first took the side of the private companies, but eventually acknowledged the superiority of the free delivery system.

Nobody can complain of the action of the Post office in breaking up the private despatch companies except on the ground that it ought to have been done long ago. The business is entirely illegal, and mail carrying must necessarily be a government monopoly; but it is difficult to see why it should have been tolerated until it grew to such large dimensions and had so many people dependent on it for support, and had come to be used so generally by the business community.

The following are illustrations of several of the Stamps used—both of 1c. value: Boyd's, black on pink; Hussey's, red on white.



"THAT CONFEDERATE."



This illustration given in our February number having called forth considerable criticism, for the benefit of our new subscribers is reproduced along with the comments thereon. We clip the following from the *Philatelic News*, a late aspirant for journalistic honors in the Philatelic direction. A very commendable effort is its Vol. I., No. 2, boasts of a very neat cover, is the size in surface measurement of the *Empire City Philatelist*, and with rare judgment but lack of originality has copied the latter's heading for one of its leading serial articles, in which it treats at length of a thunder storm; contains three pages of reading matter, set up FAT and flourishes before its readers an *alleged* prosperity in the way of nine pages of advertising matter. Thus it comments on the "Flag Stamp:"

"In the *Empire City Philatelist* a cut was recently given of a so-called Confederate stamp which was said to have been found in a Richmond scrap book. It consisted of a Confederate flag on a lined ground in the centre with "C. S. of A. Postage" above, and below "Ten Cents" Value,—10— in upper right hand corners, color blue. I would say it were ten to one that it is a counterfeit. I have a specimen of it but have always classed it as one. It may be the work of one Taylor of Boston. He advertises one hundred varieties of Confederate stamps for 21c. There are not 60 genuine varieties known; how zealous he must have been in hunting up these rare specimens and selling them for such small amounts! I have another stamp, which I judge may be the work of this fraud. This is of a green color and has a large figure "5" in the centre, on white ground, above is "Sparta Ala," below is "W. Beard, P. M." Taylor can only hope to swindle those collectors who collect without a good catalogue as one may see that there does not exist such a number of varieties. This is one of the manifold advantages of a catalogue. No collector should be without one, positively, and a volume like Blank's Revised List, doubles the interest one takes in Philately. This book has been a great help in bringing stamp-collecting under the notice of the people and showing it is no school boy's play."

Before going further into this matter let us digress by the reader's permission in asking the writer of the above who this "Taylor" is that he prates so fluently of. We are inclined to believe him a myth, or one gifted with the attributes of a deity—else how can you account for his omnipotent powers, he being the prime factor in all Philatelic storms; for do not the Peter Funks of the Profession upon finding a stamp which they know nothing about, or one is brought to their august notice for arbitration, lay the whole matter at the door of this "Taylor," and with one accord cry out *Counterfeit*. He must be omnipresent for we see him credited with counterfeiting of stamps in all parts of the country at one and the same time, most often, however, to our dear and defamed modern Athens. He must be endowed with a prescience to a degree not frequently accorded a mortal, for does he not when a rare stamp is wanted—according to stamp-gossip—have just the thing, seeming to read the desires, thoughts and yearnings of the collecting fraternity before the latter have framed their thoughts into speech.

Out upon such nonsense, the stamp makers lie along the shores of Philately in shoals, hiding their iniquitous dealings with the cry of stop thief, thinking thereby to throw the onus of their misdoings on one alleged to possess more audacity and daring.

We are not personally acquainted with this "Taylor," much less do we wish to give countenance to the wholesale counterfeiting with which he is credited by penny scribes, but this we will say, that this "Taylor" must of necessity be, from reasons given above, a greater fractional part of mankind than which TAILORS are generally credited with being, which is much more than we can say of many in the collecting and dealing line that we have come in contact with during our short sojourn in the journalistic arena. Our critic failed to inform us whether the cut represents a counterfeit stamp or essay, but simply a counterfeit, and backs his opinion with a sort of "I TOLD YOU SO" argument and attempts to prove it a fraud because he is in possession of one—a very damaging and indiscreet admission we think, coming from a professional Philatelist. "Which was said to have been found in a Richmond scrap book." This implies a doubt of the veracity of our correspondent, which our readers will agree with us when his incognito is removed as unnecessary. Furthermore, upon referring to page 103, vol. 1., of this paper, our readers will find that we credited the stamp to a "CONFEDERATE SCRAP BOOK," a wide difference when you come to look into the matter with that above quoted. As he fails to tell us *what it is*, we give the following correspondence not so much for our readers benefit, as we opine ere this they have solved the problem—as for his enlightenment.

To the Editor of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST:

DEAR SIR—Your letter to the Postmaster at Richmond in regard to a Confederate Stamp, has been handed me. The stamp was never accepted by the Confederate Government and is therefore simply an essay. It probably would have been accepted had not the design of the Confederate Flag been changed about the time this stamp was offered. Respectfully, C. F. JOHNSTON.

DEAR SIR—Your favor is to hand. I know the Flag Stamp was never used by the Confederate Government. The party who has the cut lives here, and several years ago furnished some of them in *black* and *blue*. I (among others) bought a lot from him and sold some of them to Blank, & Co., New York, and possibly a few to other dealers. Respectfully, C. F. JOHNSTON.

If our censor will carefully peruse Mr. Johnston's second letter he will find food for much thought, and perhaps agree with us if not blinded by prejudice that other craftsmen besides TAILORS are in the stamp revamping business. The stamp in controversy is a *genuine essay*, and not of the kind our friend Mr. Johnston speaks of as being struck off several years ago. Its whole appearance is the very personification of history, showing the straits to which the Confederate Government was driven in order to supply its wants with the meagre means which it found within its territory. The paper is poor and of the same texture and quality as their banking bills. The printing is another striking evidence of its origin, and altogether the stamp impresses one with the feeling that it is the effort of other than the adroit counterfeiter, and the appliances with which they work. Our critic in the final concludes that no collector should be without "Blank's Revised List," which to do him justice is a very neat way of placing an advertisement, and should be paid for by Blank at double rates.

MONEY HUNTING.

A series of papers, personal and practical, upon the method of finding and recognizing Ancient Coins.

By ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

(Oriental Traveler and Author of various Numismatic works such as "The Coins of the 11 Caesars," etc.)

Among my many money-hunting experiences, I recall with particular pleasure a week spent at a great coin mart in Europe, where the traveling collectors of coins sell their gatherings. It is a sort of wholesale coin establishment, and the stock in trade is virtually ordered by barrel's full! I am sure that I handled a million coins that week, many of them, of course, defaced, semi legible, illegible, worn to a button, in fact, in every stage of dilapidation and decay. I do not mean that I fingered so many specimens one by one, for many of them I merely shovelled over by handfuls. In my first article, I explained how so much Roman coinage remained to the present age. This is particularly the case in Spain, where the ancient coinages are so abundant that they are actually current among the lower classes at the present day.

During the week referred to, I acquired considerable expertness in detecting the age and character of a coin at a glance. It was a good experience to me and has been of permanent benefit in my later studies. BON-EVENT I can now read without hesitation. "The happy approach" ALIM ITAL "The food supply of Italy" CENS P "The permanent a censor" INVICTVS the unconquerable. P.F.AVG the dutiful, the fortunate Augustus. REST a restored coin. LIB PVB National Liberty. ROM ET AVG To Rome and to Augustus. SEC TEMP. the security of the times. SPQR The Roman Senate and People. SIC V SIC X As the fifth year donations to the Gods so also the tenth. N C. The most noble Caesar, etc., etc.

And the coins explained to me what had always puzzled me before, and does, I find, puzzle all coin students, viz.: the initial letters in the exergue of the coins, that is, the part at the bottom of the reverse sides. These initials usually point to the places where the coins were struck, the mints, what the French call *hotels monetaires*. For instance, SSP is read the money of Siscia, SICS V the money of the city of Siscia. RA is Ravenna. CON and CONS are found in millions of coins denoting that they were struck at Constantinople. Sometimes the letter S precedes the CON and this is read Struck at Constantinople. PT is money of Treves, PARL money of Arles, PLON money of London, PLVG money of Lyons, AMB money struck at Antioch in the 2d department of the mint, AQUBF money fabricated at Aquilava in the 2d department, MSTR money struck at Treves, etc., etc. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of these varieties and there is no way to become familiar with them like handling great quantities of coins.

In looking them over, if I saw a large head of wheat, I credited the coin to some place in the rich plains of Sicily, as, for instance, Metapontum if two men wrestling, Selge in Piridio, if a jumping rabbit, Messina, if a lion's head with tongue thrust out, Pantacapenum, if a dog, Posidonia, if a branch of the plant called silphium. the coin was struck in Cyrene, Africa. Coins of Miletus presented a full length lion with a star over his back, those of Ephesus a honey bee; those of Chios a sphinx, those of Athens an owl, those of Ægina a sea tortoise, those of Crotana a tripod, those of Neapolis and Macedonia a comic mask, those of Rhodes a full-blown rose, those of Zante a dolphin, those of Gelas a human headed bull, those of Grossus, a labyrinth, those of Centuripo, a bird seated on a plow, those of Antioch a lamb running and looking back upon a moon and star above him. A horse standing by a palm tree gives the mintage of Carthage, a cock for Calis and other places a swan for Camarina and so for the whole range of natural and artificial objects

In the district named, I familiarized myself so thoroughly with the portraits upon Roman coins that, as I walk along one of your crowded streets of New York, I often find myself engaged in identifying the various monarchs, good, bad and indifferent, who occupied successively the Roman throne. If I see a fellow with a bull-neck, and lower jaw square and sinewy as a dog's, I say, "There goes Nero." General Grant enjoys this arrangement of the jaws, and is able to maintain the heaviest and strongest cigar between them indefinitely. If a long, thin, thoughtful face, surmounted by a bald forehead, presents itself, I say, "there goes the foremost man of all the world—that's Julius Caesar." In an article which I wrote some years since for *The Phrenological Journal of New York*, I dwelt on this branch of the subject. If I encounter a man with a neck like a giraffe's, and a heavy head well set on, I feel it due him to act as godfather and call him Claudius. A gluttonous old rascal, whose eyes stand out with fatness, and whose flesh shakes on his frame as he scrambles along, is Vetellius. Marcus Aurelius and Septimicus Severus abound in every barber's shop, where they go to have their tangled beards trimmed, and their rebellious shocks polled. Rarely do I meet a Postumus, for kind nature on this Western continent is too generous to perpetuate such faces, but Constantine the Great stalks our streets numerously, accompanied by Julian the Apostate, and the whole series, who in rapid succession assumed the purple of the throne.

So of Roman ladies, the empresses, princesses etc. of the period, by the aid of coins we learn to recognize them often at a glance. What beautiful features have Poppoea, the wife of Nero; Faustina Junior, wife of Marcus Aurelius; Cornelia Supera; Manmiana, Tranquillina, Fausta, wife of Constantine, etc. At concerts I have looked over the audiences and identified those beautiful types

which our dear nature loves best to perpetuate. How motherly appears Helena, mother of the great Constantine, the Christian empress.

What skill those mint artists of Greece and Rome displayed in drawing horses! Where is the fire of action in modern coins as in the ancient? I have a folio volume containing a complete series of the coins and medals of Napoleon, made with the most exalted talent of France and Italy, but I fail to find among them the skill of antiquity. In coins of Sicily, those districts which supplied the armies of Carl age and Rome with their finest war-horses, this spirit of engraving surpasses everything. The horses upon their coins illustrate the words of Job, - his strength, his neck clothed with thunder, swallowing the ground with fierceness and rage, jawing in the valley and rejoicing in his strength smelling the battle afar off, and saying among the trumpets, Ha! Ha! going on to meet the armed men!!! Where will you find language more pictorial, than that? yet in the horses, upon those ancient coins, the spoken words are depicted. The drawing chariots, two and four horses abreast, this equine fire is grandly displayed. Often upon a Roman *denarius*, but little larger than one of our dimes, we see the 16 feet of the 4 prancing horses all at a time in the air. When they are represented as running, four abreast, one or two of them, as depicted throwing back their heads in the very wantonness of their strength.

My examination of coins during that busy week gave me a general idea of the scarcity of certain ancient coins as compared with the abundance of others. The first three Constantines contributed millions of coins to the world's currency; so did the various Ptolemies. Coins of Hadrian giving accounts of his extensive and long-protracted voyages and journeys by land are numerous; so are those of Antonius Pius, Marcus Aurelius and their respective wives, Faustina the mother and the daughter. Money of Domitian is plenty and cheap, that of Titus scarce. Coins of Augustus Caesar are among the most common, those of Caligula among the most rare. It is not easy to get genuine specimens of Julius Caesar.

Among my amusing experiences coin hunting in the East, I will recount one incident connected with the City of Tyre, where there is quite a coin mart. Sitting under a most umbrageous fig-tree, the coolest shelter that nature produces, the natives came down in numbers and tried their powers of coin dealing upon me. Many of their offerings were good pieces and cheap, and it was not difficult to trade. Others were good pieces, but the prices exorbitant. But the most ridiculous attempt at a swindle was by a fellow named Mohammed, which, by the way, is the name of nine-tenths of the fellahin Arabs of that region. He brought me a silver coin wet and muddy, just dug up, he averred, from a well which his party was excavating near by. Rubbing it clean and dry between

my hands, I saw at once the sell. It was an American silver 3 cent piece of 1863. How it got into the hands of the fellow it is not in my power to explain. Probably some American traveler gave it to him, but he said he had just exhumed it a depth of 30 feet, and when I expressed a mild doubt of the statement, he brought forward several of his companions to testify to the same.

Wishing to have a little sport with the fellow, I maintained a serious countenance, and pointing to the large C on one side, asked him what that meant? He replied, without hesitation, "that this was the money struck by King Solomon for masonic purposes and that the letter was in fact a G, the ancient masonic emblem." Turning it over I called his attention to these three marks III, and asked their meaning. "These are the three great masons who built the temple at Jerusalem, viz.: Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram the Architect."

All this was a delightful corroboration of ancient history, so, pulling out a handful of gold, I enquired his price for so rare and instructive a coin. The rascal sized my pile, hesitated a moment, looked at me to see how much I would probably stand, and said "five Napoleons." (\$20). I offered him a *piaster* (four cents) for it, and then, after half an hour's dickering, I actually gave him a quarter of a dollar for the piece to make it the basis of this pleasant story to my friends at home.

In February a collection of twenty-five autograph letters was sold at Kirby's Art Gallery, this city. They belong to the estate of the late Edward Satterlee, coming into his possession from the family of Governor Clinton. Many of the letters were written to Governor Clinton during the Revolution and the year immediately following it. One was written by General Washington from Newburg, on April 22, 1783, referring to the establishment of peace between England and the Colonies. There is one written by Thomas Jefferson from Philadelphia, respecting goods seized by the British in 1793. In writing to Governor Clinton in 1778 the Marquis de la Fayette spoke of sending troops to West Point and to the frontier. He advised that the wives of British officers who were about Johnstown should be allowed to join their husbands in Canada, and said: "We do not make war on women, and I like better to have our enemies without than within our country." The letter is rather long. After speaking of the discipline of troops and other matters, it concludes as follows: "I am ignorant of my destination and expect some letters from His Excellency General Washington. Everything the General will think proper for me I shall take very thankfully, because I am sure he will never think of anything but what could be agreeable for me and useful to the common cause."

There are also letters from Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Baron Steuben, Lord Stirling, Major-General Putnam, Joseph Braut, Benedict Arnold, Alexander Hamilton, William Floyd, Lord Byron, Aaron Burr and others.

FIGURING WITH TIME.

There have been for centuries doubts as to the correctness of the accepted calculation of the Christian era. Some learned historians cannot agree whether Christ was born in the year 747, 749 or 754, counting from the foundation of Rome. Recently Prof. Sattler of Munich has published an essay in which he tries to reconcile the testimony of the Evangelists with the other historical data on this point. He has examined four copper coins, newly discovered, which were struck in the reign of Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod the Great, and he comes to the conclusion that Christ was born not 754 but 749 years after the foundation of Rome, and therefore that the present year is 1888 instead of 1883. This opinion the Professor tries to corroborate by the testimony of the Evangelists.

According to St. Matthew, Jesus was born toward the end of the reign of Herod the Great, and when that king died Jesus was yet a little child. According to St. Luke, Jesus was born in the year in which, by virtue of a decree of Augustus Cæsar, Cyrenius, Governor of Syria, made the first census of Judea. Again St. Luke says that St. John began to baptise in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, and in that year baptised Jesus who was then 30 years of age. As to the first testimony there can be no misunderstanding. Christ being born in 749, was of course yet a babe in 750 when Herod died. But the other testimony needs some explanation. From the *Breviarium Imperii*, (Census of the Empire) which was added to the will of Augustus Cæsar, it is evident that a thorough census of the countries that composed the Roman Empire must have been made. In fact, Augustus had three censuses of his possessions made, namely, in 726, 746 and 766. As St. Luke says that in Judea the first census was made during the reign of Herod, the census must have been ordered in 746. Probably the census was begun in Judea in 747, and Prof. Sattler thinks it was not made in Jerusalem earlier than 749. He finds that the four coins enable him to make clear the testimony of the Evangelist as to the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius. Though Augustus died on Aug. 19, 767, yet the beginning of the reign of Tiberius must be counted a year and a half earlier (February, 766), when he was appointed co-regent. Therefore the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius falls in 780, when St. John baptized Jesus, who was then about 30 years of age.

An Evangelist says that Christ began to preach forty-six years after the temple at Jerusalem was built by Herod. Now, it is known that the building of the temple was begun eighteen years after Herod was appointed by the Roman Senate as regent of Judea, or in the year 734 from the foundation of Rome. Adding 46 to that year, it gives 780 as the year in which Christ began to preach.

If all these calculations of Prof. Sattler are correct, then the Christian era began five years earlier than is usually supposed, making the current year 1888 instead of 1883.

ON A BRONZE.

TICKET TO A ROMAN BROTHEL.

Suggested by a Roman Bronze sold in the Randall collection 1882.

Obverse.—A scene within.

Reverse.—In Roman numerals, the number of one of the inmates.

How like a wizard's stone this ancient bronze,
This patinated key that ope'd the door
And passed its holder in the charnel-house;
That rang with mockery when Rome was Rome?
Now as in dream-land I can see the walls
Of palaces and temples rising up,
Triumphal arches spanning once again
The roads where emperor and victor passed.
In thunder from the Forum's walls I hear
The mighty utterances that have gone
Reverberating down the path of time,—
"SENATUS POPULUS QUE ROMANUS!"
I see the pageants thro' the Via pass,
And from the Amphitheatre I hear
Th' applauding thousands who have massed to
see

A Christian butchered for a holiday!
The Tarpean Rock, again the Palatine—
But from them all the wizard bronze recalls,
And in the dream of old I slowly pass
The guarded portals of the gilded hell.
The drinking cup and obscene jest go round
With mocking laugh that has no touch of mirth
And faces all that bear the strong impress
Of unrewarding vice and sin, are there.

* * * * *
And this is Rome! Eternal Rome, the queen
Of all the world, whose temple walls should stand
Until the last of Adam's erring race.
Had laid him down in some far land and died!
And this is Rome, who gave religion, art,
And sent her mandates over half the sphere—
Yet where the matrons were in some mad feast
Sold in the market-place for public hire!
And who was she whose graven number stands
In Roman numerals upon the bronze?
One favorite for whom the die was cut,
Or one of many who but came and passed?
I see her now in youth, half maid, half child,
Among the flowers upon the river's side,
And near perchance where brave Horatius looked
To see once more the white porch of his home.
I see her leave the vine-clad hills and fields,
The limpid streams that tell the purity;
And watch her cross the Tiber's yellow flood
To enter at the gate of Rome—and sin!
How varied are the scenes that cluster round
This lifeless metal, that forever speaks
Of human life two thousand years ago,
When Rome her sceptre held o'er all the West!
It tells of one once spotless lily touched,
It bears th' eternal record of her shame;
Proclaims the number she had won and worn,
But hides from censuring hearts and tongues—
her name. EDWIN L. JOHNSON.

RAKING UP THE PAST.

A correspondent of the *Times* (London) writes to that journal that he has found, while perusing a work called "Memoires d'Angleterre," written in French, and published at the Hague in 1698, that "a Mr. William Dockwra may fairly be credited with the discovery of the principle which Sir Rowland Hill has so successfully elaborated in our own days."

G. A. Sala in commenting thereon, says: "our correspondent would have gathered more information touching "a Mr. William Dockwra" had he turned to that "Old and New London," published by "Capell" in Vol. II., page 209, of which the whole story of the luckless projector in question is narrated. It was Robert Murray, an upholsterer, who suggested the idea of a post from one part of London to another; and Murray's post was afterwards assigned (1681) to William Dockwra or Dockwra. By his regulations, letters not exceeding *one pound* in weight were to be charged one penny in the city and suburbs, and two-pence for any distance within a ten-mile radius.

The Penny Post was at first as vehemently opposed in the reign of Charles II. as Rowland Hill's scheme of Penny Postage was opposed by the Tories in the early days of the reign of Queen Victoria. Titus Oates denounced Dockwra's post as a Jesuit scheme, useful for transmitting Polish treason; and the City Fellowship porters tore down the placards inscribed "Penny Post letters taken in here" from the doors of the receiving houses. But as the Penny Post soon became an extremely profitable enterprise, the Duke of York, to whom the revenues of the Post Office had been assigned by his Royal Brother, complained that his monopoly was being infringed by Dockwra, and the Court of King's Bench gave judgment that the new postal department must be absorbed by the Government. Dockwra, however, was appointed by the Duke, Comptroller of the District Post, and ten years after Dockwra's collapse one Povey unsuccessfully attempted to rival the Government with a Halfpenny Post.

It seems tolerably clear that the late Sir Rowland Hill was not the *inventor*, in the strict sense of the term, either of the Penny postage or of the adhesive postage stamp. The merit of the first invention must be divided between Murray, the upholsterer, and Dockwra, his assignee. Anent the invention of the adhesive stamp, a pamphlet has recently been published, but I have not yet had time to read it. In any case, it is acknowledged that Rowland Hill was a wonderfully clever, clear-headed, and energetic assimilator and organizer; and it is almost beyond dispute that but for his unwearied exertions, his magnificent plan of Cheap Postage would not have been carried a. d. 1840. Whoever discovered the adhesive stamp, the discovery has socially revolutionized the world. The author of the perforated stamp is, on the other hand, well known, and has been nationally rewarded.

AN HONEST OFFICE-HOLDER.

Mr. Andrew Mason, the chief melter and refiner of the United States Assay Office, who was promoted to be superintendent of the office to fill the place made vacant by the death of Dr. Van Wyck, was sworn in and entered upon his new duties recently. Mr. Mason filed bonds for \$50,000, his two brothers becoming his sureties. Whenever there is a new Superintendent of the Assay Office, it becomes necessary to make a complete inventory of the parcels of the precious metals contained in the vaults. For this purpose Dr. Frederick Eckfeldt, of the Treasury Department, was sent from Washington, and in conjunction with Mr. H. C. Burchard, Director of the United States Mints, spent several days at the Assay Office in this city overhauling the bullion in the vaults, as a necessary preliminary to approving the accounts of Mr. Mason, as chief melter and refiner.

Boxes containing \$5,000,000 in gold bullion bars, which had been carefully weighed and appraised only a few days subsequent to the count and were ready for shipment to the Philadelphia Mint to be coined, had to be reopened and reweighed, owing to the change in the head of the office. There is about \$25,000,000 in gold and \$50,000,000 in silver in the vaults.

Mr. Martin, who assumes Mr. Mason's former position, must enter upon his duties with an exact account, to the thousandth part of an ounce, of the gold and silver bullion which is to pass through his hands. The accounts were found to be in admirable condition. The remarkable discovery was made by Mr. Burchard, after weighing all the precious metals, that Mr. Mason had more bullion on hand than he was charged with. There have been bank officers in Newark and elsewhere, "who would never have been guilty of an oversight like this."

A HEAVY RANSOM REFUSED.

A Santiago correspondent of the *Libertad* of Talea, relates the following story, which shines with the old familiar gleam of the mining camp fire, and in the present dearth of bonanzas may be worth repeating. An Austrian engineer has made a wonderful discovery in the desert of Atacama.

It appears that once upon a time a member of the ancient tribe of Changos, who was known as the Chango Aracena, used to sell to the house of Artola, which is still in existence at Cobija, ores of almost pure silver. About the year 1839 a great crime was committed in Copiapo, for which Aracena suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Just previous to the sentence being carried into effect Aracena offered to pay off the national debt if he was pardoned. The offer was refused, but Aracena, unwilling to die with so great a secret in his breast, communicated it to his lawyer, Don Vincente Quesada, who is still alive and in good health. Lawyer Quesada, in his turn, communicated it to the engineer in question, and it was while searching for Aracena's mine that he made the discovery already referred to. The mines are of silver and nickel, and the ores are of a ley of 9,000 marks. The engineer has brought a piece of the ore weighing sixty pounds to Valparaiso, and the captain of the vessel which conveyed the precious lump became so enthusiastic over the discovery that he offered \$200,000 for a share. The Chango's hidden treasure is also in a fair way of being discovered, the primitive tools he made use of having been found already. These mines are situated in the famous mineral district called "Vaca Muerta." A company is being formed to work this new and wonderful discovery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR—One of your correspondents in speaking of "Allens" local in your March number says: "I am strongly of the opinion that the Chicago dealers have prompted the "post" owner to have stamps for collectors, etc., etc., etc.

In the above connection, I wish to say that such was not the case, for I was the first dealer who spoke to Mr. Allen about purchasing his stamps, and I had some difficulty in making him understand what use they could be to collectors. He had at that time two varieties, and I am sure that not a single stamp dealer in the city had one of them in stock, and do not think half of them knew of their existence. At all events, the best proof is that there is not a dealer in the city that has a stock of them on hand, but that have been purchased of patrons of his post after he was placed under arrest, and his place was confiscated and the stamps destroyed by the government officers.

Yours truly,

C. H. M.

WE GIVE THE FOLLOWING TO OUR READERS not for any Philatelic or Numismatic news that it contains but simply to share with them the knowledge which our correspondent conveys of the great treat in store for those who are or who shall become subscribers to the *Magazine of American History* edited by Mrs. Martha Lamb, 30 Lafayette Place, this city. We bear a willing and hearty testimony to all he writes concerning it. After some preliminary remarks, he says: "The contents of the number for May was surpassed in interesting historical matter by none of the previous numbers. The "History of Wall Street," which is to be continued in the coming numbers being alone worth the price paid for this Journal. An article by the Hon. Horatio King, "President Buchanan Vindicated" has already brought forth pro and con quite a deal of press comment. "John Howard Payne," by Lawrence Hutton, with portraits of Payne is exceedingly rich in reminiscence of our early days, but greater still in that respect are "Original Documents," which also includes facsimile of autograph signatures to the petition to the King by the Continental Congress, 1774." We would add to the above that there is no other magazine that will give to students of American History so much of interesting facts concerning early American history as the above noticed volume.

DEAR SIR—Can you inform me whether Mr. W. V. B. Hall, 197 St. James St., Montreal, Canada, is a reliable dealer or not? Why I ask is this: I received a circular from him and it contains surprising offers in stamps, so much so as to arouse a feeling of suspicion that they could not be genuine. Yours respectfully, E. J.

HARBOUR, April 26, 1893.

DEAR SIR—It affords me pleasure to inform you that a Philatelic society was organized here on the 19th inst., with the following officers: President Wallace McCamant; Vice-President Jas. G. Parsons; Secretary, Mr. E. Finney; Treasurer, Wm. Sayford, Respectfully, WALLACE McCAMANT,
301 Foster Street.

DEAR SIR—I beg to inform you that G. W. Starr, of this city is a fraud. He is one of these "send me sheet on approval," young men. Please place him on your "black list." Respectfully,
H. S. KEALHOFFER.

UNCLE SAM AS A COUNTERFEITER.

King Kalakaua of the Sandwich Islands is anxious about the coin which he is to have coined in this country. Superintendent Snowden of the Philadelphia Mint is making the designs and the dies will soon be cast. On one side of the coin will be the King's face, and on the other a part of the great seal of his kingdom. The denomination of the coins will be indicated in the Hawaiian and English languages. There will be "Akahi dalas," "Hapalua dalas," and "Hapahas," or dollars half dollars, and quarters respectively. There will likewise be dimes, but the name of that piece has not yet been translated into Hawaiian. In size and weight the money will be equal to United States coin. As soon as the designs have been decided on the dies will probably be sent to San Francisco, where the first batch of money, to the value of \$1,000,000, will, it is said, be coined.

The business may seem a queer one for the Government to go into, but money has been made before for other nations, and both then and now enquiries have shown that there is nothing unconstitutional in this enterprise. Of course, the making of dies and the coining of money for the Hawaiian Islands is a matter of accommodation, undertaken at the urgent request of Kalakaua; and this monarch, on being informed that an image of himself was to ornament his coins, is said to have manifested a great degree of impatience to see them finished. There is sometimes perhaps, a slight national advantage in coining for other nations, provided the United States can fix the coinage. For example, the coins now preparing for Hawaii are in size, weight, fineness, and value exact equivalent of our dollars, half-dollars, quarters, and dimes; and this is some convenience to commerce. In addition, this outlet for his ambition may content the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, in place of needlessly changing the coins of the United States; at all events, he should remember to put the words denoting the denominations on the Sandwich Island coins, and not trust to numerals only for expressing the value.



Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 2.

New York, June, 1883.

No. 3

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

A Series of Continued Articles treating of the Geography, History, and People of the Different Countries, and of the Postage Stamps Issued by them.

By A. M. C.

XII—URUGUAY.

Republica Oriental del Uruguay, Formerly Banda Oriental, and known by us as the republic of Uruguay is a South American state, lying between the Southern limit of Brazil and the river Rio de la Plata. It extends between 30° 20' and 35° S. Lat., and 50° 30' and 50° 30' W. Long.; and is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the empire of Brazil, on the west by the province of Entre Rios, now a part of the Argentine Republic from which it is divided by the river Uruguay, and on the south by the Rio de la Plata, which divides Uruguay from Buenos Ayres. The area is about 100,000 square miles. The population has been estimated at 250,000, but, with the few native inhabitants, it probably does not much exceed half that number.

The interior of Uruguay is very imperfectly known. In the south, all along the Rio de la Plata, and as far north as the Rio Negro, the country is a sort of terraced upland, with a bold, broken, treeless coast line, possessing some excellent harbors; while the shores facing the Atlantic are low and sandy. Further east rises a woody plateau, but high, bare, grassy plains, traversed by ranges of low hills, seem to be the leading feature. The climate is mild; rain falls pretty copiously in winter, but is rare in summer.

The most important rivers are the Rio Negro, Daiman, the Araprey, the Yoguaron, and the Sebollati. Agriculture is in a very backward state, although the soil is naturally rich. Small quantities of wheat, maize, barley, rice, peas, beans, flax, hemp and cotton are raised, and fruit trees thrive well; but the wealth of the country consists in its splendid pasturage, which supports great herds of horned cattle, horses and sheep. The wool of these Uruguayan sheep is of a superior quality. The wild animals embrace the tapir, deer, ounce, monkey, paca, rabbit and fox; and large packs of wild dogs infest the plains.

Uruguay has almost no manufactories, and very little commerce as yet. The chief exports are jerked beef and salted beef, tallow, hides, horn and hair; and the chief imports are woolen goods,

household furniture of all kinds, sugar, cordage, agricultural implements, timber, &c.

The capital is Monte Video; there are other towns of note besides the capital, and they are Maldonado and Colonia del Santo Sacramento.

Uruguay was originally colonized by Spanish settlers from Buenos Ayres, on the other side of the La Plata; but the territory which forms the natural limit of Brazil on the south was claimed by Portugal, and a war ensued between the two nations for its possession, which terminated in favor of Spain. Uruguay was now attached to the vice-royalty of Buenos Ayres, and received the name of *Banda Oriental* - i. e. the eastern bank of the Uruguay. Its independence was secured by treaty in 1828, when it took the title of Republica del Uruguay Oriental; but like most of the South American republics, it has suffered incessantly from internal discords.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS.

ADHESIVES.

The year 1856 saw the first issue of postage stamps in Uruguay. They bore the word DILIGENCIA, which probably denotes that they were sent by the diligence or stage-coach. It seems to be an unsettled fact as to whether they were issued by the government or by the proprietors of the diligences, running between the large cities. At any rate, they were issued and recorded in the different stamp publications.

Designs:—In centre, in circle, head of female surrounded by a nimbus, on plain white ground, surrounded on each side by key border frame. Rect. Col. imp. Unperf.

Inscriptions:—At top, DILIGENCIA; at bottom, value in numerals and words.

VALUES.

60 centavos, lilac. | 80 centavos, green.
1 real, red.

In the year 1859, the word DILIGENCIA disappears altogether from the stamps, and the word MONTEVIDEO takes its place until 1848, when MONTEVIDEO in its turn is dropped to make way for another inscription.

Design:—Square, similar to DILIGENCIA, but instead of key border, a plain lettered border.

Inscriptions:—CORREO on right and left sides in border—MONTEVIDEO—at top. Value in words at bottom.

VALUES.

July 1st, value in small figures and with line between stamps.

60 centesimos, slate.
80 " orange.
100 " red brown.

Latter part of the year. Large numerals in value, and without lines between stamps. The colors vary greatly.

60 centesimos . . . lilac. | 100 centesimos . . . carmine-
80 " . . . yellow. | 120 " blue.
180 centesimos . . . green.

Issue of Oct. 19, 1860.—Same as 1859, but with lettering in "block" letters. Dots in corners. Centesimos abbreviated to CENTS., Square. Col. imp. Unperf.

120 centesimos . . . blue. | 180 centesimos . . . green.
240 centesimos . . . red.

Issue of Feb. 29, 1864. *Design*:—Arms on lined ground, surrounded by inscriptions above and below the upper legend, being $\frac{3}{4}$ circle, and the lower $\frac{1}{4}$ circle.

Inscriptions:—Upper, REPUBLICA ORIENTAL. Lower value in figures and words.

VALUES.

06 centesimos rose. | 10 centesimos yellow-brown.
08 " green | 12 " blue.

Issue of 1866. *Provisional*. *Design* and inscription same as 1864 issue. Values surcharged on them in black.

5 centesimos . . . blue. | 15 centesimos . . . brown.
10 " . . . green. | 20 " rose.

General issue. *Design* too complicated to explain. *Inscriptions*, REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY—CORREOS. And large figures of value always in the centre, and the word CENTESIMO is seen either on the figures or on bars crossing the figures. Rect. Col. imp. unperforated.

VALUES.

1 centesimos . . . black. | 10 centesimos . . . green.
5 " blue. | 15 " yellow.
20 centesimos rose.

Issue of 1872; *Design*, *Inscriptions*, *Values* and *Colors* same as previous issue, but perforated.

Issue of 1877. *Design* too complicated to explain. *Inscriptions*:—The phrase REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY and CENTESIMOS, appear in different parts of the stamps. The figures are sometimes small and at other times large and generally occupy the centre. Printed in New York, Engraved, Rouletted, Col. imp.

VALUES.

1 centesimo . . . brown. | 20 centesimos . . . brown.
5 centesimos . . . green. | 50 " black.
10 " vermilion. | 1 peso blue

Issues of 1880-81. 1 centesimo, same as same value in previous issue. 7 cent. blue. Lithographed, Rouletted. *Design*:—Bust in centre of of key-pattern oval. Figure 7 in circles in corners. *Inscriptions*:—REP O. DEL.—CENTS—URUGUAY—CENTS. This stamp was ridiculed by the Philatelic press, when it first appeared, because of its resemblance to the head on patent medicine advertisements representing a person as he appeared "before using" the mixture.

1882 issue. The 1 centesimo 1881 issue was replaced in this year by another of a different design to complicated to explain. Color, green.

There was also a 2 centesimos issued. Color, carmine.

ENVELOPES.

1866. Embossed figures with shield and sun in wide checkered border, inscribed REPUBLICA DEL URUGUAY—MONTEVIDEO.—The word centesimos on the figures.

5 centesimos . . . blue. | 10 centesimos green.

1867 same as last, but with value spelt, Centesimos. Same values and colors.

1879. *Design* too complicated to explain. *Inscription*: REPUBLICA DEL URUGUAY—CENTESIMOS.

VALUES.

5 centesimos red. | 10 centesimos blue
20 centesimos carmine.

For late letters there is a set issued in 1879, surcharged "Fuera de Hora" thus:

FUERA
DE
HORA

The *Designs*, *Inscriptions*, *values* and *colors* are of the 1877 issue.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

1879 issue. *Design*. Large figure, 1 in centre, sun above. Ornaments below with CENTESIMO inscribed thereon. Oval border inscribed REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY.

1 centesimo carmine.

FRANKING FIFTY YEARS AGO.

One is forcibly reminded of the changes introduced since Miss Mitford's time by the frequent mention in her correspondents' letters of franks, and above all by the importance attached to them. To obtain a frank would seem, in those days, to have been one of the main objects of life; and we find Mrs. Trollope writing to Miss Mitford concerning a letter of great interest and importance that she would enclose if she knew where to get a frank; but that, being unable to do so, she transcribes a portion of it. The letter in question was from Macready, and it had reference to Miss Mitford's tragedy of "Rienzi," which Mrs. Trollope had asked him to bring out. One of Miss Mitford's correspondents, Sir W. Elford, announces to her a discovery he has made on the subject of writing letters, to the effect that the power of doing so is regulated by the writers' distance from the metropolis: a person who lives within forty miles, for instance, possessing that power in the proportion of eleven to two beyond one who lives 220 miles from it; and so on. It appears, however, from more than one of his letters that their frequency was in some measure regulated by the writer's power of getting franks. "I am now come to Wednesday, the 29th," we read in one letter, "and I have just a frank for Saturday, the 1st." Accordingly the letter is delayed until the 1st, and on that day completed and sent to the post. It must be remembered, however, in connection with this question of franks, that in the days of dear postage it was not the fashion to prepay letters, so that to send a letter franked by a member of Parliament was not an economy on the part of the sender, but a gain only to the receiver. Many of Miss Mitford's correspondence seem to have thought that letters ought always to be franked, and that there was no other way of getting them through the post.

NEW ISSUES.

AZORES:—The new Portuguese 5 reis, stamp has been surcharged in black, AZORES.

BAHAMAS:—The *Philatelic Monthly* for June says: "We have received some of the 6 penny surcharged" four pence "in black, and learn that they are already obsolete "

BANGKOK.—In addition to these mentioned on pages 132 and 147 there is a 96 cents St. Settlement with the "B" surcharge.

BRAZIL:—A new 100 reis stamp has been issued. In the centre is the head of the emperor Dom Pedro, to left on a headed oval; ornamented spandrels. At top BRAZIL, at bottom REIS between two ovals in the corners containing the value in figures—100, besides CORREOS in curved line. Col. imp. White paper. Perf. 16. Color, violet.

COSTA RICA:—All the values of the newest can be found surcharged OFFICIAL. In addition to the surcharge for Costa Rica mentioned on page 132, there is two more on the 2 reales, thus:

5	10
cts.	cts.
UPU	UPU

There is also a 2 centavos Post Union Card. Black lithograph on brownish paper.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—In addition to the ones mentioned on page 147, there are the following:

10 centimos on 2 centavos orange.
1 franc " 20 " brown.

FINLAND:—The inscription upon the 10—10 pennia postal card has undergone a change.

FRANCE:—A card with four lines for the address has been issued. 10 centimos, black on violet. A 50 centesimos pneumatic card bearing REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE—TELEGRAPHE and the figure 50 in large type has been issued. Black on blue.

GRENADA:—The design of the new ½ penny is as follows: Head of Victoria in centre of lined octagonal ground GRENADA POSTAGE above and HALF PENNY below in straight line. Ornamental spandrels; ½ penny green. There is also of the same design an 8 pence gray.

GRIQUALAND:—2d. and 3d. Cape of Good Hope stamps do duty as postage stamps in Griqualand West when surcharged with a "G" in small type.

ITALY:—Three new postal card
15 centesimi (double) ("82") brown on rose.
10 " " " "
15 " (double) " "

LABUAN:—As a new emission we have a 40 cents, orange.

MAURITIUS:—The current 17 cents has been surcharged over the bottom, thus:

16 CENTS.

The sur charge is in black.

NEW SOUTH WALES:—New card has been issued, viz., IXI rose

PERU:—*Philatelic Monthly* for June says: "Some 2 centavos stamps, printed in red, and surcharged with the arms of Chili, have lately turned up."

There is another stamp—a provisional—said to have been used by the Peruvians. In the centre arms surrounded by oval band, inscribed DEPARTAMENTOS DEL SUR—TIMBRES, 1881-1882. In top corners "25," at bottom in straight line PERU Below the above is

25 centavos.

SAN SALVADOR:—Card. Design of the stamp. In the centre, the arms of San Salvador in oval band, inscribed REPUBLICA SAN SALVADOR—AMERICA CENTRAL. Below oval in curved line, 15 DE STT 1821. Ornamental spandrels. Inscriptions on the card: UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE and REPUBLIQUE DE SALVADOR—AMERIQUE—CENTRALE—No. —TARJETA CORRESPONDENCIA—ESTA LADO SOLO ES AARD EL TITULO O DISECCION. Value unknown. Green and black on white.

URUGUAY:—1 centesimos, adhesive: arms in centre of two curved ribbons, inscribed REPUBLICA O DEL URUGUAY—UN CENSESIMO. 1 UNO, 1 at top and bottom.

5 centesimos, adhesive: Bust of General Maximo Santos in centre. At top in curved ribbon, REPUBLICO O. DEL URUGUAY; at bottom in straight ribbon, cinco centesimos. Figure "5" in upper and lower corners.

Postal cards: They bear the date 1883, and are as follows:

2 centesimos, black	(single).
2 x 2 " " red-brown	(double).
2 " " blue	(single).
3 x 2 " " green	(double).

HOW CHECK STAMPS WILL BE CANCELLED.

The Internal Revenue Bureau has been very much puzzled where to obtain the money with which the force could be paid for cancelling the two-cent check stamps and drafts to be returned to the banks. About a ton of check-books lie in the Bureau. It was discovered that Congress has made no appropriation for cancelling stamps. After long deliberation, the different accounting officers agreed that the expense could be paid out of the fund for the maceration of stamps, as the cancelling upon them of the words "stamp redeemed" was the legal equivalent of the destruction of the stamps. By this means only has the inadvertence of Congress been corrected, and it is made possible for the banks to receive back their check-books by July 1. The work of cancelling the stamps will immediately begin.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

" *A child's among you takin' notes,
A faith, he'll prevent them.*"

The Chalmers *versus* Hill controversy concerning the inventor of the adhesive stamp has been waging tumultuously for some months back, and now that the mass of letter writing by the champions of either side has come to a close for the time being at least, I may now take a survey in order to see how the land lies. When I last wrote on the subject in these pages, No. 10 Vol. I., the Philatelic Society of London had given their decision in favor of the defender, Hill, finding the charges brought against his father as unfounded. But this does not exhaust all the decisions. On the first of March at a meeting of the Dundee Town Council, a member in terms of previous notice moved:—"That having had, under consideration the pamphlet lately published on the subject of the adhesive stamp, the council are unanimously of opinion that it has been conclusively shown that the late James Chalmers, bookseller, Dundee, was the originator of this indispensable feature in the success of the reformed penny postage scheme, and that such be entered upon the "Minutes." The Provost in moving the previous question, although he endorsed all that was said regarding Mr. Chalmers as a citizen, held that Council was not the proper place to decide the question, as it was without their jurisdiction altogether to record any such matters, even if true. On a division being taken it was found 14 had voted for the motion, and only five for the Provost amendment. This decision in favor of Mr. Chalmers by so high a body, if not a high authority, turned the scales again equally; if Mr. Hill had got a decision in his favor, so had Mr. Chalmers. Pearson Hill was no doubt fully aware that this practical overturning of the London Society's verdict left him in much the same position as he occupied previous to the finding. With a view to opening up a fresh correspondence on the subject, this gentleman addressed a letter to the Provost of Dundee, complaining of the Council having passed a resolution on an *ex parte* statement, and enclosed documents to show the real facts of the case. Following on this, Mr. Hill commenced what has turned out to be a lengthy and acrimonious discussion in the columns of the *Dundee Advertiser*. His chief charge is the mutilation of letters that had passed from him to Mr. Chalmers. To the charge at first an unqualified denial was given, but subsequently Mr. Chalmers affirmed that the letter in question had reference to foreign matters which had sprung up between the parties and which he was in no way called upon to lay bare

in his pamphlet's. In these he claims that his father invented and advocated adhesive stamps for postage purposes in August 1834, that Sir Rowland Hill has left it on record referring to the same occasion and period, that as respects himself, "of course, adhesive stamps were yet undreamt of," as it was not until 13th February, 1837, that Rowland Hill made his first reference to the adhesive stamp. For my own part I doubt the question of who was the inventor of the adhesive stamp can ever be satisfactorily settled. The more we hear of the subject, it seems as we are less able to settle this knotty point. Whether the determining of this controversy will settle the whole question, I am not prepared to say; indeed it seems to do little good, giving merely private opinions. Mr. Chalmers' opponent would, I gather, be in favor of going to law, but Mr. Chalmers himself, although adverse to this has intimated his assent to refer the matter to arbitration, on the suggestion of Mr. Wiley, chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce. That the late James Chalmers, for whom the inventor of the adhesive stamp is claimed, was recognized as a postal reformer in his day, can be gathered, *inter alia*, from Archibald Constable & Co.'s "Edinburg Magazine" of August, 1825. He is spoken of in the same breath with John Palmer, and regarding Chalmers' services it is said: "if not publicly acknowledged, they have been duly appreciated by those upon whom devolved the charge of adopting them." When the *Record*, in a partial spirit, calls him an "inoffensive" and "unknown" man, it lays itself open to the charge of injustice rather than ignorance.

A preliminary notice respecting the inland parcels post has just been issued by the Postmaster General. On and after Wednesday, 1st August, he will be prepared to accept parcels at the following rates:—

For an inland postal parcel of a weight not exceeding 1 lb.,	the rate of postage to be prepaid in ordinary postage stamps will be	3d.
Exceeding 1 lb. and not exceeding 3 lbs.,		6d.
" 3 lbs. " " 5 lbs.,		9d.
" 5 lbs. " " 7 lbs.,		1s. 0d.

The regulations under which certain articles are prohibited from transmission by the letter post will—with the exception of glass bottles, fish, game, meat, &c.,—apply equally to the parcels post.

I regret to find that Messrs. Nicols Butler & Co. of Maidenhead, England, late publishers of the *Philatelic Review*, and who warrant all stamps sold to be genuine, have been accused of dealing in counterfeit stamps. On the subject I learn the following particulars from the current number of the *Record*. Some time ago a Mr. A. B. Creeke purchased from them certain stamps, amongst others, two Swiss, which proved to be counterfeit. Although this act of dishonesty was pointed out to the sellers, and an opportunity granted them of refunding the money, they refused to do so, main-

taining they had not sold forged stamps. At the most it was only a matter of a few shillings, still a question of principle was involved, one did not get what was paid for, so that Mr. Creeke considered himself justified in seeking legal advice on the subject, and being prepared to carry the matter through the courts, asked of Mr. Philbrick what he should do in the circumstances. This gentleman gave it as his opinion that a competent witness should be subpoenaed to testify as to the worthlessness of the stamps sold. A summons was taken out from the county court, the attendance of an expert was arranged for, such collectors as knew of it waited with expectation the result of the trial, the first of its kind to take place before a British tribunal, and the English journals for once saw before them the prospect of having something spicy wherewith to fill their pages. Matters began to assume a somewhat serious aspect, for the afore-said Nicols Butler & Co., but at this stage they came forward and did what they should have done at first—paid the money demanded. Had this been done when the nature of their stamps was pointed out to them, and had they tendered an apology at the same time, it would have been far better, if not for collectors in general, at least for themselves. As it is, they have done incalculable harm to their name, and no one perhaps will gloat over their moral backsliding more than their English contemporaries. Brotherly love, as well as punctuality, is an element much lacking amongst the dealers hereabouts.

The *Record* which dates this tit-bit "The County Court as a moral lever," winds up in the following strain:—"To this sad tale, we would append the moral, that small dealers should be thankful when their sins of ignorance are pointed out to them, and not try by simple assertion to override customers who have not attained to philatelic celebrity. The simple course of taking a warranty of genuineness will always secure the purchaser against loss if the stamp turns out other than represented." Quite true! Messrs. N. B. & Co. will not relish being termed "small dealers." As to the guarantees given by dealers, this depends who gives the guarantee. For my own part, I should not care a "docken" for many dealers' guarantees—they are not worth the paper they are written on.

Selling forged stamps is obtaining money under false pretences, as he who sells an article for certain qualities he affirms it to possess, but really does not possess, is getting his money unlawfully. Nothing can be more logically true than this syllogism, the contention of wits and anti-stamp collectors as to one bit of paper serving the same purpose and being as good as another, notwithstanding. And here he who for lucre disposes of counterfeits, is met in the face by two inseparable barriers. If he pleads ignorance of their qualities, he should not embark in a trade, the fundamental parts of which he has not mastered, and just as ignorance of the law is no excuse, so ignorance here is his matter, and he must abide the consequences. On the other hand, if he knowingly deals in bogus stamps, the matter is simpler to understand—he is an out and out swindler, liable to be punished for thievery, and dealers in general are more *knave than fool*.

ROSEMOUNT, DOWFIELD, near Dundee, Scotland.

"LAUNDRIED" REVENUE STAMPS.

Special Agent Brooks and other Treasury officers went with a search warrant to the premises of Morris Spiegel & Co., Broad street liquor importers, and seized a number of empty liquor casks from which the stamps had been removed and a locked tin box. There was a tussle for the possession of the box. The officers finally got it. No key could be found, and one of the firm claimed the box as his private property. It was taken to Commissioner Osborn's office and there opened, and found to contain forty washed revenue stamps, representing about \$3,000. Morris Spiegel was arrested and held in \$5,000 bail for examination in the criminal branch of the United States Circuit Court. Spiegel upon trial for having in his possession washed revenue stamps, was represented by Ex-Assistant District Attorney Fiero, who argued that there was no proof of any unlawful use of the stamps and that it was not an offence for the defendant to possess them. The Judge reserved his decision. Spiegel was afterward arrested on the charge of having fraudulent entries in his revenue books and for omitting to make entries therein of the sale and receipt of liquors. He was taken before United States Commissioner Osborn and was released on giving \$5,000 bail.

STAR ROUTE POETRY.

During this noted trial, the "Gum Boot Route" was called up. This place of the contractors was situated between Eugene City and Bridge Creek, Oregon and was so dubbed from the fact that the entire mail was carried in one of these singular receptacles. Among the evidence was a copy of Brady's circular to postmasters, informing them of the discontinuance of star service because of failing appropriations. This was made the basis of a vigorous attack upon Brady. Mr. Ker declared that that circular, together with newspaper publications (for Brady and Vaile were newspaper men) had been intended to stiffen the back of Congress. "But the Congressional back refused to be stiffened," said he. "They allowed one half of the deficiency that (Brady) asked for; gave him a certificate of good character to bring here, so that we could prosecute him, and passed a law prohibiting expedition to more than fifty per cent. of the contract price."

Mr. Ker summed up the evidence concerning this route with the following expressive rhyme:—

The mail was small,
Scarce any at all:
A letter or two and a paper
Went over this route
In the leg of a boot:
The horse on a five-mile caper.

"And the contractors made a profit of \$9,460 per annum," said Mr. Ker.

"Canyon City to Camp McDermott, Oregon, is the next route," continued the speaker. "There it is" (handing maps to the jury); "a long line and nothing on it." * * * * *

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155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 2. JUNE, 1883. No. 3

STAMP AND BANK NOTE ILLUSTRATIONS

Consistency is a Jewel which seems to possess but very little value in the eyes of Philatelic publishers. Let them scent even the resemblance of a counterfeit stamp, and the air resounds with their diatribes and philippics hurled against it, and its lawless maker, and in the same breath they break the laws, and that, with their eyes open to the fact at least for the past six months, it having been the subject of press gossip for that period. We refer to the matter of printing fac-simile impressions of genuine postage stamps. We hold it to be their duty to expose fraudulent dealers, collectors and counterfeiters, but it would lend strength to their philippics, were they to show by this act that it were something more than sermonizing. As far back as January, it was brought to our notice, and after we had expended no small amount of time and money in preparing to illustrate new issues, that to do so would be violating the law and we reluctantly give up the idea. We say reluctant, for we deemed it then as we do now necessary that a Philatelic journal or catalogue should, to be of greater value to the buyer and collector be properly illustrated. The law deals not with the intent of the person illustrating, but simply explains to them that by so doing the penalty is incurred. Defying the law only tends to aggravate the matter, and it would seem to us to be the more sensible plan to request our law makers at Washington to so amend the same, that parties innocent of any criminal intent, by filing a bond if you please, or by the delivery of the dies to a properly constituted authority after they have been used for illustrating, with provision also made that a copy of each of the illustrated works shall be sent to the same authority under penalties upon their failure to do so, would be enabled to continue their work. The following correspondence will explain the matter more fully.

Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor of the Treasury.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 19, 1883.

JAMES E. BROOKS, Esq., Chief Secret Service Division.

SIR:—I am in receipt of yours of the 16th inst. accompanied by a MSS. pamphlet containing *fac-simile* of postage stamps used both in this country by our government and in all other countries with which we have commercial relations. I am clearly of opinion that great abuses might grow out of the

manufacture of these representatives of stamps, no matter how innocent the purpose originally; and I am further of opinion that their manufacture is in violation of the intent and purpose of sections 5464 and 5465, revised statutes.

Respectfully,
(Signed) K. RAYNER,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

A. M. CROUTER, Esq., New York City.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day two copies of the *EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST*. I have just received an opinion of the Solicitor of the Treasury, wherein he holds that to make, issue or circulate such cuts as spoken of, in recent interview are in violation of sections 5464 and 5465 of the revised statutes of the U. S. and therefore should be stopped.

If you will please call at my office I will be pleased to show you the opinion above referred to, also read you the law and go into the matter fully, in order that you may thoroughly post yourself.

Respectfully,
ANDREW L. DRUMMOND.
Office S. S. Division

EDR. E. C. P.

DEAR SIR:—Your communication of the 12th instant, requesting permission of the Post Office Department, under section 5464, to print postage stamps for the sake of illustration in your publication has been received.

You are advised that such permission is never granted, except to the authorized and bonded agents of the postal service, employed to print genuine stamps for the post office use.

Whether or not the stamps in the form you propose to print them comes within the prohibition of the section cited, is a matter upon which you must consult the U. S. District Attorney.

Your letter and enclosure herewith returned.

Very Respectfully,
JAMES H. MAN.
For First Asst. P. M. General.

The following are the sections quoted in the first two letters:

Section 5464. "Any person who shall forge or counterfeit any postage stamp, or any stamp printed upon any stamped envelope, postal card, or any die, plate, or engraving therefor, any person who shall make, or print, or knowingly use or sell, or have in possession, with the intent to use or sell, any such forged or counterfeited postage stamp, stamped envelope, postal card, die, plate, or engraving; any person who shall make, or knowingly use or sell any paper bearing the water mark of any stamped envelope, postal card, or any fraudulent imitation thereof; any person who shall make or print, or authorize or procure to be made or printed, any postage stamp, stamped envelope or postal card of the kind authorized and provided by the Post Office Department, without the special authority and direction of the Department; any person who shall, after such postage stamp, stamped envelope, or postal card, have been printed, and with intent to defraud the postal revenue, deliver the same to any person not authorized by an instrument of writing, duly executed under the hand of the Postmaster General and the seal of the Post Office Department, to receive them, shall be punished by a fine of not more than

Five Hundred dollars, or by imprisonment at hard labor not more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Section 5465. "Any person who shall forge or counterfeit or knowingly utter or use any forged or counterfeited postage stamps of any foreign government, shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor of not less than two nor more than ten years."

One of the above mentioned officials related a case—beside the recent attempt of Cuban stamp counterfeiting—as an illustration of the harm which might be done by these fac-similes; "of an emigrant but a few hours after landing, who was induced to part with all the money he had brought with him from his native place, and which had been earned by severe self denial, that he might pay his passage and locate in the far west, for a worthless lot of advertisements in the shape of "greenbacks," which a business house of this city had printed for attracting trade. It not only attracted the latter, but the Secret Service division of the Treasury and with a reminder to go and sin no more, the dies were destroyed.

It is a remarkable fact, that India proofs of some of the vignettes engraved in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the currency of the United States are to be found on sale in a second-hand print store in this city. There can be no question that the promiscuous sale of such proofs may possibly aid the production of counterfeits to the exact extent that a clean, clear print carefully taken, is better than the ordinary print of a note for circulation. The fact that these proofs may be bought for a few cents indicates that they are by no means scarce, and it therefore becomes of interest to know who is responsible for their issue. Among the various highly paid officials of the Bureau, there is one called the custodian, whose business it is to see that the plates from which the Government securities are printed are kept inviolate. Why does not the costly custodian prevent this unauthorized circulation? The law is that any one having in his possession such impressions with intent to defraud, shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than ten years, or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars. While the print dealers may be in innocent possession of these things, it is not at all certain that the purchasers of them may not be some of the ingenious counterfeiters who have so successfully simulated a very large part of the work of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Quite recently also, the Treasury has received information that large amounts of blank greenbacks are being offered for sale in different parts of the country to be filled in with the names and addresses of the firms which may purchase them to be used as an advertisement. Renewed efforts are to be made to stop this practice. There is a fine of one hundred dollars for every such imitation which is circulated or found in the possession of any person.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES EDWARD ANTHON, LL. D.

Prof. Charles Edward Anthon died June 8th at Bremen of heart disease. He was 60 years old, and was the son of John Anthon, a prominent lawyer, and was also a nephew of Prof. Anthon the distinguished classical scholar. He was a graduate of Columbia College, a Doctor of Medicine, held a professor's chair in the College of the City of New York, and was President of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of this city. He sold most of his fine collection of coins before he went to Europe. He went abroad in the spring with his niece, Miss Philippa O. Anthon, for the benefit of his health, and not expecting to return alive, he left sealed directions for the disposal of his body and his effects. His nephew and Henry Altman, his brother-in-law, opened the sealed packet the day after his death was announced.

POSTAL VS. REVENUE STAMPS.

BY L. QUARTINI.

The controversy between the two kinds of collectors is no doubt very hot and of long standing, no doubt also, the collecting of postal adhesive stamps (I have questioned many collectors on the subject) is preferred.

1st.—For the limited number of stamps.

2d.—The cost is also limited. No other plausible causes are given me. So, *to the fire* go the beautiful Canadians and U. S. revenues! *to the fire* the very select and finished British Islands of Mauritius, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Mexico and others. Fortunately a great number of Philatelists are now of the opposite opinion, and we note with pleasure that some of the Philatological journals treat also of the fiscal stamps. We clearly believe a *serious* collector will make no distinction between Post or Bill stamps. What inspires interest in collecting? A selected assortment in values, colors and dates of issuances of the different stamps. Is this not true? So whether the stamp serve the Postal or Fiscal laws, it should be one and the same to the *serious collector*.

But some will object to this, a complete collection of Bill stamps being so costly. To this we would say of the Postal collection and particularly if you want old sets, they are *very dear*, some of them prized at fabulous sums, owing to their almost utter extinction. Another pleasure in collecting Bill stamps, one also which the Numismatist and the Mineralogist partake to a great degree in securing their varieties, is the fact that owing to the scarcity of the collectors of Bill stamps it is no difficult matter, in various old packages of ancient checks, bills of lading, contracts or other papers to turn up when least expected, some of the quaintest and good varieties.

MONEY HUNTING.

A series of papers, personal and practical, upon the method of finding and recognizing Ancient Coins.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

(Oriental Traveler and Author of various Numismatic works such as "The Coins of the 12 Caesars," etc.)

In various papers, published in reputable magazines since 1870, I have advocated the return by our government to the Greek and Roman methods of making frequent changes in the reverses of American coins, so as to form a sort of picture gallery from our coinage. The idea may seem to some absurd, perhaps it is impracticable, but it is enticing. It would be such an advance upon the present method of coin making the world over, as would do immense credit to our progressive people. Suppose, for instance, in that international series of coins of which a good deal has been said, coins that are to express aliquots of the coin standards of France, Germany, Great Britain and America—suppose that while the obverses of all of them should express the common emblem, say that of the Roman *Moneta*, the reverses should exhibit such drawings as would present the distinguishing characteristics of the nation that strikes them!

But as the international series may not be adopted in our time, I return to my first idea, that of varying American coinage say every ten years, so that in time a great variety of devices would be published of a character strictly American. This is what I have advocated.

The Romans made every coin a page or rather paragraph, of their annals. The number of devices they employed is almost incalculable. In the case of their emperor, Probus, whose reign was limited to a very few years, we have already collected more than 1800 coins, struck from as many different dies, and every one expressing some fact, large or small, in the history of the Empire while under his rule. The varieties in the coinage of the Emperor Augustus are immensely great; so of Tiberius, of Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius. Entire volumes are filled with the drawings of a ruler like Hadrian, from whose mints appear to have issued new forms of coin emblems every day in the year.

The character of all these devices is historical, or historico-biographical. The Romans put upon (the reverses of) their coins every religious doctrine which their teachers inculcated, every national event, every bird, beast, insect and reptile that their country produced. If a victory was achieved by land or sea, the record of it went at once upon an issue of coins, to the hands and knowledge of millions. If a province was added by conquest, if a great highway was opened, if the emperor departed on an official tour, or re-

turned, if one of the imperial family died, the same was preserved upon the metallic tablets which we denominate coins, and there we may read it distinctly at the present day.

What a magnificent array of natural objects could be gathered from the widely extended bounds known as the United States! From the cactus of Arizona to the mast-pines of Maine, what a variety in botanical nature. From the white fish of Lake Superior to the alligator of Florida how numerous the changes in ichthyology. In a century the theme could scarcely be exhausted. The cypress of Louisiana, the live oak of Texas, the giant *Washingtonia* of California, the palmetto of South Carolina, the catalpa of Tennessee, the black walnut of Indiana, the buckeye of Ohio, the spruce, hemlock, dogwood, sassafras, and a hundred more would scarcely clear up the list of forest trees that our great country grows.

Of plants, how vast the magazine from which our mint artists could select! Cotton, rice, tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, flax, here is a noble catalogue of objects, the most useful of the benefactions of the Divine Giver. Fruit trees the apple, pear, peach, orange, cherry, lemon, plum, almond, apricot, would hold out their grateful and treasure-clad arms to the artist for recognition.

Of domestic animals, Kentucky would make her voice heard with her horses and mules, Texas with her cattle, many states with their sheep. Of wild animals, would not a new Audobon arise and lose himself in thickets and marshes to sketch anew their attitudes for the engraver? Then our gold, silver, bronze and copper pieces would glitter in numismatic pride under the devices of the moose, bears of all species, the buffalo, the mountain sheep, elk, deer of various sorts, wolf, panther, fox, otter, beaver and others.

In choosing among our national birds, we have the unparalleled drawings of Audobon, and can copy from his pages with life-like accuracy, the coon, goose, swan, eagles of various species, wild pigeon, parrot, prairie chicken, and a whole aviary not touched.

By no means will these exhaust the subject of numismatic symbolisms. There is an imagery, grandly worthy of such use, in the vast lakes, the rivers, mountains, peninsulas, prairies, and the like. Even our characteristic fossils, as the mastodon, elephant and others, would find suitable places upon American coinage.

The adoption of such a system by the United States would operate as our adoption of the decimal system did; it would set the great nations to follow in this path of self-glorification, and in time we should find the governments of the world vying with ours in making their coinages what the Greeks and Romans made theirs, viz.; a *metallic history*.

It will be asked if I would advise that the portraits, say of our Presidents, Chief Justices, etc., should also be perpetuated upon coins. Most as-

surely. After a certain period, say fifty years, I would thus honor the men whom the nation had delighted to honor. Why not; we do it upon our postage stamps, upon our bank notes, etc. why not upon our coinage, so much the more durable of all. I would wait until partisan hatred and jealousy of rivals had worn out. Who now would object to the bust of Andrew Jackson upon an American coin? Yet the proposal for such an honor during his lifetime and for many years after his death, would have been received with a storm of popular indignation. The same may be said of all his predecessors and some of his successors.

It will be said that such a change of coinage would be confusing the people, an aid to the counterfeiter, and expensive to the government. This may be so, and if so, such objections must be overcome by methods that will be suggested in good time. There is an analagous case in history to which I call the reader's attention. It is that of Constantine the Great, who, coming to the Roman Empire about A. D. 306, and resolved to make Christianity the religion of the world, *changed the dies in the mint*, so as to express the change of religion. He did it gradually. The obverses of his money needed no change, as they contained nothing but portrait, name and imperial titles. Upon the reverses he first placed the Christian cross. This alone indicated to the world of observers that the Christian religion was professed by the highest in the land, for otherwise this comprehensive symbol could not have appeared. Next he changed the legionary standard from the eagle to a form styled *labarum*, on which were the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ, *Chi* and *rho*. *Chi* is in the shape of our X; *Rho* has nearly the form of our capital P. Drawing the *rho* through the *chi*, a peculiar form of cross is made, styled even now the *Chi-rho cross* and used in decorations in Episcopal churches, as the reader has frequently observed. This *labarum*, with the initial letters of Christ, he placed upon his coins.

Constantine did not go so far as his sons did. Probably his time and thoughts were too much taken up with other affairs of state, for few Emperors bore so heavy a burden as Constantine. Domestic difficulties embittered his life, and though he left a glorious record, he must have felt in laying down his power in death, that the world was about to run riot. It is not strange, then, that heathen emblems are found upon many of the copper coins of Constantine even to the end of his career.

But his sons made great advance with their coinage in the way of Christian symbolisms. Their successors went further and further, until the very portraits of Jesus and His mother Mary and the Saints were used as substitutes for the busts of the Emperors.

while for inscriptions we find such as the these :

"Jesus Christ conquers." "King of Kings," and "Lord of Lords," "By this sign, conquer," "Mary mother of God," and the like. Thus the Roman coinage, from being a series of metallic tablets, of heathen mythology became a volume of many leaves, indicating that the world's King had at last come to His own.

The change in American coinage could be effected within a few years. By the aid of the press, by the connivance of writers and lecturers, the minds of the people would rapidly be instructed in the grand project and its inspiring purpose. Success would certainly follow, and the world would learn the greatness of the American republic, not from pictures of battle scenes, which I would carefully remove from the eye of the mint-artist, but from its productions, its natural objects and the busts of its immortal men.

Falling from this height to the present reality, what a pitiful array of pictures we see upon the money of the present day. Look at a coin of the German Empire, of Italy, of France, Russia, Great Britain! Is it not astounding that such device should pass current in the 19th century. Nay, examine one of our own coins, from which the mass of heraldry and religious sovereigns has been banished, and what have we substituted? What nation ever had so good an opportunity of presenting a blazonry that free hearts everywhere would admire. Yet see how poorly the opportunity was employed, I never finger an American coin without grieving for the waste of chances it displays. The coins themselves are beautiful. Our money in form, perfection of machinery and all elements of completeness in mint usages has no superior in the world. It only needs to lay it by the side of specimens from foreign mints to see that. In my animadversions in this paper, I make no criticisms upon the mechanism of my country's coinage. It is the choice of devices, emblems, etc., that is so open to objection.

Before closing this paper, let me ask you, as editor of so good a coin paper, why do you use the word *penny* for *cent*? Don't you know that three-fourths the American people don't know what a penny is. They imagine, if they have any notion about it, that you refer to the English penny, value about two cents. This very day of June, 1883, a boy of 10 years, reading an account of the opening of your great bridge, came to me to ask why they charge a penny for crossing, why not a cent? Join us, dear Mr. Editor, in denominating the copper coinage of our nation *cents*, as indeed is stamped upon the coin itself, if you will but observe it, *one cent*.

The Postmaster-General recently selected metallic red as the color for the new two-cent postage stamp. The vignette which will be used on the stamp is copied from the life cast used in making Houdon's statue of Washington.

ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS.

A SERIES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY.

BY THE REV. ROBERT WALSH, LL. D.

[Continued from page 143]

The Christian writers do not fail to record many marks of divine anger displayed on this occasion. The palace of the Emperor was struck with lightning and immediately consumed, which so affected him, that he continually saw flashes of fire before his eyes, and he was seized with a dangerous fever, from which he with difficulty recovered. He soon after abandoned the empire to his colleague, and retired to a private station, in which he died of grief and abstinence, having obstinately refused all aliment; while his more atrocious colleague, Galerius, having exercised against all his subjects, that avarice and cruelty which he began by practising on the Christians, was wasted away with a consuming disease, and died with great horror. Without having recourse to supernatural interposition, we may easily suppose that such would be the natural effects of reflection and remorse on men whose conscience was burthened with the cruelties that they had perpetrated.

In the annexed coin the obverse represents the head of the Emperor Diocletian, crowned with laurel, and his shoulders covered with a coat of mail, with the legend, IMPERATOR CAIUS VALERIUS DIOCLETIANVS PERPETVVS FELIX AVGVSTVS.—“The Emperor Caius Valerius Diocletian, perpetual, happy, august.” On the reverse is Jupiter holding in his raised hand a thunderbolt, and trampling a kneeling figure, with serpentlike feet, the legend IOVI FVLGERATORI.—“To Jupiter the thunderer.” The prostrate figure designates Christianity, and is taken probably from Ovid’s description. He is brandishing his thunderbolt over prostrate Christianity, whom he had just struck down, as Jupiter formerly struck down the Titans, who had equally but as vainly strove to dispossess him of heaven.*



Upon the abdication of Diocletian in A. D. 305, Galerius and Constantius Chlorus, upon whom

Diocletian had conferred the title of Cæsar were made Agusti or joint rulers of the Roman empire. But in A. D. 306, Constantius died at York, and the troops in Britain and Gaul declared their allegiance to his son Constantine much to the chagrin of Galerius, who expected to become sole ruler. After many wars for possession of the crown he died in the year 311.

The next to assume the diadem, was Constantinus Magnus, and it was during his reign that Christian emblems first appeared on the coins of the Roman emperors.

In the year 311, Constantine being determined to stop the tyranny of Maxentius, reviewed in his own mind all considerations, and felt it incumbent upon him to honor no other than the God of his father. He therefore prayed earnestly to God, and while thus praying, a marvellous sign appeared from heaven. He saw at midday the trophy of a cross of light placed above the sun, which bore the inscription, BY THIS CONQUER, and a miracle witnessed by his whole army. In the night, while in his sleep the Christ of God appeared to him with the same sign he had seen in the heavens, and commanded him to make a standard resembling the sign, and to use it as a safeguard against his enemies, all of which he caused to be done when it was day.

Encouraged by these signs, he marched against Maxentius and defeated him. Maxentius was drowned in the Tiber during the fight. By the defeat of Maxentius, Constantine became sole emperor of the western empire,

Upon his entry into Rome, he caused to be erected a statue of himself, and ordered a large spear in the form of a cross to be placed in the hands of the statue and the following words to be engraved on the statue in Latin.

BY THIS SALUTARY SIGN, THE TRUE SYMBOL OF VALOR I HAVE SAVED YOUR CITY, LIBERATED FROM THE YOKE OF THE TYRANT. I HAVE ALSO RESTORED THE SENATE AND ROMAN PEOPLE TO THEIR ANCIENT DIGNITY AND SPLENDOR.

In 312-313, he in conjunction with Licinius issued his second edict, giving liberty to Christians, and all men in general.

In 315* the title of Maximus and the diadem were officially decreed to Constantine. Crispus and Constantine II., sons of Constantine I. and Licinius II., son of Licinius I. were made Cæars in 317 and in 321 Constantine enjoined all the subjects to observe “Lord’s Day” and passed an edict for the solemn observance of Sunday.

* There seems to be some doubt as to the exact date. Eumenius gives it as 310 (Paneg. Const. Aug. Dict.) but the statement cannot be accepted as true. Paquins gives the date as 311 but he bases his authority upon a coin described by Mediobarbus, having on the obv. MAX. and on the rev. VOLV. V. MVLT. X. which is valueless. Feuardent and Cohen think that coins like the one described by Mediobarbus were not struck until the end of his reign. The proper date is most likely 315 and it was perhaps on this occasion that he distributed money to the people as attested by its coins which bear the diadem at about this time.

* The coins are described by Bandurius, Vaillant and others. Vaillant has the following remark:—*Diocletianum exhibere voluisse suum Jovem fuditima vibrantem in Christianos veluti olim pensere Poetas in gigantes, quum Christiani bella movent in Jovem inque reliquam deorum turbam.*

THE FIRST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

On the 27th day of December, 1857, seven gentlemen of culture, who saw that on the whole American continent there existed no society devoted to numismatic research, and burning with the violent "coin fever" which raged fiercely in those days, met together and resolved to fill the void by the creation of such a body. A committee was appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws, which reported at a special meeting held January 1st, 1858, and the Society came into existence. On February 19th of the same year, the State granted a charter, not, however, without considerable opposition on the part of some of the rural Assemblymen, who fancied that some snake in the way of a banking institution or fiscal agent was hidden in the bill. The notion that people could meet simply and solely to discuss the merits of old coins seemed to them scarcely creditable. Time rolled on, and after a few years it became evident that the field of operations was too limited for the Society ever to attain to a large membership or to claim the attention of the general public. Accordingly, on March 23d, 1865, the name was changed to that which it at present bears; and all the junior societies have followed in its wake. From that day to this the Society has prospered.

The interest in its objects grew apace. In 1857, there was probably not three sales a year of Coins and objects of Archæology throughout the United States. In 1882 there were one hundred. The Science of Numismatics has taken a firm hold upon this continent.

The Spartan band of seven resident members has grown to seventy. The once scanty and scattered possessions of the Society, its library and cabinets, formerly perserved in the houses of its officials, have found a permanent resting place where they are accessible to its members. Its coins are in the Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, its books and specimens at the room. The Society gave two of its most active members as a sacrifice for the Union; Richard W. Davids died at Gettysburg and Mark Wilkes Collett in the Wilderness. There have been two Presidents from the date of its foundation, Joseph J. Mickley, until 1867, and since that time, Hon. Eli K. Price; to the enlightened zeal of the latter is due largely much of the present high standing of the Association. Its ranks have been filled with the most illustrious men of America and Europe; its contributions to antiquarian research have been frequent and worthy of note. The most important of its actions, was the adoption in September, 1858, of a new scale of measurement for coins and medals, in place of that of Mionnet, which is the one in general use throughout Europe. The divisions of Mionnet's scale are irregular, and apparently arbitrary. Of the printed copies of that scale which

chiefly had been in use in that country up to this time, no two could be found exactly alike, while many of them differed very materially in their divisions. After well considering the subject, the Society adopted as its scale, the divisions of the inch into sixteenths, such a measure being readily understood and always to be obtained without difficulty. This scale proposed by Mr. Alfred B. Taylor, has been, after its reception by the Society, generally adopted throughout the United States, and is known as the "American scale."

In April, 1866, the Society petitioned the Congress of the United States to render the National coinage of more interest and permanent value than a mere succession of insignificant pieces of metal. The petition was presented by Senator Reverdy Johnson, Honorary Vice-President for the State of Maryland, but as yet no step in the desired direction has resulted from the Society's action.

To commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Society in 1879, a medal was struck bearing the head of its venerable President, and distributed among kindred societies throughout the world.

Messrs. PHILLIPS, BRINTON AND HART.
*Committee on Publication
of the Phil. Numismatic and Antiquarian Society.*

VALUE OF THE CHINESE TÆL.

The Acting Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following circular to custom officers in regard to the Chinese tael: The Shanghai tael was valued in this department's circular of May 16, 1881, at 121.6 cents. Since that date the valuation of silver coins has been somewhat reduced in the estimates annually made by the Director of the Mint. A report recently obtained from him in regard to the tael shows that its value estimated upon the basis and in the manner employed in computing the values of silver coins specified in the department circular of January 1, 1883, was at that time \$1.20. This value will be adopted by custom officers on and after the 1st proximo, for the Shanghai tael in the case of importations or withdrawals made on or after that date, and the value heretofore attached to other Chinese taels will be reduced in the same proportion.

For some days recently the main streets of Paris were invested with itinerent vendors of imitation 1,000-franc notes, so closely copied in the outline from those of the Bank of France as to prove dangerous instruments in the hands of unscrupulous purchasers. The notes, which are the exact size of the genuine *billet de mille*, are issued by the Anti-Clerical Society. In place of the allegorical figures which adorn the real notes are engraved gross caricatures of the Pope and the saints, while priests and nuns take the place of cupids and goddesses. The sale has been stopped by the police.

LES MEDAILLEURS DE LA RENAISSANCE.

Above is the title of a magnificent work by Alois Heiss in course of publication. We said magnificent and we might add more—he has done for the medallists of Italy what those ingenious artists did for the heroes and statesmen of their own age. The typography of the work is excellent and why not? France is, in that art, by her taste and execution, at the head of all nations.

According to Mons. Heiss, Matteo da Pastis, who carried the art of a medallist to a degree of perfection in the fifteenth century, executed the parable medals of the princes of Romagna.

Vast numbers of these medals have perished. Philippe de Commines relates that when the French ruler Charles VIII., took possession of the palace of Pietro de Medici, in Florence, and plundered it, they found three or four thousand medals there, many of them of gold and silver. These, of course, were melted down; hence the rarity of these works.

The South Kensington museum possesses one of the finest collections of Italian medals and bronzes existing out of Italy. M. Drury Fortnum published in 1876 a descriptive catalogue of this collection, in the introduction of which he gives a complete history of this branch of the plastic art.

Other works on Italian medals are Mr. Keary's "Guide to the Italian medals in the King's Library," and Dr. Friedlander's "Italienische Schamunzen." The latter which was recently published at Berlin is a work of great historical merit, but not equal in point of photographic execution to its French rival "Les Medailleurs de la Renaissance." Concerning the medals of the Malatestas family, Mons. Heiss does not seem to be cognizant of the fact, that there are any of the medals of this family in England. In the South Kensington museum are two, one by Pisano and another by Matteo da Pastis. They are numbered 670 and 4,504. The following description explains them. No. 670.—Obv. Isotta da Rimini. Pendant to the last. Fine work of Pisano. Rev. the elephant of the Malatestas, No. 5 504.—Obv. Isotta da Rimini. Very fine work of Matteo da Pastis. Rev. Elephant of the Malatestas.

Taken as a whole, Mons. Heiss' work is the most elegant of its kind in typography, etc.

A. P. Little, of Rochester, has become the owner of a copper cent dated 1803, stamped "M. Tidd, Woburn, Mass. He wrote to Mr. Tidd at a venture, not knowing whether the latter was alive or not, and has received a reply stating that his correspondent, who is a numismatist, stamped the coin forty-four years ago, and would be grateful for its return to him, which request Mr. Little will comply with.

"NICKEL-INI."

Five million five-cent coins of the new pattern having been distributed among the public, the first installment of the revised edition, with the omitted word "cents" now prescribed on them, have made their appearance. Such of the original pieces as shall not be gradually drawn back out of circulation and recoined, or washed with gold by sharpers to delude ignorant people into taking them for half eagles, will be kept as curiosities.

When mint superintendent Snowden reads of the base uses to which his new five-cent nickel is subjected he frowns. The trouble increases. In addition to the grumbling in the city, telegrams from all over the country announce the arrest of parties for circulating the coin gilded, so as to resemble a five-dollar gold piece. The circus season has opened, and many an unwary countryman will get his eye teeth cut by the side-show man and the fakirs. A man recently started out with five thousand of these gilded frauds, with which he intends to take in unsuspecting grangers.

From the reports received at the Treasury, the gilding and passing of this coin for gold is growing more general every day. A prominent Secret Service officer said that arrests of parties has been made by their men in California, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Louisiana, Nashville, New York, Boston, Kansas City, Dubuque and other places. Complaints are being received from all parts of the country. The Solicitor of the Treasury has no doubt as to the act of gilding the pieces being one of counterfeiting. Another Treasury official said that the nickel pieces were a grave mistake, and that they should never have been made. "Why," he said, "men are paying a premium for them, and the records of the Secret Service will show their purpose in doing this. They were designed to perpetuate somebody's memory, and they will do it. The penitentiaries will soon be full of living monuments to the greatness of their invention."

Charles E. Barber, the engraver of the mint says: "The figure on the face of this coin was copied from no engraving or bust, and is a copy of no one's face. I engraved the design to represent the Goddess of Liberty. The fault with our present system of coinage is that there is no fixed style, and changes are constantly being made. There should be a uniform style for gold, silver, and all coins. Our cents include the old cartwheel penny, the buzzard cent, and the present style with an Indian head. We have two three-cent pieces. In five-cent pieces there are two styles of the old silver piece, the old nickel, the new nickel, and when the word cents is stamped across the face there will be five styles. The ten-cent piece has been changed but once. A wreath has been substituted for the eagle. In the dollar coin we have the dollar of our daddies, the trade dollar and the Bland dollar."

SALE OF OLD COINS.

In No. 9, Vol. 1 of this paper, we chronicled a find of rare gold coins. The sale of the same after being properly catalogued, took place recently in the Hotel Drouot, in Paris. No fewer than 7,822 gold coins, in, for the most part, an almost perfect state of preservation, are being offered, says the *London Standard*, to the competition of the public. These coins came to light under the following circumstances: Some months ago four workmen were engaged in demolishing and clearing away an old building situated at No. 26, in the Rue Vieille du Temple, their employer being M. Foupuiau, an architect, who had taken a lease of the premises, with a contract to purchase, from the *Compagnie Fonciere de France et d'Algerie*, who were the proprietors. One day, in the course of their work, they came upon a large *café-tiere* shaped vase. On this being examined it was found full of gold coins. According to the custom in France the actual finders of treasure are entitled to half its value. The men were satisfied to receive half the intrinsic value of their prize, and this was at once paid to them. The fortunate lessee, however, addressed himself to the experts, and the result of their advice was the sale now proceeding. The collection consists for the most part of royal coins. There are 1,010 coins of Jean le Bon, who reigned from 1350 to 1364; 6,199 of Charles V., his successor, and 63 old counterfeit royal pieces. Besides these, however, there are 550 feudal coins comprising the following: Guillaume de Beauregard, 1; Guillaume the Second de la Garde, 1; Raymond, Prince of Orange, 19; Jeanne de Brabant, 29; Arnould, d'Oreithes, Rummen, 2; Pierric the Fourth, d'Andre, Cambrai, 5; Robert the Second, de Geneve, 10; Gui de Luxembourg, Ligny, 7; Waleran the Third, 1; Jeanne de Naples, 373; Louis the First, Provence, 100; Louis the Third de Male, 2. The coins are all about the size of the old English guineas, but are extremely thin. At the first day's sale every lot, with the exception of one in which twelve coins were offered, consisted of a single coin. The consequence was that, although the sale lasted close upon five hours, not more than 250 pieces were disposed of. The royal coins were all knocked down at from 25 f. to 30 f. each. The majority of the feudal coins average about the same. Two, however, fetched fancy prices. These were a piece of Guillaume the Second de la Garde, the only one in the collection, which went for 405 f., and a piece of Guillaume de Beauregard, the Abbot. The latter is stated to be unique, and the competition for it was very brisk and prolonged. It was ultimately knocked down at the tremendous figure of 1,650 f. The buyer was an expert, but he is believed to hold a commission from the *Bibliothèque*.

AN OFFICIAL NOT GIVEN TO TAFFY.

Of the late Treasurer of the United States, a Washington letter to the *Springfield Republican* says: "The civil service loses a genuine reformer in Gilfillan. He had all the qualifications for his post. He realized his great responsibility, but he could sleep with it. Wyman, his predecessor could not. Gilfillan's cash has balanced every night before he went home, or he did not go. He carried the six combinations to the great vaults in his head, and had them also secreted somewhere in case anything happened to him. To one person, the Secretary of the Treasury, the place where these combinations were secreted was revealed. No one person knew the combinations all of them—and no one but himself and the Secretary knew where they could be found. His office has been rigidly run on genuine business principles. Once a Secretary of the Treasury tried to introduce politics there, and wrote a peremptory demand for the appointment of a person. Gilfillan, angry as a Scotchman can be, marched into the Secretary's room and said that he would not have the man there, and that was the end of it. Said he: 'I am the guardian of all this money, and I propose to have nobody in that office whom I can't control. That's all I've got to say' and that is all that was said.

WHERE ARE ITS FELLOWS.

Reminders of the past crop up continually, and when least expected. One, which brought back vividly the days of the war and the now almost forgotten Confederacy, and another exponent of the truthfulness of the old proverb "that man proposes, but the Almighty disposes" was discovered by a Mr. O. Taylor recently and for which it is said, he refused an offer of \$1,000. It is one of four silver half-dollars cast by the Southern Confederacy when the mint was seized in New Orleans. On the liberty side the die is the same as on the present half-dollar, but on the reverse side was substituted seven bars and seven stars, surmounted by a pole with a cap of liberty. A stalk of sugar cane and a stalk of cotton are shown, around which are the words, "The Confederate States of America." Only four of these coins were issued. Mr. Taylor purchased it from a man in Ozark, who parted with it for the extremely low price of \$100.

A money-making man—the counterfeiter.

The worst kind of forgery is false notes by a singer.

"Charity begins at home," as a man remarked when he gave his wife five cents to buy marketing with.

A New York girl has made \$150,000 by a single oil transaction. A can of it exploded and killed her rich aunt.

Jar in which the coins were found.

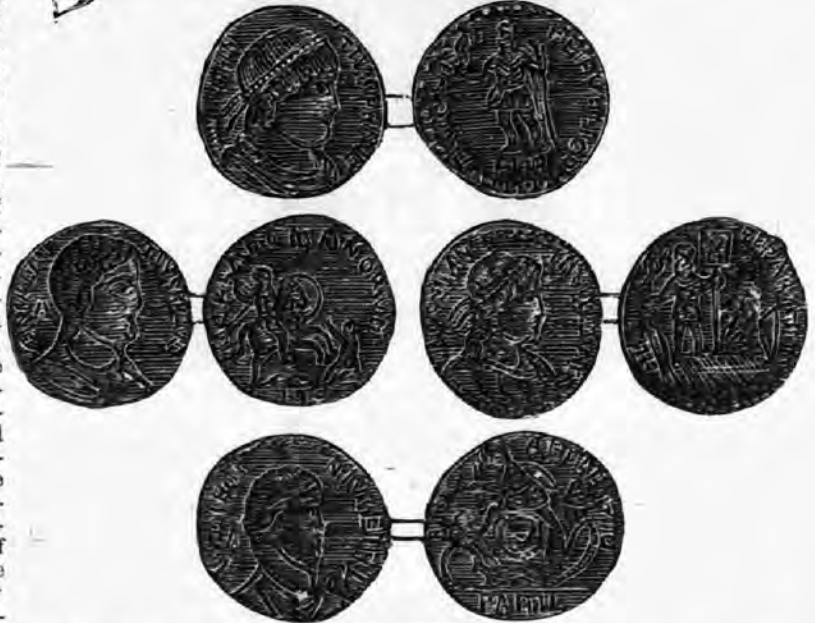
DISCOVERY OF ROMAN COINS.

A recent number of the *Illustrated London News* gives the following concerning this latest find of ancient coins.

"We have been favored with a communication from the Earl of Darnly respecting an important discovery of Roman coins buried in the ground adjacent to his mansion, Cobham Hall, near Gravesend. Our illustrations of the large earthenware jar, which contained eight or nine hundred coins, and of a few examples of these coins, are supplied by the drawings which were made by Mr. Jabez Bligh, a local artist, and which Lord Darnley has allowed us to copy. The spot where these coins were found is about three hundred yards from his Lordship's house, close to the garden or shrubbery, at the edge of Cobham Park, and a quarter of a mile from the ancient Roman road (Watling street), which runs from Dover by Canterbury and Rochester to London, and the line of which was continued by St. Albans across the midland parts of the country, as far as Chester. Some laborers were employed there digging up the roots of an old tree, when they struck on this jar, and the upper part of it was unfortunately broken. The coins are of bronze, most of them bearing the effigies of Constantine, Constant, and Constantius, sons of Constantine the Great, in the fourth century of the Christian era. The obverse side, in some instances, exhibits a military standard-bearer holding up a standard inscribed with the figure of the Labarum of Constantine the Great; which was a monogram, comprising the initial letters of the name of Christ, combined with the cross, and with some other device, variable in the designs adopted upon different occasions, as described by Gibbon in the notes to his Chapter XX. This Labarum came into vogue as a Roman military ensign soon after the victory of Constantine the Great over his rival Maxentius, and was intended to commemorate the miraculous Vision of the Cross, with the words "Conquer by This," which he was believed to have seen on the eve of a decisive battle at the Milvian bridge near Rome. The symbol, with sundry variations, is of frequent occurrence in the medals and coins of the fourth century. It seems very likely that a treasure of the money of that period might be hidden in the earth for safety at some later date, when Roman Britain was often visited by pirates from beyond the German Ocean, or was disturbed by the civil wars of the declining Empire."

BIBLICAL ANTIQUES.

Among the clerical literature acquired by the Prussian Government in its purchase of the Ham-



Sample of the Coins.

ilton collection is an Irish psalter, dating from the middle of the seventh century: it was written by Saint Salaberga for the nuns of her convent. The big initials form the most valuable ornaments of the volume. They represent dragon-heads, and are founded on the old prototypes of Northern wood-cutting. There is another copy of the Gospels of the seventh century, written on purple parchment with golden letters, and remarkable for its history, for it was a present from Leo X. to Henry VIII. of England, when the latter declared against Luther, and obtained as a token of gratitude from the Pope the title of "Defensor fidei." An old Hebrew bible with rare and remarkable ornaments leads us back to the year 1292.

In recently tearing down an old cabin in Shasta County, Cal., formerly occupied by a Chinaman who was murdered by Indians, \$800 in gold dust, was found between the walls.



Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 2.

New York, July 1883.

No. 4

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

A Series of Continued Articles treating of the Geography, History, and People of the Different Countries, and of the Postage Stamps Issued by them.

By A. M. C.

XIII. UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

The United States of Colombia or New Grenada, as it was called previously to September, 1861, is a federative government formed at the convention of Bogota in September 1861, and includes nine states, which are as follows: Panama, Santander, Cauca, Boyaca Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Tolima, Bolivia and Magdalena.

It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean sea; on the west by Costa Rica, a republic of Central America and the Pacific Ocean; on the south by Ecuador and Brazil; and on the east by Venezuela. The executive authority is vested in a president, who fills that office for two years. The legislative power rests with a Senate and House of Representatives. The area is 513,783 square miles, and the population was in 1870, 2,894,992 of who nearly one-half were of European descent.

The surface of the country is intersected by three great ranges of the Andes, which spread out like the rays of an open hand from the plateau of Pasto and Tuquerrez in the south, and are designated as the Western Central, and Eastern Cordillera. Between these chains lie the long and beautiful valleys of the Cauca and the Magdalena. The Central Cordillera is the highest chain rising in Nevada de Tolima to a height of 18,020 feet, and from one of its peaks, near the border line of Ecuador, called *Parama de las Popas*, descend the two principal rivers of the United States of Colombia. 1 The Magdalena with its tributary, the Cauca, flowing north into the Caribbean Sea, besides several affluents of the Amazon in the east, and one or two streams flowing westward into the Pacific. The Eastern Cordillera is the largest chain, and consists of a series of vast table-lands, cool and healthy, where the white race flourishes as vigorously as in Europe. This temperate region is the most densely peopled portion of this country. Bogota is at present the capital and is situated on one of these plateaus, which is 8,694 feet above the sea.

It is said, "in the course of one day's journey the traveler may experience in this country all the climates of the world." Perpetual snow covers the tops of the Cordilleras; while the rich vegeta-

tion of the tropics covers the valleys. With its great variety of levels and climates this country yields naturally an equally great variety of productions: cattle, horses, wheat and other European grains, maize, tobacco, plantains, cotton, cacao, sugar, cedar, mahogany, cinchona bark, ipecacuanha which is a low creeping plant, used in some medicines, sometimes in the form of a liquid and at other times in a powder-like form; gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, coal, emeralds, pearls and rock-salt.

At present there is about 1,000 public schools with many seminaries and colleges. This country has its printing establishments, periodicals and numerous literary, scientific and benevolent institutions. 2.

The early inhabitants of the United States of Colombia, called by some *Chibchas*, and by others the *Muyscos*, held a high rank among the half-civilized nations of the New World. They are said to have been frugal and industrious, with a well organized government, and a very passable religion for heathens. Ximenes de Quesado conquered them, 3 and their descendants are now "Christians" and speak the Spanish dialect. Several of the other tribes still keep up a savage mode of life; and some are said to be cannibals. 4.

New Grenada was made a viceroyalty in the year 1718 by Spain. It became independent in 1719, and joined with Venezuela and Ecuador to form the republic of Colombia; but as the union was dissolved between the years 1829-1830 it was made a separate republic in 1832. After several changes had been made in the constitution a complete fundamental change was made in 1858, by which the "separate" provinces were changed into "states," associated under a federal government like the United States of North America. In 1860 a revolution occurred, and for more than a year the country was devastated by civil war. At last, in 1861, a convention was concluded between the "Conservatives" and the "Liberals," which ended in the war as the latter were victorious, certain changes were again made in the constitution and "New Grenada" is to-day the "United States of Colombia." The first president under the new constitution commenced his term of office on April 1, 1864.

The commerce of the interior of the U. S. of Colombia is rapidly growing, and to help extend

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Jar in which the coins were found.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN COINS.

A recent number of the *Illustrated London News* gives the following concerning this latest find of ancient coins.

"We have been favored with a communication from the Earl of Darnly respecting an important discovery of Roman coins buried in the ground adjacent to his mansion, Cobham Hall, near Gravesend. Our illustrations of the large earthenware jar, which contained eight or nine hundred coins, and of a few examples of these coins, are supplied by the drawings which were made by Mr. Jabez Bligh, a local artist, and which Lord Darnley has allowed us to copy. The spot where these coins were found is about three hundred yards from his Lordship's house, close to the garden or shrubbery, at the edge of Cobham Park, and a quarter of a mile from the ancient Roman road (Watling street), which runs from Dover by Canterbury and Rochester to London, and the line of which was continued by St. Albans across the midland parts of the country, as far as Chester. Some laborers were employed there digging up the roots of an old tree, when they struck on this jar, and the upper part of it was unfortunately broken. The coins are of bronze, most of them bearing the effigies of Constantine, Constant, and Constantius, sons of Constantine the Great, in the fourth century of the Christian era. The obverse side, in some instances, exhibits a military standard-bearer holding up a standard inscribed with the figure of the Labarum of Constantine the Great; which was a monogram, comprising the initial letters of the name of Christ, combined with the cross, and with some other device, variable in the designs adopted upon different occasions, as described by Gibbon in the notes to his Chapter XX. This Labarum came into vogue as a Roman military ensign soon after the victory of Constantine the Great over his rival Maxentius, and was intended to commemorate the miraculous Vision of the Cross, with the words "Conquer by This," which he was believed to have seen on the eve of a decisive battle at the Milvian bridge near Rome. The symbol, with sundry variations, is of frequent occurrence in the medals and coins of the fourth century. It seems very likely that a treasure of the money of that period might be hidden in the earth for safety at some later date, when Roman Britain was often visited by pirates from beyond the German Ocean, or was disturbed by the civil wars of the declining Empire."



Sample of the Coins.

ilton collection is an Irish psalter, dating from the middle of the seventh century: it was written by Saint Salaberga for the nuns of her convent. The big initials form the most valuable ornaments of the volume. They represent dragon-heads, and are founded on the old prototypes of Northern wood-cutting. There is another copy of the Gospels of the seventh century, written on purple parchment with golden letters, and remarkable for its history, for it was a present from Leo X. to Henry VIII. of England, when the latter declared against Luther, and obtained as a token of gratitude from the Pope the title of "Defensor fidei." An old Hebrew Bible with rare and remarkable ornaments leads us back to the year 1292.

BIBLICAL ANTIQUES.

Among the clerical literature acquired by the Prussian Government in its purchase of the Ham-

In recently tearing down an old cabin in Shasta County, Cal., formerly occupied by a Chinaman who was murdered by Indians, \$800 in gold dust, was found between the walls.



Empire City Philatelist.

Vol. 2.

New York, July 1883.

No. 4

SHORT TALKS ABOUT STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES AND THEIR STAMPS.

A Series of Continued Articles treating of the Geography, History, and People of the Different Countries, and of the Postage Stamps Issued by them.

By A. M. C.

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it a railroad is being built by an American company between Puerto Rongito and Honda at the head of navigation of the lower Magdalena River. This railway will be, when finished, the most important and remunerative railway in Colombia. Between the terminal points of the railroad, the Magdalena is at all seasons of the year very difficult of navigation for steamboats, owing to the numerous sharp bends, "Colombia," in the words of Consul E. W. P. Smith, "is evidently destined to reap great advantages from her admirable system of government and wise encouragement of foreign enterprises. Since 1860, revolutions have become a thing of the past, and the people have been busily and prosperously occupied in the arts of peace, and in these respects have done more wisely than their neighbors.

THE POSTAGE STAMP.

For either Foreign or Internal Correspondence.

1859.

Design. Arms in lined and beaded circles, the beaded being innermost in vertical lined and square cornered rectangle. Lettered border. Colored imprint. Octagonal.

Inscriptions. Numeral of value above and below circle. CONFED. GRANADINA—CORREOS NACIONALES and the word CENT with the numeral of value on either side of it in border.

5 centavos, lilac | 10 centavos, yellow.
20 centavos, blue.

1860.

Design. Same as last.

Inscription. Same as last, but smaller type.

2½ centavos green.	|	20 centavos blue.
5 " blue (also lilac)	|	1 peso, rose.
10 " orange " brown	|	1 " rose blue paper

1861.

Design. Arms in centre of lettered oval, in centre of lettered rectangle. Lined spandrels.

Inscriptions. On lettered oval: ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NUEVA Granada * * * * * around outer border CORREOS NACIONALES and at bottom of border the word CENTAVOS, preceded by the numeral of value.

2½ centavos, black	|	10 centavos, blue.
5 " buff.	|	20 " red.
	|	1 peso, rose.

1862.

Design. Arms with rays darting therefrom in lined and beaded disk in centre of lined octagon. All surrounded by a lettered border. Five stars on lined ground above disk and four below. Col. imp. octagonal.

Inscriptions. On border: E. W. DE COLOMBIA * CORREOS NACIONALES. At bottom part of border the word CENT followed by a * and preceded by the numeral of value and a *

10 centavos, blue	|	50 centavos, green,
20 " rose	|	1 peso, lilac.
	|	1 peso, violet (on blue paper).

1863.

Design. Arms between branches and stars above. All in lettered border. Col. imp. octagonal. Five varieties.

Inscriptions. On border: E. W. DE COLOMBIA * CORREOS NACIONALES. At bottom of border the word CENT, preceded by the numeral of value.

No. 1. On white paper, 5c. yellow, 10c. blue, 20c. rose and 50c. green.

No. 2. Color of the 20 centavos and 50 centavos reversed.

No. 3. On blue paper. All values except the 5c.

No. 4. Dot after numerals in 10 centavos.

No. 5. (a) Star after cent. 5 and 10c. on white paper.

(b) " " " 50c. on blue paper.

1864.

Design. Same as last, but with the arms, etc. (except the stars) on solid ground and with the corners ornamented. Col. imp. Rectangle.

Inscriptions. Same as last.

5 centavos, orange	|	20 centavos, rose.
10 " blue.	|	50 " green.
	|	1 peso, violet.

1865.

Design. Arms (with condor) in centre of double-beaded, starred and lettered oval in centre of rectangle. Checkered spandrels. Wide space at bottom containing an inscription. Col. imp. Rectangle.

Inscriptions. Around oval: E. U. DE COLOMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES. In wide space at bottom: CENT preceded by numeral of value.

No. 1. 5 centavos, orange, 10c. mauve, 20c. blue, 50c. green and 1 peso, red.

No. 2. Large numeral of value. 50 centavos, dark green.

1867.

Designs. Vary, and are too complicated to explain without the aid of cuts. Col. imp.

Inscriptions. E. E. U. U. DE COLOMBIA with CORREOS NALES or * CORREOS NACIONALES and Es. Us. DE COLOMBIA with CORREOS NALES in different parts of the stamp, and CENTAVOS, Cs, CENTs or PESO, always at the bottom, preceded by the numerals of value,

5 centavos, orange	|	50 centavos, green.
10 " mauve	|	1 peso, red.
20 " blue	|	1 peso, flesh.

There are two sets, one on thick and the other on thin paper, and there is a variety of the 1 peso, viz.: mutilated UN.

1868.

Designs. Arms in centre of double oval. Ornamented spandrels containing disks. Col. imp. Rectangle.

Inscriptions. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA in inner oval. CORREOS NALES and value in words followed by CENTAVOS in outer oval. Numeral of value in disks.

5 centavos, orange		10 centavos, violet.
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(To be continued in our next issue.)

NEW ISSUES.

AZORES.—The following have come to hand with the new style of charge, viz.: **ACORES** in small type.

15 and 80 reis (old type).
5 reis (new type).

BAHAMAS.—The six pence has come to hand surcharged in black with a hand-stamp: **FOUR PENCE.**

BORNEO.—The London and China *Telegraph* of May 23d says: "A postage stamp has been issued by the North Borneo Company. On a shield a Malay prahu is to be seen in full sail, while a lion, rampant, watches overhead. The words '2 cent' are clearly printed at the foot, and on either side the same is written in Chinese and Malay characters. At the head of the stamp are the words 'postage, North Borneo'—the whole having a unique and artistic effect. We may inform our readers that pending arrangements for admitting North Borneo into the Postal Union, the Company's stamp will pass in the Straits Settlements, Labuan, Siam, Hong-Kong and China."

Adhesive, 2 cents brown.

BULGARIA.—The new set of official stamps is as follows:

3 stotinka orange oval and background light yellow.
5 stotinka green oval and background light green
10 stotinka carmine, oval and background rose.
15 stotinka violet, oval and background lilac.
25 stotinka blue, oval and background light blue
30 stotinka, dark violet, oval and background light green.
50 stotinka blue, oval and background crimson.

CASHMERE.—Adhesives:

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, brown.
8 annas blue.

CEYLON.—The 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rupees has come to hand surcharged 40 cents, also a 2 cent card, (which we have not seen) is said to have been surcharged 12 cents.

COSTA RICA.—A new card has been issued; black stamp on brown card.

New set of stamps surcharged **OFFICIAL** as follows:

1 cent green surcharge carmine.
2 " carmine surcharge blue.
5 " dark violet surcharge red.
10 " orange surcharge green.
40 " dark blue, surcharge red.

GRENADA.—The new issue for 1883 for this place now stands as follows:

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, green. 1 penny rose
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pence blue. 4 pence gray.
6 pence lilac. 1 shilling mauve, violet
8 pence brown olive-brown.

INDIA.—Shortly our readers will witness a change of color in the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna envelope stamp. The proposed change will be from blue (the present color) to green.

ITALY.—It is said that there is now in use a 10c. **ESTERO** of the same design as that of the common stamp.

10 centesimi, red, surcharge black.

There is also two cards issued for the Postal Union, one being a single and the other a double card. The stamp and inscriptions are brown and the card is a bluish gray. Size 139x80 m.m.

Single. 15 centesimi brown on blue gray.

Double 15x15 " " " "

NORWAY.—Tromsø locals up to date. 2 ore 5 ore and 8 ore

SAN SALVADOR.—Two new cards:

2 centavos dark red on chamois card.

3 centavos blue on white card.

Sizes 140x85 m.m.

URUGUAY.—Four new stamps have been issued, three of which we we have seen. The 1 centavo has the arms between two ornamental brackets between two curved and lettered ribbons the upper one bearing **REPUBLICA DEL URUGUAY** and the lower one **UN CENTESIMO: UNO** at top and bottom. Numeral one in disc in spandrels.

1 centesimo, green.

The two centavos bears the arms in centre of lettered diamond, which is lettered thus:

REPUBLICA O DEL URUGUAY
DOS CENTS

Numeral "2" in disks in spandrels.

2 centavos, carmine.

The 5 centavos, which is of a blue color, we have not seen, and therefore cannot describe it. The 10 centavos is exactly like the 5 centavos, red, 1867, issue of the Argentine Republic, but where the head of Rivadavia stamp, that of Gen'l Artigas is seen in the Uruguay stamp, and where Argentine stands in the first, **DEL URUGUAY** is seen in the second. **REPUBLICA** is in the same place in both stamps, as well as centavos. Where **CINCO** appears in the Argentine, **DIET** appears in the Uruguay. Wherever the figure 5 is to be seen in the Argentine, likewise in the figure 10 to be seen in the Uruguay.

10 centavos, brown.

10 centavos, lilac.

Miss Van Lew, of Richmond, Va., whose services during the war in behalf of the Union cause and in aid of the Union soldiers in Libby Prison gave her some prominence, has been tendered a first-class clerkship in the Post Office Department by Postmaster General Gresham, on the recommendation of Gen. Grant. Miss Van Lew was Postmaster at Richmond during President Grant's administration.

ONLY PLATED.—A new counterfeit of the five-dollar gold coin has made its appearance. It purports to be a coin of the United States struck at New Orleans in 1843. It is heavily plated, and is 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains light.

PHILATELIC NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A continuation of the Original Series.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

"A child's among you takin' notes,
A faith, he'll prent them."

Had the case of Creeke *versus* Nichols, Butler & Co, proceeded, I should have had something interesting from the trial to communicate to the readers of the EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST. It would have been the first of its kind in this country, not so in the United States. I remember of a case there more than seven years ago, which excited great interest in stamp collecting circles at the time. It appears that there exists in the United States a law to the effect "That any person who shall forge or counterfeit postage stamps of any foreign government, shall be deemed guilty of felony; and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than two nor more than ten years, at the discretion of the court." Acting in terms of this a detective seized three parties in Philadelphia named Patroui, Davidson and Wilson, with their stock of lithographic stones, perforating machine and printing press, together with a large stock of counterfeit stamps. The prisoners were arraigned for trial, and all collectors in Europe and America eagerly awaited the result. But all of the amusing and onesided proceedings were reported, this unquestionably is the oddest. Perhaps forging stamps seemed so small an affair, the intricacies of the trade so great, and the unsettled question as to whether collectors were or were not insane - perhaps to these facts is to be attributed the lenity which the forgers experienced at the hands of the court. Anyway they may thank their stars that their prosecutors were who they were.

The aforesaid were accused of attempting to defraud the governments of Nicaragua, Egypt, British Guiana, Angola and St. Thomas and Prince Edward Islands. Now this was considered a grand mistake, and yet looking at the law on the subject the lines which were simply being followed out, we cannot blame the prosecution for doing otherwise than it did. The simplest way in such a case appears to be that pointed out by Mr. Philbrick in the matter Creeke *versus* Nichols, Butler & Co. The prosecuting party charging the counterfeiter with obtaining money under false pretences, under an ordinary summons should be able to prove that he purchased the stamps from him, the fact that they are counterfeit, being addressed by the evidence of an independent and competent witness. So uncertain is the law, however, that difficulties could I believe be thrown in the way under this form of procedure as well. As it is they were charged with defrauding the governments above enumerated, and that of Nicaragua was first taken in hand. The admission that a

young dealer had purchased a dozen of the 1 centavo stamps for 30 cents was considered fatal, because it evinced no intention to cheat the Nicaraguan government. Egypt stands next in our list, but as the judge very naturally declared that the stamps of Egypt bore certain hieroglyphics which neither himself nor the jury could read, and consequently could not distinguish the true from the false, so that charge must be abandoned. The conclusions arrived at concerning these two items afford much food for reflection. The charge of defrauding the government of Nicaragua could not be substantiated, because for a dozen 1 cent stamps, value twelve cents, the sum of thirty cents, an excess of eighteen cents over their face value, had been tendered in payment. This seems clearly to go against all logic and common sense. Could not the prosecuting attorney have framed his reply after this fashion? It has been demonstrated that the Nicaraguan government did not make these stamps, so that in the event of any being placed on a package with the intent of paying postage and transmitted through that country, it would be defrauding the government to the extent of stamps circulated. The conclusion arrived at respecting the hieroglyphics on the Egyptian stamps being intelligible both to judge and jury, leads me to think that in the alternative action above suggested, it might be no easy matter to prove to the satisfaction of the court, even by an expert, that certain stamps were bogus. In the case of British Guiana similar good luck befell the prisoners, for the astounding reason "that the government of British Guiana, it being a colony, was not recognizable in that court, which knew no such government, it being a part of England only; and he should as soon think of recognizing the officer of an English county, or the mayor or alderman, or governor of London." Rather hard hitting this at old Mother England! This sentiment-uttering judge soon disposed of the other places, Angola, St. Thomas and Prince Islands in as summary a fashion as he had done with the others. "I know nothing of such a place as Angola, and both the place and its stamps must be proved to exist before I can allow it on the record. The attorney for the prosecution has no witnesses who could prove of their own knowledge anything about it; and as for hearsay evidence and books, these are inadmissible in a criminal court. The Portuguese government could be communicated with, but documentary evidence is not allowed." In this way he made short work of them all with the exception of Nicaragua. On this point while addressing the jury, he said the stamps of this place might have been used to defraud the government, and that although there was no evidence to prove criminal intent, it was still illegal to sell them.

Some of our readers will probably have come across a paragraph which once appeared in a New York paper to the effect that sworn evidence in a law suit by an expert, places the number of cot-

lectors in the United States at 200,000, the value of their collections ranging from five to fifty thousand dollars each. Well this refers to the present case. Mr. Scott of New York, who appeared for the prosecution, and I disposed that he had been in the stamp business since 1860, and that the stamps purchased from Patroni were printed from the lithographic stones in court, is the expert referred to. There was, however, an expert for the defence as well, one who knew quite as much about the subject in hand as Mr. Scott, and who had had as long a connection at the trade: that man was S. Allan Taylor. He was to the defence what the New York dealer was to the prosecution; yea, more, for he attested that he had kept counterfeits for years, was still in the business, that their sale was common, and gradually made the court aware of the fact that he made his living by making, keeping, and selling forged stamps! After all this, one will not be surprised to learn that the prisoners were let off. Although the jury after three hours consideration handed in a sealed verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, the prosecuting attorney declined to move for a sentence, and Patroni was discharged. Because one of his companions was under accusation of some other iniquity, he was not tried; and the engraver of the falsities was let off on pleading his ignorance of this intent to deceive. So ended the first and last philatelic trial.

But something approaching a trial is the recent raid by the U. S. Government on its stamp dealers—a trial without either judge or jury. I am beginning to wonder whether this is to turn out so disastrous an affair as was first supposed. What papers received still contain illustrations as formerly, and it has not been affirmed from any trustworthy source, that either Trifet, Scott or Durbin, have yet delivered up their stock of electrotypes. There always has been some risk entailed in using them. Before Mr. Philbrick issued his volume he asked and obtained special permission to use the cuts therein from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; one can admire such foresight and legal acumen. It has been asked whether these electrotypes are ever put to illegitimate uses. Mr. Trifet, when the *Globe* reporter called on him, in stating that he did not print them in colors, adding that although he did, they would not be very dangerous counterfeits. It is a fact, however, that unscrupulous dealers can, and have made money through an unpopular use of such cuts. A cute New Jersey man, who published a paper, tried such a game a good few years back. In a number of his magazine he illustrated two confederate locals lately resuscitated, had them printed in their proper colors, and obliterated, then pretended to make a great sacrifice by selling them at \$5 each. This is the only instance of this nature I am aware of, and feel quite safe in asserting that the government of the United States never lost so much as a brass farthing through stamp

collecting, on the contrary it must have drawn in a tidy sum from us for the government reprints marked "Specimen." It is to be hoped that the inoffensive dealer will not have to suffer the loss of so important a part of his stock in trade, and that Uncle Sam does not *again* intend to go in for the "stamp biz"—at least if he does so he will not adopt

The good old rule; the simple plan.
That they should take who have the power,
And that they should keep who cau.

In reference to my installment of Notes of May last, please observe (1st col.) that "John R." should be "John K.," that "Mr. Molus" should be "Mr. Moens;" (2nd col.) for "Speech is silvery" read "Speech is *silvern*," in ninth line from foot "the" should be "*ten*," delete in sixth line the words "buff, grey," and place them after the word "called" in next line; (3rd col.) in twenty sixth line from foot insert "*that*" between "every-one" and "the."
T. M. W.

Having been frequently requested to give some information concerning the formation of this society and its Board of Officers for the year 1883, we publish the following, copied from the Society Organ, *The National Philatelist*.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL PHILATELICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.—This Association shall be known as the National Philatelic Society.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.—The objects for which this society is formed are:

I.—The encouragement of the collection and Preservation of Postage Stamps and Revenue Stamps of all nations, as well as those issued by states, corporations and individuals.

II.—The procuring and dissemination of knowledge in relation thereto.

III.—The inculcation of the best principles of classification and arrangement.

IV.—The consideration of Stamps in their relations to Geography, History and Chronology, Politics, Language and the Fine Arts.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.—SECTION 1. The membership of this society shall be divided into the three following classes:

I. Active members.

II. Corresponding members.

III. Honorary Members.

The first class shall constitute the governing body of the society, from which all officers and committees must be chosen.

The second class shall consist of those who, by reason of residence abroad, or distance from the place of meeting, do not desire to become active members. They are expected to take an interest in the objects of the society, and to aid it by contributions or information.

The third class shall consist of those persons who, by virtue of valuable service in the cause of Philately, are considered deserving of the distinctive title of honorary members.

SEC. 2. Proposals for membership in either these classes must be made in writing, by an active member of the society, at one of its meetings, and shall be referred to the Executive Committee, who shall report thereon at the next regular meeting.

SEC. 3. No candidate shall be entitled to membership without the unanimous consent, by ballot, of the members present at a regular meeting, nor shall any candidate be balloted for, upon whom the Executive Committee may have made an adverse report.

SEC. 4. A rejected candidate cannot be again proposed during the period of twelve months following his rejection.

SEC. 5. Any member, in good standing may become a life member by the payment at any one time of a sum equal to five years' dues.

ARTICLE IV.—GOVERNMENT.—SEC. 1. The government of the society shall be vested in the following named officers:

- I. President.
- II. Vice-President.
- III. Secretary.
- IV. Treasurer.
- V. Librarian.
- VI. Executive Committee of three members.

SEC. 2. The term of each officer shall be for one year from the date of his election, and until a successor be appointed.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the President, and in his absence, that of the Vice-President, to preside at all meetings of the society.

In the absence of both President and Vice-President a temporary Chairman shall be appointed.

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all transactions and proceedings of the society. He shall conduct all correspondence, keeping copies thereof in a book provided for that purpose. All letters received by him in his official capacity, shall be filed among the archives of the society.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys; provided that no moneys shall be expended by him, except by resolution therefore, duly adopted by the society. He shall keep a strict account, in writing, of all moneys which he may so receive and disburse, and his books of accounts shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the society or any of its members.

SEC. 6. The Librarian shall take charge of all books and papers belonging to the society, and shall keep the same in good order.

SEC. 7. The Executive Committee shall enquire into the merits of all applicants for membership, and report thereon to the society. It shall also act as a standing committee of reference

for any matters that may be duly referred to it by the society.

ARTICLE V.—MEETINGS.—SECTION 1. The regular meetings of the society shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month, but no regular meeting will be held in July or August.

Special meetings shall be called by the President, at the written request of three members, due notice of which must be given by the Secretary.

SEC. 2. One-third of the active members shall constitute a quorum to transact all the necessary business of the society.

ARTICLE VI.—ELECTIONS.—SECTION 1. The annual election for officers shall take place at the regular meetings in June. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of the offices, the same shall be filled at the next regular meeting.

SEC. 2. The election of officers shall be by ballot, a majority of the whole number of votes cast being necessary to a choice.

ARTICLE VII.—SUBSCRIPTIONS.—SECTION 1. The annual subscription, which is payable in advance, shall be two dollars for active and corresponding members.

SEC. 2. Any member, in arrears for over three months' dues, shall be notified of the fact by the Treasurer, and requested to pay the same. If within thirty days after such notification and request, the arrearage be not paid, he shall then, on motion, cease to become a member of the society, and his name shall be stricken from the roll.

ARTICLE VIII.—PUBLICATIONS. The society may, from time to time as it may determine, issue a bulletin or other publication, containing an abstract of its proceedings, and full reports of or extracts from papers read at its meetings, when such papers may prove of interest to collectors. Copies of these bulletins or publications shall be distributed in such manner as the society shall direct.

ARTICLE IX.—AMENDMENTS. This Constitution shall not be altered, modified or amended except at a regular meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the members present. No action thereon shall be valid, unless one month's notice shall have been given.

OFFICERS FOR 1882-3.

<i>President and Librarian,</i>	R. R. BOGERT.
<i>Vice-President,</i>	C. B. CORWIN.
<i>Secretary,</i>	W. F. SMITH.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	N. F. SEEBECK.
<i>Executive Committee,</i>	
B. A. BRITTON,	W. F. SMITH, C. MUECKE.

MONETARY

A young Elmira financier says the silver dollar is a five-cent piece grown up.

Quicksilver—Halves and quarters at a church fair.

How to make money fast—Put a strap to it and tie it to a hitching post.

GLEANINGS FOR PHILATELISTS.

"The last series is one of considerable historical importance," says E. L. Pemberton, in his *Stamp Collector's Hand Book*, in speaking of the 1861 issue of Mexico "as marking the temporary decline of Juarez, and the fall of the first (stamp issuing) Mexican Republic. As the perfect execution of the stamps plainly shows, they are the work of the American Bank Note Company. They were ordered by the Juarist government when at its last extremity in 1864, and only a limited supply was sent out, as they were not paid for.

The stock remained (probably) in the hands of the printers, and in 1871 and 1872 considerable supplies of these remainders found their way into the hands of a few enterprising dealers, so that what used to be perfectly unattainable, may now be purchased somewhat near their facial value; but as it is stated that the bulk of the remainders was destroyed, they are never likely to come under the category of stamps of depreciated value; indeed, one value, the blue 2 reales, ran short, and is less abundant than the others. Considerable remainders of the two next issues have also been turned out. The characteristics of the 1864 Juarez stamps are fineness of execution and a perforation. A few specimens of those which were supplied to the Juarists by the printers, appear to have been used in the republican stronghold of Monterey, in 1864 to 1865; and such specimens, duly surcharged MONTEREY, and having paid postage of letters, are among the recognized valuables in the finest collections. It is to be noted that the stamps now in hand, and which formed "remainders," are free from any surcharge, and that some unscrupulous foreigner has had a considerable number carefully postmarked. Since specimens which were really used and obliterated are so rare that they may almost be counted on the fingers of one hand, there can be no reason why this barefaced imposition should succeed with those who once read these remarks: and if there should be the possibility of the genuineness of any specimens that may be submitted to the collector, he may further tell newly-made postmarked copies by the absence of the surcharge Monterey (as pointed out above), and which should occur in block capitals down one side of the stamp."

There were several series of the 1857 issue of Lubbeck. One series bore "curious little roses" scattered through the substance of the paper, and served the purpose of a watermark. This series has never been reprinted, but it has been extensively forged. The 1847 issue of Mauritius bearing the words POST OFFICE was executed by a man named Bernard. They are copper-plate engravings, and are very badly executed, being some of the worst stamps ever printed, and are termed "natives," because they were engraved and printed in Mauritius by the aforesaid Bernard. They were arranged twelve on a sheet, and each separate

stamp is drawn so as to differ a little from its fellows. When the plates were fresh, the impressions were clear and fine, but latterly, when the plates became worn by constant use, the impressions were not so clear, and it is probably on this account that a variation exists of the 2 pence, viz.: 2 PENOE.

RAWUL PINDEE AND MUREE PONY DAK STAMPS. These are native stamps used for prepayment of letters between the two places named, a distance of forty miles. As the pony post is run somewhat in opposition to the government post, (though a real accommodation to the inhabitants), the proprietor will not sell these envelopes to the public, as he fears unpleasantness with the postal authorities. The pony dak will deliver a letter in about four hours, while the post closes at Pindée at 4 p. m. and letters for Murree are not delivered there till next morning, so the pony dak is quicker than the post-office, which uses runners to carry the mails. Every letter handed to the pony post they stamp with the above design, and charge 8 annas; or, if you write a letter in the office, you can be served with either a white or a blue envelope for 8 annas; and if you want to prepay the answer, you can obtain a stamped envelope to put inside your letter. They are certainly postage stamps, for no letter goes by the pony dak without one. —

M. Liaunos in 1865 obtained a concession from the Sultan to issue a series of stamps, and distribute papers, letters, etc. in Constantinople only. They were of the following design: Crescent and five-pointed star in lined disc on ground-work of rays. POS TE LOCALE on the left, and PARAS below. Arabic inscription above, and on the right side. Numerals of value in corners. Colored impression and perforated. Rectangular in shape. The values were 5 paras blue (for papers) 20 paras green and 40 paras rose. N. Liaunor gave up the plan after six months, although the concession was for six years.

TAKING STAMPS FROM FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.

Benjamin F. Bain, a carrier at the General Post Office was arrested recently on a charge of taking the stamps from foreign newspapers received in this city. He acknowledged his guilt, but said that he considered the stamps useless to any one except himself and that he wished them for a collection he was making. The newspapers, it is charged, failed to reach their destination when the stamps were removed. Bain was held in \$100 bail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The portraits on the new postage stamps that come in use October 1 are:—one-cent, Franklin; two-cent, Jackson; three-cents, Washington; five-cent, Garfield; six-cent, Lincoln, seven-cent, Stanton; ten-cent, Jefferson; twelve-cent, Clay; fifteen-cent, Scott; thirty-cent, Hamilton; ninety-cent, Perry.

BY THE WAY.

QUARTINI vs. WEBSTER.

Mr. Leopold Quartini, for several years editor in Italy of the *Ami du Collectionneur* submits to us a definition which he thinks more appropriate than that given by Mr. Webster, and quoted on page 133 of this paper.

PHILATELY: The study of all stamps. The study and appliance of that study to all issues and varieties of stamps, of postal or fiscal use, and of all countries."

"A collection of postage stamps can be properly termed a *philatelic collection* but not *philately*."

"**PHILATELIST** is not one who makes a collection only, but a writer or publisher. Plainly, one who collects notes on all varieties or issues.

NEW MAIL MATTER.—Benjamin Bradway, of Frost Valley, was taken violently ill and died. The physicians decided that his disease was what is called backbone fever, which is a phase of yellow fever. He is supposed to have contracted it from a letter received from a relative who had the disease in New Orleans. Mr. Bradway was visited by many persons during his illness, and it is feared the malady will spread through the community.

It is said to rarely attack politicians, officeholders, juries, etc., though recently the Governor of Massachusetts has, much to the chagrin of some proven a severe case. They cannot "bottle him."

BY PERMISSION.—Mr. Sterling writes us that "the government has allowed him time to dispose of his illustrated works prior to the latter's enforcing the law in that respect." Mr. S has on hand a few of his most desirable catalogues, which he proposes to close out at low prices. Illustrated catalogues in a short time will certainly become rare, as we learn that—unless the law is modified—no efforts will be spared by the authorities to put a stop to stamp illustrating.

*Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer's cloud
Without our special wonder?—MACBETH.*

Treasurer Giffillan recently received the following note, inclosing a "conscience" contribution to the United States treasury; "Estimated amount of customs due on articles brought home from Europe. If I could have made head or tail of the tariff, I would have paid the duty honestly at once and not have suffered myself to be overruled by the other members of the party, and not beguiled into paying the Custom House Inspector, instead of the United States."

SUGGESTIVE.—A member of the star route jury fell in a fit while in the court room from the effects of prolonged drinking. No verdict was reached, other than that the juror was drunk.

A QUESTION FOR THE DOG DAYS.—The question at issue between the Hartford postmaster and a resident is whether mail matter shall be delivered by a carrier at the latter's house, in view of the fact that a dog invariably snaps at the heels of the carrier. The owner says that the brute is simply playful, and he will resort to the courts to compel the carrier to do his duty.

SEVERE STRAIN ON THE ALPHABET.—Miss Edith Shove, who bears the formidable titles of "M. B. Lond." and "L. K. Q. C. P. I." has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the female staff of the London General Post Office. It is said that the appointment of a woman to this position is not agreeable to the female employees of the establishment.

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.—A photographic counterfeit of the new \$5 national bank note was received at the Treasury department for redemption. It was sent by the Broadway National Bank of New York City, and is a counterfeit on the First National Bank of Milwaukee. It is the first counterfeit of the kind that has been discovered.

LIQUID-ATION.—Requisitions for tax paid spirit stamps, aggregating upward of \$1,000,000, were made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue recently, indicating large prospective withdrawals of spirits for consumption at the regular withdrawal in July. These stamps are for distribution in the Fifth Kentucky, Fourth Illinois and First Missouri districts.

"WELT POST."—Those of our readers capable of reading German, and who wish a good German paper, cannot do any better than to subscribe for the "Welt Post," published by Sigmund Friedl, Unter Doebbling, Herrengasse, 28-29, Vienna, Austria.

BRANCH BOUGHD DOWN WITH MILLIONS.—The boom in Confederate securities continues. North Carolina war bonds sold here at \$4 per \$1,000 and brokers are constant buyers of all classes of Confederate coupon securities. The house of Thomas Branch & Co has bought over \$20,000,000 of these securities.

VARIETIES.—Dealers wishing stamps of Honduras, Argentine Republic, Colombia and its respective states, Guatemala and other Central and South American countries and colonies, should write to J. L. Th. Heldewier Vignon, Curacao, West Indies.

A BALLEE'S CREDENTIALS.—Some fine silk stockings were found in a foreign letter by the post office authorities. They were addressed to an actress.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A. M. CROUTER, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Noticing among the "Gleanings for Philatelists" in the May number of the E. C. P. that the 6 baj. Romagna is not supposed to have been used for postage, I wish to say that I have it in my possession in a used condition, together with several others of the set. They were obtained by a young gentleman while residing in Italy, a number of years ago. Hoping this may be the means of bringing light on the subject from other sources, I am,

Yours respectfully, WM. H. WINSLOW.

Our correspondent, if he will take the pains to pursue again, and with more care, the item he quotes from our May number, he will notice that there is a doubt implied in our statement as to whether the 6 bajocchi were ever used. We have, as yet, failed to find one ourselves, and all authorities that we have consulted in the matter consider it doubtful. If W. H. W. has one that is genuine, he is in possession of a rarity.

Continued anxiety is expressed concerning the health of Mr. Hall, as is evidenced by the following epistles, one of our correspondent's going so far as to engage the eminent services of the Chief of the Secret Service Division in ferreting out the facts of his present physical condition. When fully restored to health, we would in all kindness advise W. V. B. H. to "start on his summer vacation, and once started, to remember Lot's wife, and not dally or look back, as we fear that the extraordinary attachment formed recently—and with time gathering more intensity—by the under-signed and others mentioned in our June issue, bode him evil, and, we surmise, are born of mercenary motives. We fear, Mr. Hall, that there will be an all-fired row presently, and quite a different denouement for you and your little escapades and pleasantries other than that so graphically portrayed by the learned poet in his "All's well that end's well."

To the Editor of the "E. C. P."

Dear Sir:—I read through your column something in regard to W. V. B. Hall. I enclose you the price-list he sent me, and state that it is the counterpart of that of T. Gibson, name excepted. I wrote to Gibson that I would like to sell him a lot of stamps. He offered me a fair price, and thinking him to be a responsible dealer, forwarded him my assortment, the date being May 11, 1881. Not having received any answer to my communications, I placed the matter in the hands of the P. O. officials. They traced the letter for me, and found that it was delivered to him personally. I have not received any remittance up to this time. Thinking this will prove a warning to the readers of your valuable journal, I beg to remain, very truly yours,

I. B. COHEN

Dear Sir:—I see by your paper for June that you are showing up one W. V. B. Hall of Montreal, Canada, as a fraud, etc. I desire to inform you that I have Mr. A. L. Drummond, S. S. Div. on his track for counterfeiting U. S. envelopes of the 1857-61 issue, and offering them for sale as genuine U. S. issue of that year, and will report the result in due time, so that young collectors will not get taken in by him. I have specimens of the 1c. blue, 3c. red, 4c. red and blue and 6c. red of 1857-61 issue, and 9c. yellow and 30c. green of 1866 issue, all white on buff, and counterfeits.

These stamps are all cut specimens and on thin paper, shade of regular issues, but no watermark for verges are found. The heads and general appearance of the stamps are larger than the regular issue.

Yours respectfully,

E. B. STERLING.

LOUISIANA LOTTERY AND THE DAUPHIN SUIT.

M. A. Dauphin, of the Louisiana Lottery Company has written the firm of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Cambridge, Mass., publishers of the United States *Postal Guide*, that if his name shall be published in the *Guide* in the list of names of persons conducting fraudulent concerns he will institute proceedings against them for defamation of character. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. forwarded the letter to the Postmaster General for instructions. The *Postal Guide* is an official book, for the publication of which annual appropriations are made, although it is published by a private firm.

Counsel for the complainant in the suit entered against Postmaster General Gresham say this suit is not brought on behalf of the Louisiana Lottery Company, but it is strictly a personal complaint. They remark that the Louisiana Lottery Company is not mentioned in any of the various orders of the Post Office Department, and the suit now brought is in the name of M. A. Dauphin only, its purpose being to test his personal right to receive his individual mail, as they contend that the department has no more right under the statutes or the orders heretofore issued to exclude his mail than to exclude the mail of any other private citizen.

BOYD'S DESPATCH AGAIN RAIDED.

Boyd's City Despatch Agency, in Park Place, was again raided recently by Special Agent Camp, of the Post Office Department, and United States Deputy Marshals Holmes, Colfax, Bernhard and Smith. About five thousand letters and circulars were found arranged in routes, for the most part for delivery in this city. All were seized and taken to the Post Office. On examination the senders were found and were communicated with and those who paid the requisite postage had their letters forwarded. As the senders are also liable to a penalty for violation of the law, it was rumored that the District Attorney would take proceedings against them.

A short time ago, a civil suit was begun by the government against Mrs. Blackham, the owner of Boyd's City Despatch, to recover \$150 penalty for a similar violation of the law. The suit was won by the government, and pending an appeal to a higher court, Mrs. Blackham promised to discontinue this branch of her business. District Attorney Root complains that this promise has not been kept.

The Empire City Philatelist.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Vol. 2.

JULY, 1883.

No. 4

AGAIN.

Much as we regret the chagrin and the seeming desire to squelch newspaper controversy on the Confederate stamp, which appeared illustrated in our last number, displayed in the subjoined squib clipped from the July number of the *Philatelic Monthly*—L. W. Durbin's—we regret still more the autocratic manner and vein of self-sufficiency and conceit which permeates his little effort to bolster his protege of the *Philatelic News*, in the latter's feeble endeavors to answer our question of "What Is It?" with which we introduced the stamp to the attention of our readers in our February issue. That ubiquitous prince of showmen, Barnum, lost many sleepless nights some years ago—introducing to the notice of his patrons a monstrosity, said to be neither man or beast—pondering the same interrogatory and pined away—also coined a deal of money—while wrestling with the same query. If a mind of such calibre loses its normal vigor under such circumstances, pray what then shall we prognosticate will be the result of the futile pondering over this same question by the editors of the *Philatelic Monthly* and he of the *Philatelic News*, who so soon after the appearance of this number, must resort to the "double number dodge? what other resultant than the straight jacket. But we are meandering from the subject; the following is what our contemporary, the *Philatelic Monthly*, has to say in regard to our article on page 155, May issue.

THAT CONFEDERATE.

"THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST has given considerable space to a label, carrying a Confederate States flag, and is rather vexed at a little cold water being thrown on it. We can remember when specimens of the stamp, or label, or whatever it may be called, were comparatively common, and efforts were made by certain persons in Richmond to foist them on collectors as Confederate Locals, emanating from their city. It may be a genuine essay, but we have always looked upon it as a humbug. The thing was known nearly twenty years ago, and that it has again been brought forward suggests the thought that it would be wise for philatelists to familiarize themselves with the stamp literature of years ago. Must all these old stamps, which were long ago buried, be brought up, tried and condemned over again?"

We consider no space lost that may be devoted to an intelligent controversy, having for its aim the solving of any disputed question, which, as per example, "That Confederate," has proven to be. That is the province of journalism: to agitate, instruct, debate; and for these appreciable reasons

is its almost unbounded freedom recognized and tolerated to the extent that it is in this country. Would our contemporaries have us devote two-thirds or more of our space to notices of the stock of dealers and what *unprecedented facilities* Brown enjoys for filling orders, as compared with Jones across the way, somewhat after the "Original Jacobs" style? Or fill one-half of our pages with that fulsome, nauseating trash of "you tickle me and I'll tickle you" such as stamp with deep impress the *dodgers* issued at the present time—and to a great extent noticeable in the "stamp literature of years ago"—and ycleped Philatelic? "We can remember when specimens of the stamps etc." Well, so you can, and also the period when the theory that the moon was made of green cheese had many adherents; that the sun revolved around the earth had as many more; and that the man with the blue cotton umbrella depicted on the side showman's canvas—which, like many another urchin, perhaps, our contemporary has been deluded with in his younger days—was Daniel in the lion's den—and does any of these remembrances prove other than that fallacies have existed since the creation, and many yet, though deemed properly passed upon, by and settled—at least to the satisfaction of the quidnuncs—still exist? Had our contemporary's memory served him as well in other instances, he probably would have recalled the fact to his readers, that these *labels*—for the origin of which term as applied to postage stamps the reader will consult page 121 of this paper—originated in the City of Quakers, and not in that of the less orthodox city of Richmond. "It may be a genuine essay, etc." What condescension on the part of the learned editor to even acknowledge the possibility of its being a genuine essay, and which we doubt his ability to prove to the contrary. "The thing was known nearly twenty years ago, etc." It certainly would have lost much savor had its existence been chronicled many years prior to that time; besides, it has been repeatedly asserted for the last half century that William Patterson had been smitten, and even the journals "of years ago" hath stated as much, but it remains still a disputed point as to the identity of the man who did the smiting. "Must all these old stamps, etc." How silly not to have called them by their proper name elsewhere through your little harangue, Mr. Editor? Yes, they must; we have only commenced on them, and also have the assurance from one who is already "familiarized" that there are stacks of them, to one of which we would invite your attention, illustrated on page 147, May issue of this paper. Moreover you would not have us *disinter* new ones, with the dread continually haunting us of imprisonment for counterfeiting. "Most potent, grave and learned seigneur," with all your acumen you have been misled; bear in mind hereafter that you are not infallible; that the existence of all knowledge is not centred in one person, and that one centred in the centre of the goodly City of Philadelphia,

THAT "DOUBLE NUMBER."

After the arduous labors of the past nine months it is the duty—having their own health and the future *advancement* of Philately in view—of the philatelic editor, particularly he who edits one "devoted strictly to philately," it being a more serious mental task than that allotted to the editor who roams over a broader field, we say it is his bounden duty, when the warm weather sets in, to hire a palace car and a retinue of servants, and in a state befitting any other magnate, proceed to his summer resort, whether it be Newport or Saratoga, and in the autumn "issue a double number." Perhaps he may unbend sufficiently to grace with his presence—at least for a brief period—that more plebian resort, Coney Island, and consent to take a dip in the same water that fleck the hide of plebian habitues with saliferous beads that sparkle like diamonds in the summer's sun, as the bather withdraws to his hut to robe. Be this as it may, he is bound by the great *responsibilities* with which he is clothed by the devotees of the cause, to care for his health, consequently he drops his pen with the air of a mortal weighed down—like another Atlas—with a world of care, intimates to his readers that when he deigns again to appear, it will be in the form of a trinity—three in one. And then what? Not so much to avoid the printer, as the possibility of the latter's dolorous complaints of hard times and sparse collections, he takes a *third-rate* ticket on some *one* horse road, and inflicts his presence on some country relative, with the sublime assurance that actuates all tramps, "the world owes them a living." Now this overwork on the part of our *three in one* philatelic editor, could and should be avoided in the future, and although feeling that the subject is rather beyond our mental grasp, we would, in the absence of a better suggestion, respectfully intimate that they hereafter lessen the size of their cumbersome monthlies, devote more space to advertising, making it incumbent upon the part of the advertiser to write legibly, that their—the editor's—brain may not be overtaxed in deciphering; decrease the space which now they surcharge with heavy thoughts—that is, of their editorial page—and we venture to predict an entire *satisfaction* among their patrons, a considerable reduction in their printer's bills, and no complainings in the hereafter among their *many* readers, owing to the profundity of their "Leaders."

PERPETUATING HISTORY THROUGH OUR COINAGE.

In the June number of this journal, our readers were treated to a very able disquisition on the above by our correspondent, Dr. Morris, in his serial entitled "Money Hunting." In the same issue appeared a brief sketch of the "First Numismatic Society of America," in the latter part of

which is noted that the "Society through Senator R. Johnson, in the year 1866, called the attention of Congress to the subject, but as yet without effect." The society's able corresponding secretary, Henry Phillips, Jr., in referring to the matter as treated by the above writer, says:

"His article on the amelioration of the devices on our coinage is excellent. I heartily wish something could be done in that direction." Other prominent numismatists, no doubt, think and wish likewise, and we opine that if sufficient pressure should be brought to bear by the not by any means insignificant intelligence illustrated through the men of brains and letters, whose names we see coupled with the various numismatic and historical societies of the Union, that Congress must accord—not only a hearing—with which alone the former should not be satisfied—but early action thereon. Indeed, the numismatists have in this question of recoinage a prolific field of action, as we have arrived at that state when it needs an argus-eyed monetary expert's keenness, in these days of rapid business transactions—to be informed when he can safely take a dollar without the subsequent loss of from ten to fifteen per cent, or a quarter of the same without finding it but twenty cents: or when at that time of the day which is neither sunlight or darkness, having recourse only to the sense of feeling, how readily we are deceived into taking the three cent piece—we mean he of the larger diameter—for the much-abused, cents less nickel V. Can anything be more inconsistent than that the standard dollar being taken and passed readily for its face value, when it is intrinsically worth less than the dolorous "Trade" which has of late been so successfully boycotted, thereby removing from circulation one of the means that the many employing Shylocks enjoyed—on the eve of their weekly or semi-monthly pay days—as a reward for their very benevolent endeavors to "pay off" in the coin of the realm, of making the little rebate or shave between notes and silver. Of course, we all know the history of that "Trade" ere this, as it has been in the mouths—if not the hands—of every one, and when handled, done so without gloves in every sense of the word, by those who had the fortune or misfortune to be found overloaded in the "days of its demise." But suppose as is inferred, it had its origin for an emergency, what law of equity can the government take refuge in—even suppose they were not the coiners thereof—that it should stand idly by and allow the *emergency* to arise that forced its many toilers, in order to negotiate its passage, to a loss of fifteen cents on the dollar. Then we have the two cent copper coin, taken, or mistaken, rather—when judgment is that of feeling alone—for the twenty-cent piece. The entire practicability of our correspondent's views depends, we should say, in a great measure upon keeping one face of the coin imprinted with its distinctive value; and in this respect, as also the dimensions, always the same, so that in the frequent changes—that our correspondent speaks of—made in illustrating the opposite face, the value remains boldly declared, so that even he who runs may read, which would not be the case were the value side subjected to the same frequent alterations. Do away with the two, three and twenty cent coins; they are not needed. This will remove the possibility of deception by size. Coin only that which the government is willing to redeem, and then begin with the the illustrative history of the country, its birds and animals. We can then feel assured that as it is "not to the manor born," we will not have, as we do now, an elephant in or on our hands.

MONEY HUNTING.

A series of papers, personal and practical, upon the method of finding and recognizing Ancient Coins.

By ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

(Oriental Traveler and Author of various Numismatic works such as "The Coins of the 12 Caesars," etc.)

In the prevailing inquiry for coins, illustrating facts connected with bible characters, the demand for what is styled "Judea Capta" coins is very great. The solemn event they commemorate gives them a peculiar interest. They were struck by order of the Roman Senate, A.D. 70, and afterwards to record the conquest of Palestine. This was a fashion with that haughty nation; we see ARMENIA CAPTA and other names in the same category. Whenever the report was made to the Senate, and legally confirmed, that a land in rebellion had been subdued, an order was passed ("S. C.") to emit a coinage which should serve as a metallic history, or leaflet of history, to publish abroad the fact. This was done when the news reached Rome that Judaea was *Devicta*. The order was solemnly issued and sent to the mint, that the world should be notified of the fact. Instantly the artists of the mint, who were usually Greeks, and at that period artists of great skill, prepared suitable devices and epigraphs, and submitted them to the officers of the Senate for their approval. This being had, hundreds and perhaps thousands of dies were made, and in a short time the whole force of the Great Mint, not less than 25,000 fabricators of different grades were melting, compounding, hammering, clipping and striking the coins ordered. Such is the history of the origin of the "Judea coin," of which there are probably samples exist. in g from a hundred dies.

Americans, not familiar with the peculiarities of ancient coins, are too easily alarmed at the cry of "forgery," "counterfeit," etc. I have handled many thousand Greek and Roman coins, and have found very few counterfeits, fewer, perhaps, than a banker would find in the same number of American coins. Of gold coins there is a certain proportion of doubtful origin, but so high priced are antique gold coins that not one collector in twenty among us, possesses any.

And now for the *Judaea Capta*. On the obverse or front side look for the portrait of the Caesar an Emperor who ruled at the time of their emission. The greater part of them have *Vespasian*, who was emperor from A.D. 69 to 79. Upon a few we find *Titus*, who, however, only reigned two years, viz.: 79 to 81, and then came *Domitian*, who also issued a few of these *Judaea Capta* specimens during his reign of 15 years. The chances are, perhaps, 20 to 1 that if a collector has a *Judaea Capta* it is a coin of Vespasian.

Upon the reverse or back side of the coin, see either of these words:

I V D — and sometimes DE IVD
I V D E A
I V D A E A

joined with them see one of these forms C. CAP. CAPT CAPTA VICTA DEVICTA. All these expressions, however, are read alike, "the land of Judea subjugated." Rarely do we find coins of Titus having the same words in Greek letters, viz: *Autokrator Titus Kaisar Ioudaias Ealokuais*. "The Emperor Titus Caesar. Judea subjugated."

The device by which the subjugation of Judea was expressed was that of "a sorrowing woman seated." Her seat is sometimes upon a pile of Jewish shields; oftener "the daughter of Zion" is sitting in the dust, expressive of the degradation to which her people had been reduced. Her anguish is evinced by the manner in which her forehead rests upon her right hand, while her dishevelled hair floats wildly down her neck. There is much expression thrown into the figure.

On the larger coins of the *Judaea Capta* class, there is a tall palm tree hanging with fruit. This was the Roman emblem of the land of Judea, and is seen upon many other coins representing that country. Under this noble and abounding tree stands a Roman soldier, representing, perhaps, the emperor himself, or his son Titus, who was in command at the closing of the Jewish rebellion. He is a most attractive figure, sinewy, tall, and his position is as fine as ever the human figure was made to express. In his hand he holds a parazonium which was the ancient baton of a commander. The letters S. C. are only found on the copper pieces. They are read *Senatus Consulto* "by the decree of the Senate." Other devices besides this were used, but not so frequently. A captive Jew kneeling and holding out military standards is as common as any. In others the daughter of Zion is sitting at the foot of a Roman trophy.

I have intimated that the owner of one of these historical coins need entertain no suspicion of their genuineness, especially if they are copper pieces. Millions upon millions of them were struck, for the subjugation of Judea was an incident of great importance in Roman history. These were sent through the known world to pay the legions, to purchase commissary stores, to build and equip fleets, to inform all subordinate rulers of the great conquest. Traders took them upon their voyages in great numbers: many of them were absorbed in historical collectors and so went out of circulation. Thus it is that, from day to day, they are coming to light in excavations, in the dredging of harbors and ports, along the surface of old battlefields, and everywhere they tell the terrible story of *Judaea Capta*, the glory of the conquerors and the horrible sufferings of that unhappy nation of which "the daughter of Zion" was the representative;

The most scientific men of Europe have written upon these and other coins of the Jewish people. Haller and Ennery are explicit upon this theme. Oeco and Schackmann are almost exhaustive in their catalogues of such. Eckhel devotes his

profound researches to this branch of numismatic learning. Pinkerton's essays, Havercamp, Glock, Pfau, Thott, Wise, Pellerin, De Sanley and many others leave but little wanting to a full explanation of the coins of the Jews, and particularly this class, while Madden, in his "Jewish coinage," sums up the investigation of the whole into his one volume. Considering what a fund of historical information lies in these little discs of metal, it is a pity that our biblical scholars should make so little use of them. Among all my acquaintances who are engaged in ministerial and Sunday-school work, not one in a dozen, I think, has ever seen a Jewish coin of any sort, a mite, a penny, a shekel, a Judaea capta, a stater, anything of ancient coinage that reflects light upon the Word of God!

The recent revision of the New Testament, rich and full upon so many branches of ancient learning, is barren in the extreme on this subject and it does seem as if Dr. Schaff, who is so profound and reliable a scholar on many reliable themes, prides himself upon his ignorance of numismatics.

Amongst the great variety of devices upon ancient coins—and it is amazing in richness and extent—few are better worth study than those that suggest the great rivers of the earth. If modern nations had but continued the practice of commemorating local objects upon their coinages, how appropriate would our Hudson, our Potomac, our Ohio, our Missouri, Mississippi and others of our grand water courses appear upon the gold and silver and copper faces that represent values in this all-trafficking age and country!

Seeing that rivers afford the greatest advantages to cities, and riches and numerous appliances to human life it is not strange that they are so frequently found engraved upon coins. This is done either by an urn pouring forth water from the elbow of a reclining man, or by other figures of rivers which designate their different courses by their various positions, or point out the situation of the cities on their banks. I name in alphabetical order the following rivers of antiquity as indicated by coins that were struck in the countries through which they pass. For my notes here I am largely indebted to that mine of numismatic facts, *Lexicon Universal Rei Numariæ* by Rasche.

The river *Achelous* in Aetolia or Parnania is indicated in coins by a bull, a most frequent emblem upon monies of this class. The river *Acragus* in Sicily is figured by a young bull having a horned front. The *Adonis* in Syria is seen upon coins of Byblos, emerging from the feet of a deity sitting upon a pile of rocks. This is also an emblem frequently used. The *Alabon* in Sicily is given as a human headed bull. The *Amenanus* and the *Assines* in Sicily and others have the same figures as the *Acragus*. The *Aous* in Greece presents the deity of the stream reclining, a water-urn upon his left elbow, and at his right a ship with a sail. The *Belus* in Palestine is distinguish-

ed by the form of a female wearing a turreted crown and seated upon rocks. The *Billavus* in Bithynia and the *Caius* in Mysia have the water-god as above, but unbearded, to show that those streams are not navigable. By such slight indications the genuine lessons of art were suggested.

The *Oyster* has the last emblem seen reclining among reeds; the *Chydus* in Sicily is known by a human headed bull pouring forth a copious stream from his marths; the Danube, on coins of Trojan, appears as the water-god with a long and rough beard, his right arm resting upon a water-pot; the confluence of the Erigau and Rhoedias is indicated by two water-gods reclining on the earth, the one bearded, the other not. This implies that one of the two streams is navigable, the other not; the great Euphrates is marked by a water-god sitting upon a pile of rocks; this marks many other streams. The *Hales* in Ionia, the water-god as before, but his left arm resting on an urn and holding a cornucopia. The emblem of the *Hermus* is particularly suggestive: that river is not navigable, but narrow and small, yet the figure is that of the virile man, only unbearded, because the stream is extremely rapid and runs into the sea.

The *Hiberus* in Spain, a man with naked head vomiting water. The *Hypsa* in Sicily a man with horns upon his forehead sacrificing at an altar; the Maeander in Asia Minor so crooked that Plutarch says "it doubles upon itself," and has given its name to the word *meander* is denoted upon the coin of various cities upon its banks.

A new feature is seen in the image of the river *Marsyas* in Phrygia, viz.: the water-god reclining at the entrance of a cave. This appears also upon coins of others; the great *Nile* of Egypt is expressed by an aged, strong-built man, bearded heavily, reclining, his head encircled with a crown, a lotus flower at his right shoulder. The *Rhodus* the rudder of a boat added to the usual emblems; the *Sigaris* in Phrygia, the water-god has in one hand a plant, in the other a reed, and at his feet a boat; the *Saacarus* in Mesopotamia a swimming figure; the same in *Scirtus* Mesopotamia, and others; the *Scopas* in Bittynia has the effigy of a woman reclining, in her right hand wheat heads and a poppy-head, her left holds an urn.

These are the principal variations upon a few significant emblems—aged men, women, wheat heads, poppy heads, urns, caves, reeds, boats, etc.—by which the artists of antiquity represented the principal streams that gave comfort, nourishment and importance to their respective countries. By the help of the initials or abbreviated words that indicate the city, the student will readily find the place of mintage. Take, for instance, the case of the winding stream, the *Meander*, upon whose banks stood the cities of Antioch in Caria, Apomala in Phrygia, Magnesum, Trallium and Tripolia in Cana—while we find the river *Meander* indicated upon them all by similar types, the name of each city is distinctly marked in Greek characters not to be mistaken.

Numismatic riches have brought forth rich treasures of historical lore from the mines of *fluvial* coins. Havercamp has shown how the rivers of Sicily entered into the designs of the artists in Sicilian mints four or five centuries before Christ, and aided in the production of the most beautiful coins the world has ever seen.

ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS.

A SERIES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY.

BY THE REV. ROBERT WALSH, LL. D.

[Continued from page 147]

In 323 a war broke out between Constantine and Licinius, the latter being defeated and his life saved only at the request of his wife, but only till 324, in which year he was put to death at Thessalonica, where he had been placed in confinement. By this victory Constantine became sole ruler, and struck at Thessalonica a gold coin to commemorate the event, bearing RECTOR TOTIUS ORBIS. On Nov. 8 of the same year Constantius II was made Caesar. In the year 325 gladiatorial combats were abolished, and in 330 Constantine abolished idolatry and built churches in Constantinople. In the year 333 Constans was made Caesar. In the year 337 Constantine began to feel feeble in health, and visited Helenopolis, after which he visited Nicomedia, where he was baptized, and soon after, at the feast of Pentecost, he died.



The coin here shown is of Constantine. On the obverse is the bust of Constantine with the following legend: FL VAL CONSTANTINVS P F AVG.—“Flavins Valerius Constantinus the dutiful, happy Augustus.” On the reverse is seen the sign he had seen in the heavens with the letters A and W on either side with the legend SALVS AVGVSTO—“The prosperous Augustus.” In the exergue Tro.

By this coin it is seen that Constantine, besides having the holy sign embroidered on his banners, and on the helmets of his legions, must place in the minds of the people in another way the sign of the “God of his father.”

On the death of Constantine a triumvirate took possession as rulers of the empire. They were Constantine II, Constans I and Constantius, all sons of Constantine I. Constantius, upon hearing of his father's death, hurried to Constantinople in order to be at the funeral. The armies, meanwhile, had declared that they would have no other rulers but the sons of Constantine—to the exclusion, therefore, of his nephews Dalmatius and Hannabalian. Shortly after this declaration, a general massacre of the family commenced. All were killed, even the two excluded from power, except two of his nephews, sons of Julius Con-

stantius Gallus, who was supposed to be dying, and the infant Julian.

A division of the empire followed, and for that purpose the brothers met at Sirmium. It was divided so that Constantine had the west, Constans the centre, and Constantius the Eastern portions of the empire. In the year 340, Constantine, while invading the dominions of his brother Constans, was killed in a small engagement.

After the death of Constantine, the remaining brothers made another division of the empire. Ten years later, Constans was assassinated, or rather forced to commit the act, by the partisans of the usurper Magnentius.

Constantius was now sole ruler, and in revenge for the murder of his brother, fought several battles with Magnentius, in all of which the usurper was defeated, and at last killed in the bloody battle of Mursa, which cost the Romans a loss of 50,000 men.

After the battle, Constantius came a great deal under the influence of Valens, the temporizing bishop of the place, who pretended that the victory was revealed to him by an angel, and from this time he appears more distinctly as a persecutor of the Nicene faith, which he endeavored to crush in the West.

Persecution, exile and imprisonment was now visited upon the different religious sects except his own. In the year 355 he made Julian, his younger brother Caesar, and made him ruler of the province of Gaul, and married him to his sister Helena.

In the year 360, Julian being proclaimed Augustus by his army, made a proposal to Constantine for a division of the empire, which the latter did not accept. A civil war was impending. Constantius was at first contemptuous, but ere long he began to be haunted with fears of death, and caused himself to be baptized by Euzoios, the Arian bishop of Antioch. He expired, after a painful illness, at Mopsucrene, at the foot of Mount Taurus, Nov. 4, 361.



The above coin is of Constantine II, on the obverse is seen the bust of Constantine, with the legend D. N. CONSTANTINVS P F AVG. On the reverse is seen the emperor in a galley, holding the labrum with the Agytheron in his left hand, and on the right hand holding a dove surrounded by a nimbus or glory. The galley, it seems, is steered or guided by an angel, generally described as a victory. The inscription is FEL TRM REPARATIO—“the restoration of the happiness of the times.” The “happy restoration” did not, however, extend to the softening of manners for some of the types of coins of the period represent scenes of the grossest cruelty.

THE COINS OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

The coins of the German Empire are of gold, silver, nickel and copper. All the gold coins, according to the law of July 9, 1873, are of one purity, 9 parts of pure metal and one part of copper alloy. Out of 500 grammes of pure gold are coined 69½ twenty-mark pieces, 139½ ten-mark pieces, 279 5-mark pieces.

All the old German gold coins were demonetized on the 1st of April, 1874, and have not been redeemed since the 1st of July of the same year.

All the German silver coins are also of one purity, 9 parts of pure silver and 1 of alloy. Out of one pound of pure silver is coined 20 five-mark pieces, 50 two-mark pieces, 100 one-mark pieces, 200 fifty-pfennig pieces, 500 twenty-pfennig pieces

The nickel coinage consists of ten pfennig pieces and five pfennig pieces, each containing 25 parts nickel and 75 parts copper.

The copper or bronze coinage is confined to pieces of one and 2 pfennig, which contains 95 parts copper, 4 parts tin, and 1 part zinc.

The entire amount of the imperial silver coinage is limited by law to 10 marks per head of the population, and the issue of nickel and bronze coinage shall not exceed 2½ marks per head.

Nobody is compelled to take in payment more than 20 marks in silver and 1 mark in nickel and bronze, excepting only the imperial and state treasuries, which must receive the silver coinage to any amount which may be offered.

The small coins of the old thaler currency have been already demonetized, but the currency reform is still incomplete, and will remain so until the thaler pieces are called in from circulation.

The imperial chancellor is empowered by law to call in the old thaler coins at any moment which may appear to him advisable. Until this is done, the thaler is declared to be worth three marks and remains a legal tender.

Professor Soetboer, of Hamburg, an authority on finance, estimates the amount of thalers still in circulation to be not less than 300,000,000. The conversion of this large sum into the proper currency will enhance the cost of the money reform to the empire by many an additional million of marks.

As to the relation of paper money and coin to each other, it may only be said that as the entire note and coin system is based upon the gold standard, the bank-notes are at par with gold, and all the banks which emit notes are required to redeem the same with gold upon demand.

DEFINING IT.

"A coin," says Professor Gardner, "is a lump of any precious metal of fixed weight, and stamped with the mark of some authority which guarantees the weight and fineness of the coin and so its value."

THE MINT AT BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Although there exist coins stamped at Bordeaux under the reign of Charlemagne, and even previous to his time, it appears that the veritable establishment of the mint was by a decree of Charles the Bald, in the month of July, 864. After having been closed and reopened at different times under the pressure of varying circumstances, it was re-established in 1455.

During the French revolution all mints were suppressed, and the mint of Bordeaux remained closed until 1795. It was also again closed in 1868, but the events of 1870, with Strasburg and Paris besieged, caused it again to be put in operation. The coinage of silver since 1795 has been as follows:

	Francs.
From 1795 to 1848	146,368,000
From 1848 to 1863	30,000,000
From 1868 to 1870	closed
From 1870 to 1875	70,000,000
	246,368,000

ANOTHER REASON FOR LOCAL ONE-CENT POSTAGE.

There are only four nations in the world to-day that are paying their way. England generally manages to make ends meet and show a trifling of two or three millions to be applied to the reduction of its enormous national debt; the United States, in spite of Congressional extravagance, puts by every year nearly fifty times as much; and Holland and Belgium both keep about even. With these exceptions every nation in the civilized world shows an annual deficit of more or less millions.

PAPER WASTE.

The appropriation for the redemption of worn and mutilated United States notes for the fiscal year 1882-83 is nearly exhausted. No appropriation for this service for the next fiscal year was made at the last session of Congress. Therefore, after the present appropriation shall be exhausted no notes of this description can be redeemed at the Treasury department until Congress makes another appropriation for that purpose.

FILLED TWENTY-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES IN THE SOUTH.

Information has been received at the Treasury department that "filled" twenty-dollar gold pieces have appeared in Tennessee and other parts of the South.

WORK IN THE BRITISH ROYAL MINT.

For the first time after more than two years, the process of gold coinage at the Royal Mint was recently resumed. It was remarked that the strong man who pours the molten stream from crucible to mould, and who holds that post because of his especial skill in directing the metal into narrow apertures without spilling or waste—showed on this momentous occasion some little signs of nervousness and agitation. Gold coinage, says a recent number of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, was successfully resumed in the reconstructed premises with new and improved machinery, and it will probably be long indeed before there is such another interruption of the coinage as has been now happily brought to a conclusion.

The reconstructed mint can now turn out sovereigns at the rate of a million a week without stopping the coinage of silver and copper, whereas previously it could only deal with one metal at the time, and that to a much smaller extent. The beautiful instruments employed for weighing the coin are now manufactured within the precincts of the mint, and are, as is well known, a miracle of minute and ingenious automatic machinery. Out of every one hundred sovereigns that pass over the balance, the fastidious little instrument rejects, as either too heavy or too light—but more frequently the latter—a number varying from one to twenty.

COINAGE AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MINT.

The following is a statement of the coinage at the San Francisco Mint for each month of the past year, and the total coinage for the year as compared with the two previous years:

Months.	Double Eagles.	Eagles.	Half Eagles.	Standard Dollars.	Totals.
January.....	\$ 820,000	\$1,500,000	.....	\$ 840,000	\$3,170,000
February.....	1,675,000	.....	.....	1,000,000	2,675,000
March.....	960,000	990,000	\$850,000	3,800,000	5,600,000
April.....	1,369,000	.....	880,000	900,000	2,849,000
May.....	1,060,000	330,000	240,000	950,000	2,880,000
June.....	1,990,000	.....	.....	700,000	1,790,000
July.....	240,000	.....	.....	950,000	1,190,000
August.....	5,180,000	.....	.....	900,000	4,000,000
September.....	3,200,200	.....	.....	600,000	2,600,200
October.....	2,360,000	.....	.....	600,000	2,860,000
November.....	2,280,000	.....	.....	500,000	2,880,000
December.....	3,020,000	.....	.....	500,000	3,520,000
Totals.....	\$9,4175,000	\$2,820,000	\$1,670,000	\$ 9,250,000	\$37,915,000
1881.....	14,560,000	9,700,000	4,845,000	12,760,000	41,815,000
1880.....	16,780,000	5,062,500	6,744,500	8,900,000	37,487,000

AN OLD "UN."

An old medal was ploughed up in Lawrence County, Indiana, the other day, which belonged to the hard cider era of 1840, when General Harrison was elected President. It bears on one side a representation of a log cabin and a barrel of cider placed under an adjoining tree. On the reverse are the inscriptions: "The people's choice, the hero of Tippecanoe—Maj. Gen. W. H. Harrison, born Feb. 9, 1772." It will be presented to ex-Secretary of the Navy Thompson, who is the sole survivor of the Indiana electoral ticket of that campaign.

MANUFACTURE OF BANK-NOTE PAPER.

An Austrian paper-maker has originated an improvement in the manufacture of paper, specially applicable to use for bank-notes, stock certificates, bonds, &c.

According to this invention, nearly finished paper-pulp of the ordinary kind is taken and with it is mixed intimately and uniformly in the cylinder mill, yellow-colored fibres in greater or less quantity according to requirement. The resulting paper-pulp or stuff is then drawn from the vat, worked-up and finished on the ordinary paper machine. The coloring of the fibre is obtained by treating vegetable or animal substances containing albumen or albumen-like ingredients, or both together, such as jute, raw linen, raw flax, silk, wool, feathers, hair and the like, with dilute nitric acid. This is carried into effect as follows: The fibre is placed (preferably at ordinary temperature) in a bath of the dilute nitric acid, and is left therein till the desired yellow color of uniform and unalterable tint has been attained. The colored fibre is then thoroughly washed at the ordinary temperature until the water ceases to show acid reaction, and the fibre is then dried. The degrees of concentration can be varied, but a mixture of from 10 to 50 parts of commercial nitric acid, of say 1,368 sp. g., with 100 parts of water will be found suitable, the time of immersion being from 12 to 48 hours. The yellow-fibred paper obtained by this process is peculiarly applicable for the manufacture of State papers, bank-notes, checks, and the like, as the fibre contain albuminous matter, and being treated as stated, are not colored by a pigment, but only by the chemical action of the nitric acid. The fibres, when the paper is printed upon, are hardly perceptible, but if submitted to a photographic exposure become black, so that fraudulent imitation by this means is prevented.

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Vol. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1882.

No. 8.

The Empire City



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THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

← OFFICE, →

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NEW YORK.

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United States Postage Stamps taken in payment.

No. 1 of this paper out of print.—Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 10 cents a copy.

Articles pertaining to stamp collecting and kindred matter solicited, and must be original to insure publication. When a moneyed value is placed upon same, price must accompany it. We hope those versed in Philately, also Numismatics, will take advantage of our open columns to give expression to their ideas. Also, those having questions to ask relating, of course, to our science, and of interest to the general reader, are requested to put the same briefly; and we trust that our readers will take sufficient interest in same to assist us in answering them.

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To Parents!!—We would say that if their boy or girl have commenced their little collection, and tire you of an evening with their numerous questions on the subject of Philately, do not dampen their ardor by saying "you don't know," or "wait until some other time;" but put them in the way of getting the information by subscribing for this paper. Having the address of all reliable dealers and prominent collectors, we shall deem it a pleasure to give same through our columns when it is required, thus putting the amateur in the way of getting rare stamps or information concerning them. Further, we pledge our word that nothing in these columns shall meet their gaze that the most refined cannot peruse with impunity.

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STAMP IMPORTER,
Change Alley, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.
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 South and Central American, West Indian, Canadian, United States and other good American postage stamps, for cash, or first-class exchange.
 Send, on approval, at lowest prices. All communications promptly answered.
 Send 3 cent stamp for sample copy of **THE NEW SOUTH WALES PHILATELIST.** (8)

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 Each packet contains 10 different stamps. 12 packets, containing 120 stamps, all different, sent post-free for 50 cents. Orders under 25 cents must contain a 3 cent stamp for return postage. (8)

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New wholesale list Free; 125 stamps and retail lists for 10 cents; 19 Hamburg, 25 cents; 10 Sardinia, 10 cents; 4 State Dept., 40 cents; 8 Japan, 12c.; 116 Hamburg Locals, 25c. (8)

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 all different, unused and post-free for only 12 cents. Sheets on approval to responsible parties, reference required.
 Agents wanted.
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25 VARIETIES OF SPAIN!
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 The following from Webster, page 1164, shows the value of the Illustrative Definitions in
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Lock Box 68. Evanston, Cook Co., Ill.
(tfo)

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

ALL ABOUT STAMPS!

"THE PHILATELIC TRIUMPH"

sent to your address one year for only 20 cents. "Ads." 40 cents per inch.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

Boys, send me 10 cents in stamps and I will send you a grand Christmas present.

BENJAMIN ILLING,

48 & 50 Seneca Street,

(9) **BUFFALO, N. Y.**

SEND one dollar and receive by return mail reliable advice upon any or all matters pertaining to courtship and marriage.

Address,

PROF. B. F. WULFF,

(9) Copperopolis, Cal.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP!

All about coins, stamps, etc. Only 50 cts. per year, single copy 10 cts. Address,

CLEMENS & CO., Pub's,
Cleveland, Ohio.

(9)

6 PORTO RICO, 1882.

all different, unused and post-free, for only 10 cts. Sheets on approval to parties sending deposit or reference.

Address, F. F. PEARD,

(9) 8 Pembroke St., Toronto, Can.

12 VARIETIES of unused stamps, including rare Alwar Bhopal 2 varieties, Soruth, Montserrat, Suez Canal, Nowannugar, etc.; post-free, 25c.

Address, F. F. PEARD,

(9) 8 Pembroke St., Toronto, Can.

ILLING'S

Annual Philatelic Advertiser.

This neat little 54-page book will be ready January 1, 1883. Advertisements, one page, \$2.00; one-half page, \$1.15; one inch, 35 cts. Name, address and trade, with copy of book, 20 cts. Price of book, 10 cts.

BENJAMIN ILLING,

48 & 50 Seneca Street,

BUFFALO, N. Y.

The above Annual is meeting with grand success; the rates are low and page so large that it cannot do otherwise. Dealers, send in your "ads." at once! Foreign dealers, advance your bigness by advertising in above Annual. (9)

R. R. BOGERT,

DEALER IN

Postage Stamps for Collectors,

Room 38, Tribune Building,

NEW YORK.

PRICE LISTS FREE.

(10)

CHRISTMAS OFFERS!

Christmas is nearly here, and now is the time to purchase your presents. Below you will find a small list of Albums, Stamps, etc., suitable for presents, at very low prices.

ALBUMS.

International stamp Album. Contains spaces for all new issues; printed on fine, heavy paper, and for the low price of \$1.50.

A good Album, to hold 2000 stamps, printed on fine paper, beautifully bound, gilt, etc. Post-free, only 60 cts.

A splendid Album for beginners, to hold 1400 stamps, post-free, 40 cts.

CHEAP PACKETS.

These packets are made up especially for the Holidays, and are offered very cheap.

NOVELTY PACKET—Contains 11 of the latest novelties, as follows: 3d. Turks Island; 3d. St. Lucia; 1c. Guatemala; 1c. St. Domingo; 2c. Swiss; '82; 6 varieties Porto Rico, 1885. All unused and post-free for only 26 cts.

No. 1.—Contains 25 varieties: Bahamas, 1s.; Persia, 1 and 5 kran; Argentine; Peru, Unpaid; old Spain; Grenada, etc. Post-free, only 50 cts.

No. 2.—25 varieties, including Natal, Turkey, Egypt, Finland, India, Italy, etc. Price, only 25 cts.

No. 3.—Contains 30 varieties excellent Spanish, many rare. Post-free, only 20 cts.

No. 4.—Contains 260 excellent stamps, from all parts of the world. Price, only 25 cts.

No. 5.—Contains 100 very finely ass't, for only 25 cts.

Being over-stocked, and wishing to dispose of my mixed foreign stamps, I have thrown in many rare varieties, and will close them out at the following very low prices: 100, only 4 cts.; 500, 17 cts.; 1,000, 30 cts.; 50,000, \$9.00. These are bargains, and should not be missed.

I have for sale that excellent book, "THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S COMPANION," 50 pages of best Philatelic literature. A splendid present. Price, post-free, only 15 cts.; 2 for 25 cts.

Agent for all Illing's Publications, and will receive subscriptions and advertisements for same.

PHILATELIC TRIUMPH, 12 pages, one year, only 20 cts. Adv. 40 cts. per inch. **ILLING'S ANNUAL AND ADVERTISER**, ready Jan. 1, 1883. Same size as Handford's, and for only 10 cts per copy. 3 for 25 cts. 15 for \$1.00.

To per-our sending references or deposit I will send stamps on approval. **AGENTS WANTED**. All kinds of stamps bought, sold, and exchanged.

Foreign correspondence solicited. Address

M. H. LEWIS,
DERBY, IOWA, U. S. A.

Granite State Philatelist.

An 8 to 16-page paper, devoted to

Stamps, Coins and Curiosities.

Subscription rates, 25 cents per year in the United States and Canada; 37 cts. to all foreign countries. Advertising rates, 10 cts. per inch. \$3.50 per page. Sample copy FREE, or with 50 foreign stamps for 3c stamp.

Our new 16-page catalogue of our buying prices of all American coins, worth over face value, price 10 cts.

For any paper in mourning for Garfield, I will give 50 foreign stamps.

A FEW OFFERS.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 200 foreign stamps postfree, | 9c. |
| 1000 " | 32c. |
| Quartz Arrow-Heads, from Weirs, Lake Winnepesaukee, postfree, | 25c. |
| California Gold Quarter-Dollar, | 18c. |
| " " Half-dollar, | 15c. |

50 VARIETIES of used and unused foreign stamps, including Brazil, Barbadoes, Bosnia, Egypt, Greece, Malta, Mexico, Natal, Peru, Sweden (Off. 1/2), Hanover, etc. Pr. 25 cts.

All subscribers to the above paper can have notices of exchange inserted FREE.

JOHN M. HUBBARD.

Box 32. (9) Lake Village, N. H.

THE PHILATELIC GLOBE contains full and accurate report of new issues from special correspondents in all parts of the world. Reports of Philatelic Unions, Societies, etc., Biographies of the leading Philatelists and all matters of interest to philatelists. Subscription, 25 cts. per annum. Specimen copy, 3c. Adv. Rates, 20 words, 6 cts.

W. G. DARVILL,

(8) 73 Gloucester Road, London W., Eng.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying "saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

6 PORTO-RICO 1882!

all different, unused and post-free for only 12 cents, sheets on approval to responsible parties, reference required.

Agents wanted.
(10) **B. M. HAMMOND, San Antonio, Tex.**

25 VARIETIES OF SPAIN!

sent, postpaid, for only 30 cents. (Just half usual price. Other sets cheap.)

(10) **B. M. HAMMOND, San Antonio, Tex.**

COLLECTORS, ATTENTION!

My unequalled sheets are the best; they all say so. Send for one and be surprised; at same time promise to return in 5 days.

Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent. Price lists free.

WM. v. D. WETTERN, JR.,
(14) 176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

The Philatelist's Gazette.

A quarterly magazine, devoted exclusively to Philately. Every number contains a voluminous report of all new issues, several interesting and instructive articles on various Philatelic subjects by the leading writers, current notes, &c., &c.

Subscription, 25 cts. per annum, post-free.

The P. G. has the largest circulation of any paper in Great Britain, and is the best advertising medium. Dealers who wish to add to their business should advertise therein.

Advertisement Rates, 42 cts. per inch.

Note address,

M. M. ARTHUR,

Foreign Stamp Importer and Philatelic Publisher,
62 James Street.

DUNFERMLINE, SCOTLAND.

Agents wanted for the sale of Foreign Stamps. (10)

WEBSTER.

The following from Webster, page 1164, shows the value of the Illustrative Definitions in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary



- 1, flying jib; 2, jib; 3, fore-top-mast-stay sail;
- 4, fore-course; 5, fore-top-sail; 6, fore-top-gallant sail; 7, fore-royal; 8, fore sky-sail; 9, fore-royal-studding sail; 10, fore-top-gallant-studding-sail; 11, fore-top-mast-studding-sail; 12, main-course; 13, maintop-sail; 14, maintop-gallant sail; 15, main-royal; 16, main sky-sail; 17, main royal-studding-sail; 18, main top-gallant-studding-sail; 19, maintop-mast-studding sail; 20, mizzen-course; 21, mizzen-top-sail; 22, mizzen-top-gallant sail; 23, mizzen-royal; 24, mizzen sky-sail; 25, mizzen-spinker.

The pictures in Webster under the 12 words, **Beef, Boiler, Castle, Column, Eye, Horse, Moldings, Phrenology, Ravelin, Ships,** (pages 1104 and 1219) **Steam engine, Timbers,** define 343 words and terms far better than they could be defined in words.

New Edition of WEBSTER has 118,000 Words, 3000 Engravings, 4600 New Words & Meanings, and Biographical Dictionary of over 9700 Names.

(10) Published by G. & C. MERRIAM, Springfield, Mass.

Vol. 1.

JANUARY, 1883.

No. 10.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

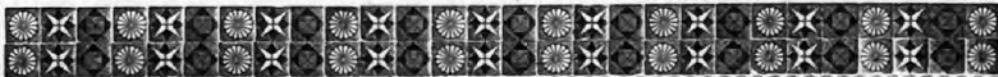
OUR THEMES:

STAMP AND COIN COLLECTING.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.



FROMAN BROS., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 191 Duane Street, New York.

THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

← OFFICE, →

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK.

After the Issue of March, 1883 the Subscription Price will be \$1.00 Per Year.

SUBSCRIPTION :

One year, - - - - - Fifty Cents.
SAMPLE OR SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - Five Cents.
To all countries in the Postal Union, - - - - - Sixty-two Cents.

United States Postage Stamps taken in payment.

No. 1 and 7 of this paper out of print.—Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, 10 cents a copy.

Articles pertaining to stamp collecting and kindred matter solicited, and must be original to insure publication. When a moneyed value is placed upon same, price must accompany it. We hope those versed in Philately, also Numismatics, will take advantage of our open columns to give expression to their ideas. Also, those having questions to ask relating, of course, to our sciences, and of interest to the general reader, are requested to put the same briefly; and we trust that our readers will take sufficient interest in same to assist us in answering them.

ADVERTISING RATES :

30 Cents per Half Inch,	Half Column, \$1.75
50 " " One " " " "	One " " 3 00
One Page, - - - - -	\$5.00.

No deviation from above prices except in continued one-half or whole page advertisements, when special rates will be given. The above rates are on the basis of cash strictly in advance. All matter for publication should be in by the first of each month to insure insertion in that month, otherwise it will go over to the following month.

To Stamp Collectors !!—We would call attention to the fact that we are using the most strenuous efforts and money unstinted to establish a paper devoted to their interest. Not a "tawdry," "namby," "pamby" sheet, but a first-class, intelligent journal, wherein and whereby they may make known their wants, and find that intellectual pleasure that the great reading public get in the higher order of general literature. We trust—judging from our success in the past—that our labors are appreciated; but, as a further and substantial proof thereof, request them to subscribe.

To Parents !!—We would say that if their boy or girl have commenced their little collection, and tire you of an evening with their numerous questions on the subject of Philately, do not dampen their ardor by saying "you don't know," or "wait until some other time;" but put them in the way of getting the information by subscribing for this paper. Having the address of all reliable dealers and prominent collectors, we shall deem it a pleasure to give same through our columns when it is required, thus putting the amateur in the way of getting rare stamps or information concerning them. Further, we pledge our word that nothing in these columns shall meet their gaze that the most refined cannot peruse with impunity.

To Dealers !!—We would briefly say that we shall make it to their interest to patronize our columns. After the issue of March, 1883, we shall enlarge this journal permanently, when our advertising space will be at the rate of *one dollar* per inch. We are ready, however, to contract for long periods in our advertisement columns at present prices.

To Publishers !!—Dec. 15, 1882.—Hereafter we shall not consider ourselves indebted for advertisements appearing in *any* paper whose publisher does not first receive orders for inserting same.

N. B.—Parties having No. 1 or 7 of this paper, in good order, will receive in return for either any three other copies of this paper.

✉ Correspondents wishing reply by mail will *enclose stamp for return postage.*

OUR CONTEMPORIES.

Received to date are:—The Collectors Guide; Welt-Post; Le Moniteur des Timbrophiles; The Philatelic Monthly; Guso del Coleccionista de Lellos de Correos; The Collector's Bureau; The New South Wales Philatelist; Granite State Philatelist; Stamp World; The Bugle; Union Exchange List; Philatelic Courier, Halifax, N. S.; Fropaud's "Numisma."

REVIEWS.

Mr. Edwin T. Johnson, of Springfield, Mass., compiler and printer of numismatic works, has issued in an accurate and comprehensive form a descriptive catalogue of J. A. Bolen's Medals, Cards and Fac-similes, with number struck in each metal, disposition of dies, and other detail. He has done the subject full justice, and if one must judge from quality, finish and general construction of a work of this kind, leaving out the reliability of its contents, of which there need be no question, then this production stamps Mr. E. T. J. an artist of the first order.

W. F. GREANY, Dealer and Collector of U. S. and FOREIGN COINS and MEDALS also COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL and FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, CONFEDERATE NOTES and BONDS, SHINPLASTERS, &c. Coins and Stamps sent on approval to parties furnishing reference. Agents wanted to sell Stamps on a liberal commission. With application be sure and send reference. Illustrated Catalogue, 3c. (12) 827 Brannan St., San Francisco, Cal.

An Unequaled Offer.

It is good for ten days only from February 1st. A set of 50 varieties, Spain only, 25 cts. Sheets of choice stamps at low prices on approval.

Agents wanted at 25 per cent. and 30 per cent. commission. Reference is requested.

H. N. JOHNSON,

COEYMANS N. Y.

[10]

APPROVAL SHEETS

of good stamps sent on receipt of satisfactory references. Liberal commission to Agents.

R. L. HARPER, Jr.

113 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.

[10]

TO MEDAL COLLECTORS.

About thirty-five years ago, a German Die-Sinker, of Baltimore, conceived the idea of engraving a pair of dies for a Washington Medal, the work was accomplished, and four medals were struck off 2 in copper, 1 each in brass and lead. After fruitless attempts to sell them at remunerative prices, he abandoned the enterprise in disgust, and wrapped up the dies carefully, and they never saw the light of day until he sold them to Mr. R. E. Reed, proprietor of the "Old Curiosity Shop," corner of Eutaw and Saratoga streets, Baltimore, twenty-eight years ago. Mr. Reed, was one of the earliest collectors and dealers in coins in this country. Mr. Edward Cogan bought a great many rare coins from him, in his early days, as well as Mr. Mickley and others. The late Col. Cohen, of our city,

secured a great part of his magnificent cabinet through Mr. Reed. It was only yesterday that the red flag was hung from the "Old Curiosity Shop," and the remaining stock sold out preparatory to closing business. This has been a favorite resort for relic, curiosity and coin collectors for nearly a century, as far back as 1797 it was a book store, and it makes the hearts of our modern collectors sad to see this favorite store closed, would like to write more about Mr. Reed and the "Old Curiosity Shop" if time and space would permit, may do so at some future time as we believe collectors at a distance would enjoy hearing some of Mr. Reed's rich experiences in his early days, as well as the Shakespeare head, by which his place was known. Mr. Reed knew the engraver of the dies in question, but will not divulge his name, this is to be regretted, particularly by collectors of Washington's. So familiar is Mr. Reed with everything in connection with the striking of the four medals that he will make an affidavit that only four were ever struck, of these one in copper is in the cabinet of W. S. Appleton, Esq., of Boston, the one in brass purchased by W. S. Baker, Esq., of Philadelphia, in the Bushnell Sale for \$43.00. Mr. Bushnell, bought it in the Mickley Sale for \$42.50. the one in lead belongs to the writer, and the fourth one's whereabouts is unknown to me. I propose to have sixty-four medals struck, viz: 21 brass, 21 copper, 21 silver and 1 gold. Mr. Reed is to receive one, as per contract, I paid him a high price for the die, and the time and expense in getting them ready will be considerable, so that it will be necessary for me to charge a fair price in order to be compensated for my time and outlay. The number being limited, these medals will always command a good price. They will be struck off in the presence of the President and other members of the Baltimore Numismatic and Archaeological Society, and when the number (64) are struck, the dies will be destroyed in the presence of those present and presented to the society.

A sworn certificate will accompany each Medal, to the effect that only sixty-four were struck. Price Silver, \$5.00, Copper and brass, \$2.50 each, Gold, \$100. These prices will barely compensate me for the die, striking material, &c. Subscription list now ready, don't delay, first come first served, the cash must accompany all orders, except where parties are personally known, even in such cases we would prefer the cash. The Medals will be struck off on or about Jan. 1st.

DESCRIPTION.—Bust in military costume to the right, George Washington of Virginia, Reverse, a pyramid of fifteen cannon balls, beneath two sabres crossed, in circular lines. GENERAL OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES, 1775, RESIGNED COMMAND, 1783, ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789, size 2 1/2. Mickley Catalogue 3002, and the Chapman's Catalogue of Bushnell Sale 1282, can also be referred to.

GEO. W. MASSAMORE,

Dec. 6th, 1832. 94 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md.

CHEAP PACKETS OF FOREIGN STAMPS.

- No. 1, contains 50 varieties, including Russia, Hungary, Switzerland, 10 varieties of Spain, Bavaria, etc. Price 5 cents
 No. 2, contains 75 varieties of Foreign Stamps. Price 10 cents
 No. 3, contains 100 varieties of Foreign Stamps, Price 15 cents
 No. 4, contains 125 varieties, including New South Wales, New Zealand, Dutch Indies, Old Denmark, Chili, etc. Price 20 cents
 No. 10, contains 100 varieties, including Angola, Alwar, Bolivia, Bhopal, Orange State, Newfoundland (triangular), Parma, Paraguay, Transvaal, St. Vincent, etc. Price \$1.00

CHEAP SETS OF STAMPS.

- 6 Porto Rico, 1882, unused. 9 cents
 8 Heligoland, 1867. 18 "
 2 Paraguay, unused. 10 "
 7 Brazil, used. 10 "
 3 French Colonies, eagle. 9 "
 4 Luxemburg. 5 "
 5 Greece. 5 "
 5 Cape of Good Hope. 10 "
 6 Mexico. 12 "
 8 United States, War Dept. including Env. 12 "
 10 Sardinia, unused. 10 "
 8 Venezuela, 1859-80. 20 "

Orders for less than 50 cts. should contain 3 cts. extra.
 Price List of Sets and Cheapest Packets sold in America for Stamp to pay Postage.

150 mixed Foreign Stamps and Price List 7 cents.
 Every stamp sold by us is warranted as genuine. We do not deal in fac-similes or stamps marked with the word specimen, and advise collectors not to use them, as they are not considered Postage Stamps.

PROVIDENCE FOREIGN STAMP CO.,

(10) P. O. BOX 1227, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

R. R. BOGERT,

DEALER IN

Postage Stamps for Collectors,

Room 38, Tribune Building,

NEW YORK.

PRICE LISTS FREE.

(10)

J. A. PIERCE,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,

Albums, Decalcomanie
 SCRAP BOOK PICTURES, CARDS, &c.,
 75 Madison Street, Chicago.
 CATALOGUES FREE.

FIVE CENT PACKETS.

Each packet contains 10 different stamps. 12 packets, containing 120 stamps, all different, sent post-free for 50 cents. Orders under 25 cents must contain a 3 cent stamp for return postage. (10)

25 SHEETS XX NOTE PAPER with your Name and Address FINELY printed at the Head of each Sheet. Only 18c. Washington's Little Hatchet, (something new and RICH) sent FREE with every Package ordered before, or on February 22d, 1883. Address W. B. JONES, NORTH EAST PENN. (10)

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

Established Thirteen Years.

L. W. DURBIN.

Fifth and Library Sts. Philadelphia, Pa.

The Largest and best stock of Genuine Postage Stamps and Postal Cards on the country, for sale at reasonable prices. The best and cheapest packets put up anywhere. Illustrated catalogues, albums and everything wanted by collectors.

It will pay you to send for circulars before ordering elsewhere. 13



FOR SALE
 Antique Coins, Medals, Bronzes, Seals, Idols, Gems, Paintings, Arms, and all Eric-a-brac, Indian and Mound Relics a specialty. Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Coral and Curiosities, U. S. and Foreign Coins and Stamps, Confederate Money, Stamps and Bonds. Send green stamps for list of prices PAID for rare coins, etc.

R. W. MERCEB, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati.

AGENTS WANTED!

To sell our sheets and sets of stamps at 25 per cent. 15 stamps for 20 cents, including Straits Settlements, Mauritius, Montserrat, Grenada, &c. post-free.

R. W. HAMLIN,
 Oshawa Ontario, Canada 10

25 VARIETIES OF SPAIN!

sent, postpaid, for only 20 cents. (Just half usual price. Other sets cheap.

(10) B. M. HAMMOND, San Antonio, Tex.

LOOK!

Prairie Whistle, 10c. 12 Hidden Name Cards, 20c. 100 Mottoes, 20c. 100 Cupids, 20c. 25 Transparent Cards, 10c. 25 Fun Cards, 10c. 12 Slipper Cards, 15c. 25 Scrap Pictures 25c. 25 Mixed Stamps, 10c.

10 ALBERT LEONARD, Carlisle, Pa.

SEND 4, 3c. stamps for 115 Rare Foreign Stamps, from Turkey, Spain, East Indies, Wurtemberg, &c., and see if you ever got a finer lot for the money. Agents wanted to sell sheets

(10) F. S. GREENLEE, Knoxville, Iowa.

ONLY 10 CENTS.

Three varieties Canadian Law stamps. Ten varieties Canadian Bill Stamps. Six varieties (old issue) Canadian stamps Agents wanted. Address.

HENRY S. HART, Sorel, Canada.

This offer is only good for Ten days. 10

FREE. 10 Stamps and Circulars, 100 all different, including Ceylon, Argentine, Porto Rico, Natal, Trinidad, &c. price 25c. 100 assorted 6c., 500 assorted 18c., 1,000 assorted 30c., 3 Ceylon, 3c. 5 War, 5c. 4 Philippine Islands, 25c. 3 Trinidad, 5c. New Illustrated Catalogue, 1026 cuts, 156 pages, for 1883, 25c. Agents wanted to sell our sheets at 25 per cent. commission.

ILLINOIS STAMP COMPANY,
 3026 South Park Ave. Chicago, Ill.

Editors of stamp papers insert this advertisement for 25c. Send bill. 10

COLLECTORS, ATTENTION!

My unequalled sheets are the best; they all say so. Send for one and be surprised; at same time promise to return in 5 days.

Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent.

All kinds of stamps bought for prompt cash.

Foreign correspondence solicited.

Price lists free.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JR.,
 (21) 176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

6 PORTO-RICO 1882!

all different, unused and post-free for only 12 cents. Sheets on approval to responsible parties, reference required. Agents wanted.

(10) B. M. HAMMOND, San Antonio, Tex.

Vol. 1.

FEBRUARY, 1883.

No. 11.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

OUR THEMES:

STAMP AND COIN COLLECTING.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.



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THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

← OFFICE, →

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ADVERTISING RATES :

30 Cents per Half Inch,	Half Column, \$1.75
50 " " One " "	One " " 3 00
One Page, - - - - -	\$5.00.

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To Publishers !!—Dec. 15, 1882.—Hereafter we shall not consider ourselves indebted for advertisements appearing in *any* paper whose publisher does not first receive orders for inserting same.

N. B.—Parties having No. 1 or 7 of this paper, in good order, will receive in return for either any three other copies of this paper.

✉ Correspondents wishing reply by mail will *enclose stamp for return postage*.

REVIEWS.

As neat a specimen of miniature book making as we have seen in some time, we received a few days ago from Geo. L. Fancher, of West Winstead Conn. It contains briefly put the buying and selling prices by which this gentleman—who makes a specialty of premium American silver and copper coins—is guided in his dealings with the public. It is a valuable *tiny*-reminder-being pocket size—to all business men of his estimated value of many coins which are passed over the counter and change hands every day with no thought being given by the trader as to their enhanced value through the scarcity of same.

Again has J. T. Hanford "been and gone and done it," only somewhat better and more extensive than those of 1881-2, which were not ordinary by any means. We speak in reference to his "Stamp Collector's Directory" for 1883, which we have before us. We suppose, however, that collectors—at least those who make a point of keeping posted—have, ere this reaches them, pored through the book from cover to cover. Those who have not, we would in all sincerity advise to address the publisher (enclosing 25 cents), box 1870, New York city. It is the best medium through which one is enabled to open up a correspondence with respectable collectors and dealers that has, as yet, been issued.

Post-Officately is treated at length in the January number of the United States Official Postal Guide. It makes a book of about 820 pages, containing many features which render it indispensable to all who use the mails and wish clear and accurate information about all matters connected with the postal service. It contains alphabetical lists of all post-offices in the United States, with county and state; of post-offices arranged by states and counties, with the geographical position of the counties, of the money-order offices, domestic and international; of the post-offices of the first, second and third class, with salaries; of counties and a list of letter carrier offices; of Canadian money-order offices; information about mailable matter, full directions about money orders and registered letters; rates of foreign and domestic postage, and all needed information about postal matters.

A new and valuable feature in this number of the guide is a table giving the time of transit of the mails between the larger cities of the United States. Under the title "Postal Laws and Regulations," are given synopses of all laws and orders affecting the service; as well as the rulings of the department.

No. 1 of the *National Philatelist* is among the things that are and lies before us. In its preface it notices that as it has been a matter of regret among *ardent* philatelists—which we suppose includes the officers of the society—that there is

no first-class journal in America devoted to their *hobby*; therefore they have resolved, without any flourish of trumpets, by this publication to fill a void the *ardent* have for so long a time observed, finishing, with a guarantee—a very wise precaution, by the way, seeing into whose hands they have placed the management of their sheet—that each subscriber shall receive his twelve numbers, commencing with January, 1883. Further than that they will not verify. As there is a wide difference among readers concerning what is first-class in journalism, we are possessed with a feeling of awe when we contemplate the task these Solons have allotted themselves in solving to the satisfaction of *all* this most difficult question.

Printed in two colors

Denomination:—10 centavos green,
12 " black,
4 " black.

4 centavos surcharged with the members places of business.

Postal card size.

Strictly adhesive—to the subscription list.

Pohl and Wollitz have published a number of financial charts giving the fluctuations in fine silver Mexican dollars, etc., during the year. They are not useful, but calculated to ornament any office in which they may find an abiding place.

COLLECTORS. ATTENTION!

My unequalled sheets are the best; they all say so. Send for one and be surprised; at same time promise to return in 5 days.

Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent.

All kinds of stamps bought for prompt cash.

Foreign correspondence solicited.

Price lists free.

WM. v. D. WETTERN, JR.,

(21) 176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

W. F. GREANY, Dealer and Collector of U. S. and FOREIGN COINS and MEDALS also COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL and FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, CONFEDERATE NOTES and BONDS, SHINPLASTERS, &c.

Coins and Stamps sent on approval to parties furnishing reference. Agents wanted to sell Stamps on a liberal commission. With application be sure and send reference. Illustrated Catalogue, 3c.

(12) 827 Brannan St., San Francisco, Cal.

J. STRAUS,

122 ORANGE ST. CLEVELAND, O.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

POSTAGE STAMPS.

PRICE LISTS FREE

116 Hamburg Locals, unused.....	25c
7 Servia, ".....	15c
11 War Dept., used.....	60c
10 Sardinia, unused.....	10c
6 State Dept., used.....	70c
6 Jamaica, ".....	10c
4 Orange States, ".....	12c
9 Egypt, ".....	20c

Postage Extra on any of the above Sets. Agents wanted.

COINS! G. T. McCOMBE, LOCKPORT, N. Y.
\$2,500 worth of coins for sale at very low
prices—all dates and kinds. United States Coins a
specialty. Catalogue free.

FOREIGN STAMPS

AS CHEAP AS ELSEWHERE. NOW READY,
112 PAGE CATALOGUE, 2c.

Stamp Collectors' Directory, 1883, 25c.
EIGHT-PAGE CIRCULAR GRATIS.

Address, **J. T. HANDFORD,**
P. O. BOX 1870. (13) NEW YORK.

SHEETS ON APPROVAL.

We will send sheets of stamps on approval to responsible
parties at 30 per cent. commission. Send stamp for particu-
lars.

THE CENTURY PACKET

Contains 100 foreign stamps, all different. Sent post free
during the next two months, 16c.

FOREIGN REVENUES.

A large supply on hand at very low prices.

Address, **W. C. STONE & CO.,**
11 Box 1028, SPRINGFIELD, Mass.

H. B. STERLING,

Collector of and Dealer in

UNITED STATES STAMPS Only.

Established 1874. P. O. Box 294.

Trenton, N. J.

Specialties in all kinds of Rare and Common U. S. Stamps.
(11)

BOUGHT AND SOLD.

RARE 10 Foreign Coins all different, 25 cents.
COINS \$185 in Confederate Money, 20 cents.

Premium Coin Book, 13 cents. U. S. Silver and Copper
Coins a Specialty. Send green stamp for price list.

G. L. FANCHER,
(11.) WEST WINSTED, CT.

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
COLLECTORS!**

Send for my new Price List of single
Stamps and Packets.

A. D. RICHARDSON,

P. O. Box 88 (11) **LOCKPORT, N. Y.**

LOOK!

Prairie Whistle, 10c. 12 Hidden Name Cards, 20c. 100
Mottos, 20c. 100 Cupids, 20c. 25 Transparent Cards, 10c.
25 Fun Cards, 10c. Magic Coffin 18c. 25 Scrap Pictures
25c. Jumbo, 12c. 25 Mixed Stamps, 10c.

11 **ALBERT LEONARD, Carlisle, Pa.**

DEALERS, LOOK!!!

On receipt of ONLY ONE DOLLAR I will mail postpaid the
following lot of Stamps: 1,000 well assorted Canadian Post-
age. 200 well assorted Canadian B.II. 50 well assorted
Canadian Law. Offer is only good for 30 days. Address:
(11) **HENRY S. HART, Sobell, Canada.**

COLLECTORS desiring to exchange duplicate
stamps, will please communicate
with **C. SCHIRMER, Jr., 32 West 53d St.,**
New York, City, giving list of stamps (11)

A. M. CROUTER,

Dealer in

Postage Stamps for Collectors,

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Send Stamp for Price List.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will con-
fer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying,
"saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

Mess. C. B. FERNALD & CO.

231 N. 10th St., Philadelphia,

Very respectfully solicit your subscription to

The Collector's Guide.

This journal is devoted to Philately. Though published
but for a short time, it has established itself in the good
will of the stamp-collecting public in a manner which
shows that its excellence is fully appreciated. No Philatelist
should be without a good stamp magazine, and the "COL-
LECTORS' GUIDE" is exactly the thing you want. You do
not wish to pay an exorbitant price for a paper, and natural-
ly you desire to get your money's worth. Our journal is
the true embodiment of both these ideas, for it is certainly
worth the small sum asked for it. It forms a most efficient
"Guide" for "Collectors," teeming as it is with valuable in-
formation of great interest to all. It gives a long and com-
plete list of new issues each month, affording the reader a
correct idea of each new stamp, envelope, &c., &c., as soon
as it is possible to obtain one; it has accounts of all the new
and dangerous counterfeits, and exposes those who deal in
them; valuable statistical information accompanies each
number, and criticisms on all the new Philatelic works will
be found written in the most impartial manner; in short,
every article of possible interest to our readers is carefully
examined and reported. The Guide is splendidly printed
on heavy English tinted book paper of the finest quality.
It is issued promptly each month in 8-page form, generally
with a supplement of two pages, on account of the overflow
of advertisements, and here we wish it distinctly understood
that this journal is not issued completely filled with adver-
tisements, we make it a point to give 6 pages of solid
reading matter. We intend, March, 1883, to enlarge this
paper to a cover, and shall be able to increase the amount.

Subscription Rates:

Before March 20th, 25c. per year. After March 20th, 50c.
per year. Send in your money now, by doing so you will
save 25c.

DEALERS!!

Send us a trial advertisement, and be convinced that this is
the BEST advertising medium.

Advertising Rates:

Per 1/2 inch, 30c.	Per 1/2 column, \$1 75.
Per 1 inch, 50c.	Per 1 column, 3 25.
Per 1 page, \$5 00.	Discount on standing ads.

NOTICE.—The above rates will begin March 20th. Between
now and then we are ready to contract for any period at old
rates. (11)

Established Thirteen Years.

L. W. DURBIN.

Fifth and Library Sts. Philadelphia, Pa.

The Largest and best stock of Genuine Postage Stamps
and Postal Cards on the country, for sale at reasonable
prices. The best and cheapest packets put up anywhere.
Illustrated catalogues, albums and everything wanted by
collectors.

It will pay you to send for circulars before ordering
elsewhere. (11)



FOR SALE
Antique Coins, Medals, Bronzes,
Seals, Idols, Gems, Paintings,
Arms, and all Eric-a-Drac, Indian
and Mound Relics a specialty.
Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Coral
and Curiosities, U. S. and For-
eign Coins and Stamps, Conted-
erate Money, Stamps and Bonds.
Send green stamps for list of
prices PAID for rare coins, etc.
B. W. MERCEB, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati.

25 Handsome Assorted Cards

With your name on in Script type, Ten Cents.
Sure to please.

W. SIMPSON,
(11) 113 E. 59th St., N. Y.

Vol. 1.

MARCH, 1883.

No. 12.

Price, TEN CENTS.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

OUR THEMES:

STAMP, COIN, POSTAL AND MINT NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.



FROMAN BROS., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 191 Duane Street, New York.

THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

→ OFFICE, ←

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTION:

One year, - - - - - One Dollar
SAMPLE OR SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - Ten Cents.

To all countries in the Postal Union and New York City, One dollar and Twelve Cents. No. 1 and 7 of this paper out of print.—The remaining numbers of Vol. I, ten cents a copy.

No stamps but those of the United States, and then only of the 1, 2 and 3c. denominations will be received. Articles pertaining to *stamps* and *coins* and kindred matter *solicited*, and must be original to insure publication. When a money value is placed upon same, price must accompany it.

ADVERTISING RATES:

ONE DOLLAR PER INCH. Special positions by request of advertisers, 25 per cent additional. No deviation from above price except in continued one-half or whole page advertisements, when special rates will be given. The above rates are on the basis of *cash strictly in advance*. All matter for publication should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion, otherwise it will go over to the following month.

Parties mailing us No. 1 or 7 of this paper *in good order*, will receive in return for either any other **FOUR** numbers of this paper.

Correspondents wishing reply by mail *must enclose stamp for return postage*.

Readers will bear in mind that the editor, from the fact of publishing, does not commit himself to the various opinions of his correspondents, but simply gives room to same that all questions may be thoroughly ventilated.

Patrons of Collector's Bureau.

The publishers of the above journal beg to state that its publication is for the present suspended, and in the meantime, considering it the best stamp journal published, THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST is the selected medium through which unfilled advertising contracts are to be carried out. We earnestly desire that the editor of this journal will receive the support and patronage that you have heretofore bestowed upon us.

We state in this connection that the above does not apply to our stamp business, which will be continued.

Truly yours,

C. H. MEKEEL & CO.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad" in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST

WANTED!

Agents to sell at 25 per cent. commission choice selections of W. I. and S. &c.

American Postage Stamps

at half the price of any other dealer.

Write for list of sets and packets, from which may be selected the set of eleven varieties British Guiana 1882, prov. for only \$6.50, and the set of obsolete unused D. W. I. (4 var.) 32c. and packet No. 1 containing 12 raw W. I. stamps, each different for 8c.

J. ROGERS,

Stamp Dealer.

ST. THOMAS, W. I.

(12)

E. A. HOLTON,

Dealer in U. S. and Foreign Stamps

8 Summer St., Boston.

I have the largest stock of genuine stamps in New England. Advanced collectors will do well to send list of wants. An 8 page price-list sent on application. 12

Collectors desiring to exchange duplicate stamps, will please communicate with

G. SCHIRMER, Jr.

32 West 53d Street, New York.

City, giving list of stamps.

20 South and Central American stamps incl'd'g New Grenada, Peru, Chili, Mexico, Venezuela, Trinidad, Barbadoes, Argentine, Brazil, etc., all for 25c. Send for one of my approval sheets

W. S. RIDLEY,

5 and 7 William St., N.Y.

(12)

APPROVAL SHEETS

Of rare stamps sent to any responsible person on postal card application. A quarter dollar gold piece, octagon or round only, 40 cts. Send before gone after one to AVERY McCARTHY, OSWEGO, N. Y.

W. S. ALDRICH & COMPANY

Successors to ALDRICH & HAMLIN,

FREEMPORT, ME.

9 Swiss unpaid, complete, for 20c. 8 Italian surcharged 2c. complete, 10c. post free. Agents wanted to sell stamps at 25 per cent commission. Send for sample sheet.

17 VARIETIES Canadian Bill Stamps, including 1, 2, 3 dollars post-free 20c 10 varieties Canadian Law Stamps, including 1, 2, 3 dollar post free, 20c. Address F. F. PEARD, Foreign Stamp Importer, 8 Pembroke Street, Toronto, Canada.

WM. C. STONE & CO.,

IMPORTERS OF

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,

Sheets on Approval a Specialty.

384 Union St., Springfield, Mass.

(12)

P. O. Address Box 1028.

STAMPS! 140 varieties, 25c. post-free. 100 stamps from Tasmania, Hawaii, Ceylon, India, Malta, &c. 10c. post-free. 3 Hawaii Isl. 5c. 10 South American, 15c. 15 West Indies, 20c. 10 Asian, 15c. 10 African, 20c. 5 Japan, 5c. Cham. packet.—25 varieties. *all rare.* Natal, Malta, India, Japan, Hawaii, Cuba, Cape, Mexico, Peru, &c. 25c. Above lot 318 stamps, \$1.25 Circulars free. **C. H. MEKEL & CO.,** 312 Groveland Ave. Chicago, Ill. Stamp papers copy, and send bill for good stamp exchange. (14)

E. B. MARTIN Importer of and Dealer in Foreign and U. S. Stamps, 189 Maxwell St., Chicago, Ill. *Rare and Unused stamps a specialty.*

Foreign correspondence and consignments solicited. Price List free, or with one "Allen's Dispatch" (a rare local, now obsolete) for 10 cents. 12

BARRIE BROS.

Offer the following, all unused.

3 Costa Rica, '83. 30c. 2 Nicaragua, '82, 10c. 2 Arg. Rep. '82, 5c. 2 Gambia, 10c. 2 Gold Coast, 10c. 6 Porto Rico, 10c. 2 Trinidad, '83, 10c. All of above for 75c.

Agents wanted. Lists on application. Address

(12) **1415 N. 16th Street, Philadelphia**

THE STAMP WORLD.

A monthly paper for stamp collectors. Only 25 cents per year, with a premium of 40 varieties of foreign stamps. The Feb. number contained Illustrated List of New Issues, "Postage Stamps of Peru" by Correes; "Slight Varieties," by C. Collins. Notes by the Editor and clippings from Philatelic press. *Sample Copy free.* Address

The Stamp World, 124 Walnut st., Cincinnati, O

(17)

I WILL EXCHANGE the set of executive marked specimens for the 30 and of the 1861 issue and 24, 30, 90 of 1869 issue, and 5c, yellow of 1861 issue U.S. 12 **GEO. H. WEBER, 39 Locust St., Toledo, O.**

STAMPS. 100 European well mixed 6 cts, 1,000 well mixed 30 cents, 50 all different containing stamps from British Guiana, Baden old issue, Brazil, Barbadoes, Dutch Indies, Egypt, Heligoland, Jamaica, Japan, Roumania, etc., 10c. Price Lists sent free. Collectors, it will pay you to see my list before buying elsewhere.

12

Address **G. F. EGBT, Bloomington, Ills.**

A. M. CROUTER,

Dealer in

Postage Stamps for Collectors,

155 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

SEND STAMP FOR PRICE LIST.

EAGLE STAMP COMPANY,

No. 2386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

The Largest Stamp Company in the United States,

Are now offering great inducements in the way of **LOW PRICES** to all collectors of Foreign Stamps. Our Specialty—**SHEETS ON APPROVAL**. 20 Varieties and new Price List for 3 cent stamp. **MORE AGENTS WANTED.**

12

T. B. BENNELL COIN DEALER, 304 B'WAY, N. Y. City, will exchange foreign and American stamps and Stamp Album for American (cents) and coins.

DEAD!

The Collector's Bureau has for the present suspended publication, the six numbers published contains 72 pages of valuable information for collectors, and should be in the hands of every stamp collector for reference, the six numbers containing 72 pages, bound, 33c. post-paid.

C. H. MEKEEL & CO.

3112 Groveland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Stamp papers copy and send for a file of above papers in (14) payment, or 33 cents cash.

SHEETS OF RARE STAMPS Sent on approval to ANY responsible person, on POSTAL CARE APPLICATION to AVERY McCARTHY, Oswego, N. Y.

H. B. STERLING,

Collector of and Dealer in

UNITED STATES STAMPS Only.

Established 1874. P. O. Box 294.

Trenton, N. J.

Specialties in all kinds of Rare and Common U. S. Stamps. Standard Postage Stamp catalogue, 15 cts. Standard Revenue catalogue, 25 cts. Standard Tin Foil catalogue, 15c. Stamp Paper List, 5c. Wholesale Lists, Packet Lists and Cards, for a 3c. stamp. (15)

ONLY 4 CENTS, POST FREE!!!

Our 16 Page Premium Stamp List, showing prices we pay for used and unused Foreign and United States Postage Stamps, and also for collections. Our Price-List of Sets and Packets will be sent with Premium Stamp List.

CHEAP SET OF UNUSED STAMPS.

Angola, 5 and 10 reis.....	Set of 2	...7	cents.
Bhopal, Green and Black.....	do	2...8	do
Honduras, 1 and 2c.....	do	2...6	do
Paraguay, 5 and 10 reals.....	do	2...10	do
Venezuela, 1859, 1/2 and 2 reals.....	do	2...4	do
Cape of Good Hope, used.....	do	5...6	do
Dutch Indies, used.....	do	5...5	do
Ecuador, used.....	do	2...5	do
Spain, no two alike, used.....	do	20...10	do
Transvaal, used.....	do	5...25	do
United States, War Department.....	do	8...10	do
United States Treasury Department....	do	8...10	do

The above named prices for stamps are special bargains good for 15 days only. Will send Lists and all stamps to any address for \$1.00, Post Free.

All Stamps sold by us are warranted genuine.

Orders for less than 50 cents should contain 3 cents extra.

PROVIDENCE FOREIGN STAMP CO.,

P. O. Box 1227, PROVIDENCE, R. I.,

U. S. of A.

6 VARIETIES Porto Rico, 1882, unused and approval to responsible parties. Address,

F. F. PEARD, Foreign Stamp Importer, (12) 8 Pembroke Street, Toronto, Canada.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

COLLECTORS, ATTENTION!

My unequalled sheets are the best; they all say so. Send for one and be surprised; at same time promise to return in 5 days.

Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent.

All kinds of stamps bought for prompt cash:

Foreign correspondence solicited.

Price lists free.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JR.,

(21) 176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.



FOR SALE Antique Coins, Medals, Bronzes, Seals, Idols, Gems, Paintings, Arms, and all Bric-a-brac, Indian and Mound Relics a specialty, Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Coral and Curiosities, U. S. and Foreign Coins and Stamps, Confederate Money, Stamps and Bonds. Send green stamps for list of prices PAID for rare coins, etc.

B. W. MECKER, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati.

Luminous Ink—shines in the dark secret for making, and 25 handsome assorted cards, with your name on, 10 cents.

W. SIMPSON,

113 E. 59th Street, N. Y.

ONLY 10 CENTS for 100 well mixed Canadian stamps (including Law, Bill, etc.) Agents wanted.

Address **HENRY S. HAET** Sorel Canada.

W. F. GREANY, Dealer and Collector of U. S. and FOREIGN COINS and MEDALS also COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL and FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, CONFEDERATE NOTES and BONDS, SHINPLASTERS, &c.

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FOREIGN STAMPS

AS CHEAP AS ELSEWHERE. NOW READY, 112 PAGE CATALOGUE, 2c.

Stamp Collectors' Directory, 1883, 25c.

EIGHT-PAGE CIRCULAR GRATIS.

Address,

J. T. HANDFORD,

P. O. BOX 1870.

(13)

NEW YORK.

APPROVAL SHEETS.

at 25 per cent. 20 stamps containing Transvaal, Mauritius, Curacao, Guatemala, Surinam, Porto Rico. post free, 20 cts.

R. W. HAMLIN, Oshawa, Ont. Ca.

(12)

P. O. Box 48.

STAMP COLLECTORS should send 3 cent stamp for my new list of over 200 sets and packets, and 20 foreign stamps, 2 Orange States, 8 cents, 4 Sandwich Islands, 10 cents, 2 Servia, 3 cents, 2 West Australia, 3 cents, 12 Prince Edwards Island, 60 cents, 125 all different, 25 cents.

Agents wanted to sell stamps from sheets commission 25 per cent. Don't forget name and address.

J. B. CALDER,

(14)

117 E. 13th St., New York City, N. Y.

Vol. 2.

APRIL, 1883.

No. 1.

Price, TEN CENTS.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

OUR THEMES:

STAMP, COIN, POSTAL AND MINT NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

FROMAN BROS., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 191 Duane Street, New York.

THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

← OFFICE, →

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTION:

One year, ----- One Dollar
SAMPLE OR SINGLE COPIES, ----- Ten Cents.

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ONE DOLLAR PER INCH. Special positions by request of advertisers, 25 per cent additional

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For the accommodation of dealers, a portion of this page will be devoted to three line advertisements, at \$3.00 per year.

Parties mailing us No. 1 or 7 of this paper *in good order*, will receive in return for either any other Four numbers of this paper.

Correspondents wishing reply by mail *must enclose stamp for return postage*.

Readers will bear in mind that the editor, from the fact of publishing, does not commit himself to the various opinions of his correspondents, but simply gives room to same that all questions may be thoroughly ventilated.

Patrons of "Collector's Bureau."

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WM. C. STONE & CO.,
IMPORTERS OF

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Sheets on Approval a Specialty.

384 Union St., Springfield, Mass.

(12)

P. O. Address Box 1028.

FOREIGN STAMPS
AS CHEAP AS ELSEWHERE. NOW READY,
112 PAGE CATALOGUE, 32c.
Stamp Collectors' Directory, 1883, 25c.
EIGHT-PAGE CIRCULAR GRATIS.

Address, **J. T. HANDFORD,**
P. O. BOX 1870. (13.) NEW YORK.

STAMPS 100 all different, including stamps from Brazil, Jamaica, Chili, Roumania, Swiss, France, Victoria 1/4d. Dutch Indies, Spain, Portugal, Japan, Venezuela, unused Servia, Argentine Republic, Brunswick Heligoland, Porto Rico and price-list. 25 cents.

J. C. BECKER, Bloomington, Ills.

NOTICE All kinds of collections of stamps wanted. Any person having such, which they wish to dispose of, will do well by addressing me. Good live agents wanted in every town, city or college in the United States and Canada to sell sheets of stamps at 25 per cent commis.
F. F. PEARD, 8 Pembroke St., Toronto, Canada.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad." in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST

E. B. STERLING,
Collector of and Dealer in

UNITED STATES STAMPS Only.
Established 1874. P. O. Box 294.

Trenton, N. J.

Specialties in all kinds of Rare and Common U. S. Stamps.
Standard Postage Stamp catalogue, 15 cts.
Standard Revenue catalogue, 25 cts.
Standard Tin Foil catalogue, 15c.
Stamped Paper List, 5c.
Wholesale Lists, Packet Lists and Cards, for a 3c. stamp.
(14)

STAMP COLLECTORS should send 3 cent stamp for my new list of over 200 sets and packets, and 20 foreign stamps, 2 Orange States, 8 cents, 4 Sandwich Islands, 10 cents, 2 Servia, 3 cents, 2 West Australia, 3 cents, 12 Prince Edwards Island, 60 cents. 125 all different, 25 cents.

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J. B. CALDER,

(14) 117 E. 13th St., New York City, N. Y.

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C. H. MEKEEL & CO.

99 Madison St., Room 17 Chicago, Ill.

Stamp papers copy and send for a file of above papers in payment, or 33 cents cash.
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My unequalled sheets are the best; they all say so. Send for one and be surprised; at same time promise to return in 5 days.

Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent. All kinds of stamps bought for prompt cash. Foreign correspondence solicited. Price lists free.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JR.,
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FOR SALE Antique Coins, Medals, Bronzes, Seals, Idols, Gems, Paintings, Arms, and all Eric-a-brac, Indian and Mound Relics a specialty. Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Coral and Curiosities, U. S. and Foreign Coins and Stamps, Confederate Money, Stamps and Bonds. Send green stamps for list of prices PAID for rare coins, etc.

R. W. MERCER, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati.

WANTED. The names and addresses of all bona fide collectors of U. S. and Foreign Coins, Medals, Political Tokens, Cards, Suttler Checks, etc. also Collectors of Masonic Medals, Pins and Badges, including Paper money, bonds, autographs, etc. All such will be placed in Mercer's Numismatic Directory for Jan, 1884 free of charge. Address, **R. W. MERCER, Cincinnati, O.**

17 VARIETIES Canadian bill stamps, including 1, 2, 3 dollars, post-free, 20 cents. 10 varieties Canadian law stamps, including 1, 2, 3, dollars, post-free, 20c.

F. F. PEARD, Foreign Stamp Importer,
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STAMPS! 140 varieties, 25c. post-free. 100 stamps from Tasmania, Hawaii, Ceylon, India, Malta, &c, 10c. post-free. 3 Hawaii Isl. 5c. 10 South American, 15c. 16 West Indies, 20c. 10 Asian, 15c. 10 African, 20c. 5 Japan, 5c. Cham. packet.—25 varieties, all rare, Natal, Malta, India, Japan, Hawaii, Cuba, Cape, Mexico, Peru, &c, 25c. Above lot 318 stamps, \$1.25 Circulars free. **C. H. MEKEEL & CO.,** 99 Madison Street, Room 17, Chicago, Ill. Stamp papers copy, and send bill for good stamp exchange. (14)

Established 1880.

THE STAMP WORLD.

A monthly paper for stamp collectors. 12 pages, 24 cols. Contains monthly illustrated List of New Issues, and articles by several philatelic authors. Subscription 25 cents per year. *Sample free.* Address

The Stamp World, 124 Walnut st., Cincinnati, O.

COINS

My new catalogue, neatly printed and bound, is just out, showing prices paid for rare coins, relics, &c. Sent to any address for 10 cents, or three three-cent stamps. **A. W. HARRIS, HILLSBORO, ILLS.**

EVERY COLLECTOR

Should by all means send for one of my unrivalled approval sheets of U. S. Dept. and other choice stamps at low prices. Agents wanted at 25 per cent commission. Reference is required.

H. N. JOHNSON, Coeymans, N. Y.

For a \$1 Greenback

I guarantee to send, post-free, to any part of the Union or Canada,

50 CHOICE VARIETIES

OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS,

including many scarce old issues in good condition. I can recommend this packet as a *bona fide* bargain.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS

I hold a large stock of Australasian rarities, all genuine selections, sent on approval on receipt of deposit of not less than \$2.50

I can use in exchange any South or Central American or West Indian stamps in lots of not less in value than \$2.50 (this rule is necessary in consequence of large number of trifling lots received).

The New South Wales Philatelist, a quarterly journal entirely devoted to stamp collecting, subscription price per year, 50c. single copies, 10c. Price-lists free. No U. S. or Canadian stamps wanted. Letter of inquiry must have 12c. for return post, otherwise do not guarantee to reply. Reference, U. S. Consul, Sydney.

D. A. VINDIN,

4 Change Alley, Pitt St., Circular Quay, Sydney.

— ESTABLISHED 1877. —

C. H. MEKEEL & CO.,
FOREIGN AND U. S. STAMP DEALERS,
99 MADISON STREET,
 ROOM 17, **CHICAGO, ILL., U. S. A.**

LISTS OF SINGLE STAMPS, PACKETS, SETS, ALBUMS, &c., Free On application.
COMPLETE CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS, Over 1200 Illustrations, 25c.
FILE OF "STAMP COLLECTOR'S BUREAU," Complete, Over 72 pages valuable information, 33c.
EXCELSIOR STAMP ALBUM, Holding over 1200 varieties, 28c.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP ALBUM, Beautifully Illustrated, Latest Edition, \$1.50
EVERYTHING REQUIRED BY COLLECTORS constantly on hand, at lowest prices.

We insert following ads. to fill the contracts made by "THE COLLECTOR'S BUREAU," for the present suspended.

SPECIAL OFFERS OF SETS.

*Alwur, 2 var.....	15
Argentine Republic, 30, 60, 90.....	65
Bolivia, 1879, 4 var.....	50
Curagoa, 6 var.....	20
Ecuador, 6 var.....	15
*Fernando, Po., 1882, 3 var.....	30
Guatemala, 1881, 5 ".....	30
*Hawaii Cards, 3 ".....	20
*Lubeck, 1859, 5 ".....	25
Mauritus, 8 ".....	25
Nicaragua, 5 ".....	20
Sierra Leone, 6 ".....	30
U. S. Columbia, 1881, 8 ".....	20

PRICE LISTS FREE.

R. R. BOGERT,
 Room 38, TRIBUNE BUILDING, New York.

J. STRAUS,
 Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
POSTAGE STAMPS,
122 ORANGE ST., CLEVELAND, O.
 PRICE LISTS FREE.

116 Hamburg Locals, unused.....	25c
7 Servia, ".....	15c
11 War Dept., used.....	60c
10 Sardinia, unused.....	10c
6 State Dept., ".....	70c
6 Jamaica, used.....	10c
4 Orange States ".....	12c
9 Egypt, ".....	20c

Postage extra on any of the above sets. Agents wanted.

J. A. PIERCE,
 Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS
 STAMP ALBUMS AND SCRAP BOOK PICTURES,
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 PRICE LISTS FREE.

We carry in stock all the obtainable postage stamps of all countries, besides many rare and desirable Order on us from any dealers lists, and we will fill promptly and at a discount.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Give us one Trial.

Orders received before 2 P. M. filled same day.

Room 17.

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99 Madison St., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

ESTABLISHED TWELVE YEARS.
L. W. DURBIN.
FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTER

And Publisher of Philatelic Works,
FIFTH AND LIBRARY STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA, Penn.

Everything required by Stamp Collectors constantly in stock at the lowest prices.

Genuine Stamps Only Sold.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE, 136 PAGES, AND OVER 1000 ILLUSTRATIONS. NOW READY, PRICE 25c.

New Series of Packets. Prices from 5c. to \$25.00
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And other circulars, free to any address.

Send for them before buying elsewhere. One Trial Solicited. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Letters answered the day of receipt.

L. W. DURBIN,
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A few more Agents Wanted

to sell my sheets and sets of stamps at 25 per cent. commission. Reference required.

C. H. GARRETT, 220 & 222 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo, Michigan, U. S. A.

LAUREL STAMP COMPANY,

Box 5, Oberlin, O.

Price-list and 75 varieties, including Brazil, Victoria (old) Spain, etc., 10c.

R. L. HARPER, Jr.

Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps
118 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.

Large assortment. New Price-list free

Genuine Foreign Stamps 50 varieties,

Including Russia, Hungary, Spain, 10 varieties etc.... 5 cents

5 varieties Brazil, 1850-78,..... 10 cents

8 varieties U. S. War Dept. including Env..... 12 cents

150 foreign stamps and price-list..... 7 cents

Providence Foreign Stamp Co.

P. O. Box 1227. **Providence, R. I.**

VOL. 2.

MAY, 1883.

No. 2.

Price, TEN CENTS.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

OUR THEMES:

STAMP, COIN, POSTAL AND MINT NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

FROMAN BROS., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 191 DUANE STREET, NEW YORK.

THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

↔ OFFICE, ↔

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTION:

One year, - - - - - One Dollar
SAMPLE OR SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - Ten Cents.

To all countries in the Postal Union and New York City, One dollar and Twenty-four Cts. No. 1 and 7 of this paper out of print.—The remaining numbers of Vol. I, ten cents a copy.

No stamps but those of the United States, and then only of the 1, 2 and 3c. denominations will be received. Articles pertaining to *stamps* and *coins* and kindred matter *solicited*, and must be original to insure publication. When a money value is placed upon same, price must accompany it.

ADVERTISING RATES:

ONE DOLLAR PER INCH. Special positions by request of advertisers, 25 per cent additional. No deviation from above price except in continued one-half or whole page advertisements, when special rates will be given. The above rates are on the basis of *cash strictly in advance*. All matter for publication should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion, otherwise it will go over to the following month.

For the accommodation of dealers, a portion of this page will be devoted to three line advertisements, at \$3.00 per year.

Parties mailing us No. 1 or 7 of this paper *in good order*, will receive in return for either any other Six numbers of this paper.

Correspondents wishing reply by mail *must enclose stamp for return postage*.

Readers will bear in mind that the editor, from the fact of publishing, does not commit himself to the various opinions of his correspondents, but simply gives room to same that all questions may be thoroughly ventilated.

Patrons of "Collector's Bureau."

The publishers of the above journal beg to state that its publication is for the present suspended, and in the meantime, considering it the best stamp journal published, THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST is the selected medium through which unfilled advertising contracts are to be carried out. We earnestly desire that the editor of this journal will receive the support and patronage that you have heretofore bestowed upon us.

We state in this connection that the above does not apply to our stamp business, which will be continued. Truly yours,

C. H. MEKEEL & CO.

CASES AND CASKETS

For Coins, Medals and Proof Sets.

I would call the attention of Coin Collectors to these goods, as they are for several reasons preferable to the more cumbersome Cabinets. They are made of the best Morocco, Velvet, Satin and Book Muslin, and in the most durable and finished manner.

No. 1. Cloth Case for 80 U. S. Copper cents. Tint paper plate, countersunk to exact size of coin, \$2.00. No. 2. Same with Morocco or Velvet cover, \$3.50. No. 3. Morocco Casket 10 x 6 inches. Body lined with padded satin, lid with satin shirring. Mounted with metal hinges and clasp. Four countersunk trays, tint paper face, \$4.00. For additional trays, each, 50 cents. No. 4. Same No. 3, with countersunk velvet trays, lined and padded with satin, \$6.00. For additional velvet trays, each, \$1.00. No. 5. Same as No. 4, with navy blue, maroon or black silk velvet outside, \$6.00. No. 6. Same in crimson, old gold or peacock green silk plush, \$7.00.

Any style or size made to order, and estimates of cost furnished upon application. Send stamp for Price List.

PRINTING AND BOOK BINDING.

Numismatic Books, Magazines, Catalogues, etc., bound in the most substantial manner, in any style from cheapest edition-work to the most expensive full gilt work in Turkey Morocco, Russia and Calfskin.

EDWIN L. JOHNSON,

(Successor to the Numismatic Printing and Binding Co.)

Coins, books, relics, etc., bought and sold on commission.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

AUCTION SALES.

A rare collection of about five hundred old coins and medals, belonging to Mr. O. H. Berg, of Baltimore, was sold by Messrs. Bangs & Co., recently. Among the coins were specimens of the mints of Rome and Athens, struck some hundreds of years before the Christian era. They are in silver and bronze and represent Minerva King Lysimachus, Vespasian, Tiberius, Trojan, Caligula and Marcus Aurelius, English coins in gold, silver and copper, dating back to the reign of Charles II. and down to that of Queen Victoria, as well as modern medals and coins of France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Sweden and other European States, formed the greater part of the collection. The prices paid for these relics ranged from a few cents to \$10 or \$20. A penny, coined in the Isle of Man in 1758, was sold for \$1.10. An English farthing, bearing date 1682, realized seventy cents, and a halfpenny, coined in 1792, sold for \$2. A French bronze medal, struck during the reign of Charles IX. to commemorate the Massacre of St. Bartholemew, realized \$12.50. A Scotch crown sold for \$9.50 and a George III. dollar for \$15.50. In this sale were a fine collection of American coins and medals, including a dollar of 1804.

A SALE OF COINS and medals comprising 854 lots, catalogued by H. P. Smith, of this city, were put up for the highest bid by Bangs & Co., on April 24th and 25th. It was the Hebbeard collection, and was as prolific with historical pieces as any collection could well be.

THE SECOND MONTHLY sale of domestic and foreign postage stamps took place on the evening of May 16, under the auspices of A. Von Degen, the auctioneer being Wm. Seemuller & Co., at their salesrooms, 11 South Charles Street, Baltimore, Md. In the 462 lots offered and sold with keen competition, there were many so rich in rarity as to fire anew the enthusiasm of the older collector, and to add increased

ardor in those still on the threshold of the business. We notice also quite a collection of "Locals," including Hussey's, Boyd's, Wells & Fargo, Empire City, Dispatch, and Aldan's Exchange, etc. Quite an interest was manifested in these "Locals" owing to the recent step taken by the Government in suppressing same.

A COLLECTION OF RARE COINS, the property of Mr. John Marr, of Rochester and Mr. C. F. Frothingham of this city, will be put up at auction by Messrs. Bangs & Co. on Tuesday, May 29. The collection includes foreign coins of all dates and reigns and home pieces from the earliest colonial times.

ON JUNE 2, at the salesroom of Messrs. Bangs & Co., 739 & 741 Broadway, will take place an exceedingly interesting sale of coins and medals, consisting of 642 pieces catalogued by Ed. Frossard and Editor of "Numisma." They comprise many of the Le Gras collection recently sold in Paris, and present an assortment so varied as to embrace nearly the entire field of numismatic pursuit. Everything is, of course, fragmentary, but it is precisely of such that our most valuable cabinets are composed, and we verily believe that every collector of Foreign Coppers, Gold Coins, English Coins, Foreign Crowns, Luther Medals, War Medals, Masonic Medals, American Coins, and Ancient Coins, will find in his particular series much which he does not possess, or of the existence of which he may to this time have been ignorant.

MESSRS. SCOTT & Co. catalogued the 1084 lots of coins and medals sold by Messrs. Leavitt & Co., of Clinton Hall, this city, on the evenings of May 28 and 29, the property of Charles Spaeth. In addition to the above was 122 lots of coins the property of the late S. H. Remsen, Esq.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad" in EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST

E. B. STERLING,

Collector of and Dealer in

UNITED STATES STAMPS Only.

Established 1874.

P. O. Box 294.

Trenton, N. J.

Specialties in all kinds of Rare and Common U. S. Stamps.

Standard Illustrated Postage Stamp catalogue, 25 cts.

Standard Revenue catalogue, 25 cts.

Standard 1 in Foil catalogue, 15c.

Stamped Paper List, 5c.

Wholesale Lists, Packet Lists and Cards, for a 3c. stamp. (tfo)

STAMP COLLECTORS should send 3 cent stamp for my new list of over 200 sets and packets, and 20 foreign stamps, 2 Orange States, 8 cents. 4 Sandwich Islands, 10 cents. 2 Servia, 3 cents. 2 West Australia, 3 cents. 12 Prince Edwards Island, 60 cents. 175 all different, 25 cents.

Agents wanted to sell stamps from sheets commission 25 per cent. Don't forget name and address.

J. B. CALDER,

(14) 117 E. 13th St., New York City, N. Y.

ONLY 10 CENTS for 100 *well mixed* Canadian stamps (including Law, Bill, etc.) Agents wanted.

Address **HENRY S. HART** Sorel Canada.

STAMPS! 140 varieties, 25c. post-free.—100 stamps from Tasmania, Hawaii, Ceylon, India, Malta, &c, 10c. post-free. 3 Hawaii Isl. 5c. 10 South American, 15c. 15 West Indies, 20c. 10 Asian, 15c. 10 African, 20c. 5 Japan, 5c. Cham. packet.—25 varieties, *all rare*, Natal, Malta, India, Japan, Hawaii, Cuba, Cape, Mexico, Peru, &c. 25c. Above lot 318 stamps, \$1.25 Circulars free. **C. H. MEEREL & CO.**, 99 Madison Street, Room 17, Chicago, Ill. Stamp papers copy, and send bill for good stamp exchange. (14)

Established 1880.

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The Stamp World, 124 Walnut st., Cincinnati, O.

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Agents wanted everywhere, at 25 per cent.

All kinds of stamps bought for prompt cash.

Foreign correspondence solicited.

Price lists free.

W. M. V. D. WETTER, JR.,

(21) 176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.



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E. W. MEERER, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati.

Send for One of my Approval Sheets

W. S. RIDLEY,

5 & 7 William Street, New York, U. S. A.

WANTED. The names and addresses of all bona fide collectors of U. S. and Foreign Coins, Medals, Political Tokens, Cards, Sutler Checks, etc. also Collectors of Masonic Medals, Pins and Badges, including Paper money, bonds, autographs, etc. All such will be placed in Mercer's *Numismatic Directory* for Jan. 1884 free of charge. Address, **K. W. MERCER, Cincinnati, O.**

W. F. GREANY, Dealer and Collector of U. S. and FOREIGN COINS and MEDALS also COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL and FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, CONFEDERATE NOTES and BONDS, SHINPLASTERS, &c.

Coins and Stamps sent on approval to parties furnishing reference. Agents wanted to sell Stamps on a liberal commission. With application be sure and send reference. Illustrated Catalogue, 3c.

(12) 827 Brannan St. San Francisco, Cal.

STAMPS AND CARDS 100 different used including Bahamas, China, Mexico envelope, Falkland Islands, Bosnia, Japan India, Iceland, etc., and a set of six fine picture cards. Price 50cts. post free. Stamp circular and picture card for 3 cent stamp. Agents wanted. Sheets sent on approval. **H. S. KEALHOFER, 3 Howard's Row, Memphis, Tenn.**

AN ARRANGEMENT

—OF—

United States Copper Cents,

1816—1857.

FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF COLLECTORS.

BY FRANK D. ANDREWS.

This work describes minute variations of over four hundred copper cents, beginning with 1816, and continuing until the close of their coinage in 1857.

The method of description is simple and easily understood. The position of the date, curl under bust, and sixth star on the obverse; the point of the 6th leaf under D in UNITED; 13th under final S in STATES; 15th under F in OF; and 23d under C in AMERICA on the reverse, are given of each piece previous to 1840, and so arranged as to be seen at a glance enabling the observer to determine the variations with little difficulty.

Collectors usually have more or less duplicate cents with this classification they can arrange them with some regularity, commencing a collection embracing all known variations and peculiarities.

This work is now ready. It is published in pamphlet form, and contains 42 pages. Price 50 cents.

Twenty-five copies have been printed on better paper with blank leaves inserted. Price \$1.00.

Copies of either edition mailed to any address on receipt of the price.

FRANK D. ANDREWS,

Vineland, N. J.

Vol. 2.

JUNE, 1883.

No. 3.

Price, TEN CENTS.

The Empire City



Philatelist.

OUR THEMES:

STAMP, COIN, POSTAL AND MINT NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Office of Publication, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.



FROMAN BROS., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 191 Duane Street, New York.

THE EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST.

A. M. CROUTER,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

→ OFFICE, ←

155 WEST BROADWAY,

NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTION:

One year, - - - - - One Dollar
SAMPLE OR SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - Ten Cents.

To all countries in the Postal Union and New York City, One dollar and Twenty-four Cts. No. 1 and 7 of this paper out of print.—The remaining numbers of Vol. I, ten cents a copy.

No stamps but those of the United States, and then only of the 1, 2 and 3c. denominations will be received. Articles pertaining to *stamps* and *coins* and kindred matter *solicited*, and must be original to insure publication. When a money value is placed upon same, price must accompany it.

ADVERTISING RATES:

ONE DOLLAR PER INCH. Special positions by request of advertisers, 25 per cent additional

No deviation from above price except in continued one-half or whole page advertisements, when special rates will be given. The above rates are on the basis of *cash strictly in advance*. All matter for publication should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion, otherwise it will go over to the following month.

For the accommodation of dealers, a portion of this page will be devoted to three line advertisements, at \$3.00 per year.

Parties mailing us No. 1 or 7 of this paper *in good order*, will receive in return for either any other Six numbers of this paper.

Correspondents wishing reply by mail *must enclose stamp for return postage*.

Readers will bear in mind that the editor, from the fact of publishing, does not commit himself to the various opinions of his correspondents, but simply gives room to same that all questions may be thoroughly ventilated.

JULES CAPELLE, Ghent, Belgium

→ ◆ ←
TERMS: Positively Cash in advance.

The NEW INTERNATIONAL Packet contains: 500 varieties, including Portugal Spain, Rome, Sardinia, Tuscany, Greece, Egypt, Hong Kong, Cape of Good Hope, France (1848) St. Helena, Tasmania, Venezuela, Mauritius, French Colonies, etc., etc. Price, \$1.00. Postage. 15c.

The NEW BOSS COMMISSION Packet contains: 1000 varieties, including Azores Angola, Austria, Alwar, Argentine, Barbadoes, Brazil, Honduras, Canada, Ceylon, Chili, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gambia, Grenada, Jamaica. Price, \$8.00. Postage 15 cents.

THE NEW BELGIUM Packet contains: 100 varieties, all Colonial stamps. No European. Price, 15 cents. Postage 5 cents.

We will forward sheets of stamps on approval to all persons who furnish us good references. 15 days allowed for inspection—the sheet to be returned with amount for those chosen in bank notes, or money order payable at post office, Ghent. 25 per cent discount allowed.

JULES CAPELLE, Ghent, Belgium.

HUGTION SALES.

Catalogued by A von Degen, 521 Hollins Street, and sold by Wm. Seemuller & Co, of 11 South Charles street, Baltimore, Md., were 411 lots of United States and foreign postage stamps, June 13th. Among the rarities noticed was lot 70, a United States postage envelope, 1853, 10 cents green on buff; 2c die cut square. No. 71 envelope 1875 3 cents blue on white cut square. Baltimore City Dispatch Horsman, 1 cent red, finely post-marked on original letter, etc. The sale moved smoothly, and realized the expectations, in its proceeds, the anticipations of those having it in charge. The next sale will take place September 5th. 1883.

Monday and Tuesday, June 25 and 26, at 2 o'clock, by Bangs & Co., W. J. Jenks' collection of American and Foreign coins and medals, ancient and modern, including a great variety of American gold.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 27, 28 and 29, at 2 p. m, the collection of S. S. Crosby, author of "The Early Coins of America," containing many rare, valuable and unique pieces This also by Bangs & Co. 739-41 Broadway

June 30, at 2 o'clock, a fine collection of American coins, the property of E. F. Kuitan, of Burlington, Iowa. Catalogued by Ed. Frossard, consisted of 576 pieces, rare dollars, half and quarter dollars, dimes, half-dimes, and 1 cents, colonial coins and about a dozen of coin sale catalogues, also a fine selection of ancient coins, silver and copper

At W. E. Woodward's 55th sale the collection of crowns brought only moderate returns Dr. Lewis' Numismatic library sold well and the Athenaeum of Boston has been enriched with many a valuable work, Madden's History of Jewish Coinage (London, 1864) at \$3.75, this work since the publication of Messrs Osgood & Co.'s Boston issue and Messrs. Truebner's & Co's, London, revised edition, has fallen off in value materially. Koehler's Muenz-Belustigungen, sold at \$40.80 for 24 volumes. Dickeson's American Numismatic Manual \$7.55 Bizot's Metallic History of the Republic

WANTED. The names and addresses of all bona fide collectors of U. S. and Foreign Coins, Medals, Political Tokens, Carls, Suttler Checks, etc. also Collectors of Masonic Medals, Pins and Badges, including Paper money, bonds, autographs, etc. All such will be placed in Mercer's Numismatic Directory for Jan. 1884 free of charge. Address, R. W. MERCER, Cincinnati, O.

W. F. GREANY, Dealer and Collector of U. S. and FOREIGN COINS and MEDALS also COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL and FRACTIONAL CURRENCY, CONFEDERATE NOTES and BONDS, SHINPLASTERS, &c.
Coins and Stamps sent on approval to parties furnishing reference. Agents wanted to sell Stamps on a liberal commission. With application be sure and send reference. Illustrated Catalogue, 3c.
12) 827 Brannan St., San Francisco, Cal.

of Holland, \$1.75 Dye's Coin Encyclopaedia re-edited by Mason & Maris, just published at \$5 subscription price, brought only a complimentary price of \$2.50 The masonic medals, at an average sold well. The collection of the medals of the Popes of Rome brought only moderate prices their fine condition warranted higher prices.

At a recent sale in Leipzig autographs of the persons named brought the following prices: Mary, Queen of Scots, 323 marks; Marie Antoinette, 461 marks; Peter the Great, 111 marks; Wallenstein, 108 marks; George Washington, 115 marks; Thorwaldsen, 90 marks; Gluck, 200 marks; Mozart, 330 marks; Haydn, 81 marks; Bach, 175 marks; and Beethoven, 335 marks

REVIEWS.

A worthy contribution to the literature of the day in the way of magazine work is Mrs. Martha Lamb's "Illustrated American History" for June Her papers on the "History of Wall street" wanes not a jot, as she brings the reader with her vivid pen and her artist, with apt and ready pencil, to the times "that tried men's souls" not with the panicky feelings of '37, '57, or '63, and the sombre Fridays of a later day, but when war's stern alarms rang through the length of the street, the shrill fife piped men to quarters, and the drum s-roll vibrated through the precincts now devoted to the babel of Mammon. These papers "and more's the pity," are brought to a close in the coming July number, and in doing so make place in the August number for a series of papers giving the "Original Secret Record of Private Intelligence," belonging to Sir Henry Clinton in the revolution. There can be no doubt of the intense interest that will be created by them among those who love to explore in those labyrinths of history, Office, 30 Lafayette Place, N. Y. City.

Michel's U. S. Counterfeit Detector and manual of Finance for June is the most replete pocket monthly, being issued in a form convenient to carry in the pocket, that it has been our good fortune to peruse for a long time. Its list of counterfeits are corrected monthly, both in coin and notes, up to the hour of going to press. Stock and market reports are one of its notable and valuable features. It certainly is worth all that is asked for it, \$1 per year. I. C. Michel, publisher, 501 Locust st., Philadelphia, Pa. It is a sure economy to be provided with one for consultation.

Collectors' Stamp Sheets.

Elegantly printed in colors with spaces for 49 stamps. More convenient than albums for placing the new issues. Printed on heavy white paper and on fine white card board. Samples and price lists for six cents.

T. P. OWEN,
109 So. Second St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper, will confer a favor upon both publisher and advertiser, by saying, "saw ad." in **EMPIRE CITY PHILATELIST**

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Collector of and Dealer in

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The *Philatelic Headlight and Advertiser* (monthly) will be out soon Devoted to stamps (especially) coins, etc. Adv. rates, 10c. per line, \$1 per inch

Dealers send in your Ads immediately for No. 1 Subscription 40c per year, (Postal Union, 50c. non P. U. 75c.) Foreign agents wanted for this paper Object: to reach every dealer and collector on the globe. Address all mail to

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On receipt of only one dollar, I will mail post-paid the following lot of stamps; 1000 well-sorted Canadian post, 200 well mixed foreign, 150 mixed Canadian Bill and 50 Canadian Law

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Vol. 2.

JULY, 1883.

No. 4.

Price, TEN CENTS.

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SUBSCRIPTION:

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To all countries in the Postal Union and New York City, (One dollar and Twenty-four Cts. No. 1 and 7 of this paper out of print.—The remaining numbers of Vol. I, ten cents a copy.

No stamps but those of the United States, and then only of the 1, 2 and 3c. denominations will be received. Articles pertaining to *stamps* and *coins* and kindred matter *solicited*, and must be original to insure publication. When a money value is placed upon same, price must accompany it.

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ONE DOLLAR PER INCH. Special positions by request of advertisers, 25 per cent additional. No deviation from above price except in continued one-half or whole page advertisements, when special rates will be given. The above rates are on the basis of *cash strictly in advance*. All matter for publication should be in by the 15th of each month to insure insertion, otherwise it will go over to the following month.

For the accommodation of dealers, a portion of this page will be devoted to three line advertisements, at \$3.00 per year.

Parties mailing us No. 1 or 7 of this paper *in good order*, will receive in return for either any other Six numbers of this paper.

Correspondents wishing reply by mail *must enclose stamp for return postage*.

Readers will bear in mind that the editor, from the fact of publishing, does not commit himself to the various opinions of his correspondents, but simply gives room to same that all questions may be thoroughly ventilated.

JULES CAPELLE, Ghent, Belgium.

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The NEW INTERNATIONAL Packet contains: 500 varieties, including Portugal Spain, Rome, Sardinia, Tuscany, Greece, Egypt, Hong Kong, Cape of Good Hope, France (1848) St. Helena, Tasmania, Venezuela, Mauritius, French Colonies, etc., etc. Price, \$1.00. Postage. 15c.

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THE NEW BELGIUM Packet contains: 100 varieties, all Colonial stamps. No European. Price, 15 cents. Postage 5 cents.

We will forward sheets of stamps on approval to all persons who furnish us good references. 15 days allowed for inspection—the sheet to be returned with amount for those chosen in bank notes, or money order payable at post office, Ghent. 25 per cent discount allowed.

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REVIEWS.

The *Magazine of American History* for July is excellent in every particular. The conclusion of Mrs. Lamb's series of articles, "Wall Street in History," covers thirty or more pages, and is superbly illustrated. It treats of the building of the old Custom House in 1834; of the Collectors of the Port, from the Revolution to the present time; the establishment of the Sub-Treasury; the whole line of Assistant Treasurers; the increase of its business in Wall Street, and present condition; the Assay Office and its workshops; the banks and banking houses; the Clearing House and its operations, and the New York Stock Exchange—all sketched from a historical and authentic standpoint, and the chapter is as delightfully readable and entertaining as it is informing. The illustrations include views of the gold and silver vaults in the Sub-Treasury, and of the "Boiling Rooms" in the Assay Office, with seven or eight fine portraits of prominent Wall Street men. "Cannibalism in North America," by Rev. Chas. F. Thwing, the second article will surprise and interest innumerable readers. "The Republic of Texas," by Captain Potter, U. S. A., is well written and entertaining. Joel Benton contributes a charmingly romantic essay, entitled "An Unpublished Chapter in Noah Webster's Life. Love and the Spelling Book." The Hon. George Bancroft, an interesting document concerning "Virginia in the Revolution of 1689;" an appreciative tribute to Peter Cooper follows—whose portrait graces the first page of the magazine; and "Charleston's Appreciation of her Early History," form a rich table of contents. The departments of Original Documents, Notes and Queries, Historical Societies, etc., are well filled; and the number contains several important Book Notices, Publication Office, 30 Lafayette Place, New York City.

Messrs. Palliser, Palliser & Co., of Bridgeport, Ct., the well-known Architects and Publishers of standard works on architecture, have lately issued a sheet containing plans and specifications of a very tasteful modern eight-room cottage with tower, and also with the necessary modifications for building it without the tower, and with but six rooms if desired. In its most costly form, the outlay is estimated at \$3,000; without the tower it has been built for \$2,500; and if only six rooms are included, the cost may be reduced to \$1,700 or \$2,000. Details are given of mantels, stairs; doors, casings, cornices, etc. The publishers have found it the most popular plan they have ever issued, and state that it has been adopted in more than five hundred instances within their knowledge. The same firm issue specifications in blank adapted for frame or brick buildings of any cost; also forms of building contract, and several books on modern inexpensive, artistic cottage plans, which are of great practical value and convenience to everyone interested.

The *American Journal of Numismatics*; now in its eighteenth volume, increases in value as it approaches the termination of its first score of years. Its July number, numismatists who are in the least enthusiastic, should certainly obtain, as the lore found therein is new—if 'tis old—instructive and entertaining. That master of grand masters, Robert Morris, has drawn to a close his scholarly papers on the "Coins of the Grand Masters of the Order of Malta." Much gratification has been excited and considerable interest taken by collectors in these articles, and the proposed supplementary papers on the rare "Coins of the Crusades" to be commenced in the next number of the *Journal* by this same eminent writer will not abate in interest with those they have succeeded. Great research and care of the most painstaking character it must assuredly have cost the writer in treating these subjects so exhaustively. "Our Mint Engravers," by P. DuBois, "Canadian Numismatics," by R. W. McLachlan, "Transactions of Societies," by their respective Secretaries, along with a very detailed report of the various "Coin Sales" held in different parts of the Union for the quarter ending with the 30th of June, 1883, all assist in making this journal one of the best of its kind issued.—Office, 18 Somerset St., Boston, Mass.

Under the management of W. F. Smith, 399 West 126th street, this city, appears the first number of a four-page publication, *The Black List*, in the columns of which it is proposed to "show up" all that is fraudulent in Philately. It will be published quarterly, is produced on very good paper with clear type, and promises to bastinado that "send me a sheet, etc., etc." If *The Black List* will only distribute its favors equally, and not leave out in the cold the young and old fraudulent pauper advertiser who generally finishes with "will remit upon receipt of paper," he will confer a favor on all newspaperdom. We trust it will merit all the patronage it has asked for in its salutatory.

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A Quantity of Choice American

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Must be in Good Condition, and Genuineness vouched for.

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To Coin Collectors and Dealers,

Under the style of THE NUMISMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, we have now in press and shall shortly issue a Hand-book of the United States Gold, Silver and base Coins, the Silver and Copper Coins struck in and for the American Colonies, and the Copper Coins of Canada, a work specially designed as a reference for amateur collectors, and for those who are accustomed to the daily handling of monies. It contains the *prices paid* for coins, number struck, and much general information of value to collectors and others. Carefully compiled from Dickeson, Crosby, Sandham and the United States Mint Reports, and with the assistance of numismatists in this country and Canada.

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