

Volume I.

Number 8.



FEBRUARY, 1885.



THE KEystone

Philatelic Gazette.

A Monthly Publication,

— *in the interest of* —

STAMP, COIN AND CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.

Mann & Kendig, Publishers,

Altoona, Pa.

Subscription Price Twenty Five Cents per Annum.

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Lake Village, N. H.

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THE STAMP WORLD,

a 12 page paper for collectors. Address,

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Box 473, CINCINNATI, O.

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STANLEY, GIBBONS & Co., Stamp Importers and Philatelic Publishers,
8 Gower Street, London, W. C.

Philatelic Gazette.

Vol. I. ALTOONA, PA., FEBRUARY, 1885.

No. 8.

Written for The Keystone Philatelic Gazette.

Uncertainty in Philately.

BY TANQUEREL.

Some one has said that we do not absolutely *know* any thing but our own ignorance. Now everybody will admit that this is putting it rather strongly, to say the least, but really, it is astonishing how many doubtful things there are in philately. We may be morally sure that many stamps are authentic, yet we may have no proof that they are not the invention of some shrewd out-cast from the philatelic ranks.

Some will remember the rough-looking thing supposed to have been issued by the state of Rampour in 1877. This peculiar stamp was oblong, measuring 27x20mm., and in the centre was a rude representation of an elephant. Down the left side, in large irregular letters, was the value, "1-2 rupee," and on the right was a capital R and an imitation of some native characters. It was un-perforated and printed in blue on yellow paper. The whole was clumsy in appearance, and not at all like any of the genuine issues of Rampour, on which the values are not expressed in English. Nevertheless, this humbug found quite a sale among British collectors, and, despite public suspicion, flourished for a time.

The trouble is, how are we to recognize the genuine or spurious character of a stamp, or set of stamps, that ap-

pears purporting to be the postal emission of some remote state, little known and seldom heard of and which has, perhaps, never before made use of postage stamps. We cannot do it, at least not for a while. In the mean time, whoever first brought them to notice is selling them thick and fast, for novelties please the collector well. If the stamps prove to be good, of course it is all right, but if they turn out to be an imposition we cannot help ourselves. Their champion has made his money and retired, leaving his victims in the lurch.

At the present time, many are wondering if the issue of Stellaland reported a few months since is authentic. It seems to be settled that there is such a country, but the stamps are looked upon with distrust by a large number of philatelists. However, they seem perfectly genuine and are sold by the largest stamp-dealing firm in England, and are believed in by the principal American dealers. The stamps are large, rather cheap-looking and the design is simple. The border consists of two rectangles having between them the inscription "Republiek Stellaland, Post-Zegel." Across the top is the value. Within the inner rectangle is the coat of arms, a shield divided into four parts. The two upper quarters contain a bird and a star respectively, while in the two lower are a pair of scales and two fishes. Underneath the shield is a scroll and the whole is sur-

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mounted by a large five-pointed star. There is a set of five (or as others affirm, six) values and there is every probability that they are good. All we want is the *certainty*.

The United States Locals are stamps of which we have less knowledge than almost any others. Stamps are brought to light with the assurance that they were once used to prepay letters at—in a year long since past. Are they bogus or not? In many cases we have no means of finding out. The "resuscitation" business has been worked to the utmost by the counterfeiters particularly in Boston, where the worst of them hold out. Their method is this. Having invented a satisfactory name for it, they pretend to discover an obsolete post somewhere and buy of its former proprietor the original plates of the stamps. Then they are able to sell "reprints" very cheap. These are printed in all colors of the rainbow and as nobody ever saw or heard of the originals, the primitive color of course could not be told. These wretched things have multiplied to such an extent that now 500 varieties of U. S. Locals can be bought for eighty cents. Among the best known of those which are entirely fictitious are Ker's City Post, Hunt's Dispatch and Clinton's Penny Post. The 500 varieties contain also counterfeits of genuine locals including imitations of all the rare ones, notably Blood's, Cheever & Fowle and Berford & Co. It is to be understood that only young collectors will be caught by this, but there are enough of such to make the trade pay. A beginner in philately, knowing that he cannot obtain the rare originals, thinks the next best thing is to get reprints. This is all right if he can get good ones, but the worthless trash

palmed off on the unwary by the Boston crowd is worse than nothing. All the above facts concerning U. S. Locals are in the main true of the Confederate Locals as well. These latter were issued by the postmasters, but they have been forged and added to, in a few instances by the postmasters themselves. The best counterfeits are of some of the rarest, like Madison, Fla.; Livingston, Ala.; and Athens, Ga. On the genuine Madison the legend reads "3 cets" for 3 cents, but in the counterfeit the spelling is correct and the stamp is printed in various colors. The thoroughly spurious C. S. A. locals are legion, but the following are the ones most extensively sold: a 10c. Galveston and a 5c. Selma, Ala. and two other sets, one for Richmond, showing two cannon crossed, and another inscribed "Blockade postage to Europe, one dollar." These and some others have been proven fraudulent but there are some whose worth cannot be determined. It is hard for one to realize what a multitude of stamps there are waiting till the time shall come when their origin shall be made known. Let us hope for the light which shall dispel the darkness and "that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Another "Local" has been unearthed. The *Philatelic Monthly* thus describes it: It was issued by the postmaster of Millbury, Mass., in 1846. One specimen we know of is postmarked Dec. 6 and is on an envelope addressed to a person in Worcester. The stamp is circular and bears in the centre a portrait of Jefferson, enclosed in a circular frame. The outer frame is a double circle and between the outer and inner frames is the inscription: "Post Office" at the top and "Paid 5 cents" at the bottom. Three stars are at each side.

PHILATELIC BREVITIES.

From The Philatelic Monthly.

HAVE we a philatelic society in this state?

ADD to your collection constantly though it may be but slowly.

— You may have a very large and fine collection of stamps and yet not be a philatelist.

No philatelist should be without a complete (as far as possible) collection of the postage stamps of his own country. If we were beginning a collection now, we should devote our attention first to the stamps of the United States.

It is a curious fact that the advanced stamp collector subscribes for nearly all the philatelic papers published; the beginner gets along very well, as he thinks, without any, except an occasional sample copy.

BECAUSE you cannot make a large collection of stamps, do not become discouraged and give it up altogether. Collect all you can, and keep all you get. There will come a time when you will be glad you did not trade them off.

If philately has any good grounds for claiming our attention at all, it is the duty of its devotees to take such action as will, in the end, raise it to its true level. This cannot be done without the systematic formation of philatelic societies; at least in the great centres of population.

THERE would be a great many more stamps sold collectors, especially of the rarer issues, if there was not so much doubt, in many cases, as to their genuineness. Few are willing to run the risk of having their albums dotted over with miserable imitations and forgeries. What are we going to do about it?

NEW ISSUES.

ANTIOQUA.—The color of the 1 centavo has been changed to violet.

BAHAMAS.—We have specimens of a new type of 1 penny, rose; 4 pence, yellow and 5 shillings, bronze-green.

BELGIUM.—A new type of the 25 centimes has made its appearance, printed blue on pink paper.

PERAK.—The 8 cents Straits Settlements has been surcharged for Perak.

PERU.—Another batch of provisional stamps has put in an appearance, some with one, others with two and still others with three surcharges. They are too numerous to mention.

PORTO RICO.—A postal card of the value of 3 cents de peso, brown on white, is in use.

PUTTIALLA.—This semi-independent state is using the stamps of British India, adhesives, envelopes and postal cards, surcharged "Puttialla State."

ROUMELIA.—We have the new 5 paras, lilac, and 10 paras, green.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 5 cents blue, has come to hand surcharged "Two Cents" in black, the surcharge running from top to bottom. There is also a 12 cents, claret, surcharged "Eight Cents" in small black letters and over that a large figure "8" in red.

SWEDEN.—Two of the new stamps with head of King Oscar have been issued, viz.: 10 ore, carmine, and 20 ore, blue. There is also a 10 ore, carmine, official stamp of the same design as the other officials.

TRINIDAD.—A 1 penny unpaid letter stamp is in use, black on white.

THE
KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.—To any country in the Postal Union 25 cents per year.

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1-2 inch.	\$ 20	1-2 column	\$100
1 inch.	35	1 column.	200
2 inches.	60	1 page.	400

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS must be in by the 20th of the month to insure insertion in the next number. The right to reject any advertisement is reserved.

REMIT in postal note when possible.

EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to

MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,

ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

FEBRUARY, 1885.

We are much crowded this month but we must take room to say that the price of this paper is only 25 cents per year, and those who receive sample copies will not regret it if they send us that small sum. Try it.

Last month we took a flying trip to Philadelphia, and had the pleasure of exchanging greetings with Mr. Durbin. He reports the stamp business "booming." It might not be out of place to state right here, that Mr. Durbin's latest postage stamp catalogue is the best of its kind ever published. We also called on Messrs Wm. H. Warner & Bro., medalists, to whom we are indebted for favors extended. Their medal commemorating the removal of the Liberty Bell to New Orleans, is very well executed.

Mr. Lyman H Low, whose comprehensive advertisement appearing in our last two issues, is a study in history and numismatics in itself, is among the few true experts in coin collecting, viewed from a scientific standpoint, in America.

No pursuit in the entire category of literature and science, requires a more

extended knowledge or ardent study, than that of numismatics, and it is by cumulative research alone, extending over many years, that a reputation so enviable as that enjoyed by Mr. Low can be obtained. In his advertisement for this month some special inducements are offered purchasers.

The Chicago Stamp Collectors Union held their 4th meeting on the 4th inst. A constitution was adopted, and the society made a chapter of the North Western Philatelic Society. Four new members were enrolled, and the *Collector's Companion* was made the official organ of the Society. Larger quarters being necessary, it was resolved to meet in future at 246 S. Clark St. After the meeting was over some time was spent in Philatelic talk and the exchange of stamps. The names of the officers are: J. H. Raymond, Pres.; Fred. Connett, Sec.

It is seldom that collectors of Canadian coins have such an opportunity to add the "missing links" or to procure genuine rarities for their cabinets, as was presented in the collection, catalogued by Mr. Lyman H. Low, sold by Messrs. Bangs & Co., in New York, Feb. 3rd and 4th. We quote as follows: Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Success, very fine, \$8.10; Leslie & Sons' Two pence, in unusually good condition, \$15.75; Half-penny, Copper Company of Upper Canada, Bronzed proof, \$22.50; six Montreal bridge tokens averaged \$3.90 each; Montreal Side view Half-penny, 1839, \$6.00. A rare variety of the Montreal Sou, \$4.50, and another brought \$4.10; Colonial quarter dollar with date 1820, \$4.00; four large silver medals of George III. issued about 1812 for distribution among the Indian allies, ranged from \$9.00 to \$14.50.

Written for the Keystone Philatelic Gazette.

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

PAPER I.

To the novice, about entering the field of numismatic science, the first question which naturally presents itself to his mind is "where and by whom were the earliest *American* coins issued?"

If by America, we mean the United States, to which we are, with true Anglo-Saxon arrogance, fond of ascribing a name which rightfully belongs to the whole Western continent, then the answer must be, as to place, the colony of Massachusetts: as to the issuer, Capt. John Hull, of Pine-tree Shilling renown. But if, on the other hand, we regard the term *America* in its broader sense, we must look beyond the limits of our own governmental jurisdiction for the first issue of its early coins. This took place in the city of Mexico, at a date not definitely fixed, but during the reign of Charles I. and his mother Johanna, who jointly occupied the Spanish throne between the years 1506 and 1555. Not until recently has this been recognized among American numismatists, who have been fond of calling the money issued in London for the island of Bermuda (to be described later on,) the earliest American coins. It is, nevertheless, a fixed fact, as many copper pieces of this king and queen are now to be seen in the cabinets of American collectors, bearing the mint-mark Mo. Upon their faces, denoting the city of Mexico then, as it does even at the present day.

The coins of this series which we have personally seen are all of copper, al-

though we are aware of the existence of others of higher denomination in silver. The following is a description of the Mexican copper coin of Charles and Johanna, from a specimen in the cabinet of the writer:

Obv: KAROLVS ET JOHANNA REGES. In the field, the letter K crowned. To the right, a lion (arms of Leon); to the left, a castle (arms of Castile); below, the figure 4; beneath the castle the mint-mark Mo.

Rev: HISPANIARVM ET INDIIARVM I. To the right a lion, to the left a castle, both crowned, and below, the figure 4.

Beyond all possibility of doubt in this piece we behold the earliest American coin.

A second early Mexican coin in the cabinet of the writer, is a silver *Real* of Philip III., king of Spain between the years 1598 and 1621. As no one claims an earlier issue for the Sommer Island or Bermuda money than 1619, there remains a strong probability that this silver piece was also struck in the city of Mexico previous to the issue of any American coin elsewhere. The following is its description.

Obv: PHILLIPVS III. DEI GRATIA REX. Crowned arms; to the left the Mexican mint-mark Mo., to the right the letter O.

Rev: HISPANIARVM ET INDIIARVM. The arms of the Spanish provinces of Castile and Leon divided by a cross.

Here, it will be observed, is a distinct reference to the Spanish possessions in America in the word *INDIIARVM*, which was the term used by Spain for these possessions from the time of the conquest of Mexico down to the present day, upon a coin bearing the mint-

mark of the city of Mexico, coined under the reign of a king who flourished long previous to the issue of the celebrated Pine-tree shillings by the colonists at Massachusetts Bay, and yet but few collectors of American coins are aware of this fact; nor has it been recorded in any book published upon the early coinage of America, nor, save for a notice in a numismatic periodical, been alluded to by writers upon the subject, at all.

Following this early money of Mexico, the next in order is that of the Islands of Bermuda, or, as they were formerly called, the Sommer Islands. from Sir George Sommers, an early navigator who visited them in the year 1610. This series will be treated of in our next paper.

Numismatic Items.

THERE are eight numismatic societies in the United States, and one in Canada.

THE Five Cent nickel of 1883 without the word "Cents," though hoarded by many, is not rare.

TWENTY cent pieces in silver, were issued as early as 1791, for the Sierra Leone Company in Africa.

THE coinage of every country is best appreciated, and commands the highest premium, within its own borders.

NEPTUNE, as depicted on the reverse of the Barbadoes penny and half-penny of 1792, is a copy of the great seal of the island.

OUR small proof sets, which date from 1864, are prized by many. Some of them are now very scarce; that of 1877 readily brings \$4.00.

THE largest and perhaps rarest cop-

per token, is the Birmingham sixpence of 1813, weighing 5 oz. and 3 dwts. But six specimens are known; one at least, is in America.

STORE cards, or tradesmen's tokens, formed a large part of our small currency from 1837 to 1845 and during the war of the rebellion. The latter period furnished about 4,000, in types and varieties.

THE half-penny token which has for its obverse, a man standing, holding shamrock and shalalah, reverse, "Pure copper preferable to paper," now classed with Canadians, was originally a Dublin token. The dies were engraved by Halliday.

COINS which are either much worn or pierced, and copper if cleaned or brightened, have but a small numismatic value, unless they are rarities. Condition and rarity have equal claims on premium. In handling coins, touch the edges only.

UNITED STATES gold coins are rapidly increasing in value, especially issues of the last fifteen years, some of which now command a premium of five to ten times above their face. The dollar is a losing coin to the government, and has been discontinued.

CANADIANS are most industrious collectors, and naturally enough, they are given to the accumulation of their own series, which presents a varied and interesting field, covering a comparatively short period, the most of which have been issued since 1811.

ABOUT twenty types of campaign medals were issued, representing Cleveland and Hendricks, and Blaine and Logan, the most of which appeared in white metal. They have since been struck for collectors, in silver, bronze and brass, and we know of two specimens in gold.

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in solving all Numismatic problems which may be submitted to us.

M. S., Detroit, Mich.: Your coin is a half Rigsdaler of Frederick VII. of Denmark.

G. J. C., Wellington, Ont.: We have not been able to learn where any Chadd's Ford tokens, issued in 1787-8, may be had, or that such piece was ever struck. We shall continue our inquiries and inform you of the result.

"Medallic Portraits of Washington," with historical and critical notes and a descriptive catalogue of the coins, medals, tokens and cards, by W. T. Baker, Phila., 1885, is the latest American numismatic production. Mr. Baker has gone over the ground in a most thorough manner, and the work must prove a valuable guide to those who are lovers of Washington. The notes supplementing many of the descriptions, are especially interesting, and fully appreciated by the true collector. 651 pieces are described. There is a carefully compiled index, thus affording a ready reference. The book is 4to., 250 pages, bound in half morocco and published at \$5.00.

The first thaler or dollar was coined in December, 1484, by Archduke Sigismund of Tyrol. The "dollar of the daddies," therefore, so far from being an innovation, is a most venerable coin, the four hundredth anniversary of which was recently celebrated by the numismatic society of Vienna and an essay by Herr Newald. The word dollar, introduced into this country by the Dutch means "from the valley," the first dollars having been coined in an Austrian valley.

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4 var. unused Slam, for 20c., (postage extra.) address S. M. GANS, 512 North Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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 " 10 var. Sardinia, 20c.
 " 12 var. Thurn and Taxis, 20c.
 " 1 Newfoundland, 3d trian 20c.
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 *unused. First order received for any of the above will receive free, a packet of 100 var. foreign stamps. Approval sheets at 33 1-3-40 and 50 per cent. com. Reference required.

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The Exchange List is open to subscribers only, for the sole purpose of facilitating the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and cannot be used as an advertising medium. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

Coins, stamps and other articles for printing press and outfit. Write, stating size etc. of press, and give list of stamps expected. H. G. Spaulding, Box 232, Manchester, Mich.

I desire to correspond with every collector of unused U. S. stamped envelopes with a view to the exchange of duplicates. I have some rare envelopes of Oct. 83 and later issues which I will exchange for any not in my collection. write first. F. D. Kappleye, Trumansburg, N. Y.

Coins, stamps, advertising cards, a hand bracket saw and several books for Coins and Fractional currency. T. W. Rogers, Humboldt, Iowa.

WIDE AWAKE for 1879 (2 Nos. missing) and the last 14 Nos. of GOLDEN DAYS for the best offer of curiosities and stamps. Geo. A. Swertfager, 11 Hooper St. Utica, N. Y.

Curiosities from this locality. Seaside Libraries Stamps etc., for postage stamps. One piece of flint, agate, or pet. wood, for every S. American stamp. H. W. French, Hartland, Washington Ter.

32 Hearth stone papers, (a few numbers missing,) containing good, short stories, that I will exchange for best offer in coins, Frank Boll, 102 Saratoga Ave. Rochester, N. Y.

Would like to exchange for the 5c. and 24c. U. S. 1st issue, unperforated, the 3c., 10c. and 2 1-2 g. Suriname, and the 50c. and 2 1-2 g. Guayana. Geo. L. Gilmore, 212 Banker Bldg., Boston, Mass.

Will exchange 9 Small stamps, unused, for any Nov. 1 of 1861 or 1867 issue. Costa Rica 1834, 1 and 1/2 c. surcharged "Official," unused, and 5 Australia, 1857, 6p., for any British Columbia stamp. Geo. A. Hays, Bldg. 217-219, 11th & 12th, Cleveland, Ohio.

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Bavaria, unpaid, 1 and 3 kr	.07
" return letter, 6 var. complete,	.10
Bergedorf, 5 var.	.12
Bremen, 6 var.	.40
German Empire, 10 var.	.10
Guatemala, 1st issue, 3 var.	.92
" 78, 4 var. complete,	.25
" 78, 4 var. complete,	.30
" Envelope, 4 var. entire,	.50
" 4 var. cut square,	.38
Hamburg, Envelope, 7 var. complete,	.10
Hellgoland, 15 var.	.40
Ionian Isles, 3 var. complete,	.75
Japan, 1st issue, 4 var. complete,	.47
Mexico, Porte de Mar, 75, 12 var. complete,	1.65
" 79, 6 var. complete,	1.05
Prince Edwards Island, 12 var.	.50
Sardinia, 10 var.	.12
Siam, 5 var. complete,	.70
Servia, 7 var.	.22
Thurn and Taxis, 12 var.	.25
U. S. Agriculture, 9 var. complete,	2.45
" Interior, 10 var. complete,	1.75
China, 8 var. complete,	.25
Guatemala, '82, 5 var. complete,	.21
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Prince Edwards Island, 12 var.	.50
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Sardinia, 10 var.	.12
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Servia, 7 var.	.22
Thurn and Taxis, 12 var.	.25
U. S. Agriculture, 9 var. complete.	2.45
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Yokohama, 3 var. complete.	.25
Guatemala, '82, 5 var. complete.	.34
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- 6 " " Imperial " "
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- 8 pcs. Silver, asst. Groats, Pennies etc.
- 15 " Copper.
- 10 " " of a better quality and larger.

MODERN.

- 12 pcs. Silver, assorted sizes.
- 18 " Base.
- 40 " Copper.
- 10 " American Colonial Copper.
- 20 " Hard Times Tokens, (or Jackson Cents.)
- 35 " Store Cards, size of old cent.
- 60 " Rebellion or War Tokens.
- 18 " White Metal Medals.
- 10 " Bronze Medals.
- 18 " Political,
- 5 " U. S. Small Proof Sets 1880, '82, '83, '84, '85.

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Volume I

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MARCH, 1885.



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Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

VOL. I.

ALTOONA, PA., MARCH, 1885.

No. 9.

For the K. S. and C. Gazette.

Philatelic Nomenclature.

BY DR. WM. H. MITCHELL.

The term *nomenclature* is derived from two Greek words signifying "I call."

It has often been said that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," but if I should call the rose a *sun-flower*, and some one else should call it a *cube*, what pleasant recollections of early summer and pleasing odors would it convey to your mind?

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At the present time the nomenclature of philately is in a very much confused and thoroughly mixed condition; uncertain, misleading and, in many cases, even false. To illustrate, take of many examples, the "Brattleboro." What is it? It is a stamp. True. It is an adhesive. Yes. It is an imperforate (Eng.) Granted. It is an unperforated (Am.) adhesive. Certainly. It is a Local (?) It is a Provisional. (?) It is a Government Local. (?) It is an Official Local. (?) So it goes. Every writer and compiler invents and uses his own pet term to the detriment of philately and the confusion of the tyro, rendering our nomenclature complex when, for the best interests of the science, it should be as simple as possible.

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cannot be correctly designated by any of the titles which various writers choose to give it. In our view, the nearest correct would be "provisional," although it does not embrace all that is desirable, nor could we suggest a better at the present time, for in a certain sense it is an exception to the rule, especially so in the United States where we have not been afflicted with the scourge of these abominations which have visited other countries from time to time.

This is but one of the many cases that arise as the philatelist pursues his investigations, and it is a problem that he must grapple sooner or later. It is of the utmost importance to the literature of the science, that its nomenclature should be thoroughly understood by all who are obliged to make use of it, and to this end, it should be as simple as is consistent with a correct rendering of what is required.

For the K. S. and C. Gazette.

A Few Notes On Detecting Counterfeit Stamps.

BY G. B. C.

One of the remarks under this same heading by a writer a year or two since was this: "Compare the face value of the stamp with the price at which the dealer offers it. If the former exceeds the latter, the stamp, if unused, is a counterfeit; for no dealer is going to sell a stamp for less than it cost him, except on very rare occasions." This latter remark is as true as preaching, but the first does not hold good in many cases. When the currency of a country is changed, or for any reason an old issue is outlawed, the government sells the stamps to dealers very cheap. The beautiful peso stamp of Costa Rica, now obsolete, can be bought for fifty cents, though a peso equals a dollar.

Always look closely at the execution of your stamps. Many genuine ones are poorly engraved, but when you see a stamp not very well engraved, smooth

and shiny, and a peculiar cheap, "loud" look about it, it is time to suspect that stamp. Some bogus stamps are miserably perforated. If you see a stamp of some European country, or some colony whose stamps are made in England, (Nevis, for example,) which is perforated with a series of jagged holes, not punched, but pricked, you may put that stamp down as a *black sheep*. The stamps of most European countries and the British colonies are perforated very carefully by machinery.

Examine the backs of the stamps, if they are not stuck on paper. The color of counterfeits frequently appears in places on the back; in fact, some trace of it can be seen in the larger part of the poorer class of forgeries. But this should not be accepted as a test in the case of any stamps from Native India, for there are some of these whose characters are seen nearly as distinctly on one side as on the other.

There is a class of monomaniacs who steadfastly refuse all unused stamps for fear they may not be genuine. All cancelled specimens are eagerly received and believed in. These ninnies are the ones on whom the forgers live. Most of the counterfeits sold at the present day are cancelled. In poorly engraved imitations this helps to conceal the defects and give it a more natural look. Often, however, cancellation is the means of detecting an impostor. A large red circle, containing the name of the capital of the country, is a mark commonly used by the counterfeiters, and many times the original post-mark is copied.

Mr. Ignaz Stauffer, of Pittsburgh, Pa., sends us a stamp he has just received from Germany, which was issued for use on soldiers' letters. It is printed on yellow paper, inscribed "Soldaten-Brief. Eigene Angelegenheit des Empfangers." within a plain border. Perf.

We have received from W. A. Tebow, Sacramento, Cal., a specimen of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s new newspaper stamp. The letters in the oval are larger than those in the issue of 1877, and the engraving is altogether different.

For the K. S. and C. Gazette.

The Suez Canal Stamps.

BY H. B. KENDALL.

These stamps have long been a subject for debate, and many have branded them as frauds, but we now know them to be genuine. In 1860 Mons. Gustave Riche, the postmaster of the Suez Canal, with the authority of the company announced that all correspondence must be prepaid with stamps. It had before gone free. The stamps, together with the appliances for postmarking, cancelling etc., were made in Paris, and went into use immediately on their arrival at Suez. There were four values, viz.; 1 centime, black; 5 centimes, green; 20 centimes, blue; 40 centimes red. Their design is familiar to all, being an oval containing a steamer in transit through the canal. They had been in use but a short time when the Egyptian government ordered them to be stopped, very much on the same principle the United States holds in regard to similar enterprises; for instance, Boyd's and Hussey's. The Suez Canal Company's stamps were superseded by the regular Egyptian stamps. The stock left on hand was sold to stamp dealers, under face value, and the set is easily obtained.

The 20 centimes is, however, the one most frequently seen. Owing to their short circulation, these stamps are very scarce in a used state. They have not to my knowledge been counterfeited, but reprints have, I am informed, been made from the original plates.

A Philatelic Society was organized last month in Philadelphia, with the following officers: President, E. R. Durborow; Sec. and Lib., S. M. Gans; Treas., G. H. Henderson; Cor. Sec., H. S. Jeanes.

The Fitchburg, Mass., Philatelic Society was organized Feb. 6th. with the following officers: Pres., W. L. Emory; Sec., W. K. Jewett; Treasurer, W. A. Browne; Lib., L. H. Sherwin. Address W. K. Jewett, Sec., 408 Main St.

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which may be submitted to us.

P. S. J., Bolivar.—Your coin is 1 pai, or $\frac{1}{4}$ anna of Bengal, Hindostan, Shah Alem I., 1759—1806, in 37th year of his reign. Date, 1796. It is common, and worth 10 to 15 cents.

J. L., Winterset.—(1) A Hamburg shilling. Good ones can be bought for ten cents. (2) U. S. coins of 1804 are rare because of the small number issued. (3) Dates are not given on Chinese coins. The characters indicate the reigning emperor, and from these the date is approximated. The coin in question was issued during the reign of Wen-tung, 1850—1861. They are worth 40 to 50 cents. (4) Some of the 1837 tokens, or Jackson cents are rare, but the value of yours we cannot determine without seeing it or a rubbing. (5) This is a common coin, worth 10 to 15 cents.

C. T. W., Albany.—The Fourbert Catalogue, by Adolph Weyl, is the most exhaustive work in existence, on the coins of Mexico.

J. H.; Port Hope, Ont.—The Canadian Numismatic Society is in Montreal, P. O. Box 1310.

We are under obligations to Dr. Jos. LeRoux, Montreal, Canada, for a copy of his Numismatic Atlas for Canada. The work is a valuable one, and is, we believe, in the hands of a large number of collectors.

We have received a copy of the International Collector's Guide, which contains a great deal of information in regard to the Confederate States stamps and other matters of interest to collectors.

We shall be very glad to send this paper for one year to any one who may like it well enough to send us 25 cents for the same. While the price is very low, we feel warranted in saying the paper is very good.

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REMIT in postal note when possible.

EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

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ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

MARCH, 1885.

Please remit by postal note.

Our paper will appear hereafter on the 15th of the month.

We wish it distinctly understood that we can not furnish back numbers of this journal prior to number 7.

Hereafter we must decline to accept any advertisement not accompanied with the cash, except from parties whom we know, by experience, to be reliable.

For lack of space we are compelled to omit the exchange notices this month. Our next number, however, will contain this department, and will consist of twelve pages and cover. The subscription price remains the same.

Since the last issue of this paper several important changes have taken place, the most prominent being in the name. We shall hereafter devote equal space to philately and numismatics and no matter foreign to these sciences will be admitted to our columns.

We have completed arrangements with the foremost writers on these subjects and shall publish, each month, fresh, original and interesting articles.

For the K. S. and C. Gazette.

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

PAPER II.

The coinage of metallic currency in America under the auspices of the English, unquestionably began in the Bermuda, or as they were then called, Sommer islands. These islands were included in the grant to the Virginia Company, their early history bearing therefore, close relation to the United States. The coins, which were struck in England, and sent out to the settlers upon the islands for use, are four in number, of the denomination of pound, or twenty shilling piece, shilling, sixpence and threepence. Of this series, the first and the last mentioned have been discovered within the past two years, both coming to light in the city of New York.

No. 1.—Obv. SOMMER ILANDS. Between the words of the legend, a rose of four leaves. A hog upon a ground to left, within a beaded circle; above the hog, the Roman numerals XX. A second beaded circle around the rim.

Rev. An ancient ship under full sail, to left, with flag flying from the mast-head. A beaded circle around the rim. Gold. Size 17½, American coin scale. *Pound, or Twenty shilling piece.*

No. 2.—Obv. SOMMER* ISLANDS* The hog, as before, above which are the numerals XII. Rev. The ship. Copper, size 19. *Shilling.*

No. 3.—Obv. SOMMER -|- ILANDS -|- The hog, as before, with the numerals VI above. Rev. The ship. Copper, size 17. *Sixpence.*

No. 4.—Obv. Legend and device similar to last. Above the hog, the numerals III. Rev. The ship. Copper. *Threepence.*

The rarity of these coins exceeds that of all others of the American series, although in actual monetary value, they fall short of some specimens of the issues of the United States mint. The shilling was found some years since, among the contents of a bag of old coppers in the

possession of a junk dealer in New York. Its existence, however, had been previously known to numismatists, it having been illustrated and described in an old English work. Several specimens are now known, not exceeding four in number, so far as we are aware.

The sixpence came to light some thirty years since, being found in a garden on one of the Bermuda Islands, that of St. George, from whence it fell into the possession of Mr. Benjamin Betts, of Brooklyn, N. Y. One other specimen we know of, and are not sure but still another may exist. The discovery of the threepence was as commonplace as can well be imagined. This piece had long been known to be in existence in Paris, but by no American collector had one ever been seen, when a stranger, one morning, some two years since, quietly offered it for sale to a well-known street coin dealer in New York. He was well aware of its value, but as to how it fell into his possession, no satisfactory explanation could be obtained. It was purchased with another coin, of less value, for the sum of \$90., and passed into the magnificent collection of Mr. L. G. Parmelee of Boston, Mass. No other specimen has ever appeared, either in England or the United States.

Last of all, came the gold pound piece, which was an entire surprise to collectors, as even the fact that such a piece had been struck for these islands at all, was previously unknown. It was purchased in Munich, Germany, at an auction sale of coins, and sent to a cutler in New York, who also dealt in coins, shortly afterwards falling into the hands of the well-known dealer, Mr. Lyman H. Low.

That it is the rarest of the series, it is needless to say. The specimen is in excellent condition, but having been struck on a planchet of pure gold, has suffered somewhat from the ravages of time. In workmanship and design, it is in perfect harmony with the remaining three, and shows undoubted evidence of having been carried as a pocket piece during a long period of time. As it is unlikely that denominations in

silver could have been issued for the Sommer Islands, and all trace of their existence become wholly lost, by the fortunate discovery of this remarkable piece, one of the most interesting groups of early American coins may now reasonably be considered complete.

For the K. S. and C. Gazette.

Forgeries and Impositions.

BY LYMAN H. LOW.

Forgeries and copies are determined by a careful examination of the edges, by weight, size, and thickness of planchet, the metal and its quality, and the general character of the piece, as to workmanship and the period it claims to represent. All of these call for deliberate attention and comparison, before accepting as genuine, pieces that are known to be rare, or for which a large sum is demanded. Electrotypes will not ring when struck as by a coin, or when thrown on a table or counter, and the edges reveal the sealing of two parts together. Beware of a piece which appears to be worn by circulation, and yet has a perfect, new, rounded or square edge, *unworn*. Among the Roman denarii, both in the Family and Imperial series, plated coins are met with. They are the work of the period, but their true history is a matter of conjecture; collectors do not discard them.* Altered dates show cutting, filing or tooling around the figures when placed under a magnifying glass.† Dies have been cut, dangerously representing many of the noted rarities, and pieces have been struck from them in the solid metals. Such specimens, however, are generally over-perfected, and the grade of the metals (and color, if copper) is not duplicated. Under this head may be mentioned fabrications of pieces, which as coins, never had an existence. Methods are devised to give to

* A work treating them as a specialty, is being prepared by an eminent numismatist in Europe.

† Struck-over dates. (as 1811 over 1810) which occur in several years between 1800 and 1839 in the American series, in both silver and copper, must not be confounded with these.

them the appearance of age, by wear, or by treatment with chemicals. Casts have a surface of small holes or sand bubbles, and are always light in weight. Those most frequently met with are in brass. In silver, they are much more perfect, and sometimes vigilance is required to detect, especially when they have been skillfully treated with a graver. Copper and brass are often plated with gold or silver. Luxemburg, Mantua, Ancona, Pampalona, and Oaxaca, in times of necessity, cast their coins in a mould. Many of the regular issues of Morocco, China and Japan are cast coins, and all of the class are rude and imperfect.

Numismatic Items.

THE letter U, as well as the letter V, on all ancient coins, and most of the mediæval, is represented by V.

FAMILIARITY with the portraits of the Roman emperors, assists materially, in identifying and naming their coins.

WAR medals and military decorations, have had the attention of many collectors during the past few years. Not a few now make them a specialty.

COINS have been issued and made current, in gold, electrum, platinum, silver, nickel, copper, brass, iron, lead, tin, wood, porcelain, glass, leather, seal-skin and parchment.

A medal of England's favorite tragedian, Henry Irving, was recently submitted to us for inspection, and as we are unable to learn of its mention or description in any numismatic publication, we conclude it will be of interest to collectors to notice it. Obv. **HENRY IRVING** Bust in profile l.: under the shoulder, J. W. MINTON, SC: Rev. A laurel wreath open at top, and tied by a ribbon at bottom; field plain; struck within a narrow collar. Bronze, size 29. The medal is a fine work, in high relief, and a creditable likeness. The occasion for its issue, we hope to report in our next paper.

Sale of the Wight Coin Collection.

We have received from Mr. A. M. Crouter of New York, a report of this sale which took place in that city Feb'y 24th and 25th, which we should like to print in full but are obliged to condense as follows:

A good 1794* silver dollar brought \$55; a fine small eagle 1798 silver dollar, \$5.; an uncirculated half dollar of 1851, \$2.60; another of 1810, \$2.10; an uncirculated quarter, 1831, \$2.50; a fine 1822 quarter \$7.; one with letter L stamped on, dated 1825, \$5.; a proof dollar of 1852, \$42.; a 1794 half dollar, good condition, \$6.; another, dated 1796, \$66.; one of 1797, † catalogued as "fine", should have been described as "good", \$71.; an 1805 half dime, good, brought \$22.50; a dime of 1800 sold for \$4.50; another, fair, of 1801, \$3.25; a proof dollar of 1851, † \$39.; another proof dollar of 1838, \$54.; and another proof of 1836, but a little damaged, \$7.50.; an 1839 dollar, \$20.; a fine 1854 dollar, \$9.; one of 1855, uncirculated, \$6.; another of same date (a proof), \$10.50. A half dime of 1794, \$5.; one of 1801, good, \$2.10; and a proof of 1864, \$1.50; a quarter of 1796, \$17.; one of 1804, good, \$3.10; a dime of 1846, fine, \$2.; another of 1796, very fine, \$7.25; one of 1804, good, \$8.; and one of 1838, without stars, \$2.

The following half dollars brought the prices annexed: Proof, 1836, milled edge, \$13.25; 1852, fine, \$3.10; 1801, good, \$5.; 1805 over 1804, good, \$4.50; 1811, uncirculated, \$2.; 1815, fine, \$4.50.

An uncirculated cent of 1797 brought \$12.50; one of 1796, \$10.; one of 1799, fine, but doubtful as to its genuineness, \$24.; a 1796 half cent, good, \$16.; a proof set of United States coins of 1855, \$25.50; a set of 1856, \$40.; a quarter eagle of 1797, good, \$12.; a 1787 Massachusetts cent, \$17.

* A dollar of this date in the Ralston collection, described as "unusually good" sold for \$50.00.

† A proof dollar of this date at the Ralston sale brought \$41.50.

‡ One of same date in Ralston coll. brought \$25.00. † This coin brought \$49. at the Ralston sale.

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Number 10.



APRIL, 1885.



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I wish to inform the public that my new coin is now complete. It contains 16 pages and shows buying prices for coins, Indian relics, Confederate money, Fractional currency, old books, old maps, old papers etc. It also gives full information on coins, telling when and how many were made each year. No collector, banker, grocer, merchant, farmer or any one who handles any money at all should be without one. They are very large and are worth every cent of a dollar, but so every body can buy one, I have put them down 25c. And not only that, but it is the only complete work of its kind ever published. Agents will be supplied at wholesale rates. Send soon as there was a limited number printed, and are selling fast.

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Nashville,

Tenn.

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THEO. H. WISE.

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contains 50 choice varieties such as Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Baden, Sandwich Is., 3 varieties from Java etc. only 10c., post free. Every purchaser gets an unused Wells, Fargo & Co. newspaper free. **W. A. TEBOW, 1630 Q St., Sacramento, Cal.**

When answering advertisers please mention the "K. S. and C. GAZETTE"

THE KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

Notices of Exchange.

The Exchange List is open to subscribers only, for the sole purpose of facilitating the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and cannot be used as an advertising medium. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

A very old book and advertising cards for the best offer of back numbers of "Littell's Living Age," or anything pertaining to literature or elocution. Charles Creamer, London, Ohio.

100 varieties of foreign stamps (many scarce), or 350 brown ten cent stamps, for Durbin's, Scott's or Trifet's stamp catalogue of 1885, or U. S. stamps. Clarence George, Box 424, Independence, Iowa.

A triangular Cape of Good Hope stamp, for the best offer of coins. J. Cormany, Box 907, Beloit, Wis.

The 6, 10 and 30c. State, and the 20c. Guatemala, for any two of the following: U. S. 1851, 24, 30 and 90c.; 1861, 90c.; 1861-63, 3c. scarlet and 5c. yellow; 1869, 9, 24, 30 and 90c.; any square cut envelope above 6c. 1870 issue; 15c. Agriculture; 1, 3, 6 or 10c. Executive; 7 and 90c. Navy; 15, 24 and 30 unused Justice; 50c. Chili, 1877; 5c. brown 13c. Newfoundland, 1866; Barbadoes 5 shillings; Nova Scotia 8½c. 1860. 12 or 13c. San twich Islands. V. VI to date, "Golden Days" for a single or double barrel shot-gun in good order. Fred. George, Box 455, Portsmouth, N. H.

Would like to exchange for any of the following: Chili, 10c. '53, 1 and 20c. '55; Guatemala, 5 and 20c. '71, and 1p. '72; Jamaica, 1, 2 and 5s.; Newfoundland, 12 and 24c. Norway, 4 sk. '54. Collectors, please send lists of duplicate

stamps for exchange. George L. Gilmore, 212 Bunker Hill St. Boston, Mass.

I will give my premium coin book, showing price I pay for coins, for 50 tobacco tags, or a Vnickel without cents for 40; or a package of ink powder that will make a pint of good ink in ten seconds, for 30 tags; or will exchange tag for tag. C. E. Makepeace, Watertown, New York.

Chinese coin of 1619, or 3 kinds of Chinese coins for a foreign coin before 1800, 2 foreign, or a West Indian, African, Isle of Man, Malta, Ceylon or any rare foreign coin. P. S. Johnson, Box 183, Bolivar, N. Y.

A Chinese coin, stamp and 5 postmarks for every U. S. stamp of 1851, '60, '61 and 69, except the 1, 2, 3 and 10c. Rare stamps and curiosities for rare stamps. Correspondence with advanced collectors solicited. A. T. Stewart, 914 8th St. Oakland, Cal.

Good specimens of copper, zinc, iron, silver and lead ores, 2 shark's and 2 alligator's teeth, and 2 Indian spear heads, for the best offer of coins or V nickels without the word "cents." Duplicates taken. C. J. Verconter, Box 979, Beloit, Wis.

A good, strong muslin palmetto tent, 8 feet high, and 6 feet square at bottom, in a good chest, to exchange for the best offer in coins or medals, or for 3 half dollars (in good condition) dated prior to 1840 to add to my collection. Exchanger to pay express charges on the tent. Write first. Joseph Lewis, Box 166, Winterset, Iowa.

5 foreign postal cards, 2 Connecticut cents, 50 foreign stamps, 3 foreign coins 6 rare Confederate bills, 10 advertising cards etc., for coins, stamps, Indian relics, confederate money, rebellion tokens

THE KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

Correspondence solicited. W. A. Ackerman, Box 11, Marengo, Iowa.

I have the following articles to exchange: Large U. S. cents for U. S. half-cents, or coins of Brazil; a collection of 45 kinds of bird's eggs, for a good offer of stamps; 9 Nos. "Granite State Philatelist," (1884) for stamps from Brazil or Egypt. Write for terms. Welton Brewster, 203 Wolf St., Syracuse, N. Y.

Wanted:—Vol I. Nos. 1, 7 and 10 of the "Empire City Philatelist" for which I will give any two numbers of Vol. II. same magazine. I also want philatelic magazines and books for which I will give stamps, coins and other philatelic papers. A. M. Crouter, 155 West Broadway, New York.

Would like to exchange stamps from my list for any U. S. newspaper stamp from 4c. to 192c., used or unused, or any U. S. envelopes from 6c. to 90c. used or unused. Send for lists. All exchanges to be made from Scott's 44th or 45th edition, or else from your own prices. Geo. Hauschild, 247 St. Clair St., Cleveland, Ohio.

I have 35 numbers Vol. V. "Golden Days," 200 advertising cards, 75 different stamps and 2 paper bound books, in all worth \$2.00, to exchange for a font of metal bodied rubber type, or stamps not in my collection. Write. Hanson A. Malin, Lock Box 75 Girard, Kansas.

5 good books, 6 foreign coins, a V nickel without "cents," 5 fine star-fish, 3 sea urchins, 10 numbers of "Harper's Young People," a piece of balsa-wood from S. A., logwood from St. Domingo, peat from Ireland, some fine shells, 10 Indiana minerals and a few other curios, some very rare, to exchange for a printing-press, chase about 6x8 inches,

with two fonts of type, rules, quads, spaces etc. C. O. Moore, Box 161, Xenia, Illinois.

U. S. Revenue, document, match medicine, proprietary, and playing-card stamps to exchange. Send lists of what you have. Correspondence solicited with advanced collectors. All communications answered. B. G. A., Box 67 Brooklyn, N. Y.

A set of 4 varieties of Sandwich Island stamps for every 5 departmental stamps, or 5 philatelic papers. A set of 3 varieties Wells, Fargo & Co.'s franked envelopes, or a set of 4 Hong Kong for every 15 old U. S. stamps, either envelope or adhesive, department or revenue. W. A. Tebow, 1630 Q St. Sacramento, California.

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APPROVAL SHEETS. Reference or deposit required.

CENTRAL STAMP CO. Altoona Pa.

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

VOL. I.

ALTOONA, PA., APRIL, 1885.

No. 10.

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BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

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MACAULAY.

Every little while the subject of these stamps is brought up and as often been answered by the different papers which have been questioned thereon. Lately I see the old question again in the stamp papers as to their authenticity, but the editors, instead of answering, leave it to their readers to answer, probably for the reason that they have become tired answering questions concerning them. Now, in the following article I shall attempt, with the help of a few standard authorities, to explain whether they are authentic or not.

The exact date of the birth of the local stamps of Hamburg is unknown even in the place of their origin; at least I have never come across any positive date. They are, as a rule, rough-made and printed in all the colors of the rainbow, and number, all told, one hundred and sixteen, and are all unperforated except the six composing the set and to have been issued by one Charles van Diemen. In the set are two envelope stamps, the stamp being printed on the flap of the envelope. None of the stamps are prepared for adhesion. All but twenty have values on them, the aggregate of these on the ninety-six be-

ing, in United States money, one dollar and eighty cents.

Now, with regard to the rough printing, we cannot look to that as an explanation, for have we not stamps as rough as these and in some instances rougher, that are positively genuine? The character of the printing, therefore, throws no light on the question of their authenticity. But how about the colors? Why this multiplicity of colors? This great variety of colors is, in my mind, indubitable evidence that these stamps are frauds, as whoever prints them does so in this variety of colors purposely to strike the eye of the uneducated in philatelic literature, and thus get at their money. The two envelope stamps are frauds certainly, as they are printed on the flap, which is a rare occurrence in Philately, but not only this, but the fact that the flaps are not gummed. It is not possible that a genuine envelope, manufactured by either a government or private party, would be left ungummed unless by mistake, and in this case it is no mistake, as every one sold has been sold ungummed. Now, as I said before, the value of ninety-six of the one hundred and sixteen is, in our money, one dollar and eighty cents, why is it that they are sold for fifty and twenty-five cents? Are these dealers such fools as to sell them at a loss of at least one dollar and thirty cents per set? I think not. Again, it cannot be that these sold nowadays are "remainders,"

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for they have always been sold at a low price, and "remainders" generally increase in price as the supply decreases. If remainders, why is it that one dealer's set is different in every way from another's?

Before closing, I will submit what three of our standard authorities say of the local stamps of Hamburg.

The Stamp Collector's Hand-book, by E. L. Pemberton, page 94:—

"The local stamps of Hamer, Scheerbeek, Krautz, Laprenz and Vandeman are purposely omitted, as it is not known which are genuine."

A Revised List of Postage Stamps, by J. W. Scott, page 129:—

"Of these stamps there are 116 varieties which were admitted into albums in the early days of stamp collecting, and have maintained their place there up to the present day, although it is very doubtful if more than one variety was ever used, and that simply to prepay letters delivered by commissioners stationed in the streets. They have nothing to recommend them but cheapness, and we should strongly recommend all collectors to discard such trash from their albums." †

In *Seebeck's Catalogue* on page 35 he says:—

"Local stamps of Hamburg were made for collectors only, and never used. They are of no value to a collection and should not be collected."

All the above facts being considered, is there any doubt in the minds of philatelists as to their authenticity? If any of these stamps were ever issued they have gone into obscurity by some destructive means, and those sold to-day are positive frauds and my closing words to philatelists are to refuse to be gulled and they will cease to be sold.

† And yet he has inserted spaces in his albums for these stamps.

Triangular stamps have been used in four countries, namely; Cape of Good Hope, United States, Newfoundland and the United States of Columbia. Four values were issued in each of the first two, one in the third and two in the last named. Those in the U. S. were locals issued by the Metropolitan & Errand Carrier Express Co. of New York. —"Topaz," in *Emp. State Philatelist*.

Automatic Postal Box.

A curious invention styled an automatic postal box, the fruit of some Englishman's genius, is now on exhibition in this country. It is "a device to supply postal cards or stamped envelopes and paper from a receptacle to be placed in all public places, streets and resorts," by means of mechanism operated by the coin the purchaser drops into the machine.

The apparatus consists of a box, somewhat larger than an ordinary lamp-post letter-box. In it are two compartments, one containing postal cards, the other, stamped envelopes with sheets of paper in them. Each of these is a compartment inclosing the machinery. In the lid on top of the box is a slot over each compartment. When a coin of the denomination (involving a certain size, thickness and weight) for which the machinery has been constructed, is dropped into the slot, the lock of a drawer in the bottom of the box is released, and on the drawer being pulled out, the desired postal or envelope is found. Any other than a proper coin will not release the lock, but running through the machine, is expelled upon a board at its base. If the coin is bad, it is retained in the machine, the lock remaining fastened. When all the cards or envelopes have been sold a plate rises over the slot marked "empty," and no more coins can be put in. The machinery of the box can be adapted to the delivery of a variety of articles, such as theatre tickets etc. Altogether, it is quite a valuable invention, and if it is adopted will no doubt prove a great convenience. They may be found at all of the larger railway stations in England, and an effort is being made to introduce them here.

PLAIN TALK.

BY "RAPHAEL."

There is a saying that in every family there is a black sheep. The black sheep of the happy Philatelic family is, without doubt, the counterfeiter, who floods the market with worthless imitations of valuable stamps. It has come to such a pass that it is nearly impossible to distinguish between the genuine and the bogus stamps, and that it is safe to say that five per cent of the stamps now offered for sale are not stamps at all, but merely imitations of them.

It is a wonder to us that stamp collectors have allowed themselves to be gulled by this worthless trash, and it is high time this condition of things be changed. Why should the utterer of and dealer in fraudulent stamps escape punishment, any more than any other criminal? is a question to be answered by all philatelists.

This state of affairs is largely due to the fact that such a large per cent of our stamp dealers encourage the counterfeiters by handling their productions. Of course, the dealer who buys the spurious stamps for a mere song, can sell them much below the value of the genuine ones, and in this way the standard of the original stamp is lowered. Some dealers seem to think there is no harm in handling counterfeits, yet it is difficult to understand how honorable persons can take this view, and continue to encourage the manufacture of more of the same trash. Collectors, in answering the advertisements of these dealers, send their money for stamps, and get in return, not stamps, but worthless imitations of them. If this is not (on the

part of the dealer) "obtaining money under false pretences," we do not know what is.

Now, if stamp collecting is not to be allowed to degenerate into a miserable farce, it is time something were done to arrest this tendency. If, to avoid being swindled, the collector must be an expert in all that pertains to philately, there will be found but very few who have the necessary qualifications, and accessions to the philatelic ranks will come alone from those to whom it makes little difference what they collect.

If all collectors and dealers who are opposed to the perpetration of the frauds above referred to, and who wish to see "our science" lifted to a higher plane, were to form unions wherever practicable, and these unions to form a league for the purpose of detecting, exposing and discouraging all forms of philatelic swindling, we feel sure that a work might be done which would be appreciated by all true friends of pure and honest philately.

Apropos of the above article, we learn from the *Philatelic Monthly* that there is now upon the statute books of the U. S., as we understand it, "a law against counterfeiting stamps" and that a conviction was had under it several years ago in Philadelphia, but our contemporary does not clearly state that this law applies to the counterfeiting of *foreign* stamps. If it does, it strikes us there is no class of persons whose information, duty and interest should prompt to greater activity in its enforcement than our leading, respectable stamp dealers. Furthermore, have we any *legal* protection against the makers of, and dealers in purely fictitious stamps?

Why the Plan Failed to Work.

CHICAGO, APRIL 4, 1885.

Editors K. S. and C. Gazette.

My little article on "Collecting," which appeared in your columns not long ago, seems to have called down on my head the wrath of some unfortunate parent who undertook to act upon the suggestions made therein, but without applying to them some very simple and well recognized rules.

"Sydney Hutchinson," in the April number of the *Collector's Companion*, relates how he, hoping to "obtain a convert to the cause," sent a copy of the article in question to a friend of his, and then proceeds to give the experiences of this friend, the wrathful individual before alluded to, as related in a letter from him shortly after receiving your paper. In the letter this gentleman says: "That extract you sent me proved a Pandora's Box. It has transformed my formerly well-behaved boys. I bought a fine \$5.00 album and presented it to my five boys. My idea was that each should own a fifth of the stamps," (the italics are mine); he then woefully states, to the extent of a column, the quarrels and wrangles among his boys on account of this joint ownership of property and concludes by vowing "destruction against the writer of that seducing article."

Now I want to ask a simple question: Can you successfully make a family of children joint owners of one article which can be used by but one at a time, or admits of a variety of opinions? Our friend seems to have ignored this phase of the question entirely, and to have attributed his failure to reconcile his five boys, to philately and myself, when the blame rests on his own shoulders. My advice to him would be, to get each of his boys a new album, all to be alike. Help them divide what stamps they now have, settling arbitrarily the disputes that arise, and I predict that peace will resume her sway in the household; the boys, instead

of quarrelling, will strive in generous competition, and the benefits of collecting as a home amusement will soon be appreciated.

ERRORS.

BY W. A. T.

If each collector would carefully examine all the duplicates in his possession, he would, no doubt, find some interesting and rare errors, such as different values printed in the same color, and (as is the case with most type set stamps) some letter or figure is either inverted, in the wrong place, or perhaps left out altogether. For instance, there is the 1 Baj. Roman States, of 1852, in which the figure 1 is inverted. The 5 paras Egypt, of 1872, is found with the "fives" transposed, while the complete set of Alsace and Lorraine is found with the net work in the background inverted; this is caused by the stamp being made by two impressions.

The first issue Shanghai were printed with the English value "candareen," but after a while this mistake was rectified by adding the "s." On every sheet of the 2 sch. Lubeck, there are two stamps inscribed "ZWEI EIN HALB" on the scroll, with the figure 2 in the corner. The 5c. purple Confederate States, issued at Athens, Ga., reads T. Crawford P. M., while the postmaster's name was John. The 1 penny blue and four penny red triangular Cape of Good Hope, are printer's errors and are extremely rare being seldom, if ever, met with. A great many errors may be found on the stamps of Modena, such as the word cent being spelt cetn, cnet, ceut, etc., and "posie" for "poste," with and without the period. I do not, however, attach much importance to these last, (unless on the original post-marked envelope), as some of them, no doubt, are "intentional errors," and were made to sell. The stamps of Turkey are sometimes found with the inscription upside down.

Collectors, hunt them up, you may find something that has heretofore gone unnoticed.

THE
KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.—To any country in the Postal Union 25 cents per year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 INSERTION.	3 INSERTIONS.
1-2 inch.	\$ 20	\$ 50
1 inch.	35	100
2 inches.	60	160
1-2 column.	100	250
1 column.	200	450
1 page.	400	900

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS must be in by the 10th of the month to insure insertion in the next number. The right to reject any advertisement is reserved.

TERMS strictly CASH in advance.

REMIT in postal note when possible.

EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to

MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,

ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

APRIL, 1885.

We have made room for our exchange notices this month and they will be regularly provided for hereafter.

One of the neatest, most entertaining and instructive stamp journals on our exchange list is the *Empire State Philatelist*.

We have, for some time, been looking for a *squeal* from the "Boston crowd." It came last month and is about what might be expected to emanate from that quarter.

The *Peacemaker*, published at 404 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa., comes to us promptly each month. It is a magazine filled with excellent reading matter, in the interest of peace between both individuals and nations.

The editor of the "Philatelic Courier" of Halifax, N. S. requests us to state that in consequence of his regiment be-

ing ordered to the North West to assist in suppressing the Indian rebellion, the publication of his journal will be suspended until his return, when it will be resumed.

Philately is booming. New papers are appearing with a rapidity that is surprising. The majority of initial numbers are very creditable efforts, but whether they possess the necessary backbone to withstand the hardships which beset a philatelic paper during the first six months of its existence, remains to be seen.

We have received a marked copy of the "Collector's Caprice" for Feb. '85, containing the announcement of the suspension of that journal, coupled with the statement that the remaining subscriptions would "be filled out by the KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE." This is an arrangement which we know nothing about as yet, and we mention the fact to avoid any misunderstanding.

We return our thanks to those who have favored us with clippings from newspapers, and copied articles, but we must remind them that we can use but a very small proportion of those sent us. Many of the statements concerning coins and stamps which are found in the newspaper press are not to be relied on, as the trouble is not taken by the editors to ascertain whether they are accurate or not.

We shall be more thankful to those who send us good, original articles, especially on philately, and for these we will pay cash if we deem them worthy of publication, and shall return all not accepted, if stamps are enclosed for that purpose.

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

PAPER III.

Leaving the Sommer or Bermuda Islands, the next prominent issue of early American coins is to be found in the series known as the "Pine Tree" money of the colony of Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts the scarcity of a metallic currency became a matter of grave consideration at an early date; in fact no more than eighteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims upon Plymouth rock, we find it the subject of discussion in one of the sessions of the General Court, that held in October, 1640. Twelve years later, 1652, we find the General Court ordering the establishment of a mint for the purpose of stamping planchets of silver of a certain weight, obtained from melting down the foreign coin then in plentiful circulation, with their sterling values affixed. As master of this mint, the name of the famous Captain John Hull now first appears in the records of the colony. The first coins issued by him from this mint are among the rarest of the colonial series.

They were simply plain planchets of silver, stamped with the letters N E upon the obverse, and the numerals XII. VI. and III. respectively upon the reverse, and passing as shillings, six-pences and three-pences by the order of the General Court.

Following these, came the famous Pine Tree coins, also the work of Capt. John Hull. These were first struck in 1652, and their issue was continued for more than thirty years, the date, however, remaining the same, and although there exist a great variety of dies, it can-

not be determined in what year the pieces were coined.

These coins bore upon the obverse the rude representation of a tree, in various forms, with the legend MASATHV SETS IN, spelled in many different ways, and upon the reverse NEW ENG. LAND. AN DOM. around the rim, with 1652, above the numerals XII, VI, III and II, respectively, according to the value of the coin. They are found with every variety of spelling and punctuation, and on some dies the tree bore a closer resemblance to the oak or the willow than the pine.

Those of the Willow tree pattern are thus described by Crosby, *Early Coins of America*, page 46;—

"The coins bearing this tree are so rude in conception and bungling in execution (though not partaking of the errors of reversed letters which appear in some varieties of both oak and pine), as to deserve none other than a position among the experimental attempts of novices in the art of coining; unless, as has been suggested, they are to be considered counterfeits, which to us does not appear probable. So rude, indeed, are they, that it is difficult to believe them to have been accepted by any people except under urgent necessity for coin of some kind, however imperfect."

The tree upon the two-penny pieces is, in all specimens known, plainly an oak. The varieties of the shillings, six-pences and three pences are very great, and need careful study with the aid of some good work upon the subject to be properly understood. These coins were known at the time of their issue, as "Dorseton" or "Bay Shillings," and probably were a medium of exchange among all the colonies. The first mention of them as Pine Tree Shillings is found in a proposition to make the mint free, bearing date of May, 1680.

The money of the colony of Massachusetts forms one of the most interesting and historically important landmarks in the entire American series. While some of the special varieties are exceedingly rare and command a high price, a good one Tree shilling or six-pence can readily be procured for from \$4. to \$5., and a cabinet professing to represent the coins of America should be without a specimen.

Coin Sales.

The auction sales of coins which took place in March were as follows:

March 16th.—English Coins, War Decorations, United States Coins and Medals. 514 lots. Ortgies & Co., New York. Catalogue by Scott & Co.

March 20th.—Foreign and American Coins and medals. Fractional currency etc. The Hunter and Andrews collection. 685 lots. Bangs & Co., New York. Catalogue by Dr. Geo. W. Massamore.

March 24th and 25th.—Foreign Copper Coins, Chinese Coins and Medals, War, Masonic and other medals. 967 lots. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

March 26th.—Confederate Treasury Notes, Regular and Provisional, State and Local issues, U. S. Postal Currency, Mint medals etc. 509 lots. Bangs & Co. N. Y. Catalogue by Lyman H. Low.

The following is a list of auction sales which take place in April:

April 2nd and 3rd.—The numismatic collection of William B. Clark, of Hartford, Conn., with consignment from the Blake and Cochrane cabinets. 1248 lots. Bangs & Co., New York. Catalogue by W. Elliot Woodward.

April 9th and 10th.—The collection of the late Henry S. Barclay, of St. Louis,

Mo. 1205 lots. Thomas & Sons, Phila. Catalogue by Chas. Steigerwalt.

April 10th.—The collection of Roman Imperial Denarii and Paduan Medallions belonging to Richard H. Lawrence, of N. Y. 585 lots. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

April 20th.—A consignment of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Jewish and French Coins from Europe. 497 lots. Bangs & Co., New York. Catalogue by Gaston L. Feuarent.

We learn that the collection of the late Rev. Dr. George C. Athol is now being catalogued for sale at public auction. The collection consists mainly of the coinages of Scotland and Ireland. It is possible that it will be sold before June.

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which may be submitted to us.

L. H., Drenthe, Mich.—(1) Zealandia. Doit. Worth from 15 to 20 cents. (2) Norway, Charles John XIV. Half sikling; date, 1840; worth 10 cents. (3) Austria, Francis I., 1800. 1 kreutzer; mint-mark Vienna, (A). (4) Holland. Ducat, 1806.; intrinsic value \$2.28; fictitious value, \$3.50 to \$4.00. (5) Japan. Emperor Mei-Sei-in. Epoch, Kevan-Yei. 1624-44. The year of Epoch is represented on the reverse by characters which, on rubbing, cannot be distinguished. (6) Zealandia. (15)83. Gulden; worth from 75c. to \$1.00.

Inquiry having been made of us as to how a coin cabinet may be made, we shall print, in the May issue of this paper, a description of one which has been prepared by a gentleman familiar with the subject.

Numismatic Items.

THE weights of coins are calculated in Troy grains.

THE five-cent nickel of 1867, with rays, in proof condition, is extremely rare.

CINCINNATI as city, and Ohio as a state, issued the largest number of war cards, or rebellion tokens.

THE first medallic engravers of the day, cannot compete with the high work of art represented on Greek coins 2,000 years ago.

COLLECTORS who are without books to guide and instruct them in forming their cabinets, lose one half the pleasure the science affords.

THE Centennial medals struck in this country, principally within the past ten years, form a series of historic interest, and with few exceptions, are obtained at moderate prices.

To beginners, we say; never clean coins. Think the matter well over and you will decide that you can neither improve their appearance, nor enhance their value.

It is pleasing to note the issue of part IV., second edition, of Cohen's "Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'empire Romain, communément appeles medailles Imperiales," which has just come to hand.

HALLIDAY of Birmingham, engraved the dies of the following Halifax tokens: Carritt and Alport, Hosterman and Etter, John Alex. Barry, and Starr and Shannon; also, the Magdalen Island penny.

SARAWAK has but three denominations of coins, and all are in copper—the cent, half-cent and quarter-cent. There have been two issues: the first, under J.

Brooke, dated 1863, was made by Buchanan Hamilton & Co., of Glasgow; the second, under C. Brooke in 1870, by Smith & Wright of Birmingham. Both issues are alike in values, and all are rated as scarce.

A veritable rarity in the early patterns of United States coins, has recently come to light, the actual existence of such denomination being unknown. It has had a long resting-place in Scotland, and has found its way here through the enterprise of an American dealer. The following is a description of the piece. Obv. NOVA . CONSTELLATIO . An eye forming the centre of a glory of thirteen points, the points intersecting a circle of thirteen stars. Rev. LIBERTAS . JUSTITIA . In field, within a wreath composed of thirty-four leaves, U. S.—100 Exergue, 1783. Edge, leafed; Silver; Size, 12. The design is for a value termed "Bit."

"SPIELMARKS," counters and pieces inscribed "Jetton," belong to a large class, and may be briefly termed "gamblers' chips." Invariably they are in brass, and range in size from the half-dime to the half-dollar, and from a thin, poorly executed piece, to a fine example of medallic art. A few of the better perfected, are close representations of gold coins, and have milled edges. Our own twenty-dollar gold piece was at one time copied fairly. The obverses generally have portraits of some of the sovereigns of Europe. Napoleon I. and III., Alexander I., William IV. and Victoria are most frequent. Apollo, Pallas and Minerva are also given, and the head of Liberty, and that of Washington are favorites as well. Few, if any, have been struck in America. London, Paris and Berlin artists have contributed the most of them.

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Egyptian Imperial Coins and Medallions, in Silver, Potin, and Copper; struck by the Roman Emperors in Egypt.
Egyptian Coins of the Ptolemies, in Silver and Copper.
Ancient Celtic, or Eastern Coins of the Caliphs.
Ancient Persian Coins of the Arsacids and Sassanid kings.
Byzantine Coins, in Silver and Copper.
Saxon Copper of the Kings of Northumbria.
English, Irish and Scotch Coins, and Pattern Pieces, in silver, copper and lead.
American Colonial Coins and Medals, in silver, copper, and brass, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, etc.
United States Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars, Twenty Cent Pieces, Dimes, Half Dimes, Three Cent Pieces, Nickel Five and Three Cent Pieces, Bronze Two Cents, Cents, and Half Cents, full Proof Sets, minor Proof Sets (denominations of Five, Three, Two, and One Cents), Hard Times Tokens (known as 1837 Tokens and Jack-on Cents), Store Cards, and Rebellion Tokens.
Foreign Coins of every country in the world where coins have been struck.
Siege Pieces and Coins struck in times of necessity, in silver, copper, brass, and lead.
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Volume I.

Number 11.



MAY, 1885.

THE KEYSTONE

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

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A Monthly Publication.

— in the interest of —

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ALTOONA, PA., MAY, 1885.

No. 11.

Don Carlos and His Stamps.

BY "TOPAZ."

The stamps of the Carlist insurrection are of great interest to all collectors who ever think of the history and romance connected with postage stamps. They should be to the Spanish philatelist as the stamps of the late Confederate States are to us, a memorial of a great national struggle. Like Jeff. Davis, Carlos was the head of a rebellion suppressed only after much bloodshed, but he is yet, and will be throughout his life, a constant source of apprehension to the Spanish government. But, in speaking of Don Carlos and his pretensions, we must go back to the original Don Carlos from whom the present pretender inherits his claims.

Ferdinand VII., king of Spain, had a daughter, Isabella, and a brother, Carlos. There was a law that no female could succeed to the throne, but Ferdinand caused this statute to be abolished in order to transmit the government to Isabella. In 1833 Ferdinand died and his daughter Isabella was proclaimed queen, but Carlos and his followers revolted claiming that the king had no right to alter the law of succession. The Carlists were defeated and Don Carlos fled the country. His son and grand-son, each bearing the same name, have unsuccessfully tried to gain possession of the kingdom. The present Don Carlos first asserted his rights in 1869, and

was well received in the northern provinces where the main strength of the Carlist party had always been. In 1873 the insurrection became general, and Carlos held the greater part of the country against the Republican government. In the last days of 1874 the republic was suspended by the new kingdom under Alfonso who waged vigorous war against the pretender and, after about two more years of fighting, the rebellion was put down and the disappointed Don took up his residence in France whence he was, not long ago, expelled by decree of the government.

I hope no collector will think the foregoing tedious or unnecessary. I have mentioned these facts concerning Don Carlos and his unfortunate attempt to secure the Spanish crown, in order that philatelists may feel a new interest in the handsome stamps of this government which, though its period of authority was brief, bade fair for a time to be successful.

In 1873, when the army of the Carlists first became victorious, their first postage stamp was issued. It bore the head of Carlos and was of the value of one real; color, blue. It was coarsely gotten up and poorly engraved. Two varieties of this stamp may be noticed—one with a tilde or accent over the *n* in ESPAÑA, and one without. The former is somewhat the commoner of the two. This one-real stamp was used only in Biscay and Navarre, two of the north-

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ernmost tier of provinces. The year following its emission, it was replaced by another of much better execution and finer appearance. The color of the second one was lilac; value of course same as preceding. This is the only perforated stamp issued by the Carlists, and, like the blue one-real, was used only in the two provinces named. The head of the Don looks toward the right on the lilac stamp, while on its predecessor the face is turned to the left.

One design was in use in Valencia, the region on the eastern coast of Spain, south of Catalonia. This had the head of Carlos as before; inscription above, "España Valencia." The value was one half real and the stamps were printed in three colors, rose, vermilion and claret. Varieties of engraving are known. These are smaller than the other stamps of the Carlists.

Two months before the emission of the first $\frac{1}{2}$ real Valencia, in 1874, one stamp was issued for use in the four provinces of Catalonia. It bore, above, the motto "Dios, Patria, Rey."—God, Country, King. The color was rose and the value was expressed as 16 maravedis, 34 of which are equal to one real.

During the year 1875, stamps of two denominations were put into circulation in the Basque provinces which include Biscay and Navarre where the stamp first mentioned was used. These last two bore the Carlist motto as did the Catalonian. Their values were 50 centesimos (equal to 5 reals), green, and 1 real, brown.

The eight stamps of Don Carlos make altogether a very handsome showing in the album, and are well worthy the attention of all philatelists who have not yet obtained them. Several have been reprinted and so can be bought at a low

figure. The $\frac{1}{2}$ real of 1873 has been reprinted in fancy colors and specimens in black are often seen, but they are utterly worthless as the originals were struck *only in blue*.

There is one more stamp which I have not mentioned because I think it should be placed in the doubtful list. It is a 3 cuartos blue envelope. The claim is made that this was used in the town of Santa Vieja and that it is very rare. There is no doubt as to its rarity, but the stamp is regarded with suspicion by many. If any of my readers ever get a specimen, I hope they will give it a place in their philatelic museums which all advanced collectors keep.

Postage Stamp Portraits.

The portrait of Benjamin Franklin on the 1-cent stamp in imperial ultramarine blue, is after a profile bust of Rubrecht. The head of Jackson on the 2c. stamp, in vermilion, is from a bust of Hiram Powers. The Washington head on the green 3-cent stamp is after Houdon's celebrated bust. The head on the 5-cent blue stamp is that of Zachary Taylor. The Lincoln profile in red on the 6-cent stamp, is after a bust by Volk. The 7-cent stamp, in vermilion, gives the head of Stanton, after a photograph. The head of Jefferson, on the 10-cent stamp, in chocolate, is drawn from a life-sized statue by Hiram Powers. The portrait of Henry Clay, in neutral purple, on the 12-cent stamp, is after a bust by Hart. The head of Webster on the 15-cent stamp, in orange, is after the Clevinger bust. The portrait of Gen. Scott on the 24-cent stamp, in purple, is after a bust by Coffee. The head of Hamilton on the 30-cent stamp, in black, is after the Cerachi bust, and the portrait of Commodore Perry, in carmine, on the 90-cent stamp, is after Wolcott's statue.—*Boston Traveler*.

Facts Concerning Our Science.

BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

When the Union forces took possession of Richmond and the other different cities of the Confederacy, all postage stamps belonging to the pseudo-government were turned over to the northern paper mills, and in this way vast quantities of Confederate stamps were deprived of existence. This wholesale destruction by our own forces, leaves in many a philatelist's album a blank page which may or may not be filled according to the depth of his pocket book.

Some philatelists, in addition to collecting government emissions, seem to have a mania for collecting anything having a resemblance to a postage stamp. I have frequently seen in albums the different bazaar and fair stamps issued in Stamford, Conn., New York, Brooklyn, Albany, etc., and wherever I have seen such I have given advice, either, to not collect them, or to keep them separate from their postage stamp collections. They are not philatelic and are of value only as mementoes of the fairs.

If collectors wish to keep the American Rapid Telegraph Collect stamps, I would strongly advise their being separated from postage stamp collections. As they were not used in the manner of postage stamps, but as tickets to collect amounts due on unpaid telegrams, I fail to see their philatelic value. I am compelled to make this remark from the fact of my having seen in several collections, full sets of these tickets pasted to the margins of the pages devoted to U. S. Locals; in one case they were pasted with dirty mucilage, without hinges,

alongside of some very beautiful specimens of U. S. Locals. Now philatelists, your albums are not telegrams, and you do not wish to "collect" anything on them—unless it is genuine postage stamps—so I adjure you if you have a desire to collect them, do so and follow the advice I give in regard to the different bazaar and fair stamps.

I abstract the following from the late E. L. Pemberton's Hand-book :

"A good deal has been written about a secret mark on the early Peruvians, and, as they were very poorly engraved, some such tests appear to me very necessary; but when we come to splendidly engraved stamps like the 1866, there is little need for secret marks or preventatives against forgery, the execution being an all sufficient test; and, if any secret marks do exist, a singular infelicity has guided those who seek to make into secret marks accents which are a concomitant of correct autography. The accents alluded to (though termed "dots") are over *E* of *CORREOS* and *v* of *PERU*, but that on *CORREOS* is omitted on the 5 centavos. This omission might better be made a secret mark than its uniform usage. An investigation of so-called secret marks may be of advantage to the collector by making him acquainted with the smallest details of stamps; but the absurdity of supposing that a skilled engraver would make secret marks which would be ostentatiously prominent (as on some of the Peruvians) can never have struck those who have catalogued them; and for my own part I think we shall have to look deeply to find any on the 1865 series, and, at the same time, I hardly agree with those mentioned for the earliest sets by other writers."

The following list of surcharges may be found on almost all the stamps of South Australia: A., A. G., A. O., B. D., B. G., B. M., C., C. D., C. L., C. O., C

S., C. sgn., D. B., D. R., E., E. A., E. B., G. P., G. S., G. T., H. A., H. G., I. A., I. S., L., L. A., L. L., L. T., M., M. B., M. R., M. R. G., O. A., O. S., P., P. A., P. O., P. S., P. W., R. B., R. G., S., S. C., S. G., S. M., S. T., T., T. R., V., W.

The above surcharges are all that are known, although others may exist. Stamps of South Australia surcharged in the above manner are official. It is estimated that there are 500 varieties, including different styles and sizes of type, and all the colors known to the "art preservative."

Is it a Science ?

BY QUERICUS.

Some of the *savants* among philatelists are wrestling with the momentous question as to whether philately is, or is not, a science. It does not appear that any particular effect on stamp collecting would follow the definite settlement of this question one way or the other, yet it is perhaps worth while to examine it with the view of reaching a proper solution. There is, of course, nothing to be gained, on the one hand, by attempts to force philately into a position it is not entitled to, nor, on the other hand, by efforts to belittle it by making it appear a mere pastime or recreation incapable of affording any intellectual improvement, and to be indulged in only when time hangs heavily on our hands.

There might not, however, be so much diversity of opinion on this question were it not for the lack (as it seems to me) of a proper definition of philately. Some one says it is "a collection of postage stamps." This is certainly inadequate and illogical, and as inappropriate as it would be to define numismatics as "a collection of coins and med-

als." Whatever meaning others may attach to philately, to me it signifies a knowledge of all that relates to the various emissions of postage stamps by the different nations of the world, and this knowledge which it is capable of affording gives it the same right to be considered a science as that conceded to numismatics because it treats of the coinage of the world.

If this view is correct, philately does not mean simply stamp collecting, nor is a stamp collector necessarily a philatelist. There are many of the former in the land but comparatively few of the latter. I am ready to concede that *stamp collecting* may be called a pastime, or an art, if you prefer it, and that it is no science, but when I speak of stamp collecting I have no reference to philately. I make the same distinction that is recognized as existing between coin collecting and numismatics.

Philately is yet in its infancy, comparatively, but much is to be learned from it—too much indeed for the average collector—and those who are disinclined to find out what there is in it to know are the ones who, as a rule, are content to regard it as a pastime and ridicule the idea of calling it a science.

If philately does not concern itself with anything of more importance than is involved in the study of tobacco tags, then I am unable to see the necessity for the many able philatelic journals which claim to have come into existence for the sole purpose of expounding the mysteries of philately to the unenlightened, and to assist the advanced collector to still higher attainments.

Those who contend that philately is not a science must bring to the support of their views something stronger than mere assertion and ridicule. If it is not

a science, let it be shown wherein it lacks the essentials.

There is a class of stamp dealers of unsavory reputation, who endeavor to impress the young collector with the notion that all the "science" he needs is what is required to enable him to order from them the wretched stuff in which they deal, without asking any questions, and a "philatelist," in their view, is one who buys indiscriminately everything in the stamp line offered for sale.

The Suez Canal Stamps Again.

Our March No. contained an article on the Suez Canal stamps in which the writer stated that "they had not to his knowledge been counterfeited." Comment on this statement by the *Philatelic World* caused the writer of the article to make an investigation, and he has discovered that a number of these stamps in his possession which he had bought for genuine, prove to be counterfeit, as a comparison with the genuine clearly showed; and it is no doubt true, as the

W. says, "that more than half of these stamps in collections and in the hands of dealers are counterfeits."

There is said to be an error in the year given as that in which these stamps were issued—that it should be 1868 instead of 1860. We cannot say which is correct as we have seen nothing conclusive on that point. Work on the canal was begun in 1859 and it was opened to commerce in 1869, and it would seem that if any postal facilities were needed requiring the issue of a special stamp, it would be when the work was commenced and not when it was nearly finished. However this may be, there should be no trouble in fixing beyond dispute the exact date.

It is denied by some that such stamps were ever issued at all for the purpose and in the manner as claimed by those who believe there was a genuine issue. On that point there is little if any room for doubt. The following extract from a letter from Mr. L. W. Durbin we regard as conclusive:

"There are genuine Suez Canal stamps but they are rare. I have had them cancelled, on letters, direct from a reliable correspondent in Cairo. They were used for a very short time."

We should be glad to have the genuineness of some other stamps (the Hamburg locals for instance) as satisfactorily established.

Editors K. S. & C. Gazette

Like many other collectors, I have been swindled by unprincipled stamp dealers who have sold me counterfeit for genuine stamps. These dealers were not irresponsible boys but men who had been long in the business, and who professed to deal only in the genuine article which they guaranteed to be such. After I got to know more about stamps I discovered the fraud that had been practised on me, but what is the guarantee worth? How am I to satisfy the dealer that I bought the spurious stamps of him? But you will say that I should buy only from honest, reliable dealers. The trouble is it takes the young collector so long to find out who is reliable, and by the time he makes this discovery he has accumulated a great many worthless stamps, and much of his work has to be done over again.

I have often looked longingly at certain desirable stamps on approval sheets sent me and which I would gladly have bought had I been assured of their being genuine. There seems to be no remedy for these evils but eternal vigilance on the part of the collector. W.

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

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ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

MAY, 1885.

We have received No. 1 of *The Museum*. Its attractive cover and well-filled pages have already won for it a prominent place among the journals of its class.

This number of the GAZETTE contains twelve pages of good reading matter, almost all of which was written expressly for this paper. This is a sample of what we shall give each month for one year for only twenty-five cents.

The GAZETTE will be issued right along through the summer months, and will be as lively and entertaining as ever, and while we shall not relax our efforts to further the interests of collectors, we hope our friends will not forget to send in their subscriptions.

A great many sample copies of this paper are sent to collectors each month, and we ask them to give it a careful perusal which we trust will be immediately followed by their sending us the price of a year's subscription—only 25 cents.

The GAZETTE has not yet been made the "organ" of any philatelic society, but we propose, in the near future, to organize ourselves into a society of this kind when we shall take care that the claims of this journal shall receive due consideration.

Our numismatic readers will be glad to learn that Mr. Frank W. Doughty has consented to write a series of articles on foreign copper coins, which will appear in the GAZETTE upon the completion of "Early American Coins." The authorship is sufficient guarantee that they will be both interesting and reliable.

We have on our books the names of a few stamp dealers who owe us for advertising which they promised to pay for on receipt of bill. The bills have long since gone in, but there is no response from the delinquents. Some of these have been reported to us as *Deadbeats*, and we are beginning to think they have not been slaudered.

Next month we shall publish the names of these worthies, so that others may not be deceived by them. If dealing in stamps, coins and curiosities does not enable such persons to pay for their advertising, they should go into some other business—one in which they can make an honest living.

We do not care for the sums they owe us but we do dislike to be swindled by such *unprincipled fellows*.

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which may be submitted to us.

E. C. F., Cleveland. Bremen—a free city that had its own coinage; very common, worth about 10 cents.

In addition to the quotations from the sale of the Chapman collection given elsewhere, we have received the following:

Lot 764 $\frac{1}{4}$ 1796 uncirculated, \$49.50; Lot 874 1793 Chain cent, fine condition, \$23.00; Lot 934 1828 cent uncirculated \$13.10; Lot 977 1793 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent uncirculated \$17.00; Lot 1082 1792 Half Disme, uncirculated, \$24.00; Lot 1083, 1792 Birch cent, good condition, \$162.00.

Our Prize Offers.

We offer the following cash prizes for the best three original articles on philately, which may be sent us before August 1st, viz:

For the best article,	\$3.00
“ “ 2d “ “	2.00
“ “ 3d “ “	1.00

The articles must consist of at least 800 words. Competition is limited to subscribers to this paper or to those who become such before August 1st. All articles not accepted will be returned if stamps are enclosed for that purpose. Sign your article with a fictitious name but enclose your real name and address in sealed envelope to accompany manuscript. Write on one side of the paper only.

The articles must be strictly original, and the result of your own investigation and research. The prizes will be sent to the successful competitors between the 1st and 5th of August.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

We note with pleasure the formation of philatelic societies all over the country. This action on the part of collectors indicates increased interest in philately which we hope will be abiding. It is the only course to be pursued which is capable of developing to their full extent the pleasures and benefits of stamp collecting. The *Philatelic Monthly* gives a timely warning of the dangers to the permanency of these societies which lie in their possible diversion from their proper purpose, and adds that “buying and selling stamps should be strictly prohibited at the meetings, else it is only a question of time when very many of the members will drop out, and the society become nothing more than a dealers club.”

It is comparatively easy to organize these societies where there are enough collectors, but the great difficulty lies in so conducting their affairs as to make the meetings interesting and profitable, and in the members so deporting themselves as to insure harmony and co-operation. Many of the members will of course be young, some of them enthusiastic, impetuous, for a while, and then their interest will begin to flag. A judicious course on the part of the older members will correct any undue tendency in either direction.

We will cheerfully publish brief reports of the doings of these societies so far as they of interest to collectors generally, and we shall be obliged to the different secretaries who may favor us with such reports, and we will, if desired, send a copy of the GAZETTE, free, to the societies they represent.

For the K. S. & C. Gazette.

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

PAPER IV.

Pursuing our brief review of early American coins, we have next in chronological order the shilling, sixpence and groat struck in England by Lord Baltimore for use in the colony of Maryland. The description of these coins is as follows: Obv.—CECILIVS : DNS : TERREMARIE ; & CT. —|- A bust of Lord Baltimore to left, slightly draped. Rev.—CRESCITE : ET : MVLTIPlicAMINL. A lozenge shield surmounted by a crown and dividing the numerals x—ii Shilling.

The sixpence and groat do not differ from the shilling in any important particulars, the most noticeable variations being in the legends; the denominational numerals upon the reverse of the sixpence being, of course, vi. Of the groat there are two varieties; that most frequently met with has the head and shield larger than the other, which is extremely rare, the legends upon both being similar to the shilling already described, the numeral on the reverse being iv.

Before leaving the coins of Maryland, we must mention an issue in copper which seems to have been projected by Lord Baltimore, although in the records of the colony no mention of a copper coinage is to be found. This fact together with the one equally conclusive that but a single specimen of this rare coin is known to exist, renders it necessary to consider it in the light of a pattern alone.

Obv.—CECILIVS : DNS : TERRE . MARIE : & C.—|- Bust of Lord Baltimore to left. Rev.—DENARIVM : TERREMARIE —|- A ducal coronet from which fly two pennants. Penny.

Crosby in his *Early Coins of America*, quotes the Rev. Henry Christmas of London as saying of this piece: "The Maryland Penny was successively in the collections of Mr Hodsol and of Mr. Martin: it is now no longer in this country (England), having been purchased at the sale of the last named collection for the large sum of £75 and sent to America." It was in the celebrated collection of the late J. J. Mickley of Philadelphia, and, at the sale of that collection, was purchased at \$370.00 for an unknown buyer.

The want of small change experienced in the colony of Maryland was very severe. Oldmixon, whose work was published in 1708, says: "The Lord Proprietary had a mint here, to coin money, but it never was much made use of * * * Tobacco is their Meat, Drink Cloathing and money: Not but that they have both Spanish and English Money pretty plenty which serves only for Pocket-Expences, and not for Trade, Tobacco being the standard of that, as well with the Planters and others as with the Merchants."

The issue of these coins by Lord Baltimore, gave offence to the English authorities and caused his apprehension by the Council of State. Crosby quotes from the State papers of London which give the following account of the affair in the quaint language of the day:

"Upon Information given by Richard Pight, Clerke of the Irons of the Mint, that Cecill Lord Baltimore and diverse others with him, and for him, have made and transported great sums of mony and doe still goe on to make more. Ordered, That a warrant be issued forth to the said Richard Pight for the apprehending of the Lord Baltimore and such others as are suspected to be

engaged with him in the said offence, and for the seizing of all such moneys, stamps, tools, & Instrum^{ts} for Coyning the same as can be met with, and to bring them in safe custody to the Counsell."

How Ancient Coins were made.

It is important to study the mode in which Greek money was coined, because the forms of the pieces thus receive explanation, and true coins are discriminated from such modern falsifications as have been struck, and in some degree from those which have been cast. Our direct information on the subject is extremely scanty, but we are enabled by careful inference to obtain a very near approximation to the truth on all the most important points.

The only single ancient Greek die of the authenticity of which we are persuaded was seen by Burgon in the East. He described it, from recollection, as a piece of copper or bell metal, in the shape of a truncated cone, flat at the top and bottom, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and from about 3 inches in diameter at the bottom to 2 at the top. In the upper surface was cut the die for the reverse of a tetradrachm of a Seleucid king of Syria, with the type of Apollo seated on the omphalos. There appears to have been no trace of any method of fitting this to the die of the obverse. From the appearance which the coins present, it may be inferred that the Greeks placed a ball of metal, carefully adjusted to the proper weight, and cold, between two dies, and then struck the upper die a powerful blow with a very heavy hammer. There was no collar to give the coin an exactly circular form. The dies must have been of hard metal, though softer than mod-

ern ones. Some Greek coins have been found of the same die, but such as the writer has seen did not present any evidence as to the wear to which their dies had been subjected. The Roman coins appear to have been struck in the same manner, but with a more careful adjustment of the two sides, yet without a collar.—*R. S. Poole.*

We give below a few of the prices that were realized at the auction sale of the Chapman collection which took place in Philadelphia May 14th and 15th.

Lot 1 Ægina Didrachm,	\$11.00.
Lot 3 Sybaris " "	9.25.
Lot 59 Perseus, last king of Macedonia. Tetradrachm,	32.00.
Lot 331 U. S. Dollar, 1795, a beautiful specimen,	14.50.
Lot 336 U. S. Dollar 1796, a beautiful specimen, the variety with small letters on reverse,	12.00.
Lot 342 U. S. Dollar, 1799, 6 stars facing. Uncirculated,	15.00.
Lot 354 U. S. Dollar, 1804, fine,	1,000.00.
Lot 356 U. S. Dollar, 1838, proof,	38.00.
Lot 514 New England Shilling, good,	68.00.
Lot 516 Lord Baltimore Sixpence,	38.00.
Lot 539 Chalmers Threepence,	10.50.
Lot 554 Immune Columbia,	27.00.
Lot 565 Mass. $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, uncir.	7.50.

H. R. D. of New York favors us with the following item:—

THE following varieties of Fractional Currency have lately been discovered; Third issue, red backs, 50 cents, Spinner; signed by John Allison and John C. New; also, of the same issue, 50 cents, Liberty; signed by John Allison and F. E. Spinner. The latter is on heavy paper. These have not previously been catalogued in any sale or collection

Coin Cabinet.

A convenient size for a cabinet drawer for coins, is about 15 inches square; the depth should not exceed $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. A lining for the bottom is necessary, and unbleached Canton flannel of a heavy quality, such as manufacturers use, having a short nap and a trifle of sizing, enough to give it firmness and body, is preferable to anything else. Velvet and velveteen are much used, excepting black, which tarnishes. The pleasantest color in contrast to coins of all metals, is considered to be a deep red.

Drawers of the dimensions given may form a cabinet in tiers of 20 to 25; a greater number should be placed in two tiers, with doors to close the front of the cabinet, adjusted with lock and key. Trays made of cedar have been found to injure coins, especially copper and lead.

 New Books.

"John Law und sein system. Ein Beitrag zur Finanz und Munzgeschichte, by S. Alexi." A contribution to history of finance and coinage, with two heliotype plates and three tables. I. Genealogical table of the Law family. II. Table of the alterations in coinage under Law, according to L'Avasseur. III. Table of the circulation of banknotes according to Du Hautchamp. 67pp. Roy al 8vo., paper. Berlin, 1885.

"Lexikon der Munzen, Masse und Gewichte, Zahlarten und Zeitgrossen aller Lander der Erde," by Richard Dimpert. A dictionary of coins, measures and weights, methods of counting etc. 360 pp. 8vo. Berlin, 1885.

There were coined at the U. S. mints during April 61,000 double eagles, 41,000 eagles, 71,500 half-eagles, 2,410,000 standard dollars, and 220,000 dimes.

Coin Sales.

May 7th.—Foreign and American coins and medals, stamps, fractional currency &c. 538 lots. Bangs & Co., New York. Catalogue by Dr. George W. Massamore.

May 14th & 15th.—The Chapman collection of fine ancient Greek and Roman, English, Foreign and American coins and medals, including an 1804 dollar. 1253 lots. Stan. I. Henkels & Co., Phila. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman.

May 22nd.—Collection of coins and medals, ancient and modern, foreign copper, Oriental silver, Spanish-American coins and medals. Masonic and war medals etc.; includes a Gloriam Regni, 1-12 crown, French-American colonial jetons and a Stanlish Barry III pence. 554 lots. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

May 25th and 26th.—Collection of American coins. Bangs & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by Geo. W. Cogan.

June 4th & 5th.—Mr. H. P. Smith will sell a fine collection of American gold, silver and copper coins, together with a large line of war medals and decorations.

June 10th & 11th.—Mr. Lyman H. Low's catalogue of the famous Balmaino collection, has been distributed. The sale takes place at Bangs & Co's, 739 & 741 Broadway, N. Y., on Wednesday and Thursday, June 10th & 11th.

June 17th & 18th. The collection of the late Rev. Dr. Geo. C. Athole, catalogue of which is now being prepared by Mr. Low, will also be sold by Bangs & Co.

Mr. W. Elliot Woodward has selected the last days of June for the sale of the Randall cabinet of American coins.

Numismatic Items.

THE letters J and I both appear on coins in the form of I, up to the 16th century.

PTOLEMY SOTER, as king of Egypt, B. C. 305—284, was the first monarch who placed his own head upon his coins.

THE weight of a coin is of great importance, both in determining its genuineness and in distinguishing its identity.

PROOF pieces are struck from dies and planchets that have both been polished. They are sold at the mint above their face value.

THE obverse of a coin, medal or token, is, in general, that side which represents its principal feature or object, as ruler, issuer or subject. The reverse is the other side. There are instances where distinguishing features are wanting; in such cases, other guides, having special reference to the piece, must be considered.

PROOFS in copper are as brilliant on the edge as on the obverse and reverse. Early impressions from the dies, though struck for circulation, have a proof-like appearance which cataloguers note as "proof surface," but the edge does not receive the polish, hence, the grading is simply "uncirculated" This distinction has much to do with the value of the coin.

THE field of many of the ancient bronze coins, has been worked over with a graver, and sometimes the devices and emblems are tooled. Such effort to restore these monuments of history, has been made by removing thick patinas and corroded surfaces. The Italians in the last century, are credited with much of this work. To those who rec-

ognize this retouching, the value of such pieces is not increased.

THE English Colonial half, quarter, eighth and sixteenth dollars, which have the values represented by the numerals II, IV, VIII and XVI, all bear dates of 1820 and 1822, excepting the half dollar which is believed to have been issued only in 1822. The denominations dated 1820 are all rare. A one-fiftieth and one-hundredth, in copper, of the same series also exist, but with date 1823. These are also rare, and it is doubtful whether they were more than patterns. The obverse of the copper has the bust of George IV. in profile. The device of the silver is an anchor crowned. It is said the coinage was designed for Mauritius, but it is quite probable that they were very generally distributed in all the colonies. W. Wyon is credited with the one-hundredth, and perhaps should be with the one-fiftieth.

COUNTERSTAMPS appear on coins from the earliest date. The greater part of them are unsolved problems, and are likely to forever remain mysteries. The following are explanations for those interpreted; a ruler recognizing the coinage of his predecessors; foreign coins made current by the impress of arms or emblems of countries and cities which, for convenience, desire to accept them; to prevent counterfeiting, and to discriminate against frauds; to increase or reduce values; to keep the metals, which may have become precious, within the borders of the place of issue; individuals who have placed their arms, initials, or full names upon pieces to make them current, and by this means pledging to redeem. Some represent modes of advertising. Silversmiths and engravers frequently use coins to make trial impressions of their work.

Notices of Exchange.

The Exchange List is open to subscribers only, for the sole purpose of facilitating the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and cannot be used as an advertising medium. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

Correspondence solicited with Revenue stamp collectors. U. S. Revenue, document, match, medicine, proprietary, and playing-card stamps to exchange for others not in my collection. Foreign postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and postals to exchange; also U. S. department stamps. B. G. A., P. O. Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A genuine Roman *large* bronze coin, accurately described, of Antoninus Pius, 138-161 A. D., or of Faustina, his wife, or of Marcus Aurelius, for the following postage stamps: U. S. 1869 issue, 24 or 30c.; two 15c. of 1863; three of 12, 10 or 6c. of 1869. H. R. Drowne. 147 W. 36th St., New York City.

I have some foreign stamps to exchange for U. S. document and match stamps not in my collection. Charles Brehm, Erie, Pa.

A font of Old English fancy text, which originally cost \$5, for best offer in Stamps. Write first. No answer—a polite refusal. George W. Herbert, 346 W. Main St., Louisville, Ky.

A model steam engine, 8 inches high, with safety valve, whistle &c., for the 12, 15, 24, 30 & 90c. State dep't stamps, used, or any other rare stamps. E. H. Lambert, Box 2308, New York City.

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Volume I.

Number 12.



JUNE, 1885.

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Additional Exchange Notices on page 100

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

Vol. 1.

ALTOONA, PA., JUNE, 1885.

No. 12

Counterfeits and Counterfeiters.

With an account of several counterfeits that have been manufactured, and how they were detected---of post-masters as counterfeiters---how "jokes" have a connection with counterfeiting.

BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

The subject of doing something to prevent counterfeiting postage stamps and passing them on philatelists as genuine, is again going the rounds and will do so again at some future period. The subject, after being brought up, has always lived but a short time and then died out to be again resurrected. Such will be the case with the present revival, and the only way to prevent yourself from being swindled is to steer as far as possible from counterfeiters and their forgeries, and in order to do this I advise you to invest part of your money (money which you would spend in buying counterfeits, but which you would not have bought had you known they were such), in buying some good hand-book wherein you can see what stamps have been counterfeited in years gone by, and, to be informed of counterfeits being manufactured at the present day. Subscribe for some good philatelic paper which will also keep you posted in regard to such spurious stamps as appear from time to time, and as to those who deal in them as well.

Counterfeiters and their handiwork are in every trade, profession and hob-

by, and naturally, the honest devotees of each do their utmost to expose and suppress them. Laws have been passed which, I must admit, have limited the supply of counterfeits, but have not entirely rooted out the evil which affects philately as it does all other pursuits. Nearly all stamp collectors have been made victims of the forger's skill and they have my hearty sympathy, for I have myself been "taken in" more than once, but less and less as my experience grows.

Counterfeit stamps are generally made in the cheapest mode possible, which is by lithographing, and collectors should inform themselves of the difference between engraving and lithographing, and if advanced, should go further and learn the different ways of engraving, *epargue*, *taille douce* etc.

Sometimes, as in the case of one stamp I know of, the printing is done as in the original. The stamp I have reference to was the 10s. 1876 of Persia. The counterfeiter, instead of using the cheapest mode possible, engraved it like the genuine in *epargue*, and executed it finely. Now, how was it found out to be a forgery? It was found to be printed on thin laid paper instead of white wove; it was found to be perforated 14½ instead of 13; it also lacked the dot after the figure 1 in the right hand upper angle. In the above case the collector's knowledge of engraving would have been of no use, and he would

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23—Additional Exchange Notices on page 106.

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Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

VOL. I.

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No. 12

Counterfeits and Counterfeiters.

With an account of several counterfeits that have been manufactured, and how they were detected---of post-masters as counterfeiters---how "jokes" have a connection with counterfeiting.

BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

The subject of doing something to prevent counterfeiting postage stamps and passing them on philatelists as genuine, is again going the rounds and will do so again at some future period. The subject, after being brought up, has always lived but a short time and then died out to be again resurrected. Such will be the case with the present revival, and the only way to prevent yourself from being swindled is to steer as far as possible from counterfeiters and their forgeries, and in order to do this I advise you to invest part of your money in a book wherein you can see what stamps have been counterfeited in years gone by, and, to be informed of counterfeits being manufactured at the present day, subscribe for some good philatelic paper which will also keep you posted in regard to such spurious stamps as appear from time to time, and as to those who deal in them as well.

Counterfeiters and their handiwork are in every trade, profession and hob-

by, and naturally, the honest devotees of each do their utmost to expose and suppress them. Laws have been passed which, I must admit, have limited the supply of counterfeits, but have not entirely rooted out the evil which affects philately as it does all other pursuits. Nearly all stamp collectors have been made victims of the forger's skill and they have my hearty sympathy, for I have myself been "taken in" more than once, but less and less as my experience grows.

Counterfeit stamps are generally made in the cheapest mode possible, which is by lithographing, and collectors should inform themselves of the difference between engraving and lithographing, and if advanced, should go further and learn the different ways of engraving, *epargne*, *taille-douce* etc.

Sometimes, as in the case of one stamp I know of, the printing is done as in the original. The stamp I have reference to was the 10s. 1876 of Persia. The counterfeiter, instead of using the cheapest mode possible, engraved it like the genuine in *epargne*, and executed it finely. Now, how was it found out to be a forgery? It was found to be printed on thin laid paper instead of white wove; it was found to be perforated 14½ instead of 13; it also lacked the dot after the figure 1 in the right hand upper angle. In the above case the collector's knowledge of engraving would have been of no use, and he would

in all probability have put the stamp in his collection had he not also been acquainted with perforation, make of paper etc.

The slightest details of stamps should be studied and known, for sometimes when everything else fails, a dot which appears in the genuine is left out in the counterfeit, or *vice versa*, and the latter will not have the same number of pearls as the genuine. A very good counterfeit appeared some time ago of the 1871 carmine newspaper of Hungary. Like the genuine, it was lithographed, unperforated and printed on white wove paper, but it was found to have only 76 pearls in the circle while the genuine had 77. In the genuine, the strings hanging from the crown do not touch the posthorn, while in the counterfeit two of the strings touch the large end of the posthorn, and the short ends of the tassels hanging from the horn which, in the genuine, are cut off square, in the counterfeit are cut off obliquely.

Of late years, stamps have been counterfeited almost to perfection, and as to what the future will bring forth remains to be seen. As a late instance of a good forgery I may mention the 8½ cents Nova Scotia which appeared in the latter part of 1882. The only difference was in the color, the genuine being printed in a light green and the bogus in a bronze green. Everything else about the stamp had the air of respectability.

The classes of people addicted to counterfeiting stamps and passing them on philatelists are various, including postmasters, especially those in office in the early days of philately. The postal officials of Jassy, Roumania, made at different times stamps of the Moldavian issues, because, having had frequent application for these stamps they became aware

of the opportunity to make a little money for themselves. The types they manufactured, though sold as genuine, were altogether different from the originals in every detail. They made quite a number of the stamps, and probably a deal of money thereby.

But the Jassy officials are not the only postmasters guilty of lapses of this kind. There have been and are others who have done similar things. Stamps of Persia have been tampered with by Persian officials, and if I had the space I could mention more. The ranks of the counterfeiters outside of the postmasters are well filled, and of these I will say nothing as they are brought before the philatelic public month after month and shown up in their proper light, and whoever profits not by the advice has himself to blame and no one else.

Philatelic "jokes" are, as a rule, harmless, although sometimes they leave something by which the uninitiated may be gulled. A case in point is the bogus 1872 10 cents Prince Edwards Island. It is in doubt as to whether this stamp was made in France or the United States, however, the genuine set with the bogus 10c. were all chronicled by Mons. Moens, who a few years before had himself played a joke upon another publisher. This stamp seems to have fooled a good many, even the publishers of the *Common Sense Postage Stamp Album* were not exempt, for they supplied a space for it in that album which was just going to press at that time, but in a later edition it was left out. The stamp in question is still sold by unscrupulous dealers to verdant collectors.

Philately Forty Years Ago.

Believing it might interest young collectors to know how stamp collecting, in some instances, was conducted in the early days of philately, we copy the following article from *The Picture Magazine*, a German publication printed in 1845.

"In England, which is noted for a low and equal letter postage, the post officials sell small square pieces of paper in which is a picture of the head of the Queen. These are pasted on the letters to make them free, for in this simple manner the postage is paid. To prevent using such a stamp the second time, the post official puts a cross of a black color on the letter delivered in his care. The small heads of the Queen look very neatly, and the English people show their curiosity by collecting these stamps.

Scarcely had the new institution come into existence when two post officials made a bet as to which of them could, in a given time, collect sufficient used stamps to cover the walls of a common room. Directly this found imitators. Men, ladies and school children wagered upon it. The sisters gathered for their brothers, friends for friends, and acquaintances were renewed to obtain postage stamps. Of course, those who received many letters, such as directors of banks, prominent merchants, &c., were much importuned.

It is not a rare thing to read in the newspapers such notices as the following: "A gentleman agrees to pay the sum of two thousand pounds sterling towards the building of a church if a certain lady will bring as many used stamps as would amount to that sum. We can give the address of the lady to any per-

son who may feel inclined to collect stamps for a charitable purpose."

A father promised his son ten thousand pounds sterling as soon as he would bring him used postage stamps to the amount of half that sum; a considerable task, such a stamp being worth only a penny, requiring 1,200,000 pieces to make up the sum.

A still more interesting case which, for aught we know is still pending, is the following: A young couple without means wishing to marry, a very rich uncle promised the loving virgin to give her an ample outfit if she would bring him a certain number of used stamps. The number being very great, one may imagine with what zeal the loving pair would search for stamps, being anxious of course, to secure a gift which would contribute so much to their future happiness.

There are merchants in England with whom the mania of searching for "queen's heads" has become contagious. They paste them on the walls of their offices, and there are large offices to be seen in London which are completely papered with these stamps on every side."

Very Queer, Indeed.

Not very long ago we were shown a sheet of six Allen's City Despatch stamps, still attached to each other, and having the gum on the back undisturbed, showing they had never been used. The queer part of it, though, was the fact that they were all cancelled, ready for sale as "genuine, used originals." Upon making inquiry, we found they came from St. Louis; which let a flood of light in on our mind.

— *Collector's Companion*.

Brought to Justice.

The *Stamp Collectors' Journal* reports a case which was brought before the Assizes at Carnarvon in Wales, in April last which is of interest to stamp dealers and collectors. One Charles R. Chaplin, under the assumed name of C. W. Oxton, B. A., St. Cuthberts school, Llandudno, of which he pretended to be a teacher, applied to J. H. Lacy & Co., stamp dealers, for stamps on approval. They were to be really good stamps, for prizes, instead of books, for the boys. Mr. Lacy deposed to having sent three sheets in a registered letter, which never got answered, nor was it returned through the Dead Letter Office. The prisoner had obtained the letter from the post-office by forging or signing the assumed name to a receipt for it, the signature being, as was shown, in the same hand writing as that attached to the application to Lacy & Co.

His Lordship, the judge, said the case was very clear against the prisoner, and the offence was a serious one. "Money" (his Lordship said) "had been obtained by false pretences, money, because foreign stamps are as much money in one sense, as a bank-note or a shilling is, for it is well known that people will buy and pay considerably for these foreign stamps, there being a desire—I surely do not know why—to collect them." His Lordship further stated that the case in question was every bit as bad as that of a highwayman, and that he could not, in his conscience, do his duty, unless he passed sentence on the prisoner for 18 months imprisonment.

We think it would have a wholesome effect if the courts in this country were to construe in a similar manner the of-

fence which hundreds of collectors are guilty of when they purposely fail to make return for sheets of stamps which they obtain to make selections from. The boy or young man who has a higher sense of honor than that which allows him to get stamps in this way should be taught a lesson in morals by the courts, and if he can not be reformed, he should at least be restrained.

Philatelic Swindlers to be Investigated.

A Washington dispatch printed in the *Philadelphia Press* says:

"Rather an odd question has been raised in the Post-office Department growing out of the rapid increase among the young folks of this country of philately, or the desire to collect postage stamps in albums. A prominent New York journalist has written to the department that he has discovered 12,000 stamp collectors among the children in the New York public schools, and that these children are imposed on by firms who manufacture facsimiles of postage stamps and sell them as genuine cancelled stamps, thus swindling the little ones. He has requested that these firms be proceeded against by the Post-office Department for counterfeiting foreign stamps. Inspectors have been directed to report upon the matter, and a thorough investigation will be made by the department."

While it is to be hoped that the Post-office authorities will wage a vigorous war against any they may find engaged in this nefarious business, no one need expect the country to be entirely rid of these scoundrels, and the collector who wants to get genuine stamps will have to educate himself up to the point of knowing when he has them.

Answers to Correspondents.

shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which are submitted to us.

P. S. J., Bolivar.—(1) Canada half penny token, 1815; sold by dealers for 2c. (2) Bermuda penny; fair specimens can be bought for 40c., the pieces obtainable in bronze proof for \$1.50. (3) Venezuela $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1818; dealer's price 2c. (4) Dutch East India Co., a doit, 1780, with arms of Hollandia, one of the provinces. The issues for the company are arms of other provinces as well. Dealers price 15c.

W. A. T., Sacramento.—(1) Brazil; Bahia, Prince Regent; 960 reis, minted at Bahia. Dealers price \$1.40. (2) Morocco, Sidi Mohammed 1859-73, date 1869-70. Dealer's price 25c.

E. W. N., Rondout.—The mint records, it is said, show the coinage of U. S. cents as follows: 1799, 904,585; 1804, 756,838; 1809, 222,867. If these figures are correct, there are no satisfactory reasons known for their scarcity. It is probable that the actual coinage of each year from January to December in the early years is unknown, since the figures in no way serve as a guide to the different degrees of rarity. For the year 1793, the number of cents coined is not given. Cents of 1885 have not been coined since March, though enough have already been issued to prevent their becoming rare. To give a complete list of all the varieties of U. S. cents coined is far beyond the limits of this paper, to say nothing of the labor and care required to prepare such a list.

R. W. F., Hartland, W. T.—(1) Revenue stamp. (2) German telegraph. (3) Dalian revenue. (4) Greek revenue.

(5) This we should say was a Turkish newspaper stamp if it had not "3 piastres" printed across it. It is probably a revenue.

W. R., Midland City.—The description given of the Suez Canal stamp, as far as it goes, agrees with that of the genuine. Though we cannot speak positively without seeing it, the chances are that it is a counterfeit. The Confederate States stamps are not perforated.

The correspondent who sent us the article on the stamps of Malta is respectfully informed that we cannot use his manuscript since it contains nothing of interest to collectors which cannot be learned from any standard catalogue. The history and description of the island, which forms the greater portion of the article, is not necessary to an understanding of its stamps, and therefore out of place in a journal of this kind. We cannot return articles not accepted unless postage is furnished. These remarks will apply to others who have sent us original articles and clippings which we are asked to return if not wanted, yet for which purpose the required stamps are not enclosed.

There is not an intelligent, wide awake stamp collector who could not, if he chose, write something concerning philately which would be more or less interesting and instructive to other collectors, and the preparation of which would increase his own knowledge, yet there are comparatively few who care to trouble themselves to write out their discoveries and impressions even when an equivalent is offered, which any live stamp journal would be willing to give if allowed the chance.

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ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 833 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

JUNE, 1885.

Wanted!—A few copies of Nos. 3 and 6 of the KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE, for which we will give in exchange any of the recent issues of this paper.

This is warm weather for Philatelic Societies.

Our Subscription list shows a steady and healthful increase.

The latest *New England Philatelist* on our file is the April number.

Mr. I. B. Cohen, stamp dealer of Charleston, S. C., writes us that he will be absent from his place of business from

July to September 1st. Heintendsvisiting the northern cities.

Arrangements have been made with the publishers of the *Collectors' Caprice*, by which its subscription list has been transferred to us, and we shall fill out its unexpired subscriptions with this paper, beginning with the present number.

Our exchange department, though limited to subscribers, is getting so large that we must ask our friends to confine their offers strictly to stamps, coins and medals, and papers and books relating to these subjects, and we hope they will "boil" them down as much as possible, so that we may be able to accommodate a larger number without crowding out other matter.

In offering prizes last month for original articles on Philately, we omitted, through an oversight, to reserve the right to reject any or all articles. We are obliged to do this from the fact that it is uncertain if competent writers will compete, and the best of the productions received might not be such as we would care to publish, much less to pay for. We hope, however, to receive such as will oblige us to pay the sums offered.

Following are the names of some frauds who owe us for advertising, and who have offered no explanation of their delinquency, although ample time has been allowed:

S. B. SMITH, West Gardner, Mass.
P. F. SHIELDS, Nashville, Tenn.

We should not publish these names were we not satisfied that they do not mean to pay. There are a few more we will publish in the near future unless they "settle up."

The sale of the Balmanno collection of coins which took place on the 10th and 11th inst., was a complete success, the amount realized being \$3528.00. Interesting details will be given in our July No.

After all the talk by philatelists about having a law passed to prevent the counterfeiting of foreign postage stamps, we find that we have now all the law on the subject that is necessary, and more than anybody cares to go to the trouble of having enforced. *The Museum* quotes section 5465 of the Revised Statutes which reads: "Any person who shall Forge or Counterfeit, or knowingly utter or use any forged or counterfeited postage stamp of any foreign government, shall be punished by imprisonment, at hard labor, not less than two nor more than ten years.

This issue completes Volume I. of the GAZETTE. It is quite probable that no one except ourselves expected to find this paper alive and well on the anniversary of its first appearance. So many ventures of the kind had, after a few months, resulted in failure, that the lack of confidence in our ability to keep our heads above the water is not to be wondered at. Instead, however, of becoming weary of our self imposed task, the experiences of the past year have sharpened our appetite for the work, and our success so far has placed our paper on a footing which enables us to regard the future without any misgivings.

It gives us pleasure, too, to know that we have given our first subscribers more than they expected, and we shall try to disappoint them again. We hope to see them renew their subscriptions as they expire.

Our Prize Offer.

We offer the following cash prizes for the best three original articles on philately, which may be sent us before August 1st, viz:

For the best article,	\$3.00
" " 2d " "	2.00
" " 3d " "	1.00

The articles must consist of at least 800 words. Competition is limited to subscribers to this paper or to those who become such before August 1st. All articles not accepted will be returned if stamps are enclosed for that purpose. Sign your article with a fictitious name but enclose your real name and address in sealed envelope to accompany manuscript. Write on one side of the paper only. We reserve the right to reject any or all articles. If but one is accepted, it will receive the first prize.

It seems to us that stamp collectors are not doing their duty towards the philatelic press. Here's the *Philatelic Journal of America* which entered the field in obedience to an imperative call for a journal which would furnish more wholesome and more invigorating philatelic diet, so to speak, than the insipid stuff the other stamp papers were doling out; a journal which was hailed with joy, by many collectors and dealers, as the first of its kind ever issued which was worthy of the name; and yet here it is, we say, with less than one thousand subscribers, as the publisher assures us, (and we have no reason to believe the number is understated), and, to obtain additional ones, is obliged to offer as a premium a used Allen's City Despatch stamp. Brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Notices of Exchange.

Continued from 2nd page of cover.

I desire to exchange with philatelists who have duplicate foreign stamps for exchange. Will send approval sheets on basis of any catalogue to those who wish to adopt this method of enlarging their collections. Lieut. J. M. T. Partello, U. S. Army, Fort Keogh, Montana.

18 dates of U. S. large cents for the best offer of foreign coins. 5c. New Foundland and 2 Canada $\frac{1}{2}$ pennies for a coin of Zealand: two varieties War tokens for a $\frac{1}{2}$ P. Canada commerce, 1852, or $\frac{1}{2}$ P. N. S., 1856, flowers. 12 different foreign stamps for a foreign coin. P. S. Johnson, Box 183, Bolivar, N. Y.

U. S. Internal Revenue Rebate Labels act of March 3rd 1883, valued at 10c. each, will exchange for coins, stamps, price-lists, catalogues, or curiosities of equal value as per any standard price list. T. C. Keyes Newbury, Vt.

15 varieties foreign stamps for a large U. S. cent. Edw. E. Kendig, Altoona, Pa.

15 different foreign stamps for every department stamp. A 300 r. Brazil, '71 and a 90c. U. S. '71, for a 24c. U. S., any issue. An unpaid Baden 12, for a U. S. '61, 5c. 75 different foreign stamps, a 50 ore Norway, '76, a small Peck and Snyder steam engine and a telephone for stamps not in my collection. F. A. Barnes, Woods Ave., Providence, R. I.

Twenty-eight foreign stamps, (good) and "20000 Leagues Under the Sea," by Jules Verne, for any of the following: 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 or 90c. 1869, U. S. 7, 24, or 90c. Treasury Department, 10, 24 or 90c. Interior Department, 6c. env. P. O. dept, 7 or 90c. War dept.

also a cloth bound book for every 25 departments sent. Hanson A. Malin, Lock Box 75, Girard, Kansas.

A Flobert rifle, a stem winding watch, 75 Nos. "Golden Days," 2 vols. "Harper's Young People," 35 foreign coins, some good books, and other articles, singly or together, for stamp papers, U. S. or foreign stamps or cards. Duplicates taken in any quantity. Collector, 780 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Spurious Alsace and Lorraine Stamps.

The Briefmarken Journal, in a recent issue, cautioned the public in regard to certain Alsace-Lorraine postage stamps which were offered for sale by R. Wiering of Hamburg.

This brought out a letter from Mr. Wiering in which he says that upon his paying a very large sum to the Emperor William fund for the benefit of employes of the German Post-office and Telegraph departments, and by paying the cost of manufacture, he had obtained a number of Alsace-Lorraine stamps which were printed in the German Imperial printing office by order of the proper authority, and that postage stamps made under these conditions are unquestionably genuine.

The "*B. J.*" in reply to this statement says: "We have only to add that notwithstanding this declaration, we adhere to our view heretofore expressed, and shall do so until it can be proved that the newly printed stamps are made from the original plates. It is of no importance to collectors to know by whose order the stamps were made, and the only question of interest to them is whether they were made from new or partly new plates, or from the original ones. We have received no reply to our inquiry on the subject, addressed to the Imperial printing office, and have therefore written to the Genl. P. O. Dept. and hope to give a final official report in our next issue."

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.


BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.


PAPER V.

Having completed our short sketch of the principal early American coins issued in the nobler metals, let us pass over several pattern issues in silver and gold as well as certain coins of doubtful authenticity, generally admitted to be the work of unprincipled persons, and proceed at once to the consideration of the copper coins of the various colonies.

As might naturally be expected, these greatly exceeded in number those in silver and gold. As a detailed description of any of them involves an occupation of space in excess of the limits of our little series of articles, we propose to simply furnish a sketch of the principal types of colonial copper coins for the guidance of beginners in the field of numismatics.

Perhaps the earliest of these issues were the rare elephant pieces for the colonies of Massachusetts and Carolina bearing an elephant upon the obverse, with the legends GOD: | PRESERVE: | NEW: | ENGLAND | 1694. and GOD: | PRESERVE: | CAROLINA: AND | THE LORDS: | PROPRIETORS: | 1694. respectively. They are very rare. The Higley cents or Granby coppers follow, being the first copper coins ever actually struck within the limits of the present United States. They were the private issue of Mr. John Higley of Granby, Conn. made from copper mined by himself.

There are two types and several varieties of these pieces. The types are thus described: Obv.  VALVE. ME. AS. YOU. PLEASE * A deer facing left. In ex., III. REV. I. AM. GOOD. COPPER.

Three crowned hammers in the field. In ex., 1737. Obv. Similar to last. Rev.  I. CUT. MY. WAY. THROUGH. *. A broad-axe in the field. These tokens are of great rarity, and command from \$50 to \$100 in auction sales.

The Rosa Americana series follows next in order. They consist of a penny, halfpenny and farthing, of several types and many varieties, all, however, having a general resemblance. The usual type is thus described: Obv. GEORGIVS. D. G. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Laureated bust of George I. to right. Rev. ROSA AMERICANA. 1722. UTILE. DULCI. A rose, crowned or uncrowned, in the field.

These pieces were made by William Wood of London, under royal patent. They bear dates 1722 and 1723, one variety having been coined in 1733 during the reign of George II. They are of differing degrees of rarity, good specimens being obtainable at reasonable rates. Mr. Wood was also the author of a very extensive issue of copper half-pennies and farthings for Ireland, which being refused by that nation, ultimately found their way into America. The obverse is similar to the Rosa Americana pieces, the reverse bears a figure of Hibernia holding a harp, with date 1722, 1723 and 1724, and the legend HIBERNIA above the figure. They are exceedingly common with the exception of one or two varieties. About this time various isolated copper tokens also appeared, but as they are all of extreme rarity, a few specimens of each being known, they are of interest only to those who aim at a complete collection of colonial coins.

One other series of colonial copper coins exists which has hitherto been generally considered to have been struck

by the French government for circulation in Louisiana, although it is now known to have been a general issue for all the French colonies of which Canada was by far the most important. The following is the description of these coins: Obv. COLONIES | FRANCOISES | 1722 | R. Rev. SIT . NOMEN . DOMINI . BENEDICTUM . Two crossed Ls crowned in the field. Obv. COLONIES | FRANCOIS . L—XV divided by two crossed sceptres. Rev. SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM *1767. Three fleur-de-lis within a wreath below a crown. These coins are comparatively common. A third variety bears date 1721. In our next and last paper of this series, we will consider the copper issues of the colonies after their separation from the mother country.

Numismatic Art.

The art of sculpture, of which coin-engraving is the offspring, receives the greatest illustration from numismatics. Not only is the memory of lost statues preserved to us in the designs of ancient coins, but those of Greece afford admirable examples of that skill by which her sculptors attained their great renown. The excellence of the designs of the very many Greek coins struck during the period of the best art is indeed so great that, were it not for their smallness, they would form the finest series of art-studies in the world. The Roman coins, though at no time to be compared to the purest Greek, yet represent worthily the Græco-Roman art of the empire. From the accession of Augustus to the death of Commodus they are often fully equal to the best Græco-Roman statues. This may be said, for instance, of the dupondii struck in honor

of Livia by Tiberius, and by the younger Drusus, of the sestertii of Agrippina, and of the gold coins of Antoninus Pius and the two Faustinas, all of which present portraits of remarkable beauty and excellence. The mediæval Italian medals are scarcely less useful as records of the progress and characteristics of art, and, placed by the side of the Greek and Roman coins, complete the most remarkable comparative series of monuments illustrating the history of the great schools of art that can be brought together. Ancient coins throw a great light upon the architecture as upon the sculpture of the nations by which they were struck. Under the empire, the Roman coins issued at the city very frequently bear representations of important edifices. The Greek imperial coins struck in the provinces present similar types, representing the most famous temples and other structures of their cities, of the form of some of which we should otherwise have been wholly ignorant. The little-known art of painting among the ancients does not receive so much illustration from the coins. The best Greek pieces are of too severe a style to admit of an approach to pictorial treatment, although we perceive such a tendency in the works of important schools, and during the period of decline. The Roman coins sometimes present groups which have a very pictorial character, traceable to the tendency of the sculpture of the period; this is principally about the time of the Antonines. They are, however, never so pictorial in treatment as the mediæval Italian medals. The art of gem-engraving among the ancients is perhaps the most nearly connected with their coinage. The subjects of coins and gems are so similar that the question of authenticity of gems receives aid from the study of coins. — *R. S. Poole.*

New Books.

GRANA, ADOLPH. *Medallas de Proclamaciones y juras de los reyes de España.* 284 pp. 107 plates, folio, paper. Madrid, 1884.

This work excels all other attempts, elaborately and successfully treating the most interesting series of medals, many of which commemorate events in the history of Mexico, and Central and South American countries. The artistic artists are prominent in their work. These medals are eagerly sought for by Americans, and as a rule, they command high prices, and not without reason, for they are nearly all rare.

MORBURN, Maj. W. STEWART. *A guide to the coins of Great Britain and Ireland, in gold, silver and copper, from the earliest period to the present time, with their value.* 159 pp. 18 plates and numerous cuts, 8vo. Cloth. London, 1884.

This volume of ready reference was issued in parts and was put on the market in its completeness at the close of last year. So large a sale has it met with that it is likely a second edition will soon be necessary to meet the demand.

STEVENSON, S. W. (F. S. A.) *Dictionary of Roman Coins, Republican and Imperial, illustrated with upwards of 700 wood cuts by Fairbairn.* 1000 pp. Royal 8vo., cloth. London, 1885.

This work will no doubt prove of great service to the numismatic world embodying, as it does, the fruits of the labors of the most eminent writers from Ursinus, Iristan, Vaillant, Patin, Seguin, Banduri, Froelich, Khehl etc., down to Eckhel, Mionnet, Akerman and others, the whole arranged in alphabetical order, which will render it extremely convenient for the purpose of reference.

A Prize Offer to Numismatists.

A proof set containing the silver and base coins of the United States for 1885, will be given for the best article, historic and descriptive, on the coins and medals of the Philippine Islands. The arrangement must be chronological; medals to be classed separately in each reign, and to follow coins. The pieces (or descriptions) to be consecutively numbered. We reserve the right to reject any or all.

Manuscripts will be returned if postage is supplied. Competition will be closed September 1st.

Coin Sales announced since our last issue.

June 4th and 5th.—A Collection of coins and medals, paper money, numismatic books, Indian stone implements etc. Also a selection of Japanese and Chinese coins. 1203 lots. Thomas & Sons, Phila. Catalogue by Chas. Steigerwalt.

June 8th, 9th and 10th.—The Bidwell collection of ancient foreign and American coins and medals, and the Cottier collection of U. S. cents and half cents. 1631 lots. Stan. V. Henkels & Co. Phila. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman.

It is to be regretted that these two sales conflict, in point of date, with two important New York sales.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, N. Y., has favored us with a copy of his catalogue of the Athole collection of coins and medals to be sold June 18th by Messrs. Bangs & Co., N. Y.

Copies of the catalogue, neatly priced in red ink, can be obtained from Mr. Low after the sale, for 25 cents.

Numismatic Items.

THE *type* of a coin or medal is the principal device upon the obverse or reverse.

THE *exergue* is the lowest portion of the area or field, and beneath the device. On most coins of modern issue, the date is in the exergue.

ALL dies of coins at the U. S. mints are now destroyed at the end of each year, in the presence of all the mint officials.

IF a United States cent of 1804 were pierced through the 0 in the date, it would also perforate the o in "of" on the reverse; this will prove an infallible guide for the detection of frauds.

IT is well to draw some line in collecting, since the field is so large and seemingly inexhaustible. The fewer series you crowd into your mind and cabinet, the more intelligently will your pursuit of knowledge and pleasure be conducted.

THE ancients do not seem to have made numismatic collections, although they appear to have occasionally preserved individual specimens for their beauty. Petrarch, an Italian poet who lived in the 14th century, has the credit of having been the first collector.

THE earliest coin known was stamped by the Lydians in Asia Minor about 700 B. C. It is in electrum, and oblong in shape. The obverse has a series of grooved parallel lines; reverse, an oblong punch-mark (or sinking), between two square punch-marks. It is called a stater; later it was the name given to a gold piece, which, in the different parts of the Greek world, varied in weight from 112 to 194 grains.

THE great demand for gold half and quarter dollars by jewellers and others to utilize as ornaments, induced manufacturers, both in the east and west, to produce pieces bearing a resemblance. The percentage of gold scarcely equalled one-third of the amount contained in the legal issue. It became necessary for the government to exercise its authority by prohibiting the manufacture and sale of them. Since the suppression, of this species of frauds, those who still choose to treat them as articles of merchandise, readily obtain 100 cents on the dollar for them.

PROOF seems to be wanting to establish the fact that American dollars of 1804 were struck in that year. There is much to say on the subject, but it all relates to re-strikes. The dies were known to have been twice out of the mint, and they were finally destroyed, with all the other dies of coins, in 1868 by the mint officials. The last specimen which was on the market and sold for \$1000, had a positive proof surface in the field, on both obverse and reverse; something unknown in the series of American silver prior to 1827.

AN English correspondent in a recent communication informs us that he is now a member of the London Numismatic Society, and also of the societies in Berlin, Frankfort, Vienna and Stockholm. He craves for more, and desires to connect himself with the leading society in America. We are sure that the body which is most accessible finds in him a working member, punctual in attendance, filled with intelligence and enthusiasm, and ever ready to support any movement for the advancement of the science, and, no doubt, the possessor of a valuable and interesting collection.

Preliminary Announcement.

IN THE PRESS, AND WILL BE READY ABOUT AUGUST NEXT. THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE IMPERIAL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

In two volumes, entirely revised and brought up to the present date (1885). By E. S. GIBBONS.

Notwithstanding the great increase in size, the prices will be the same as before. See circulars.

NOW READY.

THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOK a new work by MAJOR EVANS. Post free \$2.00. Also, the following ADDENDA to the price CATALOGUE.

FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

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Set German Empire, 5 var., unused.	10c.
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Send a \$1, \$2, or \$3 deposit and receive, by mail, fine sheets on approval. All warranted genuine.

Address, GEO. HENDRY,
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COLECTORS, Send for one of my approval sheets of good stamps at 33-1-3 per c. com. At same time receive new packet list and 1 unused stamp FREE.
FRED. STAHL, 11 East 7th St., Saint Paul, Minn.

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NEW YORK.

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And send your name on a postal card for one of my new 8 page price-lists of packets, rare sets and single stamps at the lowest prices reached yet.

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C. C. SIMMONS, Chariton, Iowa

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Stamp Packets, 10, 25 and 50 cents. Albums, 1884, 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50, etc. Circulairs free. Estab'd in 1876.

F. TRIFET, 19 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.



Volume II.

Number 13.



JULY, 1885.



THE KEYSTONE

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

A Monthly Publication,

— in the interest of —

PHILATELISTS AND NUMISMATISTS.

EDWIN C. MANN, } EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.
EDWARD E. KENDIG, }

ALTOONA, PA.

Subscription Price Twenty Five Cents per Annum.

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Notices of Exchange.

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Fine specimen oil-bearing rock and sand for coins. Continental bills, old newspapers etc. P. S. Johnson. Box 183, Bolivar, N. Y.

6 fossils for 4 large U. S. copper cents prior to 1830. or 4 half cents or 4 foreign coins, or for a copper of 1815. A book called the "Cruise of the Boomrang" for a dime of 1830. 500 foreign and U. S. postage stamps for the best offer of coins, medals, tokens or Fractional Currency, Jos. Lewis, Box 186, Winterset, Ia.

A long list of articles.—stamps, coins, books, papers, games and many other articles, for stamps not in my collection. No postals. Collector, Lock Box 76 Lena, Ills.

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All kinds of U. S. Revenues such as match, medicine, playing card, beer, snuff, tobacco etc. stamps to exchange for RARE U. S. and foreign. I have also two old coin books, 1695 &c. Hugo Kuenstler, 296 10th Ave., New York.

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Foreign copper coins and a priced catalogue of the Balmano coin sale, for U. S. coins or books relating to coins. E. D. Grewell, Ipava, Ill.

10 foreign stamps for one from Heligoland, Cashmere, or any other good stamp Not less than 15 taken at once. 6 for any Canada except 1 and 2c. any U. S. above 15c. Would like collectors to send their duplicates on approval. Good stamps given in exchange. W. Parks, Box 5, Picketts Station, Wis

I will give a Confederate bill ranging from 50c. to \$100, or an old Roman bronze coin B. C. for any of the following U. S. stamps: any carrier's stamp, any above 3c. of 1857 or 1869, or 15c of 1863, or any of 1866 except the 2 and 3c. or any department or newspaper stamp; or stamps not in my collection. Lists desired. F. Stahl, 11 East 7th st St. Paul, Minn

I have a U. S. copper cent 1811, to exchange for Canada 25 and 50c. pieces., and 25 copper cents, all different dates to exchange, also foreign copper and silver coins. Postals answered. Frank Bell, 162 Saratoga ave. Rochester, N. Y.

Minerals, fossils and other natural history specimens for South American stamps and coins. A good mineral specimen or fossil for every Central American stamp sent me. A star fish for a 1 cent buff, U. S 1869, or a 90c. carmine 1870. Send list of U. S. stamps and stamped envelopes to exchange for natural history specimens. E. B. Cornwell, Rubicon, Wis.

A complete set of Indian jewelry, including excessively rare nose pendant, or a collection of 530 different stamps for rare coins. E. O. Heath, Charlton, Iowa.

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Continued on third page of cover

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VOL. II.

ALTOONA, PA., JULY, 1885.

No. 13.

The Confederate States Provisional Stamps.

BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

It will surprise* and perhaps shock many of my readers to learn that the first stamps sold for collecting purposes in America, of which there is any independent historical account, were the fac-similes of the Confederate States provisional or local stamps. Yet this deplorable and startling circumstance is a substantial fact of history, and as the same sort of stamps are, or were very lately, sold by an eastern dealer (at least so the philatelic press charges), it is self-evident that philatelic ideas have not altered much in over twenty years, and that the world is pretty much the same as it was then. These Confederate fac-simile stamps were manufactured in Philadelphia, first appearing in the summer of 1861, and were the idea of an individual called S. C. Upham, a person who, we believe, is still alive, and who doubtless realized a considerable sum from the sale of the things, sold as they were by the newsboys in the streets, and by numerous toy dealers and stationers, not only in Philadelphia, but in New York, Boston and doubtless in all the other large cities. They were engraved on wood and printed in sheets of six, and bore the manufacturer's name and address on the margin in the same manner as printed on the sheets of postage stamps in daily use. Besides

these stamps, Upham made fac-similes of Confederate States bonds, notes and shinplasters. They were so good an imitation of the genuine that the union soldiers are said to have purchased large quantities of them and when in Confederate districts to have passed them off on unsuspecting southerners. Enticing advertisements in the newspapers and circulars helped the sale of these fac-similes. One of the circulars taken from a northern soldier while in a southern prison is, or was, in the possession of a Mr. Watson of Richmond. It is as follows :

\$20 CONFEDERATE BOND !!

I have this day issued a fac-simile \$20 Confederate Bond—making in all fifteen different FAC-SIMILE Rebel Bonds, Notes, Shinplasters and Postage stamps issued by me the past three months.

Trade supplied at 50 cents per 100 ; \$4 per 1000. All orders by mail or express promptly executed.

All orders to be sent by mail must be accompanied with 18 cents in postage stamps in addition to the above price to prepay the postage on each 100 ordered. Address

S. C. UPHAM.

403 Chestnut St., Philad'a.

N. B.—I shall have a \$100 Rebel Note out this week.

The sale of these stamps was open and undisguised, and as genuine stamps were unattainable as mementoes, the people were ready and willing to buy fac-similes.

The manner in which the philatelic papers treat the subject has a tendency to make collectors believe that it is only recently that Confederate stamps have been counterfeited, and it is either owing to their not knowing anything about the stamps or that they do not

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TO COLLECTORS —OF— COINS AND MEDALS.

Dealing in Old Coins is with me a business, not a matter of recreation; it is moreover my sole occupation, and consumes my entire time. My place of business is a large and well stocked store upon one of the most centrally located business blocks in New York. My facilities for obtaining Coins, Medals, and books relating to the same are unexcelled; my stock in all lines is decidedly the largest and most varied, carried by any dealer in the United States.

The advantage to collectors of putting themselves in communication with one who can supply their wants, no matter what their especial line, must at once be apparent to all who are interested.

- Catalogue of United States and Colonial coins, 15c.
- Catalogue of Numismatic books on sale, Part I, Feb'y, 1885, 15c.
- Catalogue of Numismatic books on sale, Part II, Aug., 1885, 15c.
- Price List of U. S. Fractional Currency, 10c.
- Circulars free on receipt of postage.

LYMAN H. LOW,
NUMISMATIST.

838 Broadway, NEW YORK.

Notices of Exchange.

The Exchange Column is open to subscribers only, and for the sole purpose of aiding the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and books and papers relating to these subjects. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

Fine specimen oil-bearing rock and sand for coins. Continental bills, old newspapers etc. P. S. Johnson, Box 183, Bolivar, N. Y.

6 fossils for 4 large U. S. copper cents prior to 1830, or 4 half cents or 4 foreign coins, or for a copper of 1815. A book called the "Cruise of the Boomrang" for a dime of 1830. 500 foreign and U. S. postage stamps for the best offer of coins, medals, tokens or Fractional currency. Jos. Lewis, Box 186, Winterset, Ia.

A long list of articles.—stamps, coins, books, papers, games and many other articles, for stamps not in my collection. No postals. Collector, Lock Box 76 Lena, Ills.

I have to exchange, all kinds of foreign, coins for which I would like American, English, Irish and Scotch coins. Please send lists to F. T. Reamer, 1744 Broadway, New York.

All kinds of U. S. Revenues such as match, medicine, playing card, beer, snuff, tobacco etc. stamps to exchange for RARE U. S. and foreign. I have also two old coin books, 1695 &c. Hugo Kuenstler, 296 10th Ave., New York.

Match, medicine, document, proprietary and playing-card stamps to exchange for others not in my collection. Department stamps wanted. Please send lists. A. G. B., P. O. Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Foreign copper coins and a priced catalogue of the Balmanno coin sale, for U. S. coins or books relating to coins. E. D. Grewell, Ipava, Ill.

10 foreign stamps for one from Heligoland, Cashmere, or any other good stamp Not less than 15 taken at once. 6 for any Canada except 1 and 3c. any U. S. above 15c. Would like collectors to send their duplicates on approval. Good stamps given in exchange. W. Parks, Box 5, Picketts Station, Wis

I will give a Confederate bill ranging from 50c. to \$100, or an old Roman bronze coin B. C. for any of the following U. S. stamps: any carrier's stamp, any above 3c. of 1857 or 1869, or 15c. of 1863, or any of 1866 except the 2 and 3c. or any department or newspaper stamp; or stamps not in my collection. Lists desired. F. Stahl, 11 East 7th St. St. Paul, Minn

I have a U. S. copper cent 1811, to exchange for Canada 25 and 50c. pieces., and 25 copper cents, all different dates to exchange. also foreign copper and silver coins. Postals answered. Frank Boll, 102 Saratoga ave. Rochester, N. Y.

Minerals, fossils and other natural history specimens for South American stamps and coins. A good mineral specimen or fossil for every Central American stamp sent me. A star fish for a 1 cent buff, U. S. 1869, or a 90c. carmine 1870. Send list of U. S. stamps and stamped envelopes to exchange for natural history specimens. E. B. Cornwell, Rubicon, Wis.

A complete set of Indian jewelry, including excessively rare nose pendant, or a collection of 530 different stamps for rare coins. E. O. Heath, Charlton, Iowa.

Foreign and U. S. stamps. Indian relics, postmarks. Confederate bills and "V" nickels given in exchange for all kinds of match, medicine, playing card, and document stamps. Jno. M. Gray, Jr, Columbia, Tenn.

A pine tree shilling 1652, and U. S. half dollars of 1803, 1805, 1809 and 1831, fine to uncirculated condition, for the best offer of Canadian coins and medals W. L. Bastian, 1207 St. Catharine St., Montreal, Can.

A Wells, Fargo & Co. franked envelope, or a Chinese coin for every 3 South American stamps. Geo. McCarty, 1413 16th St., Sacramento, Cal.

Continued on third page of cover



Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

The Confederate States Provisional Stamps.

BY ALBERT M. CROUTER.

It will surprise* and perhaps shock many of my readers to learn that the first stamps sold for collecting purposes in America, of which there is any independent historical account, were the fac-similes of the Confederate States provisional or local stamps. Yet this deplorable and startling circumstance is a substantial fact of history, and as the same sort of stamps are, or were very lately, sold by an eastern dealer (at least so the philatelic press charges), it is self-evident that philatelic ideas have not altered much in over twenty years, and that the world is pretty much the same as it was then. These Confederate fac-simile stamps were manufactured in Philadelphia, first appearing in the summer of 1861, and were the idea of an individual called S. C. Upham, a person who, we believe, is still alive, and who doubtless realized a considerable sum from the sale of the things, sold as they were by the newsboys in the streets, and by numerous toy dealers and stationers, not only in Philadelphia, but in New York, Boston and doubtless in all the other large cities. They were engraved on wood and printed in sheets of six, and bore the manufacturer's name and address on the margin in the same manner as printed on the sheets of postage stamps in daily use. Besides

these stamps, Upham made fac-similes of Confederate States bonds, notes and shinplasters. They were so good an imitation of the genuine that the union soldiers are said to have purchased large quantities of them and when in Confederate districts to have passed them off on unsuspecting southerners. Enticing advertisements in the newspapers and circulars helped the sale of these fac-similes. One of the circulars taken from a northern soldier while in a southern prison is, or was, in the possession of a Mr. Watson of Richmond. It is as follows :

\$20 CONFEDERATE BOND !!

I have this day issued a fac-simile \$20 Confederate Bond--making in all, fifteen different FAC-SIMILE Rebel Bonds, Notes, Shinplasters and Postage stamps issued by me the past three months.

Trade supplied at 50 cents per 100 ; \$4 per 1000. All orders by mail or express promptly executed.

All orders to be sent by mail must be accompanied with 18 cents in postage stamps in addition to the above price to prepay the postage on each 100 ordered. Address

S. C. UPHAM,

403 Chestnut St., Philad'a.

N. B.--I shall have a \$100 Rebel Note out this week.

The sale of these stamps was open and undisguised, and as genuine stamps were unattainable as mementoes, the people were ready and willing to buy fac-similes.

The manner in which the philatelic papers treat the subject has a tendency to make collectors believe that it is only recently that Confederate stamps have been counterfeited, and it is either owing to their not knowing anything about the stamps or that they do not

care to know. The stamps Upham issued were as follows :

1st issue, 5c.,	head of Davis,	in blue.
" " "	" " "	green.
" " "	" " "	red.
" " 10c.	Jefferson,	blue.
" " 2c.	" "	" "
Memphis, 5c.,		red.
" "		2c., blue.

Baton Rouge, 5c., red on green.

Mobile, 5c., blue.

Nashville, 5c. red and 5c. gray.

New Orleans, 2c. red and 2c. blue.

" 5c. brown on white.

" 5c. brown on blue.

These fifteen stamps augmented later by the addition of the fac-similes of the regular issue on their appearance, constituted the "set of Confederate fac-simile stamps." The price obtained was 25, 15 and 10 cents, depending on circumstances. Considering the wholesale destruction by the northern troops of southern bonds, notes and stamps, it is easily seen that but few genuine Confederate stamps remain, and the collector should, in buying, (no matter from whom), be careful to see that he gets the right equivalent for his money.

Philatelic Notes.

BY C ROSS.

In No. 10 of the GAZETTE, "Raphael" inveighs quite earnestly against the counterfeitors of stamps. It is a serious drawback to collecting and a great fraud on collectors that such impostors should exist, but the matter of preventing their work from going on will be difficult. There is no need of obtaining a law for that purpose, as we already have one; likewise the English. It is the enforcement of it that remains to be done. But were this an easy task,

there would still be thorns in the way. The law, as it is, forbids the counterfeiting of any stamps, U. S. or foreign, or knowingly having the same in one's possession, but in looking at it carefully it is more of a protection to the government than to individuals, and very few deceived collectors care to prosecute the counterfeiters, and it is no easy matter to do so, there rarely being sufficient evidence to convict. The suggestion offered as to the formation of "unions" and "leagues" is a wise one and more likely to accomplish the object desired, since it is an intricate matter to frame an effective law against the forger which would not involve the collector also.

Reprints of stamps from the original plates may be called genuine, but they do not possess the interest which attaches to the originals. They are like fac-similes of signatures which are the exact counterpart of the originals, but they are poor substitutes for autographs. Reprints, however, are very valuable to a collection when the originals cannot be obtained.

The special stamp to be issued July 1st, will be of the value of ten cents and must be attached to a letter in addition to the lawful postage, when it will be entitled to immediate delivery anywhere in a city of 4000 inhabitants, and within a limit of one mile. Letters will be delivered between 7 a. m. and midnight.

The American Bank Note Company has the contract for furnishing postage stamps to the U. S. government for the next four years. The amount bid for ordinary stamps was \$101,576.82 per annum, and for postage due and other issues, \$2, 442.78.

The Postage Stamp Craze.

"There is a young woman," said a watchman at the New York Post Office "who spends several hours a day in the corridors looking for rare postage stamps. She never looks for a letter, and never expects one, but she watches those who do get them, and examines the stamps on all cast-away envelopes with great care. The stamp must be very rare before she will accept it, and every time she gets a foreign stamp she consults a small book, which she takes from her pocket, and at once decides whether she will keep it or not. She may not get a stamp for days at a time, but she does not seem to be discouraged. When she does get one she is as happy as if she had found a gold mine.

"Is she the only one who comes here for that purpose?" inquired the reporter.

"Bless you, no, there are hundreds of them, and of every age from small boys to gray-haired old men. Most of them want nothing but foreign stamps for collections, while other cranks are trying to collect a million of United States stamps. At any time you can see these collectors going about the office carefully picking up every old envelope and removing the stamps. These people are pretty well dressed and seem to have nothing else to do but look for stamps.

"Some of these men who have been at it for a long time have struck up quite a business between themselves in trading stamps. There are a few young men who collect stamps for the purpose of selling them to collectors."

"Almost every bank or large business house contains one or more stamp collectors," said a down-town business man yesterday. "Some of them keep what

they get, but the greater part make a business of collecting them to sell, and have their regular customers."

A large dealer in stamps on Nassau street said that the number of stamps of all kinds which are being sold to collectors is greatly on the increase. Several of his customers have standing orders for rare stamps which they will pay any price for.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Water-Marks.

BY WILLIAM A. JEFFERIS.

Water-marks are generally employed by a large number of governments in their stamped paper. They are to be found in the French stamped papers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Their object is to increase the difficulties in counterfeiting, and to assign a date to the using of the paper, for they are to be found in nearly all the early issues of a great number of countries. * * *

None of the United States stamps contain water-marks; but the remarkable perfection of the engraving is sufficient security against counterfeiting. The envelopes have been and are yet made out of a paper having this water-mark. A first line contains the letters P. O. D.; the second one the letters U. S. The 3-cent on blue letter sheets contain only once in the centre U. S. P. O. D.

The stamps of Great Britain, of the issue of 1850, have, in each of the four corners of the stamp, water-marks representing the heraldic flowers of Great Britain, the rose, shamrock and thistle. The Russian envelope, 10 kopecs, black, of the issue of 1848 to '54, bears a handsome water-mark representing the Russian coat of arms. The first lithographed stamps of Lubeck, of 1859, were completely covered with roses.

—*The Museum.*

Counterfeit Stamps.

Counterfeit stamps began to make their appearance almost as soon as originals found purchasers. The early forgeries, however, were mostly coarse imitations, and were easily detected; but as the demand for scarce varieties increased, the scoundrels who made a living by swindling little boys, or getting big ones to do it for them, took more care in preparing "their" dies and printing the imitations, till at the present time some of the productions almost baffle detection.

The early counterfeiters usually copied old and scarce stamps, and sold them to collectors themselves; but the modern forger counterfeiters all the colonials and better class of cheap stamps as soon as they appear, and sells them to unprincipled dealers as *fac similes*, who retail them as genuine. Hundreds of pages have been written describing these stamps, and, we think, with very little effect, as the class who purchase of the boys who usually sell these counterfeiters do not generally subscribe to or read the philatelic papers.

There is another class of counterfeiters which are getting more common daily, and we do not think that the attention of the public has yet been called to them; we allude to stamps printed from the dies used for illustrating stamp magazines. For some time past all the stamps issued during the month have been engraved and electrotypes of them supplied to the different publishers, who add to them engravings of their own when they obtain any rarity worth illustrating. This plan has the advantage of diffusing accurate representations of new issues all over the world

much sooner than they could otherwise be laid before the stamp-collecting fraternity. But it has a great drawback, inasmuch as it distributes a number of accurate dies of different stamps into so many hands that it is impossible to find out who has used them dishonestly. It requires but little brain for any one to write to some publisher and order a few electrotypes of engravings "to illustrate a price list with," and then print them in the correct colors, cut off the representation of the perforation, gum and post-mark them, and sell them as genuine. It would well repay the trouble to compare any doubtful stamps with the illustration of it in any stamp paper, and if it is found to be from the same die, or is exactly the same as the picture of it, you may be sure it is a counterfeit.—*T. Coke in E. S. P.*

Collecting Postage Stamps.

To judge from a recent price list, the mania for collecting postage stamps would seem to be as great as ever. A well known dealer, whose catalogue is before us, offers the ninepenny blue Natal of 1857 for £20, the half peso rose of Peru for a similar amount, the fifteen centimes of Reunion for £30; an unused Mauritius envelope, issued at one shilling, for £35, and the plate of twelve distinct varieties of old Mauritius for a trifle of £25. For some of the first issues of the South American republics, prices are asked which would, we should imagine, amply repay a search in the countries they came from, and serve to replenish the empty coffers of state of such a needy country as Bolivia, the early stamps of which are almost as extinct as the dodo. Some English stamps are also very rare, notably the black "V. R." of which only a few examples are known to be in existence, and the high value of more recent issues. Among the latter the five-pound stamp is most highly prized.—*Whitchull Review (London).*

Philatelic Literature.

BY QUERICUS.

While there has been, in recent years, great improvement in the character and quality of the literature on the subject of philately, it will not be disputed that there is still room for much more. The collecting of postage stamps does not furnish a theme which inspires great literary effort or poetic fancy. The subject has very little of a sentimental or emotional nature connected with it, and has, therefore, no allurements for those seeking topics for the exercise of their literary powers. It is, furthermore, deemed too common place to engage the serious attention of writers of ability, except in a few well known cases. While many of these recognize philately so far as to quietly collect postage stamps, they do not care to have the fact generally known, and they are still less inclined to dignify with an essay, a matter which is popularly regarded as a whim or fancy, finding favor only with quite young people, or older ones of an eccentric turn of mind.

For these reasons amongst others, but few well qualified writers have contributed to the comparatively small volume of philatelic literature. It is probable, too, that the compensation which the publishers of philatelic journals feel able to give, is not sufficient to induce competent writers to devote their time to the preparation of articles of real value to collectors. The publishers are no doubt unable to pay more because of the meagre support received in the way of subscribers to their journals. Under these circumstances, we cannot reasonably expect much improvement in the literature of philately, and in order to

raise the standard it would seem to be necessary to make an effort to awaken collectors, if that is possible, to a lively interest in the subject—an interest which will demand a better class of journals and insure their support. When that time comes the demand will, no doubt, be promptly met.

It may be asked: Does the subject afford sufficient scope for the employment of better talent, and for enlarged treatment? Whatever view others may take, it seems clear to the writer that there is much to be yet written to place in a proper light before the public, the pleasures and advantages of stamp collecting, and the method to be pursued to secure the most favorable results.

It is true that much has been said on these points, but a very small proportion has been presented with that ability and tact which enlist popular attention, or meet the approval of advanced philatelists, and although stamp collecting has been in vogue more than twenty years, and has a large army of devotees scattered all over the civilized world, to say nothing of the host of stamp papers, big and little, which have been zealously advocating its claims, yet so little is it known to the outside world, that it is an unusual thing to see in the newspapers or literary journals even a brief reference to philately; and of the multitude of articles and essays printed in the philatelic papers, who has seen one copied by a leading newspaper or periodical.

If the foregoing is true, and if philately is to obtain a firm hold on popular favor, should not its friends bestir themselves in an effort to elevate its literature to the proper standard? Will the effort be made?

THE
KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

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ADVERTISING RATES.

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1 inch.	35	100
2 inches.	60	160
1-2 column.	100	250
1 column.	200	450
1 page.	400	900

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to
MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,
ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 839 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

JULY, 1885.

Wanted!—A few copies of Nos. 3 and 6 of the KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE, for which we will give in exchange any of the recent issues of this paper.

The GAZETTE comes out a little later than usual this month. The delay, we have no doubt, will be overlooked when our readers take into consideration this very warm weather.

The *Rock City Naturalist* is the name of a new journal which will appear Sept. 1. It will be published by John A. Murkin Jr., Nashville, Tenn., and will be devoted to Mineralogy, Geology, Philately, Numismatics etc.

C. H. Nunn, Bury S. Edmunds, Eng., has published a 2nd edition of the *Stamp Dealers of Great Britain*. We have been favored with a copy.

We acknowledge receipt of a copy of the catalogue of coins, postage stamps, autographs etc., to be sold at auction by Geo. A. Leavitt & Co. July 24th.

If there should be no more numbers issued of the *Young Mineralogist and Antiquarian*, it will probably be due to the fact—as we learn privately—that its editor has suddenly departed from its place of publication.

The warm weather and consequent dullness in the stamp trade, have reduced some of the stamp papers to rather slim proportions. It will be observed, however, that the GAZETTE has undergone no change in this respect.

The "E. S. P." has been misled, through a paragraph in the GAZETTE, into making some uncomplimentary remarks in the June number in regard to the editors of the *Collectors' Caprice*. We want to remove any unfavorable impression which may be had concerning these gentlemen by stating that they have transferred their unexpired subscriptions to this paper, and have paid for them.

We have had several responses to our prize offer, and while the articles are passable, none are such as we could feel justified in awarding the first prize, and we should have to reject all. In the hope that we may receive something nearer the standard, we extend the time for competition to Sept. 1st. We do this so that there may be a chance for those already received to come in for the second and third prizes.

Our Prize Offer.

We offer the following cash prizes for the best three original articles on philately, which may be sent us before Sept. 1st, viz:

For the best article,	\$3.00
" " 2d " "	2.00
" " 3d " "	1.00

The articles must consist of at least 800 words. Competition is limited to subscribers to this paper or to those who become such before Sept. 1st. All articles not accepted will be returned if stamps are enclosed for that purpose. Sign your article with a fictitious name but enclose your real name and address in sealed envelope to accompany manuscript. Write on one side of the paper only. We reserve the right to reject any or all articles. If but one is accepted, it will receive the first prize.

Inquiries have been made about the law passed by the last Congress providing for a special stamp costing ten cents, for use in large towns on letters to be sent through the post office but to be immediately delivered by the carrier. Postmaster Pearson said yesterday that the law was only permissive, not compulsory, and that the Postmaster-General has sent no instructions, so that the matter at present is in abeyance.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Our thanks are due Messrs. W. H. Warner & Bro., Philadelphia, for a medal struck by them in commemoration of the soldiers' encampment and competitive drill, held at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, June 28th to July 6th, 1885.

The warmer the weather gets, the less we hear of the philatelic societies!

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which may be submitted to us.

P. S. J. Bolivar.—The coins you ask about all belong to Hindoostan, struck by the petty princes, and are from three different provinces. No. 4 is the only one we can (without long research) identify. That belongs to Delhi.

J. L., Winterset.—Byzantine coins are those struck by the emperors of the east, (after the fall of the empire of the west), from Anastasius, A. D. 419-518, to Constantine XV., 1448-1553, except a short interregnum—1201-1205. We have no reason to doubt the reliability of the dealer concerning whom you ask.

Whether you collect stamps, or coins, or minerals, or bird's eggs, or even tobacco tags, let it be your aim to be as thoroughly informed as possible in the particular line you collect. In other words, try to become distinguished in it. If you cannot become an authority on all the pursuits named, make an effort to reach proficiency in one. It is better to attain distinction as a philatelist or numismatist, for instance, than to know a little about all branches of collecting and remain utterly unknown.

A new philatelic paper to be called *The Queen City Philatelist* was to have been issued July 15th by E. S. A. Meleod & Co., Buffalo, N. Y. We have not received a copy but presume it made its appearance on time.

The Central Stamp Co. of this city report being victimized by one Chas. Warner, alias Henry W. Davis, of Norvell, Mich., to whom they sent stamps on approval.

EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

PAPER VI.

No sooner had the colonies thrown aside their connection with the mother country, than the issue of coins began. Of these some were by private parties, others by the individual colonies for circulation within their own limits. They were nearly all of copper, commencing on the basis of the English halfpenny, and ending with the final mint issue in 1793 of the first United States cents. As their number is too great to permit of detailed description, let us briefly note the special types.

Massachusetts issued a cent and half cent, bearing the figure of an Indian on one side and an eagle on the other; dates 1787 and 1788. Connecticut issued cents in incredible numbers as to varieties. They are all of rude workmanship, bearing a laureated head upon the obverse, with the legend *AUCTORI CONNEX.* variously arranged; and upon the reverse, a seated figure of Liberty and the date, ranging from 1785 to 1788, inclusive. They are for the most part very common. New Jersey also issued a large number of varieties of copper cents. The type is the same however, and consisted of a horse's head to right or left, with a plough and the date beneath, and the legend *NOVA CAESAREA* upon the obverse, while the reverse bore a shield with the legend *E PLURIBUS UNUM*. The dates are 1786, 1787, 1788. Most varieties are exceedingly common, a few very rare.

Vermont issued several copper coins of widely differing types. One of these is similar in design to the Connecticut

cent, with the legend *AUCTORI : VERMON :*; another has upon the obverse the sun rising behind a chain of mountains, with a plow and the date 1785 or 1786, below, and the legend *VERMONTIS . RES PUBLICA .*; while the reverse bears the all-seeing eye, radiated, with stars between the radiations, and the legend *QUARTA . DECIMA . STELLA .* There are several varieties of this piece; on one, the legend reads *VERMONTS etc.*; on another, *VERMONTENSIVM etc.* New York issued a number of pattern cents which were never in actual circulation. They are of greatly ranging types. Some are after the style of the Connecticut cents, with the legend *NOVA EBORAC*; others bear the head of George Clinton; others a spread eagle, an Indian standing, with tomahawk and bow, the arms of New York, etc. The head of Washington was frequently placed upon these experimental coins. One series, all of which are rare, was made in England and partakes more of the nature of tokens than coins. Others, and these are more common, bear the head of the father of his country with the legend *WASHINGTON & INDEPENDENCE 1783* upon the obverse, with a seated female and *UNITED STATES*, or the legend *UNITY STATES OF AMERICA 1-100, ONE CENT*, within a wreath, upon the reverse. Still another variety has the head of Washington upon both sides.

There are many pattern or experimental pieces in copper, representing the ideas of various individuals as to what was the proper thing for a cent. Among these are the well known "Fugios." Obverse: *FUGIO 1787*. A sundial with the sun shining above. In ex., *MIND YOUR BUSINESS*. Reverse: Thirteen rings linked in an endless chain. *UNITED STATES. WE ARE ONE.* in the centre. Also

the "Bar cent." Obv. : U. S. A. in monogram. Rev. : Thirteen horizontal bars. So simple is the design of this piece, that it has been counterfeited so successfully that the copies can scarce be distinguished from the originals. The "Nova Constellatio" cents belong to the same series. They were made in England by the order of Gouverneur Morris of New York. Obverse: NOVA CONSTELLATIO. The all-seeing eye radiated, with stars between the radiations. Reverse: LIBERTAS * JUSTITIA . 1783. U. S. within a wreath. There are several varieties of this piece, the majority of which are common.

In addition to these pieces and some others of doubtful attribution, not described, are a number of private issues. The ones most frequently met with are those of Mott, jeweller, New York, and the firm of Talbot, Allum & Lee, of the same place. In the cabinet of the writer, there is a rare and beautiful token of this class. Obverse: THE . THEATRE . AT . NEW . YORK . AMERICA. View of the building. Reverse: MAY COMMERCE FLOURISH. - A box, a bale, barrel and anchor, with a large cornucopiae of flowers lying by the sea-shore. In the distance, two ships are sailing. Edge: I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY.

In 1793 the first regular coinage of the United States began, and having reached that period in our brief review, we may fairly claim to have likewise reached the end of our subject, EARLY AMERICAN COINS.

There are about fifty collectors of gold coins in the United States, at present, and the number is steadily increasing. A few years ago there were scarcely half a dozen. — *The Museum.*

Sale of the Athole Collection.

On the 18th of June there was sold at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co., New York, the small but interesting collection of coins and medals, the property of the late Rev. George C. Athole. The catalogue, which was carefully compiled and very complete as to arrangement and detailed description, and of unexceptional typography, was by Mr. Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, N. Y. The prominent features of the collection were the English, Scotch, and Irish coins for which good prices were realized.

Of the coins of the Isle of Man, many of the specimens were from the celebrated Clay collection, and they have never appeared elsewhere, nor are they likely to be seen on the auction boards again for many years to come.

Mint Marks.

The Philadelphia mint was the only one in operation until 1838. Its coins are distinguished by the *absence* of a mint mark.

Charlotte, N. C., *m. m. c* First coins, gold, 1838.

Dahlonega, Ga., *m. m. d* First coins, gold, 1838.

New Orleans, La., *m. m. o* First coins, silver, 1838; gold, 1839.

San Francisco, Cal. *m. m. s* First coins, gold, 1854; silver, 1855.

Carson City, Nev., *m. m. c c* First coins, gold and silver, 1870.

KEEP an accurate catalogue of your collection, noting, as well, when and where each piece was obtained, and the price paid.

THE coin sales by auction in New York aggregate \$12,770.03 for the month of June.

A Prize Offer to Numismatists.

A proof set containing the silver and base coins of the United States for 1885, will be given for the best article, historic and descriptive, on the coins and medals of the Philippine Islands. The arrangement must be chronological; medals to be classed separately in each reign, and to follow coins. The pieces (or descriptions) to be consecutively numbered. We reserve the right to reject any or all.

Manuscripts will be returned if postage is supplied. Competition will be closed September 1st.

Coin Sales.

July 16th and 17th —A collection of Oriental coins. 108½ lots. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

July 24th —Coins, postage stamps, autographs etc. 408 lots. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

These are the only sales now to announce and it is probable that two months may elapse before another takes place. The Fall season is expected to open with the placing of some important cabinets on the market.

ELECTRUM is a compound metallic substance, consisting of gold with a considerable alloy of silver. Pliny makes the proportion to have been four parts of gold to one of silver. The material of early coins of Asia Minor struck in the cities of the western coast is the ancient electrum. It appears here to have at first consisted of three parts of gold to one of silver; but afterwards the proportion of silver was increased, though perhaps not everywhere.

A Magnificent Cabinet of Coins.

The month of June was marked by the important sale of the Balmanno collection of coins and medals; the most interesting as well as the largest in the English, Scotch and Irish series, ever offered to the public in this country. This collection, through the careful and accurate cataloguing of Mr. Lyman H. Low, brought together at the salesroom of Messrs. Bangs & Co. on the 10th and 11th of June, representatives of many of the eminent numismatists of Europe. The British Museum acquired several valuable pieces through their agent.

In no line of venture, perhaps, is the collector better repaid, or more secure against loss; the prices of good pieces steadily advancing and their sale ready. The pleasure in the pursuit and acquirement of long-sought specimens is exceeded in no other branch of intellectual labor, whilst the means of enjoyment and improvement are ample and delightful. This sale was a remarkable illustration of the appreciation which a judicious selection always secures, and the highest compliment which can be paid Mr. Balmanno was evinced in the wide-spread interest in the sale and the unusually good prices attained.

Anglo-Saxon silver pennies of Burgred, king of Mercia, brought \$11.25; of Canute the Little, \$11.70; Alfred the Great, \$9.25; St. Edmund, \$7.10; and one of St. Peter, struck to pay the endowment, yearly collected on Feast of St. Peter (by a land tax) for the English Papal college at Rome, sold for \$7.35.

Fine silver pennies of the sole monarchs of Britain, sold as follows: Ethelstan, \$13.10; Eadgar, \$2.70; Ethelred I., \$2.10 to \$6.10; Canute the Dane, \$2.25; Harold I., \$11.25; William the

conqueror, \$1.50 to \$4.13; William II., "Lufus," \$6.10; a gold noble of Edward III., \$12.25, and a groat, \$3.90; half groat of Edward the Black Prince, \$2.00; groat of Richard III. bearing his badge, the *boar's head*, \$6.25; Edward I. crown of 1551 (the earliest dated English coin), \$15.50; half-crowns \$8.10 and \$8.25; shilling of Philip and Mary, \$4.40; a gold double ryal of Elizabeth, \$6.00. A series of the "Portcullis mon-" of the same queen, which the owner bought for \$69, sold as follows: The crown \$146.25; half crown, \$22.50; shilling, \$16.25 and sixpence \$14.25. Milled shilling of 1561, \$12.20 and other for \$7.50; James I. gold unit, \$6.10; crown, \$22.; half crown, \$4.10. The most remarkable coins in the cabinet were the *Pound* and *Half Pound* silver pieces of Charles I., struck from the plate contributed for his assistance, during his troubles in 1642-3-4. The pound of 1642 brought \$46.00, half pounds \$25.50 and 20.25; pound of 1643, \$69.00; quarter pound, \$17.50 and the gem of the series (and of the cabinet), a very fine and valuable coin, struck at Oxford, presumably of the University plate, brought \$205.00. Crowns of ordinary type \$7.50 to 18.00; half crown of York, \$9.10; a series of siege pieces of Newark, 1645-6, \$5.00 to 5.75 each; Montefract siege shillings, two types, \$5.50 and \$30.50.

Blondeau's famous pattern half crown of 1651 for the Commonwealth under Cromwell, \$70.50; pattern sixpence similar, \$16.80; a pewter $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce token for a farthing, \$22.50; crown of Cromwell, \$25.50; half crown and shilling, \$10.50 and 11.00 each; crown Charles II. \$62, \$11.00; pattern shilling 1677, \$18. James II. crown, \$10.25; pewter farthing, \$10.25; William and Mary crown,

\$16.00; pewter halfpenny and farthing, \$4.60; a remarkably fine series of the pattern farthings of queen Anne, \$21, \$15, \$18.50, \$8, \$6, and \$4.50 each.

Pattern coins of George III. sold very high; a shilling of 1764, \$11.50; gold $\frac{1}{2}$ guinea, \$11.75; shilling of 1778, \$11, another of 1798, \$16.25; crown of 1817, by Wyon, \$31.50; another, different design, \$32.50; and one in copper of 1820 brought \$22; George IV. crown, after Chantry's design, \$17; patterns with plain edges, for coins of William IV. gold double sovereign, \$21; crown, \$58; gold quintuple sovereign of Victoria, \$46, crown of 1839, \$15.00.

A beautiful set of nine patterns for florins, on which were the remarkable denominations of "centum" "100 milles," "dime," "decade," etc., brought \$109.00; medal, battle of Germantown, Pa. Oct. 4, 1777, brought \$18.25; another in honor of the Dutch Admiral Heyn, for the capture of the Spanish treasure fleet at Matanzas in 1629, \$16.60; one of Cromwell for Dunbar, \$21.00.

The interest remained unflagging until the conclusion of the sale which may be regarded as a most successful venture. The total amount realized was \$3,550.86. The priced catalogue of the sale will serve as a guide for the value of the series of coins contained therein, for a long time to come.

A useful scrap book may be made with clippings from newspapers etc., of *official* reports and announcements relating to coinage; also, of events which are commemorated by the striking of medals. The number of these *reliable* items which may be gathered during the year by a daily glance at the newspapers and periodicals, is large.

Numismatic Items.

WHEN you have a 5 franc piece of Louis Philippe which has 1^R after PHILIPPE, be assured you are in possession of a rarity.

CATALOGUES of important collections serve as good text-books in the absence of standard literature on the subject, especially those which furnish detailed descriptions.

THE mints at Sidney and Melbourne are confined to the coinage of gold. The type is the same as the regular issues of the realm in this metal, and is distinguishable only by the letter s or m on the obverse beneath the head of Victoria.

SERVIA adopted a coinage of her own in 1868. Copper pieces were minted in that year having the values of 10, 5, and 1 paras. Silver coins first appeared in 1875 in denominations of 2, 1, and $\frac{1}{2}$ dinars. The 1 para has been discontinued. The coinage of gold was authorized, in 1875, yet but a small amount of it has appeared.

THERE is perhaps no greater curiosity in the whole American coinage than the 1853 half-dollar which has neither arrows at side of date, nor rays behind the eagle on reverse. A single specimen is all that is known to-day. The weight of the piece is 201 grains, or 9 more than the common issue of the same year. It was taken from circulation in Philadelphia a few years ago, and recently sold under public competition for \$180.00. Quarter dollars of the same type and year are rare, but obtainable in the various degrees of preservation at from \$5 to \$15.

A STORY has come to us about the uncirculated Virginia halfpennies which we do not remember to have seen in

print, nor do we believe it to have been otherwise imparted to the numismatic fraternity, and we are inclined to view it as a matter of fact. It is in substance as follows: At the close of the revolutionary war, the father of the late Col. M. J. Cohen (whose extensive cabinet of coins was sold in 1875) embarked in trade in Richmond, Va., with his brother, both of whom served in the war. The pieces in question were sent to them from England to be used for change when small denominations were scarce and in demand. The quantity supplied is not known, but the number of uncirculated ones which was found by Col. Cohen in a bag at Richmond, is stated to have been less than a thousand; hence the low price for an early, interesting and perfect colonial coin. It is highly probable that the halfpenny found a circulation in Virginia at a period closely following its date (1773), but it is this particular late supply, which left such a generous portion unused to adorn the cabinets of collectors.

New Books.

POOLE, S. LANE. Coins and Medals: their place in HISTORY and ART. By the authors of the British Museum official catalogues. 286 pp. 44 illustrations. Svo. Cloth. London, 1885.

This most excellent book treats the subject in a general way from the earliest period down to date in a series of ten articles by the first numismatists of the day, and each in his specialty, amongst which may be mentioned Greek coins, Roman coins, The early coinage of Christian Europe, English coins, Early Oriental coins, Mohammedan coins, Coins of India, Coins of China and Japan, Medals etc.; together with a subject index.

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Exchange Notices Continued.

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Will give 100 foreign stamps, no duplicates, for a 2c. 1869, or for a 10c. envelope stamp. A 1797 1c. for a 24c. Treas. or a 7c. War dept. U. S. coins for U. S. stamps. P. H. Schafer, Cumberland Md.

Have some very rare foreign stamps to exchange for stamps not in my collection; send lists. 1000 stamps in post-marks for 500 mixed U. S. or 400 foreign stamps. F. C. Brown, Box 200, Woodbridge, N. J.

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the 25c. Alsace and Lorraine, unused, the 2c. & 6c. Office, unused, and the 6 centavos Mexico for first 5 numbers of this paper. E. H. Lambert, O. Box 2308, New York City.

Will exchange the following stories for the U. S. stamps mentioned. "Great Expectations," 831 pp. the 24c. 1869. "The Cruise of the Midge," 228 pp. the 30c. 1869. "The Lottery of Life" and "The Shipman," for the 90c. 1869. "Mrs. Limper's Lodging" for the 50c. due. "Little Leo" for the 3 and 6c. paper. "Mercedes of Castile," for the 10c. Agriculture. Many other books for the 12 & 15c. Agriculture. 24 & 30c. P. O., 8c. Exec., 2, 6, 10 & 12c. State, 1, 7 & Navy. A. S. Thomson, Box 39, Truro, N. Scotland.

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Volume II.

Number 14.

AUGUST, 1885.



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Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

A Monthly Publication,

— in the interest of —

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I have 1400 silk worm eggs and a telescope, 3 feet long when open, 1 1/2 inch objective, 2 slides and sun-shade, also specimen of petrified moss and a few duplicate minerals to exchange for coins or U. S. fractional currency. Address with stamp, G. R. Anderson, 87 Central Way, Cleveland, Ohio.

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(Additional notices on page 124.)

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BY J. P. WILLIAMS.

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But how many collectors are there who have reached the point where they should be excusable in following the va-

garies of the most advanced philatelists? Two thousand varieties of postage stamps should not be considered a large collection, yet those which fall short of that number are greatly in excess of those in which it is exceeded, and there is perhaps no risk in saying that of the active collectors of the present time, not half of them have one thousand varieties, and among these you may find some of our instructors in the science of philately.

Now, if the great majority of collectors have so much room for work in the still further accumulation of postage stamps—which are of all the most interesting—why should any of this class dissipate their time and labor and money in searching after revenues and everything that resembles a stamp, when the best they can hope for is an incomplete and unsatisfactory collection of either kind. Every-day common sense should prevail in this matter as well as in anything else, and any serious, earnest collector ought to see that his greatest interest and pleasure lie in the direction of completing, as far as possible, his collection of postage stamps, and in excluding everything that would mar its beauty or destroy its harmony.

The above is not intended to discourage the collection of revenue stamps where it is made a specialty, but to impress young philatelists with a sense of the folly of attempting to collect everything at the same time.

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Stamp collecting has, of late years, taken such a wide range, and has so far exceeded the limits evidently contemplated by the pioneer collectors, that it might be well enough to consider to what extent it can be reasonably and profitably carried. It is, of course, no man's prerogative to say what another should or should not collect. Every one has the right to follow his inclinations in this respect, even into the regions of absurdity, and it is nobody's business but his own. If an individual finds enjoyment in collecting stamps of every conceivable nature, or post-marks, or anything else, he may fancy, he is subject to no restrictions except those which the rules of common sense impose. We may not feel inclined to approve his judgment in the matter, nor do we think his example such as should be generally followed, but as he harms no one we have no occasion to find fault with him. He may be one of those who have exhausted all the possibilities of postage stamp collecting, and in that case, instead of criticism, he deserves praise for the energy he displays in extending the area of his field of operations.

But how many collectors are there who have reached the point where they would be excusable in following the va-

garies of the most advanced philatelists? Two thousand varieties of postage stamps should not be considered a large collection, yet those which fall short of that number are greatly in excess of those in which it is exceeded, and there is perhaps no risk in saying that of the active collectors of the present time, not half of them have one thousand varieties, and among these you may find some of our instructors in the science of philately.

Now, if the great majority of collectors have so much room for work in the still further accumulation of postage stamps—which are of all the most interesting—why should any of this class dissipate their time and labor and money in searching after revenues and everything that resembles a stamp, when the best they can hope for is an incomplete and unsatisfactory collection of either kind. Every-day common sense should prevail in this matter as well as in anything else, and any serious, earnest collector ought to see that his greatest interest and pleasure lie in the direction of completing, as far as possible, his collection of postage stamps, and in excluding everything that would mar its beauty or destroy its harmony.

The above is not intended to discourage the collection of revenue stamps where it is made a specialty, but to impress young philatelists with a sense of the folly of attempting to collect everything at the same time.

Many of those who collect only postage stamps develop a fancy for searching for errors, water-marks, variations etc. If one finds a stamp which has a dot on it more or less than another stamp of the same issue and denomination, he seems to think he has made an important discovery and the stamp is at once added to his collection as a valuable acquisition. These variations may be so slight as to require the closest scrutiny to detect them, and be altogether invisible to the casual observer, but they are there all the same, and that is enough for the collector to know. His success in discovering a few of these variations inspires him to renewed efforts in searching for more, and instead of adding to his collection such stamps as it is lacking, he tries to obtain what are in substance duplicates of what he has already. A dozen stamps of the same issue, color, design and value, varying slightly in unimportant particulars, are of no more real value to a collection than any one of them is, except in the estimation of such collectors as delight to revel in the refinements of philately.

The collection of variations, of whatever character, is quite right and proper when you have in your album a genuine specimen of each postage stamp issued and obtainable, for these little shades of difference are no doubt of interest to the observing and critical collector, but by far the greater number of young philatelists will find more satisfaction in ignoring these irrelevant matters and in keeping within the limits of stamp collecting proper.

Even within these bounds due regard should be had for the dictates of common sense, and the work should be done in a systematic manner. Instead of collecting indiscriminately a stamp here

and there all over the world, a wiser plan would seem to be to obtain, whenever practicable, unbroken sets, so that the collection may be complete as far as it goes, with regard to the different countries. A set comprising, say half a dozen, and representing one issue, should be preferred to one specimen from each of twenty different issues.

There are collectors who favor making a complete collection of the stamps of one country before giving attention to those of another, and where it is the purpose to continue on until the whole list is gone through with, there can hardly be a doubt as to its wisdom and practicability. But the young collector could not think of confining his philatelic studies within such narrow limits. He wants stamps from everywhere, and he wants them as soon as they can be had, and the more remote and obscure the country from which they come, the more highly are they valued. While he must be allowed to proceed in his own way, an effort should be made to effect a compromise with him by which he may be induced, as above suggested, to at least procure full sets while he is about it.

Those persons who drop philately in summer are not philatelists, they merely chase the phantom of stamp collecting during part of the year to kill time. No true philatelist suffers the heat of summer to separate him from his darling bride, Philately; for behold! what a fair creature she is to look upon, so young, so fresh, so blooming, and withal, what a power does she possess! she holds her admirer spell-bound, her strange fascination mingles with his thoughts by day and his dreams by night.—"Raphael," in Col. Companion.

Cleaning Stamps.

Philatelic Journal of America's Translation.

BY DR. MOSCHKAU.

We will endeavor to treat of the cleaning of stamps, and hope to be able to give valuable hints to collectors, especially to the younger ones.

In this subject we may be allowed to boast of our great experience, for as school boys had we already our collection modestly enclosed in octavo volumes, and in which, next to clean stamps, dirty ones found their places. People were not so particular in those times and even in larger collections, belonging to well-known stamp collectors, one could meet with soiled specimens, which were however only temporarily filling a vacant place. Change for the better has taken place since then in that respect. It is true that we are now and then compelled to procure a rarity of the first-class that does not shine for its cleanliness, and moreover, to consider ourselves lucky to own it at all; but no respectable dealer in the whole world sells to-day soiled specimens and no collector gives in his album a place to an unclean stamp.

And yet, No rule without exception! There are numerous collectors who have not bought a single stamp for their collections, but procured them among their circle of friends. Such a collector will accept a specimen regardless of its appearance and we cannot reproach him for so doing. The young philatelist follows this example, therefore good advice will not be amiss.

Let us say that all Russian and the new German stamps must not be brought in contact with water; they cannot be bathed nor washed, indeed they must not be touched with wet hands or hands covered with perspiration.

Stamps with embossed designs must not be washed. Moisture would cause such a design to be effaced and to sink utterly deformed. The greater part of such stamps are so sensitive that the use of the eraser even is not to be recommended; if it is used at all, it must be done with great care.

To clean other stamps all that is necessary is a somewhat large but very fine painter's brush, a blotter,—and some patience, for the hard crust of the stamp does not often yield to the first strokes of the brush. Cold water is the best washing preparation; it will succeed in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred and it never does any harm. One may, in exceptional cases, use lukewarm water with a little soap, but, if the stamp is a rare one, it is better to be satisfied with the results obtained by the use of cold water.

After the cleaning process, the stamp should be laid with pinchers between two sheets of good, clean, *white* blotting paper, the surface should be gently stroked in order to give smoothness to the specimen and when the stamp is dry it is ready for the album.

Nothing is more pleasant to one's eye or more gratifying to one's heart than clean stamps in a neatly kept album. Let this be the aim of our young fellow collectors and many older ones can take this well meant advice.

For the past few years the small boy has not manifested the same eagerness for stamps that he once did. Floods of counterfeits have chilled his zeal and quenched his confidence in mankind. But there will come a day when he will return to his first love, spurn the dealers in counterfeit stamps, and lay the foundation of a new generation of stamp educated men.—*Boston Advertiser.*

A Royal Road to Learning.

No more healthful amusement was ever invented for children than the collection of postage stamps. Two or three parents have written lately to *The World* asking for advice because their children were anxious to form collections, and they were afraid "it would lead them into temptation." The replies they received have probably opened their eyes.

Teachers in the public schools of this city have discovered that there is one royal road to learn much of what is taught between the fifth and first grade, and that is through a stamp album. The result is that they are encouraging the children in every possible way to form collections, that they set the examples themselves, and that at the noon recess they often preside over a stamp exchange. Said one teacher recently at a teachers' meeting: "I have been only three months collecting and in that time I have learned more geography and more current history than in any previous year. I have two boys in my class (fifth grade), who have been collecting for a year—one ten and the other eleven, and no boy in the first grade can match either of them. They know the date of accession of every ruler in the world; the population, coinage (in our money), shield, flag of every stamp-issuing country or colony; the different issues of stamps, of course; and they have a better general knowledge of the earth, the relative sizes of countries, the intelligence of the people, than nine grown persons out of ten. They have learned it without study, as an amusement, without knowing they were acquiring information more valuable than the rules of marbles." She did not exaggerate in the least.

A principal at the same meeting said: "My brightest children are stamp collectors. All my 'show' scholars are. They can go into any school and pick out ten minutes every stamp collector. They do it I will give out twenty questions of general information, and every one who answers ten or more will be a stamp collector. * * * Any child who has been collecting for a year could answer every one of them. The newest collector could answer six or eight, and perhaps ten. How many children who do not collect could answer five of them?"

Another teacher said, in reply to questions, that she found it best never to interfere with trading except to determine the value of the stamps, and to see, generally, that value was given for value according to the catalogue prices. When a new stamp came in the trade was postponed to the next exchange day for the boys to read up.

One who has never started a collection cannot understand or appreciate the feeling which soon takes possession of the collector. He collects for the pleasure that it gives him, and the pleasure constantly grows on account of the information acquired. When he receives a new stamp he cannot remain satisfied until he knows all about the country and how and when the stamp was issued. The result is that for general information concerning any country or colony issuing stamps, the American small-boy collector is far better authority than the gazetteer or encyclopædia. What diamonds are to a woman, rare stamps are to the collector, while the common ones are to him what ordinary jewels are to her.

A good album and catalogue are the beginner needs.—*N. Y. World.*

The approved design of the new postal cards as presented to Postmaster-General Vilas by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, will be sent to the contractors in a few days. It may be criticised as a trifle heavy, but it is a vast improvement on the ugly one now in use. The line under the description of the card which now reads, "Nothing but the address can be placed on this side." has been changed to read, "Nothing but the address to be on this side." Mr. Vilas suggests that the caution is not a prohibitory one. The female head on the stamp now in use is replaced by a head of Jefferson in oval, with a symbolical wreath partly surrounding it, tied with a band upon which appear the words, "One Cent." The printing is to be done in brown ink.

The following are some of the prices obtained at a recent auction sale of postage stamps etc., in New York: Tasmania, 1d. blue and 4d. red, 80c. each; Brazil, 1843, 90r, unused and fine, 2.30; Confederate States, 1862, 2c. green, \$1. Memphis, 5c. red, used, 2.70; Mexico, 1868, 100c. brown on brown, 2.50; do. 1857, set 5 pcs unused except ½r, fine, 95c. each; Philippines, 1863, 5c. vermilion, fine unused, 1.00; do. 1863, 1r. green, unused, 1.70; Pr. Edwards Is., 1860, 2d. rose and 6d. green, 2.50 each; Spain, 1854, 1r. dark blue, used, 1.40; 6r. same year, 1.25; U. S. New York, 1845, "big head" Washington, used, 1.50; Providence, 5c. unused, 1.65; U. S. Colombia, 10c. blue, 3.00.

The stamp collectors of Denver, Col., held a meeting July 23rd and organized a society to be called the Centennial State Philatelic Society. The following officers were elected to serve for one

year: J. C. Feldwisch, president; D. W. Osgood jr., treasurer; F. W. Feldwisch, Secretary. Western collectors wishing to join will please address

F. W. Feldwisch,

Box 2922, Denver, Col.

Answers to Correspondents.

We shall take pleasure in answering, as far as possible, all numismatic and philatelic questions which may be submitted to us.

A. V. G., Chicago.—We cannot furnish the first six numbers of this paper.

H. A. M., Girard.—The letters are probably the initials of the firm posting the letter.

T. S. S., Verona.—We did not find the exchange notice referred to in your letter.

F. B., Rochester.—The stamp you inquire about is a U. S. Centennial envelope. Will give you such information as we can concerning the others you mention if you enclose them to us with return postage.

E. B. C., Rubicon.—Coin No. 1 is from Schleswig Holstein, Carl Frederick, 1723; 6 shillings, struck at Rendsburg, by B(astian) H(ille), mint master. No. 2 is from Brandenburg, Frederick II. 1774. ½ thaler. A (Berlin mint); both are very common.

C. J. V., Chicago.—We know of no way to clean postal cards of the writing; it would perhaps be illegal to do so. (2) In warm countries stamps are sometimes supplied without gum, those having gum usually stick together and have to be soaked apart after a long voyage. (3) Anyone can issue postal cards, but cannot have printed on them the words: "United States Postal Card." If sent through the mails, a two cent stamp must be attached.

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

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ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

AUGUST, 1885.

Subscribers who do not receive the GAZETTE regularly will confer a favor if they will call our attention to the omission.

The Empire State Philatelist has thrown off its cover and comes out in quarto form with the pages considerably enlarged.

We fully appreciate the many complimentary things said about us by our brethren of the philatelic press, and are the more pleased because they are said by those for whom we have the utmost respect, and whose opinions we highly value.

Mr. Lyman H. Low informs us that he is now preparing the manuscript for a catalogue of a collection of coins and medals which he will sell at auction in October. It is the property of a Canadian gentleman. The cabinet is a varied one, comprising representative series from the earliest periods down to date, that of the Canadian is especially attractive, and will, undoubtedly, call out strong competition.

We could have a splendid array of advertisements if we should print all those sent us by parties unknown to us, with the request to "insert and send bill," or who wish to pay us in "traae," but we are not putting that kind in our paper just now. That class of dealers will save trouble and postage by not sending them. We can do a great deal better with our space than to fill it with advertisements of this kind.

In order to insure the insertion of your exchange notice please be sure that it is not equivalent to an advertisement, is not too long, does not come oftener than once in three months, and comes within the limit prescribed at the head of the exchange column. Otherwise we shall be obliged to exclude it.

The price of this paper is very low, merely nominal, when you take into consideration its size, and the quality of the matter it contains, yet we can furnish it at the price, and improve it too, if collectors will favor us with their subscriptions in sufficient number. If you have not already subscribed, we should be pleased to have you do so at once. If not convenient to obtain a postal note you can remit in one and two cent U. S. stamps. Send your subscription *now*, before you forget it.

"Knights of the Spit-upon" is what stamp collectors were called by a satirical English poet, forty three years ago.

There seems to be a temporary suspension of hostilities between the *U. C.* and *P. J. of A.* Have you shaken hands over the "bloody chasm," brethren?

.After reading our exchanges we are almost ready to conclude that an undue proportion of the frauds in the country are collecting, or dealing in stamps, or publishing philatelic papers.

Though you may be deeply absorbed in the mysteries of philately, and feel no interest in coins, you can hardly fail to be benefited by a careful reading of everything in our numismatic department.

Coin collectors whose aim is to accumulate a large number of coins without regard to their numismatic value or interest, will find some valuable hints in the article on "Foreign Copper Coins" in this issue.

Most dealers who advertise stamps on approval are careful to require "reference or deposit." The deposit they never get, and when a reference is given many of them assume it is all right and make no inquiry. They need not be surprised when they find themselves "taken in."

After the young and inexperienced stamp dealer gets the most of his "stamps on approval" safely in the hands of dishonest collectors, who write to him that they never got them, or that they returned them, he begins to ask himself if there is not some mistake about there being so much money in the stamp business.

When a stamp or coin paper is crowded to the wall and has to suspend publication, there is always a young man who sees just where the publisher missed success. He is so sure of this that he starts a paper himself, and the result is that he generally hits it just where the other fellow missed it!

Charles Warner, alias H. W. Davis of Norvell, Mich., a philatelic swindler, has been quite liberally noticed by the stamp papers recently, and those not familiar with the doings of such frauds might be led to suppose that his was an exceptional case. He is no worse than hundreds of others who are engaged in the same business of obtaining sheets on approval, and making no returns for them. And these swindlers will continue to defraud dealers who send out stamps without knowing anything about the parties to whom they are sent.

In its June No. the *P. J. of A.* takes us to task for inserting an advertisement of Jos. Turner, Box 1393, New York, in which he offered rare stamps at a price too low for them to be genuine. We noticed this fact ourselves, but only after it was printed, and when it was too late; otherwise it should not have gone in. Mr. Turner sent us the money for another which we returned to him, though there was nothing fraudulent on its face, but we did so because we do not mean to aid even suspected dealers in imposing on our readers. Mr. Turner has since written us that he himself was imposed on in buying the stamps, but if he knows anything about stamps he should not have been so easily duped.

Now is a good time to subscribe.

Correspondence.

Editors K. S. and C. Gazette:

I wish to take some exceptions to the article on "Watermarks" in the July issue of your paper, copied from *The Museum*. The writer says that "None of the United States stamps contain water-marks," but water-marked paper has been used for a number of years for revenue stamps; the water-mark being the letters U. S. I. R. His description of the water-mark in the U. S. stamped envelopes is also incorrect as the paper he describes has not been used since 1870. The envelopes in current use are water-marked with the monogram U. S. P. O. D. and the figures "82" repeated at frequent intervals.

F. D. Rappleye.

 Notices of Exchange.

Continued from 2nd page of cover.

I have the following U. S. copper cents, 1831, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 53 & 54; also half dollars of 1822, 26, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 & 38, condition of all, good to very good, to exchange for other U. S. coins not in my collection. An 1856 nickel cent wanted. W. A. Pease: Jr., 1271 Broadway, New York.

A Youth's Companion stamp album, arrow-heads, minerals, fossils and curiosities for coins and stamps of the U. S., South and Central America, Mexico, and the British provinces. E. B. Cornwell, Rubicon, Wis.

To ex.: "The Life of Stephen A. Douglass," a 50 kr. Bohemian stamp of 1870 for Imperial Stamp Album—two volumes latest edition, also a book on telegraphy for Trifet's stamp catalogue Frank P. Davis, McDowell, Ills.

Foreign and U. S. postage stamps for the same; send lists first. "The Sketch Book," and "History of England," paper cover, for the best offer of foreign coins, or either of the books for any two U. S. coins before 1800, or one coin before 1790. Will Reardon, Jr., Midland City, Midland Co., Mich.

A lot of articles—stamps, coins, books, papers and games, for stamps not in my collection. Collector, Lock Box 76, Lena, Ill.

Foreign stamps from New Zealand, Finland, Jamaica, match stamps, 25c. 50c., 60c. and \$1.00; document stamps, sea urchins, skate's eggs, and star fish for match, medicine or departmental stamps or coins of any kind. Erastus Cornell, Box 409, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Foreign stamps and sea curio. to exchange for "Piper Heidsieck" and punch tags. C. O. Moore, Box 161, Xenia, Ill.

U. S. stamped envelopes and two cent postal cards, unused and entire, for others not already in my collection. Correspondence solicited from those forming collections of U. S. stamped envelopes. F. D. Rappleye, Trumansburg, N. Y.

Rare stamps for same. Also 15 varieties Navy, War and Treasury dept. stamps for Scott's catalogue, (1885 edition), or Sterling's postage or revenue stamp catalogue, (latest edition). Spencer Cosby, 1808 Mass. Ave., Washington, D. C.

U. S. document, match, medicine, tin foil, beer, playing card, tobacco, cigar, and other revenue stamps in good to fair condition, old issues postage stamps, high values present issue, foreign post cards, stamps, coins, etc., wanted in exchange for same, or for post-marks, cards, minerals, shells and sea curiosities. F. O. Randall, Brockton, Mass.

FOREIGN COPPER COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

Ancient Copper Coins.

In spite of all temptations from any other nation he remains an Englishman.—H. M. S. PINAFORE.

In the minds of a very large percentage of American collectors, there is excited instant rebellion at even the bare suggestion that it might be at once profitable and wise to collect anything in coins outside of the regular American series, with its interminable rows of cents, half dollars and dimes; its booty heads and silly heads; its large dates and small dates; its heads of liberty to right and left, and in every conceivable form and shape, with varieties having a curl cocked over the left ear, or a braid containing one solitary hair more or less, than some certain other braid, and so on forever until the heart groweth sick.

To such collectors—we cannot call them numismatists—the very thought of placing into the drawers of their cabinets any coin of foreign origin, especially if that coin should happen to be struck on copper, is relegated to the category of the absurd at once. Let one who has spent twenty-two years collecting these despised bits of metal speak a word to his brethren in the numismatic world.

First, what have the ancients to offer in the matter of copper coins? The answer cannot be qualified—they offer much. Above the head of the writer, as he pens these lines, hangs a photographic representation of an *Aes* of the Roman republic, struck upon a square mass of copper, or rather bronze, measuring 6 by 3½ inches and weighing nearly, if not quite, a pound. It bears stamped upon it one of the most graph-

ic representations of the elephant which we have ever seen; but one specimen is known to exist, being in a princely collection in Milan. Here we have a noble monument of antiquity to begin with in the shape of a foreign copper coin. It needs but a moment's reflection to see what a world of history it opens up; how it carries us, in thought, backward into the vanished ages, and if a proper understanding of its true place be arrived at, makes positively necessary the acquirement of a vast fund of historical information, new, we venture to say, to nine-tenths of the collectors of United States half dollars and cents among us to-day.

But this is only one specimen. Long before Rome existed as a power at all, copper money was in active circulation in Greece, Syria, Egypt, Bactria and other places as well. It formed the more humble coin of these various nations, the money used in the every day minor transactions of Athens, Macedonia, Carthage, Tyre, Sidon, Damascus and many other of the cities of ancient Europe and the East, by those famous poets, sculptors, historians and warriors whose works in literature and art still live to remind us of the greatness of their age.

We will now consider the copper coinage of these nations, briefly and in a general way: attempting no elaborate descriptions, but reviewing each prominent series as a whole. In this field, as in all else appertaining to ancient science and art, Greece stands pre-eminently foremost; the copper coinage of that remarkable nation and her colonies, being in beauty of execution and design unexcelled even at the present day. A collection of the copper coins of Greece forms a perfect treasury of art and his-

tory in themselves, and are in every way worthy of the attentive consideration of any collector who desires to enroll himself as a numismatist in the true and higher sense of the word.

(To be continued.)

Portraits on Ancient Greek Coins.

From "Coins and Medals," edited by S. Lane-Poole.

Greek coins, from the age of Alexander onwards, possess an interest altogether different from that with which the money of the earlier age inspires us. The interest of the præ-Alexandrine coins is twofold. In the first place, they illustrate local myths, and indirectly shed much light on the political revolutions of every corner of the Greek world; and in the second place, they are most valuable for the history of art in its various stages of development. The interest of the post-Alexandrine coins is that of a gallery of authentic portraits. "Here," says Addison, "you see the Alexanders, Cæsars, Pompeys, Trajans, and the whole catalogue of heroes who have, many of them, so distinguished themselves from the rest of mankind, that we almost look upon them as another species. It is an agreeable amusement to compare in our own thoughts the faces of a great man with the character that authors have given us of him, and to try if we can find out in his looks and features either the haughty, cruel, or merciful temper that discovers itself in the history of his actions."

Among the finest portraits on Greek coins we have space only to mention a few. First comes that of the great Alexander himself, on the coins of Lysimachus, idealized, no doubt, but still the man in the likeness of a god. In many of these coins we may note the peculiarities

recorded as characteristic of his statue by Lysippus, the slight twist in the neck and the ardent look in the eyes.

Then there is Demetrius Poliorcetes, the destroyer of cities, that soldier of fortune, terrible in war, and luxurious in peace, whose beauty was such that Ptolemy says no painter could hit off a likeness. That historian compares him to Dionysos, and as Dionysos he appears on the coins, with the bull's horn of the god pointing up from out the heavy locks of hair which fall about his forehead.

Another highly characteristic head is that of the eunuch Philetærus, the founder of the dynasty of the Attalid Kings of Pergamus. Here, at last, is realism pure and simple. The huge fat face and vast expanse of cheek and lower jaw carry conviction to our minds that this is indeed a living portrait.

To those who are familiar only with Greek art in its ideal stage, such faces as this of Philetærus, with many others that might be cited (Prusias, King of Bithynia, for example), from among the various Greek regal coins, will be at first somewhat startling. We have become so thoroughly imbued with the ideal conceptions of godlike humanity perpetuated in Greek sculpture and its derivatives, that when we first take up one of these portrait-coins of the third or second century B. C., we find it hard to persuade ourselves that it is so far removed from our own times. This or that uninspired and commonplace face might well be that of a prosperous modern Englishman, were it not for the royal diadem and Greek inscription which designate it as a King of Pontus or Bithynia, of Syria or of Egypt.

Nevertheless, although an almost brutal realism is the rule in the period

under consideration, there are instances where the artist seems to have been inspired by his subject and carried away out of the real into the ideal. Thus the majority of the coins of the great Mithradates are probably unidealized portraits, somewhat carelessly executed, of a man scarcely remarkable unless for a certain evil expression of selfish cruelty. But there are others of this same monarch on which, it is true, the likeness is unmistakably preserved, but under what an altered aspect! Mithradates is here the hero, almost the god, and as we gaze at his head on these coins, with flying locks blown back as if by a strong wind, we can picture him standing in his victorious chariot holding well in hand his sixteen splendid steeds, and carrying off the prize; or as a runner, outstripping the swiftest deer, or performing some other of those wondrous feats of strength and agility of which we read. This type of the idealized Mithradatic head also occurs on coins of Ariarathes, a youthful son of Mithradates, who was placed by his father on the throne of Cappadocia. The head, like that of Alexander, was afterwards perpetuated on the money of various cities on the shores of the Euxine.

Barclay V. Head.

A Papal Medal.

A medal commemorative of the eighth year of the Pontificate of Leo XIII. was struck, according to usage, on the Feast of St. Peter. It was presented to the Sovereign Pontiff by Cardinal Jacobini on June 27. On the one side of the medal is the effigy of the Holy Father, and on the other side are three allegorical figures representing History, Reason and Truth. It has been a marked

feature of the policy of the present Pope that he has in every way encouraged historical studies and thrown open the archives of the Vatican to students of all lands and of all sections of the Church. The inscription is given by Father Tangiorgi. The medal was cut by Chevalier Blanche, the engraver of the apostolic palace. Sixty impressions were taken altogether—thirty in gold and thirty in silver—and each was enclosed in a rich casket ornamented with the Pontifical arms.—*N. Y. Herald.*

QUEEN VICTORIA has ordered silver and bronze medals to be struck commemorating the marriage of her daughter, princess Beatrice. We expect in a future issue to furnish our readers with a detailed description of them.

It has been our good fortune to see two varieties of the 1837 tokens which, up to date, remain undescribed, notwithstanding the very able and exhaustive article recounting them in the *C. U. J.*, and the large and supposed complete collection of them offered at the Levick sale in May 1884. But a single new reverse die, however, is shown; the other reverse and the two obverse dies have been used before, but under different combinations.

In order to obtain the advantages offered through the medium of coin catalogues, both American and foreign, whether auction, or of dealers with fixed prices, it is necessary to acquaint one's self with the abbreviations employed by cataloguers to lessen the expense of printing, and to economize in time. Those who are accustomed to them speedily review a catalogue, the essential portions being seen at a glance.

Numismatic Items.

SHIPS, Colonies and Commerce.—*Napoleon.*

THE Australian mints began operations as follows: Sydney, May 1855; Melbourne, May 1871.

THE cent of 1821 should be graded equal in rarity to that of 1823, although fine specimens of the latter are more difficult to obtain.

A EUROPEAN correspondent, under a recent date, informs us that he has five Australian tokens which are not mentioned by Mr. Stainsfield in his admirable work, published in 1883, which treats of the series as a specialty.

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THOMAS SEMMES,

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Volume II.

Number 15.

SEPTEMBER, 1885.

THE KEYSTONE

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

A Monthly Publication,

— in the interest of —

PHILATELISTS AND NUMISMATISTS.

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ALTOONA, PA., SEPTEMBER, 1885.

No. 15.

PRIZE ESSAY.

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BY W. C. GLENN.

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These stamps, however, were soon found to be too large and unhandy for purposes, and in 1875 a new set was issued and at the same time the postage

was reduced to two cents per pound. This new set consisted of the following values: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84 and 96 cents, and \$1.92, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00, 12.00, 24.00, 36.00, 48.00 and 60.00, and in point of design and engraving is one of the finest sets of stamps ever issued. The design on all the values under 12 cents is that of Liberty, and the color black; from 12c. to 35c. the figure of Justice and color red, while all over 96c. have a different figure and color. These stamps are rather difficult to obtain from the fact that there is a law prohibiting their sale, but some dealers seem to have obtained a considerable supply from some source. On first thought it would seem that the stamps unused would cost their face value at least, and indeed they are so catalogued, but this is not the case with the higher values at least, for at a recent auction sale in New York a \$60 stamp unused brought \$12. The 5, 10 and 25 cent, first issue, would be very rare but for the fact that for several years after their retirement the government reprinted large quantities from the original plates, and in consequence, they can be had at about double their face value.

Viewed from all stand points, this system of paying postage seems to be a very poor one. In regard to the prevention of fraud on the part of the postmaster it is no more certain to accomplish this than if he were to remit the money received for newspaper postage

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direct to the department, giving and taking receipts the same as at present. Besides, there is the cost of manufacture of the stamps, which is a large sum and might be saved by the latter plan. The labor too, in that branch of the department, is nearly doubled under the present system, and that is another important consideration in the management of such a cumbrous machine as the Post Office Department.

So far the United States is the only country which has adopted this system, although Austria and several nations have issued special stamps, but in Austria they seem to be used to pay postage on papers mailed by individuals as well as by the publishers.

The 3c. and 9c. of the U. S. present issue were retired after being used a short time, and indeed it is not clear why they were issued in the first place as they could only be used in pairs, postage being an even number of cents per pound. On the first day of July last, a one cent stamp was added on account of the passage of a law by the last Congress reducing postage to one cent per pound. The new stamp is exactly similar to the others of the present issue below 12 cents. According to the present law the price paid by publishers for mailing their papers is far lower than in any other country. At one cent per pound (the weight of twelve ordinary papers), the cost of mailing an edition of 12,000 would be \$10, while that number of papers mailed by any person other than the publisher or agent would cost \$120. Of course, there is no doubt that publishers are entitled to better rates in this particular than other people, but the difference is altogether too great, and this last reduction was very unwise and clearly uncalled for. On

those journals having the largest circulation it makes a difference of several hundred dollars on each issue, and that is just so much loss of revenue to the government, and the feeling all through the postal service seems to be against it.

When viewed from a collector's standpoint this set of stamps is one of the gems of a fine collection. The elegance of design and fineness of the engraving render them objects of devout admiration to the advanced collector, and the only thing to be regretted is the difficulty of obtaining the higher values, so that only a few of the largest collections contain the complete set. Another distinction is, that it contains the highest face value stamps ever issued; the next highest being the English £5 or \$24.

Although there may be many defects in the present postal system, it is an immense improvement over the time when the subscriber paid the postage on receipt of his paper, and the great progress made in the past gives promise of still further advancement.

Surcharges.

A writer in the *Collector's Companion* for Sept. attempts to account for the numerous surcharges on the postage stamps of Luxembourg and Venezuela on the ground of their being "small, thinly populated countries that were drained and exhausted, incapable to collect from their inhabitants sufficient taxes to support their government." The inference is that the government or the people replenish their drained treasuries by the sale of surcharged postage stamps.

Now, the Luxembourg that issues postage stamps can hardly be called "thinly populated" since it contains at least twenty more inhabitants to the square mile than Rhode Island, and as

to its poverty, the evidences are certainly wanting, while on the contrary, agriculture, mining, manufactures and education are in a prosperous condition. Whatever reasons may exist for surcharging the stamps of this country those given above do not seem to be among them, and the real ones will have to be looked for elsewhere. So far as Venezuela is concerned, there is no doubt as to its being thinly settled, but there might be a difference of opinion as to whether a country seven times as large as Illinois should be considered "small." It would certainly be interesting to philatelists to know the occasion of many surcharges with which we meet, but our conclusions ought to be based on facts.

Some Bogus Stamps.

The *New England Philatelist* calls attention to a bogus two cent St. Louis Local which has been manufactured for the young collector who is stupid enough to buy it, and adds: "The authentic set, as is well known to all, consists of 5, 10 and 20 cents, black."

There are those, however, (among them C. H. Mekeel) who claim that the 5 and 10c. are the only authentic ones, the other being the invention of an enterprising dealer. The gentleman named does not, it is true, come forward with the proof to back up his assertion, but there is apparently room for doubt. A New York firm which has sold the 20c. stamp insists that it is genuine if any of the set is. All parties agree that the latter appeared some time after the others which were first issued in November 1845.

We wish to say in this connection that the paper above quoted is doing a

good work in exposing forgeries, one or more of which are ventilated in each number, and we should like to see it go further and expose and denounce not only forgeries, but those who offer them for sale.

But while we take pleasure in referring to the good points in our cotemporary, we must ask pardon for noting a blemish, as we look at it. Among the advertisements is one by the publisher wherein 466 facsimiles of U. S., C. S. and Hamburg Locals are offered for a trifling sum. There is of course no intention to deceive, for they are plainly described as "*fine facsimiles of the originals.*" 116 of the lot, being the everlasting Hamburgs, never had an *original* except in the imagination of some inventive swindling genius, and the same is true, no doubt, of a large portion of the others, as great numbers of U. S. and C. S. locals are pure fabrications. But whether originals ever existed or not, we cannot see what any honest collector wants with this stuff. Surely no philatelist worthy of the name would give them any attention, much less a place in his album. These imitations are of use only to dishonest persons who palm them off on young collectors by placing them among genuine stamps on approval sheets, and in many other ways.

If philatelic papers have any good reasons for existence, to encourage the manufacture and sale of counterfeits and imitations is not one of them, and the sooner their publishers recognize this fact the better it will be for what we call "the science of philately." Let us encourage the buying and selling of genuine stamps only; the counterfeiters will take care that the others get into collectors' albums fast enough.

NEW ISSUES.

BAHAMAS.—A $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue, and 1sh., violet, may be expected.

CEYLON.—The 6c. cards are now surcharged "10 cents," in black.

DUTCH INDES.—A new 5c. card, printed in green on white, is in use. No change except that the inscription on reverse is omitted.

GUATEMALA.—A correspondent of *P. M.* writes that new stamps of the value of 50 centavos and 1 peso have been prepared, and are daily expected at Guatemala.

GUINEA.—A correspondent of the *P. R.* warns collectors against the following stamps, with small surcharge: Cape Verde, 10 reis, green, and 50 reis, blue; St. Thome, 20 reis, bistre, and Mozambique, 50 reis, blue.

HONG KONG.—The following provisionals are reported:

20 cents on 30 cents, violet,
50 " on 48 " brown,
\$1.00 on 96 " slate.

INDIA.—The 4 anna inscribed "India Postage," and two varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna official card have appeared.

JAPAN.—The *B. J.* illustrates two post cards of the of 1 and 2 sen, in new colors, carmine. Their general appearance is the same as the double cards recently issued and of like value.

MAURITIUS.—Three new stamps are reported, viz: 2 cents, green; 4 cents, carmine; 16 cents, brown. The 38c. has been surcharged "2 cents." and the 8c. post card, "Ten cents."

MONACO—Which has hitherto used French stamps, has issued a set of its own, bearing the portrait of Chas. III. as follows: 5c., blue, 15c., pink, and 25c.,

green.

PORTUGAL.—The 50r. envelope is now violet.

SHANGHAI.—A provisional post card, value 20 cash, blue, is in use at present pending the arrival of a fresh supply.

SIAM.—As this country has lately entered the Postal Union, we may expect to see new stamps, cards, and perhaps envelopes and bands.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—The latest provisional consists of the 1d. cut in two, obliquely, and each half surcharged in small type, "half penny."

UNITED STATES.—The following is a description of the new immediate delivery stamp which will appear shortly: A line engraving on steel, oblong in form; dimensions, 13-16x17-16 inches; color, dark blue. Design: On the left an arched panel bearing the figure of a mail messenger boy on a run, and surmounted by the words, "United States;" on the right an oblong tablet, ornamented with a wreath of oak and laurel surrounding the words, "secures immediate delivery at a special delivery office." Across the top of the tablet is the legend, "special postal delivery," and at the bottom the words, "ten cents," separated by a small shield, bearing the numeral "10."—*P. W.*

VICTORIA.—The 2 shilling stamp of the current issue has been surcharged "Stamp Duty," at the sides.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—It is stated that a new set is shortly to be issued, of the type of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 3d., as the plates are getting worn.

WEST AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—The 3d. orange of 1883 has been surcharged perpendicularly up the centre, "Half Penny," in black, and the value at the sides cancelled by ruled lines.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. A. C., Fort Laramie.—Of the half dollars between the dates mentioned the following are worth above face value: 1851, scarce; 1852, rare; 1853, without arrows at date, extremely rare; Quarters: 1853, without arrows at date rare.

J. M. C., Boston.—A cent with a perfect milled edge is something out of order, and the milling must have been done after leaving the mint, as there is no trifling at that institution.

A. S. T.—We had the same opinion about the War dept. stamps, but reliable dealers say they are all right. We do not understand how it is done, but they are obtained in some way in Washington. The face value is \$2 per set yet Scott & Co. sell them at \$1 50.

A. V. G.—We have all the Allen's locals we want. Send stamp and we will return those sent us.

E. H. L., New York.—The envelope stamp you describe is evidently the result of an accident in printing, probably caused by the flap of another envelope sheet covering that portion of the stamp.

W. D. Acker, 144 Montgomery St., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., is the name and address of a party who does not advertise, but obtains the addresses of collectors from exchange notices, etc., and sends them approval sheets which contain a good sprinkling of counterfeits.

Wm. v. d. Wettern complains of H. S. Wallace, Lock Box 1622, New Britain, Conn., as a swindler.

That excellent little magazine, *The Museum*, has been merged into *The American Antiquarian*. Its late editor, Mr. Barber, will have charge of a collectors' department in the latter paper.

Philatelic Brevities.

Carefully preserve all copies of philatelic papers.

The philatelic societies can now reorganize for the winter campaign.

Wm. v. d. Wettern's latest wholesale price-list has been received. Every stamp dealer should have it.

Charles Warner, the stamp swindler, has been attacked with poetry in one of our exchanges. This is "the most unkindest cut of all."

When the dealer in counterfeit stamps is detected, he always has a nice little story to tell of how some other fellow deceived him, and how he quit selling them as soon as he found out they were not genuine.

The *P. J. of A.* says it has closed an advertising contract with one journal for the ensuing year, to cost \$400. Would it not be a good idea to appropriate half that sum to the purchase of a few original articles on philately?

Speaking of Allen's Chicago locals, the remainders of which were sold by Mr. Allen when he closed business, to C. H. Mekeel & Co., what an immense quantity he must have had on hand!

The following auction sales of postage stamps etc. are announced:

Sept. 18.—Collection of Harlow E. Woodward, consisting of U. S. revenue stamps, American and foreign postage stamps, autographs, paper money, etc. 679 lots. Bangs & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by W. Elliot Woodward.

Sept. 24 & 25.—Collection of American and foreign postage stamps, U. S. envelopes, including a fine lot of Spanish stamps, etc. 833 lots. George A. Leavitt & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by E. Frossard.

THE
KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.—To any country in the Postal Union 25 cents per year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 INSERTION.	3 INSERTIONS.
1-2 inch.	\$ 20	\$ 50
1 inch.	35	100
2 inches.	60	160
1-2 column.	100	250
1 column.	200	450
1 page.	400	900

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS must be in by the 10th of the month to insure insertion in the next number. The right to reject any advertisement is reserved.

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to
MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,
ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 833 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

SEPTEMBER, 1885.

Any one sending us the names of four subscribers and one dollar, will receive a copy of this paper free for a year.

We have been overwhelmed with exchange notices, and have had to hold some over and cut others down, while a few we are obliged to exclude.

The first prize for original article relating to philately has been given to W. C. Glenn, and is the only one awarded. The other articles, while possessing merit, had certain defects which prevented them from being accepted. It is hoped the writers will try again.

The prize for the best essay on the coins and medals of the Philippines has also been awarded, and the article will appear in our next issue.

Messrs. A. E. Southworth & Co., of Woodstock, Ill., propose to issue, Jan., 1886, *The Standard Directory*. If the prospectus received is a fair sample of what the work will be, it will deserve the favor of every collector and dealer.

The *New England Philatelist* has changed, and materially improved, the appearance of its cover. It has also obtained second class postal rates and is now on an equal footing with most other journals of its class.

The 14th edition of Durbin's standard postage stamp catalogue has been received, and while the last was as good as we thought it could be made, this is an improvement even on that. Every collector should send for a copy to L. W. Durbin, 5th and Library Sts. Phila

It is very gratifying to be able to announce to collectors that since printing the short item about the San Francisco issue of 1866 *without* the words "In God we trust," we have positively learned of the existence of the dollar, half dollar, and quarter dollar *in proof condition*.

In our last issue we printed a short editorial paragraph directing the attention of those who collect coins which have no numismatic value or interest, to the articles on "Foreign Copper Coins" written for this paper by Mr. Doughty. One of our readers, at least, has understood our remarks to imply that the articles referred to treated of just that kind of uninteresting coins. Of course, we meant to convey no such idea, and those who read these papers will see at once that the writer's purpose is to lead the young collector away from the profitless work of accumulating copper pieces whose only merit lies in the date they bear, to the consideration of a series of historic interest and artistic beauty.

Some English Stamp Dealers.

Some weeks since, the firm of Whitfield, King & Co. applied for our advertising rates which were given, and in due time we were offered a page advertisement to be inserted twelve times consecutively and for which we were to receive 84 sets of unused Samoa. The set consists of eight, and is quoted by reputable dealers at from \$3 to \$5. The firm above mentioned sells them for \$1. and according to our price for a page for one year the value placed upon them by W. K. & Co. is about 43 cents per set, and since they prefer giving us the stamps to paying cash, the inference is plain that they do not cost even that sum, and only the man that makes them knows how much less. Yet these and all others offered for sale are warranted genuine. Is any collector silly enough to suppose these Samoa stamps are genuine? And if they are not, how are we to know which of the others are counterfeits or imitations? Of course their advertisement was declined.

Stanley, Gibbons & Co. of London, is another firm which widely solicits American patronage, but, if we may judge from our own experience, at a very trifling expense. Our paper has for some time contained a half column advertisement of theirs for which we were to receive such stamps as were indicated on a price list sent us. They were not the most salable ones, by any means, but as we were making collections we supposed we might get some we could use. Some time since we sent an order selected from the marked list, and while most we got were genuine, but common, among them were a lot of facsimiles of U. S. Locals which were catalogued as *originals*. We also ordered a book and two catalogues which we were innocent enough to sup-

pose they would give us instead of an equivalent in stamps, but this request was politely refused on the ground that the contract called for stamps. The real reason, as we take it, was that the books represented a certain amount of cash while the stamps did not.

We do not know whether or not our cotemporaries who insert "ads" for these parties are paid in the same manner; probably they get British gold. If not, they have our sympathy, and we kindly suggest that they cut loose from these skimmers who act on the belief that the average American stamp paper publisher is a flat who is only too happy to serve these "stamp dealers to the queen" without regard to their real character or the stuff they pay with.

Fac Similes of Newspaper Stamps.

For some time past Senf Brothers of Leipsic, Germany, have been offering for sale facsimiles of U. S. periodical stamps. Large quantities have found their way into the hands of dealers in St. Louis, and we learn from the *Republican* of that city that Mr. C. H. Mekeel, one of the proprietors of the Carson Stamp Co. has called the attention of the U. S. district attorney to this fact and their sale has been stopped, and the stock in the dealers' hands turned over to the officers.

The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* says of these newspaper stamps: "They were made by Adolph Isenstien of Frankfort, Germany, and are sold in this country by M. Isenstien at New York. The words "fac simile" are printed over the face of the stamp in small letters, and with ink so bodiless that it will wash off on a slight application of water which will not destroy the stamp. Their sale is prohibited in this country by a law under which their possession is illegal."

Notices of Exchange.

The Exchange Column is open to subscribers only, and for the sole purpose of aiding the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and books and papers relating to these subjects. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

1230 foreign stamps, 12 tubes of oil colors, 2 brushes, 2 stamp albums, 1 flute with instruction book, and about 1000 duplicate stamps, the lot valued at about \$70. for the best offer of a 48 or 50 inch steel spoke, rubber tired bicycle. J. C. Randall, 119 Main St., Norwich, Conn.

I will exchange 200 magazines and story papers, all in first class condition, for the best offer in U. S. or foreign copper or silver coins, or U. S. fractional currency. All inquiries answered. E. M. Lantz, Box 272, Wymore, Neb.

I have all kinds of foreign coins to exchange for U. S. and American Colonial coins. Write what you have and what you want for them. F. T. Reamer, 1744 Broadway, New York.

War tokens, big cents, foreign coins, coral, mica, and sea shells for coins and Indian relics. P. S. Johnson, Bolivar, N. Y.

Five different Dept. stamps, each from a different Dept., for a Roman coin. An eagle cent and 5 different foreign stamps for any foreign copper coin except from England and Canada. Trifet's 1884 catalogue, bound in cloth, for best offer of foreign copper coins or colonial cents. L. S. M. Morrison, Box 419, Marshall, Mich.

I have on hand some thousands of coin to exchange for Canadian, U. S., colonial and British. Correspondence desired. Also U. S. cents and $\frac{1}{2}$ cents wanted. Joseph Hooper, Box 124,

Port Hope, Ontario, Canada.

200 different newspapers and magazines to exchange for stamps or coins. Also stamps, coins and curiosities to exchange for the same. Write for particulars. Ulysses Clark, Pipestone, Minn.

One Chinese coin for any of the following stamps: 90c. 7c. and 24c. of '70 and '71 issue; any of the '69 issue except the 3c., and 1 Wells, Fargo & Co. Franked envelopes for any of the 1853 stamped envelopes. Geo. R. McCarty, 1413 16th St., Sacramento, Cal.

A rare unused Wells, Fargo & Co. newspaper stamp, valued at 25 cents by Scott's catalogue, for every 10 stamps from South or Central America, Mexico, or West India. Foreign exchange solicited. W. A. Tebow, 1630 Q Street, Sacramento, Cal.

The January, February, May and August numbers of "Wide Awake" for 1879 and the first five numbers for 1881, any two for the latest edition of Durbin's Stamp Catalogue, and several philatelic papers, to exchange for stamps and coins. I desire correspondence with collectors of all countries. G. A. Swertfager, No. 90 Howard Avenue, Utica, N. Y.

U. S. document, proprietary, match, medicine and playing card stamps to exchange for others of same not in my collection, and for Canadian revenues of all kinds. Please send lists. All communications answered. B. G. A., Box 67, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Exchange relations desired with advanced stamp collectors. 1200 varieties to exchange for rare U. S. and foreign stamps, Durbin's catalogue 14th (1885) edition to be used as a basis. W. G. Whilden, Atlanta, Ga.

FOREIGN COPPER COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

Ancient Copper Coins.—II.

Ancient copper coins may be divided under eight principal heads, as follows: Greek, Egyptian, Syrian, Jewish, Babylonian, Carthaginian, Greek Colonial and mostly Roman, which brings us to the beginning of another series, *Medieval*, or coins struck after the Roman empire had crumbled into decay, down to the year 1500, when the *Modern* period begins.

The earliest Greek copper is supposed to have been issued in Macedonia by the king *Æsopus*, about the year 397 B. C. The object of the issue was the lack of silver coinage, of which the country had been drained in consequence of the Peloponnesian war. The famous *Dionysus* defended the project, and like some of our "silver dollar" congressmen of the present day, became very unpopular thereby, and received the epithet of the "brazen orator," or to render the Greek expression in a more literal sense—"man of brass." These early coins, by the way, were not of pure copper, but of bronze or brass. The principal copper coin issued by the Greeks was the *Chalcous*, or, to spell it as it is pronounced, *Kalcos*, the name signifying simply "copper money." The *chalcous* and its divisions were the fractional parts of the silver *Obolus*; the *chalcous* itself being of one-eighth the value of that coin.

These coins, despised at first, soon became quite popular, and were issued in all the cities of Greece, in each of which, be it understood, it was the custom to make their own money. They were of various sizes seldom exceeding that of our own old fashioned cent.

Upon them were stamped devices of varied and beautiful forms. Among these were the heads of the gods and goddesses worshiped at this period, and various objects symbolical of the particular city by which they were issued. For instance: the coins of Athens invariably bear upon their reverses an owl, and indeed were sometimes called by the name of that bird. In one of the old Greek books there is related a story of an Athenian miser who had swarms of owls roosting in the roof of his house—*money* concealed there being perfectly understood by the use of the term *owls*. Upon the copper coins of Chalcis appears the seven-stringed lyre; upon those of Amphipolis a trophy suspended upon a pole; upon those of Corinth the winged horse, Pegasus; upon those of Macedonia (sometimes) the human headed bull; upon those of *Ætolia* a pig, and so on. To describe these types fully would embrace a very considerable volume in itself.

Great beauty is displayed in their design and execution, and the devices impressed on the coins of this series when properly studied, open up a field of historical information at once valuable, exceedingly interesting and of marvellous extent.

This series, together with the Greek Colonial, to be described later, is, in the estimation of the writer, the most interesting by far of those included under the caption "ancient copper coins." It is, moreover, entirely within the reach of collectors of even the smallest means. For twenty-five to thirty-five cents can be obtained in a fair state of preservation, single specimens of "Greek bronzes," to call them by the name by which they are generally known, from any reputable dealer in the United

States. They vary in period from 200 to 300 B. C. For fifty cents the same coins in a higher state of preservation are to be had, and when a dollar is reached, the scarcer varieties are obtained. Rarities, of course, command a higher price.

How interesting such a collection! How artistic and pleasing the designs! With feelings almost akin to awe we handle these bits of metal touched by poets, sages, philosophers in the days when the earth was young. Is there no beauty in foreign copper coins? If this is true, surely those of ancient Greece are an exception to the rule.

(To be continued.)

Chinese Money.

It is only the present dynasty, the *Tu Ts'ing* Mandchu, who issued a regular and efficient mintage. From the time of the Ming dynasty the year-names have been reduced to one for each reign, so that the legend was henceforth the same for the whole mintage of a ruler!

Regularity in standard is now fairly secured in the issues from the mint of the Board of Finance in the capital, which are the pattern for the provincial mints; but the shrinking of the cool metal, when frequently repeated by the casting from moulds made from pieces and not from the pattern, produces sometimes a sensible difference, which is certainly not disadvantageous to some of the mint-masters. The authorized proportion of the alloys was, till 1722, copper 50, zinc $41\frac{1}{2}$, lead $6\frac{1}{2}$, tin 2; after that time the composition consisted of equal parts of copper and zinc. The obverse bears the name of the reign, read from top to bottom, and the words

tung pao, or "current money," from right to left. On the reverse the name of the mint in Chinese, or in Mandchu and Chinese or in Mandchu only. There has been only one dark period in the present mintage, which for a time sunk to the lowest level during the great Taping rebellion. The supply of the copper mines was stopped, and it was necessary to cast iron money, the worst of its kind that ever was made.

Silver circulates generally cast in ingots, in shape rudely resembling shoes, and for that reason called "shoe-silver." With the exception of two unsuccessful (because counterfeited) attempts in 1835 and 1856 to cast silver dollars, the Government never issued silver money. In Fuhkien province and Formosa island, in 1835, a large issue of native dollars was made to pay the troops on that island; the legend was, "Pure silver for current use from the Tchang tchou commissariat, (weight) 7 mace 2 candareens." At Shanghai, in 1856, the *taels*, or dollars, were of the same weight and purity (417.4 grs. troy); and besides the inscription in Chinese and in Mandchu, they had an effigy of the god of longevity on the head, and a tripod on the tail to authenticate the official origin. Gold, cast into ingots, also circulates by weight.

Private individuals have sometimes caused silver to be cast as money; but they are generally satisfied to make, with European appliances, imitations of the Mexican and old Spanish dollars which are in currency; these, as they pass from hand to hand, are punched with the seal or stamp of the owner by way of endorsement; and when the marks are so numerous that there is no room left on the coin for more, they are melted.—*Prof. La Couperte.*

Medals of General Grant.

The large and fine bronze medals of General Grant are not many; the demand for them likely to come, now that the splendid old hero has passed away, will permanently advance their value. Indeed we learn from dealers that there is a very general call from collectors for all classes of Grant medals. Various small ones have been struck in New York and Philadelphia since his death. In one or two instances an old obverse die was used. These recent issues were pierced and mounted with eagle, or on bar attached to silk badge, and sold on the streets during the day of the funeral. The few remaining in the hands of the diesinkers (unpierced, which collectors desire), are now in possession of the dealers.

Roman Imperial Byzantine Period.

Sabatier begins the Byzantine period with Arcadius, elder son of Theodosius I. He was born in Spain, A. D. 383. On the death of Theodosius, he became Emperor of the East, while the West was given to his younger brother Honorius. His reign was A. D. 395—408.

The series ends with David Comnenus, brother of the preceding emperor, John Comnenus IV. He usurped the government, A. D. 1458, (the rightful successor being the son of John, Alexis V, aged four years). With his surrender of Trebizond, and his (later) destruction, and that of Constantinople in 1461 by Mahomet, ended the power of Rome in the East.

It is stated that the Japanese government will withdraw paper money in 1886 and introduce silver currency. Gold will continue to be coined.

Numismatic Books.

Part II., Catalogue of books relating to coins and medals on sale by Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway N. Y., has been received. These catalogues embrace the leading authorities on the subject, and in them collectors are sure to find something treating on each of their specialties, while those who seek for general numismatic information from the earliest period to date, have a large number of works to select from.

Mr. Low makes numismatic publications an important feature in his business, and in this his stock exceeds that of any bookseller or coin dealer in America, if not even larger and more varied than all others combined.

Coin Sale.

Sept. 15, 16 & 17.—Second selection of coins and medals from the cabinet of J. Colvin Randall. Bangs & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by W. Elliot Woodward.

During war times, when rebellion tokens were so generally in use, it was the custom among certain New York dealers and collectors to order *mules* as desired from the diesinkers, or those who struck them. It is to be regretted that occasional evidence of this practice still continues in sundry small medals.

Of all antiquities coins are the smallest, yet, as a class, the most authoritative in record, and the widest in range. No history is so unbroken as that which they tell; no geography so complete; no art so continuous in sequence, nor so broad in extent; no mythology so ample and so various. Unknown kings, and lost towns, forgotten divinities, and new schools of art, have here their authentic record.—*R. S. Poole.*

Tokens.

THE name given to a kind of money which was, at certain periods, current in Britain by sufferances, and not by authority. Tokens first came into use in England in the reign of Henry VIII. in consequence of the want of any authorized coins, to represent the fractions of a penny, and in the reign of Elizabeth. Stamped tokens of lead, tin and even leather, issued by vinters, grocers and other tradesmen passed largely from hand to hand, and were payable at the shops where they were issued. The corporations of Bristol, Oxford and Worcester had also their tokens.

In 1613 a royal proclamation authorized Lord Harrington to issue farthing tokens and prohibited the issue of private tokens under penalties. This prohibition was renewed by Charles I. who granted to the duchess of Richmond, Sir Francis Crane and others, the exclusive right of coining authorized farthings for 17 years, but the farthings made by these patenters were the subject of much discontent, as they were greatly below the intrinsic value of the metal. In the face of these prohibitions, private tokens, principally of brass, continued to circulate and were especially abundant during the civil war. Numerous tradesmen's tokens, mostly of copper, were again struck during the scarcity of money at the close of the last century. On account of the scarcity of silver money previous to the new coinage of 1817, silver pieces known as Bank Tokens of the respective value of 5s., 3s., and 1s. 6d. were issued by the bank of England. They were called in on the revision of the coinage.—*Chambers's Book of Days.*

Numismatic Items.

THERE is a vast difference between accumulating and collecting.

Our idea of *unique* pieces is that they are patterns or experimental pieces, without exception. We ignore modern inventions, manufactured to order.

ANNUALLY there are from one to two thousand people in the United States who *claim* to possess an 1804 dollar.

EXCLUDE from your cabinet every piece which is too poor to be positively identified. It is without numismatic value, and *pure* silver is the lowest metal worthy of your time and trouble to offer as bullion.

THERE are really but few series of either coins, medals or tokens which it is possible to complete. In no instance, however, has this fact cooled the enthusiasm of the numismatic student. To him, one of the greatest pleasures of his hobby would end with such perfection.

WE are still looking for the dollar of 1866, from the San Francisco mint without "In God we trust." The half dollar is scarce, while of the quarter dollar, we do not happen to know of more than a single specimen. On this we pin our faith that the dollar will yet be found.

In passing upon the condition of a coin, experts critically survey every portion of the piece, noting the slightest blemish, or wear from either cabinet friction, handling or actual circulation. It requires both study and experience to accurately grade the state of preservation from a scientific standpoint. This may in part account for dealers refusing to buy coins without seeing them,

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Brazil,	7	6c.
*Canada, ½d.,		1c.
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Ceylon,	3	1c.
“ 24c. and 48c.,	2	6c.
Chili,	5	8c.
East India, Service,	4	10c.
Egypt,	5	4c.
*German Empire, 2k. orange,		2c.
“ “ 3k. rose,		2c.
*Hamburg, 1½s. and 2½s.,	2	6c.
*Helligoland,	2	4c.
India, Semi-Ind. States,	3	15c.
Japan,	3	3c.
New South Wales,	5	3c.
New Zealand,	4	3c.
Nicaragua, 5c. 1862,		3c.
South Australia,	2	2c.
Tasmania,	2	2c.
U. S. of Colombia,	3	6c.
Victoria,	6	5c.
10 var. unused, good,		10c.
Packet 25 varieties, from Brazil, Chili, Cape of Good Hope, Egypt, Finland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Roumania, South Australia, Tasmania, &c. No European.		15c.

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Tokens.

The name given to a kind of money which was, at certain periods, current in Britain by sufferance, and not by authority. Tokens first came into use in England in the reign of Henry VIII. in consequence of the want of any authorized coins, to represent the fractions of a penny, and in the reign of Elizabeth. Stamped tokens of lead, tin and even leather, issued by vintners, grocers and other tradesmen passed largely from hand to hand, and were payable at the shops where they were issued. The corporations of Bristol, Oxford and Worcester had also their tokens.

In 1613 a royal proclamation authorized Lord Harrington to issue farthing tokens and prohibited the issue of private tokens under penalties. This prohibition was renewed by Charles I. who granted to the duchess of Richmond, Sir Francis Crane and others, the exclusive right of coining authorized farthings for 17 years, but the farthings made by these patentees were the subject of much discontent, as they were greatly below the intrinsic value of the metal. In the face of these prohibitions, private tokens, principally of brass, continued to circulate and were especially abundant during the civil war. Numerous tradesmen's tokens, mostly of copper, were again struck during the scarcity of money at the close of the last century. On account of the scarcity of silver money previous to the new coinage of 1817, silver pieces known as Bank Tokens of the respective value of 5s., 3s., and 1s. 6d. were issued by the bank of England. They were called in on the revision of the coinage.—*Chamber's Book of Days.*

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East India, Service,	4	10c.
Egypt,	5	4c.
*German Empire, 2k. orange,		2c.
" " 3k. rose,		2c.
*Hamburg, $1\frac{1}{2}$ s. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ s.,	2	6c.
*Heligoland,	2	4c.
India, Semi-Ind. States,	3	15c.
Japan,	3	3c.
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VOLUME II.

NUMBER 16.

OCTOBER, 1885.

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Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Formerly The KEYSTONE PHILATELIC GAZETTE.

A Monthly Publication,

—in the interest of—

PHILATELISTS AND NUMISMATISTS.

—♦♦♦♦♦—
EDWIN C. MANN, }
EDWARD E. KENDIG, } EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

ALTOONA, PA.

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Subscription Price Twenty Five Cents per Annum.

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It is gratifying to announce to collectors of coins and medals, that I have in preparation a catalogue of the numismatic collection belonging to

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which will be sold by public auction at the rooms of the well-known firm of Benge & Co. in this city during the latter part of October.

Special attention is called to the general excellence of the pieces he has brought together to his Cabinet. They may be briefly enumerated as follows:

A fine line of English silver coins.

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United States Dimes, Half Dimes and Cents.

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LYMAN H. LOW,

Numismatist,

Oct. 1st.

838 Broadway, New York.

Table of Prices for Department Stamps,

BOTH USED AND UNUSED.

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	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un	u	un
Agriculture	15	30	15	25	4	10	8	20			40	65	40	67	45	70	50	1.00	50	1.00	50	1.00
Executive	50	70	50	70	30	45	85	1.00			75	1.00										
Interior	5	8	8	8	1	8	2	8			10	15	5	15	5	20	5	30	8	40	8	10
Justice	20	40	15	40	3	7	4	18			15	20	10	20	15	20	15	70	40	70	1.00	1.00
Navy	15	20	5	12	1	8	5	12	50		75	15	20	10	20	10	35	50	50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Post Office	5	15	5	15	1	5	1	8			35	50	6	25	6	25	8	30	5	30	10	10
State	20	20	15	20	15	20	15	20	20		25	20	25	30	65	30	55	60	75	35	75	1.00
Treasurer	5	8	3	8	2	8	2	8	10		12	3	15	3	15	3	20	45	65	3	30	10
War	3	5	3	5	2	5	1	10	45		50	5	15	5	15	5	20	5	30	5	30	10

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Vol. II.

ALTOONA, PA., OCTOBER, 1885.

No. 16.

Stamp Collecting From a Historical Standpoint.

"What possible good can there be in collecting postage stamps?" "What good will they do you after you get them?" and queries of a like nature are constantly being put to stamp collectors by skeptical persons. The answers given differ widely according to the intelligence, experience or ability of the person questioned. Much has been said and written about the historical value and interest of postage stamps, but in spite of this it may not be amiss to present to the readers of this journal the issues of our own country from a historical point of view.

To begin with, the earliest event in our history, the landing of Columbus, is most beautifully portrayed in the fifteen cent stamp of 1869; while the next event of universal importance, the signing of the Declaration of Independence—the corner-stone of our republic—is equally well shown in the finely engraved twenty-four cent stamp of the same series. This handsome and, unfortunately, shortlived series of 1869—it was in use but one year and original specimens of the higher values are quite rare and constantly becoming rarer—is in our opinion the finest series of postage stamps ever issued by any government. In this set, in addition to the two stamps above mentioned, we have, presented to us in the two cent stamp (and

also in the rare one cent carrier's stamp of 1851), a vivid picture of the postal system of early days, represented by a mail carrier on horseback; the three cent stamp (locomotive) and twelve cent stamp (steamship) typify the era of invention and improvement, and the exquisitely beautiful ten and thirty cents stamps, the handsomest of the series, sustain the dignity and glory of our country as embodied in its coat of arms.

The history of any country is the story of the lives of the men who made that country's history. Our postage stamps are rich in biography, the father of our country is portrayed on no less than fifteen of them, Franklin on eight, Lincoln and Jackson each on four, Jefferson on three, while Hamilton, Clay, Webster, Taylor, Scott, Perry, Stanton and Garfield have each a place assigned them in our collection. As yet our lamented General Grant has not been honored in a similar manner, but it is to be hoped that the near future will bring his portrait into our gallery.

Now, is not this national portrait gallery something worth having? Putting aside all other considerations, is not this one a sufficient answer to the question "Why do we collect postage stamps?"

It may appear, after considering our own beautiful and highly interesting series of postage stamps, that other nations are far behind us in philatelic interest; and this we are firmly convinced is only too true. Take, for instance the

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Navy	15	20	5	12	1	8	5	12	50		15	20	10	20	10	30	20	35	20	50	1.10	1.10
Post Office	5	15	5	15	1	5	1	8			35	50	5	25	5	25	8	30	5	30	18	18
State	20	20	15	20	15	20	15	20	20		25	25	5	65	30	55	50	75	35	75	1.10	1.10
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No. 16.

Stamp Collecting From a Historical Standpoint.

"What possible good can there be in collecting postage stamps?" "What good will they do you after you get them?" and queries of a like nature are constantly being put to stamp collectors by skeptical persons. The answers given differ widely according to the intelligence, experience or ability of the person questioned. Much has been said and written about the historical value and interest of postage stamps, but in spite of this it may not be amiss to present to the readers of this journal the issues of our own country from a historical point of view.

To begin with, the earliest event in our history, the landing of Columbus, is most beautifully portrayed in the fifteen cent stamp of 1869; while the next event of universal importance, the signing of the Declaration of Independence—the corner-stone of our republic—is equally well shown in the finely engraved twenty-four cent stamp of the same series. This handsome and, unfortunately, shortlived series of 1869—it was in use but one year and original specimens of the higher values are quite rare and constantly becoming rarer—is in our opinion the finest series of postage stamps ever issued by any government. In this set, in addition to the two stamps above mentioned, we have, presented to us in the two cent stamp (and

also in the rare one cent carrier's stamp of 1851), a vivid picture of the postal system of early days, represented by a mail carrier on horseback; the three cent stamp (locomotive) and twelve cent stamp (steamship) typify the era of invention and improvement, and the exquisitely beautiful ten and thirty cents stamps, the handsomest of the series, sustain the dignity and glory of our country as embodied in its coat of arms.

The history of any country is the story of the lives of the men who made that country's history. Our postage stamps are rich in biography. the father of our country is portrayed on no less than fifteen of them, Franklin on eight, Lincoln and Jackson each on four, Jefferson on three, while Hamilton, Clay, Webster, Taylor, Scott, Perry, Stanton and Garfield have each a place assigned them in our collection. As yet our lamented General Grant has not been honored in a similar manner, but it is to be hoped that the near future will bring his portrait into our gallery.

Now, is not this national portrait gallery something worth having? Putting aside all other considerations, is not this one a sufficient answer to the question "Why do we collect postage stamps?"

It may appear, after considering our own beautiful and highly interesting series of postage stamps, that other nations are far behind us in philatelic interest; and this we are firmly convinced is only too true. Take, for instance the

postage stamps of Great Britain, aside from the Mulready envelopes, which are of the greatest interest, they are uniformly and monotonously embellished with the queen's head and absolutely devoid of interest. To make a bad matter worse the postage stamps of her colonies mainly bear the same representation, although there are praiseworthy exceptions, prominent among which are the issues of the North American colonies on which we see represented the locomotive, the steamship, the otter, the seal, the cod etc., as well as portraits *not* of the royal family; also the Sydney views of New South Wales, the striking triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope with their symbolical design, and some other colonies with designs representing their own industries instead of perpetuating their good queen's head.

On the other hand, the stamps of Spain are rich in historical suggestion; likewise those of France, and Germany—the latter including all the petty states finally absorbed into the German Empire—so that everything considered, you will find plenty of opportunities for historical study and research in the postage stamps of nearly every stamp issuing country on the globe.

But we have not yet exhausted the possibilities of our own country. There remain the periodical stamps. These stamps, while among the most beautiful and interesting to the collector, are comparatively little known owing to the peculiar method of their use by the postal authorities. The series is finely engraved and printed in brilliant colors. The first seven values represent the aboriginal American; the rest of the series, excepting the sixty dollar stamp, representing mythological characters, patrons of the arts, sciences, etc. The

sixty dollar stamp is another tribute to the original possessors of our land, being a full length representation of Minnehaha, the Indian maiden whom Longfellow made famous.

In connection with these stamps I wish to caution young collectors against the *fac similes* of them recently made abroad and now being advertised extensively. Better to keep the spaces in your album blank than desecrate them with imitations of any stamps however rare. I place these philatelic nuisances in the same category with the Hamburg Locals and made-to-order locals of our own country. The money expended for a set of these imitations would put several of the lower values of the originals in your collection, and surely one original is worth more than a book full of counterfeits, even if they are surcharged "*fac similes*."

Although it was not intended to include envelopes within the limits of this article, still it seems to me that any consideration of our stamps from a historical standpoint would be incomplete without mentioning the Centennial envelope of 1876. This stamp is in itself a brief history of our country, giving the date of its birth, a representation of advancement and progress as shown in the old-fashioned horseman compared with the modern steam railway and the electric telegraph, and the date of issue of the stamp—one hundred years after our country's birth. Every collector should endeavor to possess this stamp while it is easily obtainable, for in a few years it will undoubtedly become rare.

PHILO.

If you have not already done so, we kindly suggest that you send us your subscription before you forget it.

NEW ISSUES.

ANGOLA.—The 20 reis and 25 reis are respectively red and violet.

AZORES.—The 2 reis of Portugal has been surcharged "Acores" in small letters.

BR. GUIANA.—The "Ph. R." mentions the 1 and 4 cent stamps surcharged "official" diagonally.

CEYLON.—We hear of the 2 cent cards surcharged 2½ cents, both with and without the additional surcharge "the price is three cents including the card."

COSTA RICA.—The 1 centavo is now surcharged "oficial" in black.

JAPAN.—Mr. Esdale favors the "P. M" with an extract from a Japanese newspaper of August 4th, in which it is stated that stamped wrappers are being prepared for sending papers, magazines, etc., through the mails. Proof of the 5 ruis have already been submitted to the government by the postal authorities.

MACAO.—Four more provisionals are announced, viz ;

- 10 reis on 40 reis blue;
- 10 " " 50 " green;
- 20 " " 80 " gray;
- 40 " " 50 " green.

The colors of the 20 and 25 reis have also been changed to red and violet respectively.

MAURITIUS.—"Der Ph." mentions the 6c card surcharged 2 cents.

MONACO.—In addition to the stamps noted last month there are 1c., olive; 2c., violet; 10c., brown on yellow; 40c., blue on rose; 75c., black on rose; 1 franc, black on yellow; 5 francs, carmine on green.

MOZAMBIQUE.—The 20 and 25 reis are now red and violet.

NABHA.—This state is also using the stamps of India surcharged "Nabha State."

ROUMANIA.—The 1½ bani, black, and 15 bani, brown, of the new type have been issued.

SIAM.—The postal cards have been surcharged "Union Postal Universal Post Card," and the value "4 atts" over the stamp.

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE.—The same change has been made in the colors of the 20 and 25 reis as in those of the other Portuguese colonies.

TASMANIA.—There is a native printed card, different in color and execution from that printed in London.

TONGA.—Mr. Kitt announces that stamps are about to be prepared at the Colonial Government Printing office in Wellington, N. Z., for the island Kingdom of Tonga. This is not far from Fiji.

U. S. OF COLOMBIA.—Mr. Castle has two distinct types of the current 10c. adhesive, differing in the size of the word "LOS."

We are indebted to the Philatelic Monthly and Philatelic World for the above.

We cannot refrain from copying the following friendly notice from the *Stamp World* :

THE KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE for September is really interesting and instructive, which cannot be said of many philatelic papers. Mess. Mann & Kendig deserve great credit for the manner in which they have conducted their paper, and collectors should show their appreciation by subscribing. We unhesitatingly recommend the GAZETTE to our readers.

Chicago's Return Letter Stamps.

BY RAPHAEL.

We have something novel in the stamp line, which could only emanate from an enterprising city like ours, and which reflects credit upon the originators; namely, the "Return-request" stamp, of which the public are not generally informed.

Almost simultaneously with the attractive Special delivery stamps, was issued into this world of care, a stamp whose mission is to lessen the overwhelming pile of three million letters which annually end their career in the Dead Letter Office. This little missionary stamp is oblong in shape, and measures 20x33 milimetres, and bears the following inscription: "Trade Mark." across the top, followed by the legend "If not delivered in ten days return to—— National Letter Return Association, Chicago, Ill. U. S. A." These stamps come in books containing a thousand each, twelve to a page, gummed and perforated. Not less than a thousand can be bought at one time. Each book of stamps has its own particular number which is also printed on each stamp in the blank space shown in the description above.

On receipt of one dollar the association furnishes one of these books of stamps, all of which bear the same number. This number is entered on the register of the association opposite the name and address of the purchaser. In mailing a letter the purchaser of these stamps places one of them on the left hand upper corner of the envelope. In case of the non delivery of the letter from any cause, it will be returned, as per request on the stamp, to the office of the Association, and then be enclosed

in another envelope and remailed to the sender; so no one but the manager of the association can know who originally sent the letter. All this at a cost of one tenth of a cent per letter, which is less than it would cost for a printed return card on the envelope. These stamps are a great convenience to private families who naturally do not wish to have a business card on their friendly letters.

In our conversation with the assistant postmaster he remarked that this plan is entirely without a precedent in the postal system of the world. These stamps can be used in any town or city in the United States; but in all cases the returned letters have to pass through the hands of the association at Chicago.

The *A. A. Journal* argues that, as a rule, philatelic papers are the poorest for stamp dealers to advertise in, for the reason that those who read them never buy stamps, and that if dealers wish to get a good return for their money they must advertise in papers not devoted to philately, as these reach a class of young people who never heard of a stamp paper, and are the very ones who buy stamps.

This is rather queer logic, and we know its conclusions are not in accordance with the facts. There is, however, a class of dealers in counterfeits and facsimiles who prefer reaching those who do not read stamp papers, for such collectors are excellent game for these parasites of philately who grow fat by plundering innocent and ignorant buyers. If the latter do not wish to become the prey of the camp followers, they must keep up with the grand army of philatelists by reading the best stamp journals.

Notices of Exchange.

The Exchange Column is open to subscribers only, and for the sole purpose of aiding the exchange of stamps, coins etc., and books and papers relating to these subjects. The right to exclude any notice is reserved.

A brass U. S. Int. Rev. cotton bale tag stamp, (these were only used for a short time and now very scarce) for the best offer in coins or stamps. H. R. Drowne, 147 W 36th St. New York.

To exchange—1883 nickels, without the word cents on, for other silver or copper coins, also a Prize Holly saw, for best offer in U. S. coins or fractional currency. Oscar Givler, 37 Front St., Naperville, Ills.

Thirty three coin and stamp papers, including vol. 1 of the GAZETTE, (except Nos. 8, 10 and 12) and others over two years old, "International Dealers Directory," "Ames Mastery of the Pen," and some U. S. coins to exchange for coins, curiosities or priced catalogues of auction sales. U. S. stamps for the same. Clarence George, Independence, Iowa.

Auction sale catalogue of coins, valuable to collectors, for rare U. S. and foreign stamps, and U. S. document match and medicine stamps. E. B. Cornwell, Rubicon, Wis.

I have a U. S. cent of 1797, a three pennig, two adv. cards of the American Wire Co. for Indian arrow heads, darts, etc., or for Japanese coins and a five cent currency. C. R. Creamer, London, Madison Co., Nbio.

A pair of 10½ in. Ice King skates, costs \$7.00 when new, have been used about two months, to exchange for best offer of coins and currency. All offers answered. T. W. Rogers, Humboldt, Iowa.

Rare foreign stamps from every country for U. S. stamps of all kinds. Send list of U. S. and receive list of foreign stamps. U. S. copper cents of all dates for U. S. stamps. P. H. Schafer, Cumberland, Md.

A pair of No. 10½ Vineyard roller skates, (will fit No. 6 or 7 shoes), and a 12½c. Nova Scotia stamp and other foreign and U. S. stamps for foreign silver coins. E. D. Grewell, Ipava, Ill.

One volume of "Golden Days," a pair of 10 inch strap skates, some books and Texas curiosities for exchange, also a canvas canoe. Correspondence solicited. Cotton balls and Spanish moss, for papers and magazines. Chas. Boedeker, Columbus, Colorado Co., Texas.

Correspondence.

EDITORS K. S. and C. GAZETTE:

In your answers to correspondents in Sept. No. I notice reply to A. S. T. relative to War dept. stamps. Possibly I can offer you an explanation. To those in the War dept. these stamps are free when used for business purposes of the dept. etc. Generally when they send out a letter with an inquiry, stamps are enclosed for return postage. I have received them considerably in excess of the amount required. As these stamps were in use several years doubtless quite a quantity got out in this way, and as they never cost anybody anything they can be supplied below the par value.

H. R. Drowne.

W. Dowie Acker, whom we referred to last month, writes us that he has sold no counterfeit stamps since the 14th of September, and that we have therefore accused him unjustly. We are glad to learn of his reformation.

THE
KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

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ALL ADVERTISEMENTS must be in by the 10th of the month to insure insertion in the next number. The right to reject any advertisement is reserved.

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to
MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,
ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

SEPTEMBER, 1885.

Any one sending us the names of four subscribers and one dollar, will receive a copy of this paper free for a year.

We have some odd numbers of Vol. I., from 8 to 12 inclusive, five papers, which we will mail to any one on receipt of ten cents, or single numbers for two cents. These papers contain an average of over eight pages of reading matter, all of interest to collectors.

Mr. F. L. Mills of the *Stamp World* has favored us with a circular containing copy of a letter from Mrs. Henrietta Warner, in which she desires Mr. Mills to inform her of the amounts due from Chas. Warner to those who sent him stamps, stating she will settle these accounts. The Central Stamp Co. have

already received the amount due them but it was sent by another representative of Mr. Warner.

A down east stamp dealer advertises Argentine Republic, 1862, and Spain, Don Carlos, 1 r. blue, and as an endorsement states that "these stamps were imported from Stanley, Gibbons & Co., London." That ought to make them go. Anything in the stamp line from that quarter is all right, you know.

Several questions sent us by correspondents have been lost or mislaid. If those who expect answers through the GAZETTE will send their queries again, we shall attend to them in our next issue. This does not refer to those received within a week nor those to be answered by mail.

Jos. Turner, P. O. Box 1393, New York city, who advertised counterfeit triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps in this paper some time since, and to whom we returned the money for another ad. now turns up in the *Collector's Companion* with a choice lot of locals for the young and verdant collector.

Are there two stamp dealers in Saint Paul, Minn., named F. Stahl—one at 77 west 7th St. and another at 11 east 7th St? We had an ad. in our last issue from the one giving the latter number, and we see in one of our exchanges an ad. in which the former number is given. We are prompted to make this inquiry from the fact that the Central Stamp Co. of this city report that some months ago they sent a sheet of stamps to F. Stahl at 77 west 7th St. which he denied receiving, and refused to account for. A comparison of the letters of the two leads us to suspect they are one and the same person.

The pages of the *P. J. of A.* for September are graced with a portrait of that eminent stamp dealer and whole-souled patron of the publishers of philatelic papers—E. Stanley Gibbons, of No. 8 Gower St., London, W. C. England. The publisher of the above named journal is to be congratulated on the enterprise shown in affording such collectors as may be fortunate enough to see a copy of his paper, an opportunity of gazing on this reproduction of the handsome features of the great Stanley. It is true that only a short time ago its editor accused Stanley—and justly too—of selling counterfeit stamps, but that is a trifling matter and should not stand in the way of the discharge of a great duty to the philatelic world. Maybe, too, Stanley didn't know the stamps were counterfeit; besides, it will be a great satisfaction to those collectors who have invested in Stanley's counterfeits to have some idea of the personal appearance of the brilliant man who so cleverly "took them in."

As for ourselves, we look on this picture with profound admiration, for the original is endeared to us by many tender recollections. Stanley helped us to start the *GAZETTE*, that is, he gave us a half column "ad" (payable in stamps—always in stamps,) to be continued indefinitely, and from that time the success of our paper was assured. Such a boom did it give us that it has not been necessary to send in an order for the \$7.50 worth of stamps still due us for advertising for him.

Of course the portrait was accompanied with a biographical sketch of the distinguished philatelist, from which we learn that from being an ordinary young stamp collector, he rose in time to be a very prince among stamp dealers,

having in stock postage stamps, etc. "in quantities collectors little dream of." We don't doubt it a bit, and among them may be found elegant counterfeits of Argentine 1862, Samoa, Alsace and Lorraine, various U. S. locals, etc., etc., enough to cause S. Allen Taylor to turn green with envy were he allowed to feast his eyes on this magnificent stock. We are the fortunate possessors of most of the above named, having obtained them from this same inexhaustible stock.

His biographer further states that in Stanley's opinion "the value of those collections that are carefully made, must in no great length of time, considerably increase in value." That is, the value must increase in value. We are not quite sure what this means, but it is a proposition we do not care to take issue with just now.

M. Isenstein & Co., of the *Hermes*, have written us as follows in regard to an article in our last issue copied from a St. Louis paper, concerning facsimiles of periodical stamps:

"You copy from the *Globe-Democrat* that the fac similes are made by Adolph Isenstein of Frankfort, Germany, and sold in this country by M. Isenstein of N. Y. Mr. Adolph Isenstein lives in Hanover, and has got nothing to do with these stamps which are made by H. J. Dauth, Frankfort, Germany.

M. Isenstein of the *Hermes* accepted the advertisement of Dauth for publication, but never sold these photographs, nor has got any in his possession."

We cheerfully give place to this correction of a mis-statement for which we are not responsible. As we look at the matter, however, it would be no worse for Mr. Isenstein to be selling these photographs himself than to be helping somebody else to sell them.

PRIZE ESSAY.

Manilla and its Coins and Medals.

BY RALPH C. GRANBY.

The Philippine islands, formerly called the Manillas, are a large group lying south east from China, and somewhat north of the Eastern Archipelago. The principal islands of the group are Manilla, or Luzon—upon which is situated the city of Manilla—Mindora, Pani, Buglas, Zebu, Leyte, Samar and Mactan.

These islands were discovered by Magellan in the year 1521, who sailed to the Indian ocean upon a voyage of discovery from Mexico. They were ceded to Portugal, under the treaty of Zaragoza, in 1529, and retaken in 1568 by Philip II. when they were given the name of the Philippines in honor of the king. The English took possession of Manilla 1762, but were expelled in 1764 by the Spaniards, who have since that time retained the islands in their possession. In 1823 a revolution took place, but was quickly suppressed. The Philippine islands together with the Marianas, form a Captain Generalship, whose capital is the city of Manilla.

The city of Manilla is well built, and contains several magnificent churches. Like all Spanish colonial cities, its advancement has been slow; as it was in the 17th century, so it is to-day.

Coinage for Manilla does not seem to have taken place at an early date, as was the case with the other colonial possessions of Spain, the earliest coin of which we find record having been struck in 1782. Not until 1805 does any coin appear to have been struck at the city itself. During the reign of Ferdinand VII. until 1834, the mint-mark of Manilla was F. M. (Filipinas Manilla). In

that year it assumed its present form.

The coins and medals of Manilla are described as follows:

CHARLES III.—1764—1788.

No. 1.—Obv. CAR. III. D. G. HISP. ET R. Crowned arms of Castile and Leon upon either side of which is a cross-shaped rosette. Rev. VTRVMO. PROTEGO. A crowned lion rampant right, looking left, holding in his left fore paw a sceptre; beneath the lion the two hemispheres and over his back an upright sword, the whole surrounded by a circle of pellets or dots. In ex., M. 1782. M. Copper, size 15.

No. 2.—Similar piece. The shield and rosettes slightly different. Date 1780. Copper, size 14.

MEDALS.

No. 3.—Obv. * CARLOS * III * IN * SITUIDOR * — * BENEFICIO * Bust of the king right. In ex., J. GABRIEL. (die-sinker). Rev. COMERCIO * FILIPINO * RENACE (the commerce of the Philippines renewed). Ship under full sail, left. In ex., * MANILA * below which is GIL. Copper, gilded, size 30.

No. 4.—Obv. Same as last. Rev. APPLICACION * AL * TRABAJO (diligent in work). A woman seated at a spinning wheel, receiving a bundle of hemp from a Tagal (native of the islands) who stands before her. Upon the ground, left, GIL. In ex., MANILA. Copper, gilded, size 30.

No. 5.—Obv. Same as last. Rev. * PREMIO * DEL * VALOR * (highest bravery). A shield and two swords bound together, within a laurel wreath. In ex., * MANILA * below which is GIL. Copper, gilded, size 30.

No. 6.—Obv. Same as last. Rev. * PERFECIO * AUEMENTO * (highest perfection). A palm tree, bound to

which is a plough. In ex., * MANILA *
low, etc. Copper, gilded, size 30.

CHARLES IV.—1789—1808.

No. 7.—Obv. CAR. IV. D. G. HISP. ET IND.

Crowned arms of Castile and Leon between two stars. Rev. VTRAQ. VIRT. PROTEGO. Within a circle of pellets, a crowned lion right, facing left, holding a sword in the left fore paw. Below the lion a hemisphere, behind him a flower. In ex., F(ilipinas). 1805. M(anila). Quarto, copper.

No. 8.—Similar piece. Date 1807. Quarto, copper.

FERDINAND VII.—1814—1833.

No. 9.—Obv. FERD. VII. D. G. HISP. ET IND. R. Arms as before. Rev. Similar to last. Lion holds the sword in both paws. In ex., F. 1820. M. Octavo, copper.

No. 10.—Similar piece, but larger. Quarto, copper.

No. 11.—Obv., FERD. VII. P. L. G. D. Y. LA CONST. R. LOS. E. Bust of the king, right. Rev., VTRQ. VLTR. PROTEG. MAU. R. Crowned arms as before, dividing 1--(Quarto). In ex., F. 1823. Quarto, copper.

No. 12.—Obv. Similar to last. Rev. Similar to last, but inscription reads MAU. Quarto, copper.

No. 13.—Obv. Similar to No. 9. Rev. Similar to No. 9, but lion holds the sword in left paw. In ex., F 182(7) M. Quarto, copper, of rude execution.

No. 14.—Similar piece. The arms less rude. Quarto, copper.

No. 15.—Similar piece. Date 1828. Quarto, copper.

No. 16.—Obv. Crowned arms of Castile and Leon. Rev. MANILA | 1828. 2 Pesos, silver. Struck upon a Peruvian dollar, date 1826.

No. 17.—Similar piece. Peso, silver.

Struck upon a dollar of Guanajuato, Mexico, date 1825.

No. 18.—Obv. FERD. VII. D. G. HISP. ET IND. R. Crowned arms of Castile and Leon, very differently arranged from those previously noted, between two six-pointed stars. Rev. VTRAQ. VIRT. PROTEGO. Crowned lion advancing, right, looking left, holding in the right fore paw a sword. Above the body a clover leaf. In ex., F. 1829. M. Quarto, copper.

No. 19.—Similar piece. The lion smaller. Quarto, copper.

No. 20.—Obv. FERD. II. D. G. HISP. ET IND. R. Arms similar to last. Rev. Inscription same as last. Date 1830. Lion same as No. 1, Quarto, copper.

No. 21.—Obv. FERD. VII. D. G. HISP. ET IND. R. MR. Crowned arms of Castile and Leon dividing 1—Q(uarto). Rev. VTRAQ. VIRT. PROTEGO. Crowned lion right, looking left, holding sword in right paw, above the body a clover leaf. In ex., F. 1834 MA. Quarto, copper.

ISABELLA II.—1834—1868.

No. 22.—Obv. ISAB. II. D. G. HISP. ET IND. R. M. R. Crowned arms of Castile and Leon dividing 2—Q(uartos). Rev. Lion as before with the hemispheres beneath. Inscription reads UTRAQ. VIRT. PROTEGO. In ex., F. 1835. MA. 2 Quartos, copper.

No. 23.—Obv. Similar to last. Arms divide 4—Q(uartos). Rev. Same as last. 4 Quartos, copper.

No. 24.—ISABEL 2A FOR LA G. DE DIOS Y LA CONST. Laureled head of the queen, left. Upon the neck, L. M. In ex., 1861. Rev. * REINA DE LAS ESPANAS * Crowned arms of Spain dividing 2—P(esos) and two pillars twined with ribbons, on which is PLUS ULTA. In ex., FILIPINAS. 2 Pesos, gold.

No. 25.—Similar piece. Date 1862. 2 Pesos, gold.

No. 26.—Similar piece, Date 1862. Arms divide 4—P(esos). 4 Pesos, gold.

No. 27.—Similar piece. Date, 1864. Arms divide 1—P(eso). Peso, gold.

No. 28.—Similar piece. Date 1864. Arms divide 4—P(esos). 4 Pesos, gold.

No. 29.—Obv. Arms of Spain. Rev. Crowned castle and dolphin. Date 1834. This is a silver Proclamation piece of Isabel II. for the Philippines. We regret that we are unable to obtain a more accurate description of it. Doubtless it bears the usual legend, *Proclamado en las Islas Filipinas* or something of the sort, with the name of the queen. This, however, is entirely conjecture upon our part. Its size is 25 millimetres.

WEIGHTS.

No. 30.—ISABELLE II. REINE D'ESPAGNE. Within a laurel wreath, 20 REAUX, below which is an anchor. Rev. * BALANCIERS DES ILES PHILIPPINES * Within a laurel wreath, ESSAI | PARIS | 1859. Weight for Peso, copper.

No. 31.—Similar piece. Inscription reads 40 REAUX. Weight for 2 Pesos, copper.

No. 32.—Similar piece. Inscription reads 80 REAUX. Weight for 4 Pesos, copper.

"So far as we have any knowledge," says Herodotus, "the Lydians were the first nation to introduce the use of gold and silver coin." This statement of the father of history must not, however, be accepted as finally settling the vexed question as to who were the inventors of coined money, for Strabo, Aelian, and the Parian Chronicle, all agree in adopting the more commonly received tradition, that Pheidon, king of Argos, first struck silver coins in the island of Aegina.—*Barclay V. Head.*

The dedication of the soldiers' monument at Springfield, Mass., Sept. 29, 1885, was commemorated by the striking of a very pretty medal which may be described as follows: SPRINGFIELD MASS.—DEDICATED SEP. 29, 1885. Soldier at parade rest, on top of monument pedestal resting on a broad base. E. PRESENTED BY | GURDEN BILL. Rev. E. ED | TO THE MEMORY | OF THE MEN OF SPRINGFIELD | WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE WAR | OF THE REBELLION, | IN HONOR OF ALL WHO DIED | ON LAND OR SEA | IN DEFENCE OF | OUR NATIONAL UNION. Within, wreath of laurel leaves. E. MERRITT. W. M. Size 32.

We very much regret that by reason of our haste occasioned by the lateness of our last issue, that the facts in the matter of the issues of 1866 *without* the words "In God we trust" were not stated as intended. The dollar, half-dollar and quarter-dollar, in proof condition, are from the Philadelphia mint. The half-dollar of this variety was issued for circulation from the San Francisco mint only.

From the highest source we learn that the Japanese government does not meditate the withdrawal of paper currency. The design, however, is to be changed.

Jumbo seems to have been a collector too. Prof. Ward, who mounted his skin and skeleton, found in his stomach a great many English shillings, sixpences, coppers, and one Canadian piece.

It is a matter of fact that Nos. 4 and 51 of the 1837 "hard times" tokens as described in the *Coin Collector's Journal*, do not exist.

THE collecting of auction sale catalogues seems to have been entirely abandoned by American collectors if one may judge from the prices realized for them during the past three years. A few years ago ten dollars was not thought an extravagant price for a rare catalogue. Its contents or usefulness was not, however, a consideration. To-day, only those are preserved which are careful and accurate compilations, and of actual service to the student, and these with few exceptions, are issues of the past three or four years, and it is not thought extravagant to assert that the detailed description and impartial presentation to the buyer of what he is invited to bid for, the American catalogue surpasses all others to-day. The deficiencies are fewer, and the sale and purchase is more satisfactory to all concerned.

THE second selection from the Randall collection, sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y., on the 15th, 16th and 17th Sept. was less attractive than part I. The number of rarities and choice specimens were few, and the attendance as well as the bidding, was correspondingly diminished. The sum realized was \$2,954. The line of Canadian communicants' tokens was the largest ever offered, several of which were, for the first time, catalogued. They realized from \$3. to \$6. each. A fine example of the quarter dollar of 1807 brought \$9., and one of 1853 without arrows, sold for \$10.50. There was active competition for the rare issues of our gold coins. We quote as follows: Eagles; 1797 small eagle, \$29.50; 1798 six stars facing, \$31.00, same four stars facing, \$25.75. Half eagles: 1795, large eagle, \$35.00; 1797, thirteen stars, \$49.00; 1831, \$17.50. Quar-

ter eagles: 1796, with stars, \$40; 1797, \$18.00. The proof set of 1857 brought \$27.00; that of 1858, \$29.50.

Coin Sale.—Oct. 16th, Gold and silver coins and medals relating to the French colonial possessions in America; 508 lots; the property of Hon. Geo. M. Parsons of Columbus, O. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard.

The following lines were written on the back of a Confederate \$5.00 treasury note, found in Richmond, Va., after the evacuation:

IN MEMORIAM.

Respectfully Dedicated to the Holders of Confederate Treasury Notes.

Representing nothing on God's earth now,
And naught in the waters below it,
As a pledge of a nation that's dead and gone,
Keep it, dear friend, and show it.

Show it to those who will lend an ear
To the tale that this paper can tell,
Of liberty born of patriot's dream,
Of the storm cradled nation that fell.

Too poor to possess the precious ores,
And too much of a stranger to borrow:
We issue to-day our promise to pay
And hope to redeem on the morrow.

The days rolled on, and weeks became years,
But our coffers were empty still:
Coin was so rare that the treasury quaked
If a dollar should drop in the till.

But the faith that was in us was strong indeed,
And our poverty well discerned,
And these little checks represent the pay
That our poor volunteers had 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 then overdue,
We knew if it brought us our bread to-day,
'Twas the best our poor country could do.

Keep it, for it tells our history o'er
From the birth of its dream to the last,
Modest, and born of the angel Hope,
Like the hope of success it passed.

Numismatic Items.

For odd shapes in coins, China and Japan have the lead; in those of the greatest weight, Sweden excels; the smallest are those of Nuremburg and Nepal. That which represents the greatest value, in a coin struck from dies, belongs to the United States. France exceeds in experimental pieces.

The half and quarter dollars which have been struck since 1878 are good property to lay by. The few which were coined (proofs excepted) were delayed until the last days of December each year, and it is seldom that any of them are found in circulation. In the numismatic market they now readily command double face value.

The interest in *varieties* of the American coinage is continually increasing, and fresh discoveries are frequently announced. The struck-over dates appear to have the largest field, and claim the most attention. The rare 1853 quarter dollar (without arrows-heads at date) is over 1852, and is the last of these curiosities found in any series.

The number of strictly fine and uncirculated specimens of our early dates in the various denominations are wonderfully few in some of the years, and in none can they be regarded as common. Soon we must realize that the last old stocking, purse and drawer has relinquished its long hidden treasure, and that all are in the hands of those who best appreciate them.

It is most desirable to know coins by the name given to them in the countries and cities where they were issued. In most instances this is possible. There are some, however, regarding which

facts are wanting, and numismatists differ, and others that are classed in a general way according to the metal, and period in which they were issued, such as the denarius, groat etc.

It is to be hoped that under the new administration the cabinet of coins at the mint in Philadelphia will receive more attention, and an increased appropriation for additions. It is our national collection, and we regret to say the representation of our own coinage is not equal to some of our private cabinets. There is, we are happy to state, already evidence of an interest in this direction.

UNITED STATES silver tokens is a series we should like to see enumerated by themselves. They may be very few, and we are inclined to this opinion, but with Rickett's circus, Castle Garden, Woods Museum, Soulsby and other cards representing value, as a nucleus, we feel sure a fair and interesting showing could be made. The proper interest in them will develop if classed under a separate heading, when many now obscure will come to light.

CHURCH tokens of communicants, is a series which has thus far escaped the attention of numismatic writers, treated as a specialty. They date back a little over a century, and so far as our observations have extended, they were used only in England, Scotland, Wales, Canada and the United States. For the most part they are in lead, and many are oblong octagonal in shape. A few are cast, and a still less number are engraved, the latter generally in silver. Counter-stamps are also found among them. It is not believed that the class is a large one. Few, if any, are common, and good prices are always realized for them.

SUPPLEMENT
TO NUMBER 16 OF
THE KEYSTONE
Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Just as we are ready to mail the Gazette we learn that W. C. Glenn, of Rochelle Ill., who has an advertisement in this number, has been arrested and lodged in jail for swindling stamp, coin and curio dealers, through the mails.

ALTOONA, OCT. 21st.

STAMPS!

100 varieties for a silver dime and a 1c. stamp. Every 10th packet contains a 16c. Periodical stamp worth 20c.

MY SPECIALTY! APPROVAL SHEETS!

Send written reference from the P. M. or some responsible person or firm, and a 2c. stamp for one. Those sending will not regret it as my sheets are the best put up, contain the best variety, and are the cheapest in the United States.

\$25.00 worth of stamps given to the persons selling most stamps from my sheets before Dec. 1st.

W. C. GLENN, Rochelle, Ill.

A MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS!!

Young NATURALISTS and all others who want the Best Pens in the World, send 5c. for a sample pack-
age of ISAACS' IDEAL Pens or 25c. for a 1-4 gross box

The IDEAL PRACTICE PAPER is the finest thing for teachers and learners ever devised. Sample free. Sample copy of "THE HOOSIER NATURALIST" for a 2c. stamp. Address JONES & TROUSLOT, Penmen's Supplies, VALPARAISO, IND.

A BIG, BIG OFFER.

Wells, Fargo & Co's. news stamp, (unused.)	8c.
W. F. & Co's. franked envelopes, (entire)	10c.
Callahan's "Big Tree" bark and wood	20c.
Chinese chop sticks, per pair.	15c.
envelopes, (native paper), each.	5c.
coins, 3 var., only	10c.
single cent, 1837 or 1838, each.	15c.
large " each.	5c.

F. C. NOLD, 1523 O St., SACRAMENTO, CAL.

10 U. S. half cents, 75c.; 5 U. S. cents dated before 1899, 50c.; 1000 finely mixed post-marks, 50c.; 50 Edison tokens, \$1.00; Above articles sent post-free on receipt of price. Sheets of stamps sent on application at 40 p. ct. com. on receipt of 50c. or \$1.00 de-

C. E. LEAL,

110 Ellison St., Paterson, N. J.



FOR SALE. Indian Belles, ancient and modern, Fossils, especially fine Trilobites, Minerals, Sea Shells and Coral, Autographs, Confederate Money and Old State Bills, and all manner of curiosities. Send stamps for price lists.
MERCER, 147 Cent. Ave. Cincinnati, O.

When answering advertisers, say, "ad" in K. S. & C. G."

RUBBER STAMPS!

NAME STAMPS, complete, only 50c.
BUSINESS STAMPS,
DATING STAMPS,
POST OFFICE STAMPS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS' STAMPS,
ETC., ETC., ETC., ETC.

I am manufacturer of Rubber Stamps of every description. AGENTS WANTED.

C. S. MORSE, AMESBURY, MASS.

ESTABLISHED 1881.

JAMES S. McHENRY,

210 South Spruce St., Nashville, Tenn.

My specialty is APPROVAL SHEETS. All bona fide collectors who can furnish gilt edge references send for one at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. 33 1-3 per cent. commission allowed. 10 fine unused foreign stamps, 5c.; 5 Bergedorf, 7c.; 6 Porto Rico, 6c.; 10 German Empire, 7c.; 6 Bavaria Return 7c. ALL UNUSED. Postage 2c.

1 pair Chinese chop sticks, 10c.

2 var. Chinese coins, 8c.

100 fine mixed foreign stamps, 5c.

3 var. Wells, Fargo & Co's.

franked envelopes, 5c.

GEO. R. McCARTY,

No. 1316 16th St., Sacramento, Cal.

PACKET "PHOENIX."

This packet contains 120 DIFFERENT FOREIGN STAMPS including such as Newfoundland, unused Heligoland, unused Bosnia, Western Australia, Sandwich Isl., Ceylon, Bermuda, unused Saxony, Sierra, Dutch Indies, Queensland, Thurn and Taxis, San Marino, Egypt, Greece, Brazil, Cape of Good Hope, Porto Rico, Roumania, Luxemburg. Price, only 36 CENTS, post free, with a sample copy of

THE STAMP WORLD.

a 12 page paper for collectors. Address,

F. L. MILLS, Box 473, CINCINNATI, O.

IT CAN'T BE BEAT. Our 10-cent package of Foreign stamps, eight stamps, sent post-free on receipt of 10c. Contains 75 different stamps that cannot be purchased separately for ten times the price. Choice approval sheets sent on receipt of 2c. stamp and good reference.

HILL & BERKMAN, Grand Crossing, Ill.

Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr.,

Wholesale Dealer in

POSTAGE STAMPS.

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

Price List free on application to dealers only. All kinds of Postage Stamps purchased for PROMPT CASH.

FOR SALE!

My collection of coins, consisting of Greek, Roman, and foreign silver and copper, American Colonial including Mass., Conn., Vt., etc., U. S. coins, a large variety, especially copper cents and half cents, Hard Times Tokens, Copperheads and War Store Cards.

R. C. SCOTT, BALDWINVILLE, N. Y.

TO COLLECTORS

OF

Coins and Medals.

Dealing in Old Coins is with me a business, not a matter of recreation: It is moreover my sole occupation and consumes my entire time. My place of business is a large and well stocked store upon one of the most centrally located business blocks in New York. My facilities for obtaining Coins, Medals and Books relating to the same are unexcelled: my stock in all lines is decidedly the largest and most varied carried by any dealer in the United States.

The advantage to collectors of putting themselves in communication with one who can supply their wants, no matter what their especial line, must at once be apparent to all who are interested.

Catalogue of United States and Colonial Coins,	15c.
Price List of United States Fractional Currency,	10c.
Price List of Confederate Notes,	10c.

The above are the most complete ever offered. They contain much valuable information, not to be found elsewhere.

Prices and varieties of Foreign, ancient Greek and Roman coins, upon application.

In sending orders, specify as nearly as possible the particular class of coins or medals desired, stating the country and period to be represented. It is also well to enumerate in your order a number of coins that will in value exceed the amount of your remittance. It is impossible to keep a full line of everything no dealer in the world can do this. Stock is constantly changing through the daily transactions in my business.

Catalogue of Numismatic Books, Part I, February, 1885,	15c.
Catalogue of Numismatic Books, Part II, August, 1885,	15c.

Prices quoted in my catalogues and lists, whether books or coins, do not include postage. Parties ordering will often save expense by including enough for registration, otherwise packages will be sent by express. I do not guarantee the safe arrival of my goods sent by ordinary mail.

Invoices of coins on approval to parties furnishing satisfactory references is an important feature in my business.

Correspondence solicited from cities, corporations, museums, colleges, libraries, administrators of estates, and collectors. Information relative to the subject of numismatics cheerfully given.

Collections catalogued for public sale.

Estimates given for the designing and cutting of dies for medals.

Antique coins of undoubted authenticity for jewelry purposes and objects of ornament.

I neither buy nor sell coins which are either badly worn or mutilated, nor pierced pieces, unless they are rare.

A large correspondence, (to which my entire time cannot be given), frequently necessitates the delay of a day or two before replying. Letters are filed in the order received, and have the earliest attention possible.

Circulars free on receipt of postage. Always enclose stamp with letter requiring reply.

LYMAN H. LOW,
Numismatist,

838 Broadway, New York.

VOLUME II.

NUMBER 17.

NOVEMBER, 1885.



THE KEYSTONE

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

A Monthly Publication,

—in the interest of—

PHILATELISTS AND NUMISMATISTS.

EDWIN C. MANN,
EDWARD E. KENDIG,

EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

ALTOONA, PA.

Subscription Price Twenty Five Cents per Annum.

ESTABLISHED 1882.

E. W. FRANCISCO,

No. 4 HOWARD ROW, MEMPHIS, TENN.

I can send very fine APPROVAL SHEETS to those sending me gilt edge reference or deposit.

The MEMPHIS PHELATELIST

mailed to any address free. Send for a copy.

Unused War Dept. Stamps!

Per set, 11 varieties, 90c.

Entire Envelopes, 8 varieties, 40c.

All kinds of foreign stamps always on hand. W. C. DOUGLAS & CO.,

STAMP DEALERS.

1009 23d St., WASHINGTON, D. C.

PACKET PHOENIX.

This packet contains 120 DIFFERENT FOREIGN STAMPS including such as Newfoundland, un'ed Helligoland un'ed Bosnia, Western Australia, Sandwich Isl. Ceylon, Bermuda, un'ed Saxony, Servia, Dutch Indies, Queensland, Thurn and Taxis, San Marino Egypt, Greece, Brazil, Cape of Good Hope, Porto Rico Roumania, Luxemburg. Price only 35 CENTS post free, with a sample copy of

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a 12 page paper for collectors. Address,

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A. L. HAMILTON,

P. O. Box 824, MONTREAL, CAN.

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Is a lively, entertaining, first-class monthly magazine for stamp collectors. Contains articles by best writers. Adapted to beginners and advanced collectors. Subscription 25c. a year. Advt's 40c. per inch. Sample copy free.

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P. O. BOX 419, CHICAGO, ILL.

FOR SALE:

. 800 War cards or metallic advt's., nearly all fine, very many uncirculated, many rare, all different, the lot, \$12.

Another set of 500, fine, many scarce, \$6.50.

A nearly complete set of 200 war tokens or "politicals," fine, \$2.50.

Each of these lots is without duplicates. Address: F. M. B.,

Care Mann & Kendig, Altoona, Pa.

Geo. Henderson, 1221 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

SHEETS ON APPROVAL! 33 1-3 PER CENT. COMMISSION!

REFERENCE REQUIRED! AGENTS WANTED!

J. H. Pleasants, Jr.,

40 CATHEDRAL ST., BALTIMORE, MD.

COLLECTORS send for one of my approval sheets at 25 per cent commission and promise to return in five days.

A USEFUL NOVELTY

A neat little book containing 1000 perforated, gummed return letter stamps, issued by the National Return Letter Association. Price \$1.00.

These stamps can be used in any town in the United States. They insure the delivery or prompt return of every letter bearing one. Cheaper than printed return cards.

R. R. SHUMAN,

179 Ontario St., Chicago, Ill.

The "ETRURIA" Packet

contains 60 varieties of used and unused U. S. and foreign stamps, including *Bermuda *Cashmere *Cuba *Denmark *France *Germany *Holland *Italy *Japan *Korea *Mexico *New Zealand *Norway *Peru *Porto Rico *Spain *Sweden *Switzerland *Tennessee *Texas *United States *Venezuela *West Indies *Yemen *Zanzibar. Price 25c. Postage extra.

M. A. THOMSON, 3141 Indiana Ave. Chicago, Ill.

A quantity of 7 and 24 cent general issue, and all values of postage stamps wanted at 10c per cent.

Will also buy any kind of U. S. postage stamps. Write what you have stating lowest price, and don't forget to enclose stamp for reply.

LINCOLN RAPPLEYE, Trumansburg N. Y.

INDIAN RELICS.

Pieces of Indian bones and pottery dug from mounds in Tennessee. Sent post paid for 25 cents. Indian teeth 10c. each. J. M. GRAY JR., 113 S. SPRUCE ST., NASHVILLE, TENN.

CANADA	8c., blue,	35c.
REGISTER	5c., green,	10c.
'STAMPS	2c., orange,	65c.
	Per set	15c.

Used. A. S. THOMSON, Box 171, Halifax, N. S.

STAMPS!

PACKET No. 1 contains 100 foreign stamps all different, including stamps from Mexico, Chili, Brazil, Constantinople, Natal, Bulgaria, Bermuda, Japan, etc., only 17c.

Price list of stamps and coins free. J. C. BECKER, Box 426, Bloomington, Ill.



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Stamp and Coin Gazette.

Vol. II.

ALTOONA, PA., NOVEMBER, 1885.

No. 17.

Counterfeiters and Their Allies.

BY QUERICUS.

Counterfeit stamps and others of a doubtful character are now receiving a good deal of attention from philatelic writers and journalists. That these fabrications are a serious hindrance to the progress of true philately is universally admitted, and collectors are looking about for some means of delivery from the perplexity and uncertainty with which their favorite pursuit is attended. Even those who have had considerable experience find themselves at a loss to determine the true character of many of the stamps offered them, and are anxious to increase their collections by the addition of some of the rare issues, are kept from doing so by the fear that they may be imposed upon. Many have given up collecting in disgust, and still more are deterred from entering on a pursuit which, under more favorable circumstances, promises so much entertainment and instruction. No honest collector cares to contribute to the support of the scoundrels who have done so much to bring philately into contempt by saying nothing of the ill-gotten gains they have filched from the purses of their victims. The great popularity of stamp collecting amongst young people makes it an inviting field to the concocter of spurious stamps of every character, and though collectors

have been cautioned and the counterfeiter denounced a thousand times, he still goes gaily on with his work. And, looking at it from his stand-point, why shouldn't he? He has much to encourage him and nothing to give him any occasion for alarm. He has the voluntary support of many collectors who prefer his stamps because they are cheaper than the genuine. The collectors referred to are those who collect because it is fashionable and who wish to enjoy the proud distinction of having all the rarities, thus making themselves the envy of their more honest philatelic friends. And how few of the latter would be able to point out the forgeries, having never seen the genuine original. Through the agency of these bogus "philatelists" large quantities of the abominable stuff they enjoy being swindled with, pass into the hands of innocent and ignorant collectors who eventually discover that things are not always what they seem.

The most efficient support, however, which the maker of bogus stamps receives is that supplied by the dealers, especially those amongst them who are unscrupulous, who do an extensive business, and who after a long period of fair dealing have established a reputation. Their honesty is altogether that of policy, and when the proper time arrives, under cover of their good reputation they are enabled to quietly introduce fabrications which only the intelligent and well posted philatelist can detect. The

ESTABLISHED 1882.

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collector who has only a limited knowledge of the bewildering variety of issues of postage stamps does not have his suspicion aroused when he encounters those which have not a good pedigree, and he is as likely to buy them as any others he may want. Even if he has doubts, it is a difficult and troublesome matter to obtain the evidence to clear them up, and it is easier to conclude that since such and such large and presumably respectable dealers offer them they must be all right. But suppose the collector or any one else does have the temerity to assert that a certain stamp catalogued and sold by one of these high-toned dealers is not what is claimed for it, and asks for further information, if he receives any attention at all he will be informed by the dealer in question that his reputation as a stamp dealer of long standing ought to be a sufficient guarantee that anything he places in the stamp market need not be questioned. If the stamp is clearly demonstrated to be a forgery it is perhaps withdrawn from the list, but it goes into the hands of such small dealers as are willing to sell anything, and it goes out on approval sheets to all who can be reached, and into the hands of local agents who sell stamps amongst their associates who, in many cases, are little capable of knowing what they are buying.

While the philatelic papers as a rule discourage the sale of counterfeits by spasmodic efforts at exposure of frauds, they are made in such a half-hearted way and not followed up, that the impression is left that they are fearful of giving offence to the large dealers whose patronage they seem to regard as of more importance than the interests of the collecting public. Now and then one

of them will denounce a little dealer who is caught selling counterfeits, but while one paper excludes him from its advertising columns, another takes him in.

The only frauds amongst dealers whom they can be depended on to expose are those who fail to pay for their advertisements; that, in their eyes, is a most heinous offence. Hardly any of the stamp papers do not, at some time or other, accept the advertisements of parties whom a little inquiry would show to be unreliable, and who are well known to the careful readers of these journals.

It is not intended to class the philatelic papers with the allies of counterfeiters. They are, with few exceptions, conducted by patrons of honest philately, but, from force of circumstances, they are not as pronounced against the kind of fraud here considered as it is believed they ought. There is no question that they could unitedly wield a powerful influence against the debasers of philatelic science, and would no doubt do so if they were properly encouraged by collectors, but the precarious support derived from these does not enable them to be independent of such dealers as do not conduct their business in a conscientious manner.

It is not pretended that fraudulent stamps could be entirely driven out even if the philatelic papers should pursue the course indicated above, for there are other mediums through which the counterfeiter can reach the collector, such as *Harper's Young People*, *Golden Days*, etc, whose publishers know nothing of the character of the dealers who advertise in their columns, and take no pains to find out, but they could make their readers so thoroughly acquainted with all sorts of imposters that none but the willfully ignorant need be deceived.

The Rarest Stamp.

New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz: the "Connell," as it is universally called. Now, this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much-abused word; the circumstances are as follows: In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and, to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Co. to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of excellence and neatness by any stamp in Christendom. Mr. Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam engine on the 1c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12½c., a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17c., and his own portrait on the 5c.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public: but alas! Mr. Connell had committed a frightful crime in daring to engrave his honest countenance on a piece of paper similar to that on which the queen's was depicted. Her Majesty's lieges at once called a mass meeting at which Mr. Connell was asked to resign, which he did, and retired forever from the political arena. The stamp was only used one day and a number having passed through the post-office, it cannot be considered an essay.

—*Toronto Philatelic Journal.*

Philatelic Brevities.

We have seen a Cheever & Towle local printed in red which the ignorant collector will buy as readily as the genuine which is always blue.

Mr. Siddall in an article in the *T. P. J.* speaks of a 3c. U. S. stamp of 1869 on which there is a representation of a train of cars. This is a variety we have not yet seen. Those we have show only the engine and tender.

Mr. W. B. Curtiss, 614 Willoughby ave., Brooklyn, informs us that he has a stamp of St. Pierre et Miquelon, with large 5 at top and small s. p. m. at bottom, surcharged in black on a 4c. violet French colonies 1881 issue.

A 2c. red, counterfeit Confederate States stamp which we met recently on an approval sheet, differs from the genuine in the following particulars: In the genuine there is a scar on lower lip left of centre; right eye small and clear; short lines below "TWO CENTS" lean both ways from centre and are clear. In the counterfeit the lip is perfect, right eye large and blurred, and the lines below value on one side are dots.

Just as we were settling down in the belief that we knew all about Allen's Chicago Locals, here comes the *Philatelic Magazine* with a statement which is at variance with what we had hoped were the facts. It says: "At the time of the discontinuance of the post, about twenty thousand of the yellow variety, and four thousand of the rose were held by the post-owner, all of which were bought by an enterprising stamp dealer."

Mr. Mekeel says that in 1883 he made Mr. Allen an offer for the remainders, which were *all of one variety*, red on yellow, and the offer was accepted. Which statement is correct?

Those Samoa Stamps.

In the Sept. issue of this paper we made some remarks concerning these stamps which have brought us a letter from Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. of Ipswich, England, in which they say :

"We beg to inform you that the stamps in question are perfectly genuine, and we defy you or any one to prove the contrary. You never saw one of the stamps we offered you, and yet you condemn them as false because we sell them cheaper than other dealers who have themselves bought the stamps of us. No doubt you are aware that the stamps are no longer employed in Samoa and are not usable in prepayment of letters from that place. We purchased from the former postmaster the entire remaining stock directly they were withdrawn from use, at a very considerable reduction from the face value. * * * We have sold quantities to such U. S. dealers as Scott & Co., Durbin, Calman and Wettern, and almost all other principal dealers in the world."

We never said these stamps were counterfeit, but that they are not *genuine* in the philatelic sense of that word. We believe them to be reprints, and called them such in our note to W. K. & Co. declining their offer. We understand a genuine stamp to be one which has been issued by proper authority with the intention that it may be used in prepayment of mail matter, but those made from the same plates or dies after their withdrawal is determined, are not postage stamps, and therefore not genuine. The only question to be settled is whether the Samoa stamps sold by W. K. & Co. are remainders or reprints. We are of the opinion, for various rea-

sons, that they are the latter, but in order that a correct conclusion may be reached, if possible, we have written the U. S. consul at Apia, Samoa, and have asked him to obtain for us a complete history of these stamps and of the dies from which they were made. If the evidence is clear that W. K. & Co. have purchased the actual remainders in the hands of the authorities at the time they ceased to be used, we shall take pleasure in acknowledging the fact.

Notwithstanding the fact that Messrs. Scott & Co., seem to have purchased these stamps they do not catalogue them nor provide spaces for them in their albums. Mr. Durbin purchased some of them, but finding them to be as he supposed, reprints, he has not sold them, having a stock purchased shortly after they went into use, which was in 1879.

It is hardly necessary to say that our refusal to accept these stamps in payment of advertising was based on an honest belief that they were reprints. Had we believed them genuine we might have acted otherwise. Our experience with English stamp dealers has led us to regard with suspicion anything they offer to pay with.

This reminds us to remark that Stanley Gibbons & Co. are now entitled to the floor for the purpose of making any statement concerning those Argentine, 1862, which will tend to clear up the mystery that surrounds them. If they will be kind enough to give us a clue we promise to follow it up to the best of our ability, and after we get through with these we shall be ready to take up another lot of those on their list which should be required to show upon what ground they claim admission to respectable stamp albums.

Exchange Notices.

Copper coins from Austria, Bavaria, Sweden, Norway, France and others for foreign coppers. W. G. Jerrams, Jr., 38 Aklinc Square, Chicago, Ill.

Rare minerals, shells, Indian relics, star fish etc. for stamps, entire envelopes, foreign post cards and C. S. bills. C. C. Joy, Box V, La Hoyt, Iowa.

Pair U. Hardware Co. skates, nickel plated runners, clamp at toe, "Golden Days" for 1885, and old U. S. cents for old coins, Greek and Roman preferred. J. D. Heard, 19 Bertha St. Pittsburg Pa.

75 diff. for. stamps or 15 diff. picture adv. cards for each of following papers: KEYSTONE S. & C. GAZETTE, Nos. 1, 3 and 7; "P. J. of America," Nos. 4 and 5; "Stamp World," Nos. 1 to 33, 37, 39 to 43, and 54. Philatelic papers for same. R. R. Shuman, 179 Ontario St. Chicago.

Very fine specimens crystalized, stratified, circular and curved gypsum for very good U. S. depts. and old U. S. and good foreign postage stamps. M. & C., Lock drawer S, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

5 var. Cape of Good Hope, or 35 var. stamps or Chinese coin for 10 stamps from Canada, or 5 from Cent. or S. A. "Lovells" and "Seasides" for stamps. E. R. Aldrich, 322 N. Wells St. Chicago.

10 stamps from Hong Kong, Sand. I. S. Amer. etc., for a good, genuine one of St. Thomas, Cape Verde, St. Lucia, St. Helena, or Tobago. A. T. Stewart, 1252 Franklin St., Oakland, Cal.

25 handsome cards with any name on for any stamp catalogued by Durbin at 10c. or over, or for the 7c. 1870-82, or the 50c. due, both U. S. R. W. French, Hartland, Washington Ter.

U. S. copper cents of dates of 1797, '98, 1800, '02 '03 '14 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20 '22, and from '24 to '56, for U. S. coins. J. A. Rosenberg, Chariton, Iowa.

New Issues.

ANTIOQUIA.—The "Philatelic World" says: We have just received five new stamps; 1c. blue green on white; 1c. black on pale green paper; 2½c. black on pale buff paper; 5c. green on white; 10c. lilac on white; 20c. blue on white. All are of the latest types except the 20c. which is new. This has head of Liberty in circular band inscribed "Antioquia" above, "veinte cents" below; at the top of stamp in curved label "correos de," and in lower corners large figures.

CHINA.—The "Philatelic Monthly" is informed by a Shanghai correspondent, that the plates for the new issue are ready, so that we may look for the new stamps before a great while.

MONACO.—The same paper says; Several more values have made their appearance, viz: 1 centime bistre, 2c. lilac, 10c. red-brown, 40c. slate, 75c. black, 1 franc black and 5 francs carmine.

MEXICO.—The "Stamp World" says the color of the present series is being changed from green to different colors, as follows: 1c. gray, 2c. brown, 3c. carmine, 5c. violet, 6c. brown, 10c. orange, 12c. brown, 25c. blue.

RIO DE ORO.—"Le Timbre Poste" says that current Spanish stamps have been surcharged for use in this place as follows: 5c., carmine on green; 10c., blue on carmine; 15c., violet on salmon; The surcharge is in three lines and reads as follows: "Africa—Rio de Oro—España."

VICTORIA.—The "P. W. states that envelopes, as follows, have been issued: 2d. lilac on white; 4d. carmine on white. The 2d. stamp is in the upper right corner and the 4d. is on the flap, but placed diagonally.

THE
KEYSTONE STAMP AND COIN GAZETTE.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.--To any country in the Postal Union 25 cents per year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 INSERTION.	3 INSERTIONS.
1-2 inch.	\$ 25	\$ 60
1 inch.	40	1 00
2 inches.	75	1 80
1-2 column.	1 20	3 00
1 column.	2 40	6 00
1 page.	4 50	10 00

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS must be in by the 10th of the month to insure insertion in the next number. The right to reject any advertisement is reserved.

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EDW. C. MANN. }
EDW. E. KENDIG. } EDITORS.

ADDRESS all communications to
MANN & KENDIG, PUBLISHERS,
ALTOONA, PA.

The GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 839 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

NOVEMBER, 1885.

Any one sending us the names of four subscribers and one dollar, will receive a copy of this paper free for a year.

Mr. W. R. Fraser, an enthusiastic stamp collector of this city, has in his collection a used specimen of the U. S. Franklin Carrier stamp of 1851, and a used G. A. Mills Local, both of which are quite rare and consequently valuable.

We regret to record the sudden death, on the 7th inst. of Dr. Charles P. Henry, who had but recently taken charge of the publication of the *New England Philatelist*. He was not a philatelist; but his manifest interest in the science gave promise of future usefulness in the ranks of its friends.

Quite a number of new philatelic papers have recently appeared which we have not room now to notice separately, but shall do so next month. Some of them are very creditable efforts, and ought to live and flourish.

Our idea of a stamp or coin collector is one who has intelligence enough to know how to go about it, and perseverance enough to stick to it as long as circumstances will at all permit, and who makes use of all the helps at his command.

The title of "the handsomest philatelic paper" must be given to the *Empire State Philatelist*. Its November No. is enclosed in a beautiful cover that surpasses all the efforts of its contemporaries in this direction. We are glad to note this evidence of prosperity.

We are in receipt of a circular from Mr. Lyman H. Low, announcing the withdrawal of the Kingsford collection of coins and medals. The remaining invoices, materially increased by additional contributions from other sources, will form a sale which will take place during the last days of December.

There does not appear to be any good reason why stamp journals should not discontinue the practice of prefacing their original articles with the words "Written for this paper," or something to that effect. This was all very well when it was an unusual thing to have something that was not copied, but now, when original essays are the rule, it is in better taste to give credit where articles are copied, leaving it to be understood that all other matter was specially prepared for the paper. This is the plan we some time since adopted and propose to follow.

We have no special announcement to make for the holidays. The usual edition of 1000 copies will be circulated amongst active collectors only.

The *Hermes* for October charges Mr. L. W. Durbin with selling *cancelled* United States Periodical stamps. This is a very careless statement, to say the least, and shows that the one who makes it does not know what he is talking about. A little investigation would have shown him that these stamps have never been offered for sale cancelled.

We hope our contemporaries who insert ads. for the large English and French stamp dealers are getting their pay in something better than reprints, counterfeits and such stuff. It's bad enough to print the ads. of some of them even for the hard cash. It isn't our business, particularly, but we are a little concerned for the dignity of the profession, you know. We never felt better in our lives than since we "yanked" Stanley, Gibbons & Co.'s ad. out of the GAZETTE.

It occurs to us there are enough reliable stamp dealers on this side the Atlantic to supply all the wants of collectors on this continent, and the latter will find it to their advantage to purchase from them instead of transacting business at such long range with parties of whose honesty and reliability they know comparatively nothing, and where the collector has little chance for redress in case he is deceived. When stamps must be had from abroad, it is better, as a rule, to get them through the agency of such of our own dealers as can be trusted, who have better facilities for knowing of whom and what to buy.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. W. L., Winterset.—(1) English shilling. (2) 1-12 thaler of Luneburg, Brunswick. (3) 2 real piece of some S. American country; is of rude native workmanship and too poor to be further described. Date cannot be given. (4) Canada penny token.

E. M. L., Forreston.—Gold half and quarter dollars were first issued in 1852. Twenty cent pieces were issued as follows: Patterns, 1874; general circulation, 1875-6. In proofs only, 1877 and 1878 when coinage ceased.

R. W. F., Hartland.—The newspaper stamps have not been counterfeited to our knowledge, and those of 1865 are not gummed. The triangular stamps of Cape of Good Hope and New Foundland have been counterfeited, the former quite numerous. Neither have been reprinted. Any one familiar with engraving can readily tell the genuine newspaper stamp from the fac-simile.

E. L. M.—Does the regular monthly visit of the GAZETTE remind you of anything? How is "Merowie" coming on?

It knocks nearly all the poetry out of philately when, at almost every step you advance among the rarer issues, you are met by some impudent forgery which stares you in the face with all the assurance of the genuine article.

We should be very glad to have collectors inform us of any discoveries they may make which are of interest to the fraternity. What one communicates will have a tendency to draw out another, and all will be mutually benefited. Such information is of practical value, and that is the kind we wish to give our readers.

FOREIGN COPPER COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

Ancient Copper Coins.—III.

Continuing our brief survey of the small money of the ancient world, we find three important series now demanding consideration, viz: the Greek Colonial, Bactrian and Ptolemaic, which are intimately connected from a historical point of view.

After the untimely death of Alexander the Great, some of his generals immediately seized upon such portions of the territory conquered by that remarkable youth, as they found within their grasp. Seleucus Nicanor, who had been appointed Satrap of Syria, was one of these, and took possession of that country, 312 B. C. Ptolemy, the youthful companion and trusted friend of Alexander, who had already possessed himself of Egypt, assisting with his army to establish him on the throne. Both of these monarchs, together with a long line of their successors struck great numbers of copper coin.

The coins of the Seleucidæ, as the sovereigns beginning with Seleucus were called, bear upon the obverse a male head covered with the lion skin head dress, which appears upon the coins of Alexander. These heads are supposed to furnish actual facial representations of the kings of this dynasty. The obverse legend generally reads ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ, or "King Seleucus." Upon the reverse the bull, and various sacred emblems appear.

Contemporaneous with the coins of the Seleucidæ, and of later date, we find a number of highly interesting copper pieces issued in the various cities of Syria. Among these cities were Smyrna,

whose coins bear upon the reverse the figure of the sitting Homer, the presiding genius of the city. Ephesus, Alinda, Cæsarea, Pergamos and Tyre, also furnish interesting coins. The copper coins of this series are easily obtained at moderate prices, and form a most interesting study for those devoted to the history of places of Biblical mention.

The copper coins struck during the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt form one of the most interesting and important series known to numismatic science. They bear great similarity as to type, and vary in size from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter to that of our ordinary bronze cent. The earlier coins of the series bear upon the obverse the head of Jupiter with a head dress representing the head, tusks and trunk of an elephant, and on the reverse one eagle, and in some instances two, seated upon a thunderbolt with appropriate legends, setting forth the name and title of the sovereign. Coins bearing what is esteemed an accurate portrait of Queen Cleopatra belong also to this series. There were thirteen of the Ptolemies and a full assortment of their obtainable copper coins would form a cabinet of great beauty and historical interest. They are, however, of higher cost than any coins yet described; good specimens commanding from two dollars upward.

The Bactrians were a nation which grew up from the troops of Alexander the Great left in Ariana and Bactriana, being that portion of Central Asia watered by the river Oxus and its tributaries. For many centuries the existence of these kings was regarded as fabulous, and, in fact, such was still the belief when, some fifty years since, large finds of their coins, principally of copper, put all doubts in the matter at once

at rest. "This recently discovered series," says Humphrey, *Coin Collector's Manual*, London, 1853, "is especially interesting as having been the means of recovering many facts concerning the history of a portion of Asia, which during a long period, was lost in obscurity; and also as being the means of restoring at the same time a lost language, the inscriptions upon some of the coins being bilingual, Greek on one side and the Indian dialect of the region upon the other; in the earlier period a dialect of Sanscrit, and afterward the Arian language."

Thus we have a series of foreign copper coins which has been of the highest importance in restoring to history the knowledge of a succession of sovereigns which otherwise would have been forever lost. The Bactrian coins are of rude form and execution, showing a marked tendency toward the imitation of Greek art. They are both round and square, and bear upon them in addition to the heads of the sovereigns and their titles in the Greek and Arian characters, representations of the sacred Indian bull, upon which the king is mounted; an archer shooting; the king sacrificing at an altar; the king seated in the cross-legged, Oriental fashion, etc. But by far the most frequent device is that of the king riding upon an elephant, which presents a figure not appearing upon the coins of any other nation.

Bactrian coins, although highly interesting, are difficult to classify, owing to the small progress made by students in deciphering the inscriptions upon them, and the absence of printed authorities as guides. They are, however, tolerably well understood by certain numismatists abroad, particularly those connected with the British Museum; these,

however, have so far kept their knowledge to themselves. Recent finds have rendered these coins very numerous, and a large variety of them can be obtained at moderate prices, ranging, for good specimens, from twenty-five to fifty cents. They are not to be recommended to the beginner as desirable, however, when viewed in the light of a series.

Pennsylvanias, or "Bungtowns."

Under these names the "Birmingham Bad Halfpennies" which were made in imitation of English and Irish halfpennies of George II. and III. and so profitably and abundantly issued in the reign of the latter, seem to grow in popularity with the American collector, and a resting place is accorded to them with the Colonial series. The reference they have to America is, that while a few were especially designed to be made acceptable in this country, nearly all of them gradually found their way here and in large quantities, and by reason of a scarcity in small change they were current for many years, particularly in Pennsylvania, as their necessities in this direction were not lessened, as in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and other states, by the issuing of copper coins.

Mr. Lyman H. Low in his catalogue of United States and Colonial coins, recently issued, describes obverse and reverse of 196 halfpennies and 25 farthings, and in this he nearly doubles the number described by Conder, Sharp and others who have touched the subject. The descriptions, with a few exceptions, are from a collection formed by Mr. Low while an amateur, to which he has had the pleasure of adding during the past three years, no less than 29

varieties until now it has reached 185 pieces. It is not believed that another cabinet can be found which will equal it.

New Books.

Our English friends are again to the front, this time with two able contributions. The first is a revision of Henry's popular treatise on English coins, by C. I. Keary, M. A. F. S. A. 325 pp. including a 15 page index. 102 cuts. 8vo. Cloth. London, 1885. The work is divided into three parts, under the heads of gold, silver and copper. We predict a large sale since its colors are flying with Bohn's Reference Library.

The second is a specialty treating of "The Copper, Tin and Bronze coinage and patterns for coins of England, from the reign of Elizabeth to that of her present majesty," by H. Montagu, member of the Numismatic Society of London. 91 and xvi. pp. royal 8vo. heavy paper. 70 cuts. Index. London, 1885. This book surpasses all previous attempts to chronicle a most interesting and historic series of small money. Valuable notes frequently accompany descriptions, many of which will be found new and entertaining to the collector. The work opens with a well written introduction, followed by an interesting preface.

"Visitor's guide and illustrated history of the United States mint, Phila., Pa. Elaborately illustrating each department, the business routine, all scientific and mechanical operations in every stage of the work. The wonderful machinery, rare coins, relics and curios of the cabinet, current coins of the world, Colonial and Continental currency, ancient Greek and Roman, with over 1600 fine engravings and full descriptions. Bio-

graphy, history, instruction, entertainment. Valuation of current coins, domestic and foreign, with much information for the business man, student and general reader. By A. M. Smith. Large 8vo. paper, Phila., Pa. 1885."

The foregoing is the title verbatim, and would seem to be all-sufficient to answer for a full statement of contents. That portion devoted to Greek and Roman coins has 125 cuts of the former and 157 of the latter, representing emperors, empresses, kings and tyrants from Julius Cæsar, B. C. 70 to the extinction of the Western empire, A. D. 476.

Coin Sales.

Oct. 30.—Two collections of United States and foreign coins, medals and paper money, the property of a western collector and Mr. O. Schmidt, Hoboken, N. J. 577 lots. Thomas & Sons, Phila. Catalogue by Chas. Steigerwalt. The sale included dollars of 1839, 1851, 1852 and 1853; half dollar of 1797 and the rare 1802 half dime.

Nov. 6.—Messrs. Bangs & Co., N. Y. sold a small miscellaneous collection of coins and medals consisting of 584 lots. Catalogued by H. P. Smith. Two notable lots were No. 141. tetradrachm of Euthydemus I. king of Bactria, which realized \$17.00, and No. 142, a similar piece, which sold for \$9.00 The sale realized \$577.

Dr. Massamore sells a collection of coins, medals, Confederate money, postage stamps, etc., 406 lots, on the 21st inst. at the rooms of Bangs & Co. N. Y.

"What is worth doing at all is worth doing well," applies to collecting coins the same as it does to anything else.

Impressions of Coins on Paper.

BY LYMAN H. LOW.

Rubbings of coins are very useful in many ways, and to the collector and dealer alike. The following method of obtaining them is believed to be the best known.

Select any hard wood, from which cut 25 pieces, each about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in thickness. Through the centre of each bore a round hole, beginning with one of half an inch in diameter and gradually increasing in size until the 25th piece has a hole measuring two inches in diameter, which is as large as is likely to be necessary, or of practical use by this method. Bevel off one side of the hole to take away the sharp edge; this we shall call the top or upper side. Take a thin but strong paper, letter size, double, between which place a piece of blotting paper, ruled with a lead pencil into suitable squares for convenience and accuracy of position. Place the coin to be rubbed, on the blotting paper, and over the coin, lay the paper which is to receive the impression. Select one of the pieces of wood having a hole a trifle larger than the coin, press the wood down over the coin which is beneath the paper, holding it firmly with the left hand. The coin is now secure and cannot move from its position. Take a very hard lead pencil, (Faber's Siberian six H is best) pare the wood to a point, cut it away from the lead for at least an eighth of an inch from the end, but do not point the lead, hold the pencil erect, and rub the paper with it lightly until you have brought out every portion of the coin, after which a piece of ivory or bone pointed similarly to a lead pencil, not sharp but well rounded, may be used

to rub over the impression (before the coin is removed) to bring out the finer portions, as well as to improve the surface. The hole selected to place over the coin should be of a size not to allow the end of the pencil to punch down through the paper, between the edge of the coin and the wood. Rub the obverse first; place the reverse to the right about half an inch distant, and draw a pencil line connecting the two. Practice will teach further of the process, better than any explanation possibly could. I have in my possession two books, (quarto, or letter size) in which there are nearly 5000 rubbings, all numbered and named or described.

An impression of a coin may be obtained by using the same kind of paper, and folding it together, place the coin inside and lay between 8 to 12 thicknesses of blotting paper, or two large pieces of rubber, place in a letter press and screw down as hard as possible, and after removing from the press, scrape a little lead from a pencil and with the end of the finger rub the dust over the impression until every portion has been brought out finely.

This process is particularly adapted to large coins and especially medals. Impressions of small pieces and those of low relief are not successfully taken.

Since our item in the January number, which placed the American numismatic authors at about thirteen, we have been looking into the matter carefully and think it proper to include those who have written upon the subject of money and currency, consequently the number has been largely increased, and we hope at no distant day, to present to our readers a complete list.

Numismatic Items.

The principal coin centres of Europe are London, Paris, Leipsic, Frankfort, Berlin, Munich and Florence.

RESOLVE to set aside a certain portion of the funds you have to invest annually in coins, for the purchase of books to enlighten and guide you in the pursuit of your hobby.

ODD FELLOWS medals must soon claim the attention of numismatic writers; a considerable number of them already exist, and it would seem sufficient to invite some one to lead off and draw them in a class by themselves.

Post yourself thoroughly on the peculiarities of altered dates. We note this mode of deception is most successfully practiced, and too often do we find collectors treasuring as genuine, worthless alterations.

The following are the pieces usually chosen to change from one date to another: Dollars, 1801 to 1804; quarter dollars, 1858 to 1853 without arrows; cents, 1794 to 1793 Liberty cap; 1798 to 1799; 1801 to 1804; 1808 to 1809; 1858 to 1856 flying eagle, nickel. There are others, but the foregoing embrace those most frequently found. A few are so well executed as to pass through the hands of some old collectors without even creating a suspicion on their part. We are sorry to state that they occasionally appear at sales, catalogued as genuine. This is either inexcusable ignorance or willful deception on the part of the cataloguer. We suggest to our readers a frequent review of an article on "Forgeries and Impositions" which appeared in our issue of March last.

The Wiswell collection of coins, together with some miscellaneous invoic-

ces, passed under the hammer at Messrs Bangs & Co.'s on the 21st, 22nd and 23d ult. The total amount realized was \$1540.92. Mr. W. was, innocently, the possessor of several flagrant altered pieces, together with a few electrotypes, none of which escaped detection by the vigilant ones *always* in attendance, although catalogued as genuine. Of the 1799 cents but two proved to be coins of that year, and of those of 1804, a single specimen was all that had its identity established. There was a very general over-rating of condition throughout the catalogue, and dealers who studied the interests of their customers felt obligated to cancel many of their bids. The success of a sale should rest solely upon the actual merits of the coins offered, and the reputation of the cataloguer is only maintained by truthful representation of condition, and accurate attribution of the pieces. By this fair means, the confidence of the collector who bids is retained, and the prices of our really choice specimens are not belittled by the priced catalogues of such sales, which represent uncirculated and fine coins as selling at a nominal value.

FOR SALE.

Two collections of Postage Stamps, one of 1200 unused and one of 5000 used.

Also, a collection of 1200 unused Postal Cards.

Wm. A. JEFFERIS,

127 EAST 23d St., NEW YORK.

1 pair Chinese chop sticks,	10c.
2 var. " coins,	8c.
100 fine mixed foreign stamps,	5c.
3 var. Wells, Fargo & Co's. franked envelopes,	5c.

GEO. R. McCARTY,
No. 1413 16th St. Sacramento, Cal.

ESTABLISHED 16 YEARS.

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100 varieties " " " " " "	12c.
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ODD FELLOWS medals must soon claim the attention of numismatic writers; a considerable number of them already exist, and it would seem sufficient to invite some one to lead off and draw them in a class by themselves.

POST yourself thoroughly on the peculiarities of altered dates. We note this mode of deception is most successfully practiced, and too often do we find collectors treasuring as genuine, worthless alterations.

The following are the pieces usually chosen to change from one date to another: Dollars, 1801 to 1804; quarter dollars, 1858 to 1853 without arrows; cents, 1794 to 1793 Liberty cap; 1798 to 1799; 1801 to 1804; 1808 to 1809; 1858 to 1856 flying eagle, nickel. There are others, but the foregoing embrace those most frequently found. A few are so well executed as to pass through the hands of some old collectors without even creating a suspicion on their part. We are sorry to state that they occasionally appear at sales, catalogued as genuine. This is either inexcusable ignorance or willful deception on the part of the cataloguer. We suggest to our readers a frequent review of an article on "Forgeries and Impositions" which appeared in our issue of March last.

The Wiswell collection of coins, together with some miscellaneous invoice

ces, passed under the hammer at Messrs Bangs & Co.'s on the 21st, 22nd and 23d ult. The total amount realized was \$1540.92. Mr. W. was, innocently, the possessor of several flagrant altered pieces, together with a few electrotypes, none of which escaped detection by the vigilant ones *always* in attendance, although catalogued as genuine. Of the 1799 cents but two proved to be coins of that year, and of those of 1804, a single specimen was all that had its identity established. There was a very general over-rating of condition throughout the catalogue, and dealers who studied the interests of their customers felt obligated to cancel many of their bids. The success of a sale should rest solely upon the actual merits of the coins offered, and the reputation of the cataloguer is only maintained by truthful representation of condition, and accurate attribution of the pieces. By this fair means, the confidence of the collector who bids is retained, and the prices of our really choice specimens are not belittled by the priced catalogues of such sales, which represent unrecirculated and fine coins as selling at a nominal value.

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100 fine mixed foreign stamps,	50
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Venezuela, 10c.	3 " Liberia.	15c.	
Honduras, '66, 50c.	6 " Venezuela.	10c.	
California, 1867, 40c.	10 " Brazil.	10c.	
Himal., 15c.	3 " Hayti.	10c.	
India & Taxila, 10c.	4 " Honduras.	15c.	
Marquis Brit., 75c.	20 " Spain.	10c.	
India, 10c.	3 " Nicaragua.	10c.	
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LYMAN H. LOW,

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838 Broadway, New York.

VOLUME II.

NUMBER 18.

DECEMBER, 1885.



THE KEYSTONE

Stamp and Coin Gazette.

A Monthly Publication,

—in the interest of—

PHILATELISTS AND NUMISMATISTS.



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Post marks for the same. 1 foreign stamp for every postmark not in my collection. Picture cards for tin tags. A mineral from Mt. Mica, Me., for every 7c. or 90c. War dept. stamp. Bertie Morse, Box 68, Atlantic City, N. J.

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I will exchange a 3c. stamp for No. 1; 2, 4 or 5 or a 5c. stamp for No. 3, 6 or 7 of this paper. Want back numbers of all stamp and curio papers. "Life of Stephen A. Douglass," cost \$1.00, for the "Young Mineralogist and Antiquarian," from No. 1 to date. Write me what papers you have to exchange. Frank P. Davis, McDowell, Ills.

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Stamp and Coin Gazette.

A Few Rare Stamps.

BY JAMES M. CHUTE.

FRANCE.—1 Franc, vermilion.—This stamp is counted among the choicest rarities in a collection. It was in use only a year, and was withdrawn on account of the similarity in color to the 40c.

MOLDAVIA. 27, 54, 81 and 108 paras.—These rare stamps were issued on the 5th July, 1858, and had a currency of three months and a half. In September, 1858, a new postal system was adopted, and these stamps were withdrawn in consequence.

PERU.—Medio peso.—This stamp is extremely scarce. It was issued March, 1858, and suppressed June 18, of the same year. The red half peso was the result of an error, a cast of that value having been incorporated into the form of the peseta value.

MEXICO.—50c. blue on pink, 1868.—Some years ago we received from Mexico a strip of stamps cut from a sheet of the 25 centavos; the end stamp in the row bore the numerals 50, instead of 25. It is very scarce.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—1 shilling, bis.—This is a printer's error.

BERGENDORF.— $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. black on violet, $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. black on rose.—These stamps were issued in November, 1861, and were in use eleven days only. Original specimens are rarely seen. The rare and common issues are one and all from the same die, and the slightest variation

from the common type is damnatory.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—1853, 1 penny, blue and 4 pence red.—These errors are very scarce. Each sheet of one and 4d. stamps contained, respectively, one 4d. and one 1d. stamp; the 4d. printed in red, the 1d. in blue.

CANADA.—12 pence, black.—This very rare stamp was issued June 1st, 1851, and withdrawn in June, 1852. Only 820 copies were sold by postmasters.

NAPLES.— $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms and cross.—Both are made from the plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano. In the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms, the only alteration (color excepted) is that of the G to a T. This has not been perfectly done, and the G in all genuine stamps has a blotched appearance. The $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, cross, was formed from the plate of the former, by the erasure of the central arms. Both are rare.

UNITED STATES.—3 cent stamped letter sheet.—This was issued August 1, 1861, and discontinued April, 1864. Entire copies are extremely scarce.

SWITZERLAND.—10c. PORT CANTONAL—double stamp.—This rare stamp came into use in 1814, and continued in use until 1849.

REUNION ISLAND.—15 and 30c.—The creation of these stamps was authorized by the governor, M. Doret. Only one supply was ever printed, and that consisted of 7500 stamps of each value. Their circulation began Jan. 1, 1852, and ceased Jan. 1, 1860. Originals are very scarce.

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A tobacco tag for every revenue stamp sent me. Tags for tags. N. E. Carter, Box 314, Delevan, Wis.

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A Few Rare Stamps.

BY JAMES M. CHUTE.

FRANCE.—1 Franc, vermilion.—This stamp is counted among the choicest rarities in a collection. It was in use only a year, and was withdrawn on account of the similarity in color to the 40c.

MOLDAVIA.—27, 54, 81 and 108 paras.—These rare stamps were issued on the 15th July, 1858, and had a currency of three months and a half. In September, 1858, a new postal system was adopted, and these stamps were withdrawn in consequence.

PERU.—Medio peso.—This stamp is extremely scarce. It was issued March, 1853, and suppressed June 18, of the same year. The red half peso was the result of an error, a cast of that value having been incorporated into the form of the peseta value.

MEXICO.—50c. blue on pink, 1868.—Some years ago we received from Mexico a strip of stamps cut from a sheet of the 25 centavos; the end stamp in the row bore the numerals 50, instead of 25. It is very scarce.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—1 shilling, biserré.—This is a printer's error.

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from the common type is damnatory.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—1853, 1 penny, blue and 4 pence red.—These errors are very scarce. Each sheet of one and 4d. stamps contained, respectively, one 4d. and one 1d. stamp; the 4d. printed in red, the 1d. in blue.

CANADA.—12 pence, black.—This very rare stamp was issued June 1st, 1851, and withdrawn in June, 1852. Only 820 copies were sold by postmasters.

NAPLES.— $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms and cross.—Both are made from the plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano. In the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms, the only alteration (color excepted) is that of the G to a T. This has not been perfectly done, and the G in all genuine stamps has a blotched appearance. The $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, cross, was formed from the plate of the former, by the erasure of the central arms. Both are rare.

UNITED STATES.—3 cent stamped letter sheet.—This was issued August 1, 1861, and discontinued April, 1864. Entire copies are extremely scarce.

SWITZERLAND.—10c.—PORT CANTONAL—double stamp.—This rare stamp came into use in 1844, and continued in use until 1849.

REUNION ISLAND.—15 and 30c.—The creation of these stamps was authorized by the governor, M. Doret. Only one supply was ever printed, and that consisted of 7500 stamps of each value. Their circulation began Jan. 1, 1852, and ceased Jan. 1, 1860. Originals are very scarce.

BRITISH GUIANA.—1c. magenta, 4c. ultramarine, 1851-3.—These were engraved by Waterlow & Sons of London, and to this firm is due the famous error *PATIMUS* for *PETIMUS*. A reprint was made in 1864, but the paper employed was brighter, and they are perforated.

The above are not the rarest stamps, by any means, but only a few of the many. Among the very rarest stamps we may mention Br. Guiana, 1850, 2c. rose, 4c. yellow, 8c. green, 12c. blue. Br. Guiana, 1856, 1c. magenta, 4c. blue. Buenos Ayres—steamship—3, 4 and 5 pesos. Granada Confederation, 1861, 2½c. black, 1 peso rose. India, 1858, 2a. green. Lubeck, 1859, 2½ sch. brown. Mauritius, 1856, 4d. green (surcharged). Mexico, 1859, half real, chamois. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1 shilling, violet. Tuscany, 3 lire, etc.

The Extent of Philately.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

It is estimated that every year about 50,000,000,000 letters are posted in the world. America leads with about 2,500,000,000, and England follows with 1,700,000,000. Japan, which established a postal service only ten years ago, now mails annually 95,000,000 letters.

Where the custom of collecting stamps originated is not definitely known. It was probably of spontaneous growth. Collectors are to be found in every stamp issuing country in the world. In the United States, from data in my possession, I would estimate the number of stamp collectors at 200,000. Mr. John K. Tiffany of St. Louis, a prosperous attorney at law, is credited with owning the finest collection in America. It is also considered one of the most valuable collections in existence. Mr. Cyrus F. Adams, of Cincinnati, is perhaps second, as a collector, to Mr. Tiffany.

His collection of So. American stamps is probably the finest in the world. Some years since, Mr. Adams wrote letters to the rulers of the various nations and provinces of the world, requesting specimens of the stamps of their respective countries. He received numerous answers; among them one from Liberia, and he shows with some pride a letter from Kuching, Sarawak, from private secretary J. A. Buck, who wrote: "I am directed by H. H., the Rajah of Sarawak, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter requesting a collection of Sarawak stamps, which I have now the pleasure of forwarding to you." The Postmaster General of Western Australia also sent Mr. Adams an assortment of rare and obsolete stamps.

The largest catalogue of stamps ever issued was sent out some years ago by a dealer in Belgium, who described and catalogued 43,158 varieties. These, of course, included all revenues, fiscals, locals and private stamps. The catalogue consists of 1,100 pages, and contains 4,900 illustrations.

The number of stamps of all kinds issued in the United States will reach 5,000. Nearly all of the South American countries have their stamps engraved in New York. Indeed some of the handsomest stamps in the world are sent out by the American Bank Note Co. Russia prints her stamps in water colors—unlike any other country. The smallest stamp ever issued is the one half penny Victoria, issue of 1874. It is a cute little label, three-quarters by one-half an inch. In remarkable contrast is the registered letter stamp of the United States of Columbia, issued in 1866, which is five by two and one half inches. The stamp of highest value really used for postage is the £5 of Great Britain, although the United States has issued a \$60 newspaper or periodical stamp.

Philatelic Brevities.

The older issues of U. S. stamps are constantly increasing in value, and collectors should get them now.

We recently found, on an approval sheet, a 20 centavos, Bolivia, pink on white, cancelled. It is of the same design as the issue of 1867. It has not, to our knowledge, been catalogued.

That rare "Connell" stamp, about which so much has been said, turns out to have never been in use at all. So Mr. J. M. Chute says, on the authority of the P. M. General of New Brunswick.

We know some people who bought of Whitfield King & Co., Alsace and Lorraine stamps with inverted net work, and who would be much pleased if it could be shown that they are genuine.

Those collectors who contemplate ordering some of those elegant stamps offered by some of the large English dealers will be glad to learn that the Post Master General has reduced, by one-third, the fees for foreign money orders.

A correspondent informs us that the article we printed last month entitled "The Rarest Stamp," and credited erroneously to the *Toronto Philatelic Journal*, was written years ago by S. Allan Taylor, and first appeared in his paper, the *Stamp Collector's Record*.

The *Stamp Collector's Journal*, of England, is very careful to warn the philatelic public against S. Allan Taylor, who, it says, is visiting that country for the purpose of placing on the market, through a Liverpool dealer, some of his peculiar goods. In another column, however, this same stuff is offered for sale by one of Taylor's co-laborers. The Liverpool dealer above referred to should at once advertise in the *Journal*.

NEW ISSUES.

From the Philatelic World and Philatelic Monthly.

ARGENTINE.—The engraved 12c. has made its appearance. Color, blue.

AZORES.—The 500 reis and 1,000 reis, black, of Portugal, are surcharged in small red letters, for use in Azores.

CONGO.—Stamps will be issued January 1st. They will bear a bust of the king of Belgium, and above in a curve, "Etat Independant du Congo" with value below in centimes; 5c. green; 10c. carmine; 25c. blue; 50c. bronze green.

LABUAN.—The 8c. red has been surcharged 2c. in black, same as the 16c. The color of the 2c. has been changed to red and the 8c. to violet.

MALTA.—A ½d., green, newspaper wrapper is in use.

SHANGHAI.—The 80 cash is changed to flesh color and the 100 cash to yellow.

SOUTH BULGARIA.—The following is a list of the surcharged stamps. With lion only: 5, 20 paras, 1, 5 piastres of 1881, and 5, 10, 20 paras 1884; with lion and inscription: 5 paras, 1, 5 piastres of 1881, and 10, 20 paras of 1884. The first surcharge was issued Sept. 20th, and the second on the 21st, and they were in use only until Oct. 15th. The Bulgarian government has destroyed all the Eastern Roumelian stamps, and Bulgarian stamps only are accepted for postage.

ST. LUCIA.—The 1sh., orange, head in octagon, has been issued.

SURINAM.—A series of unpaid letter stamps has been issued, similar to those of Holland, but printed in brown. The set is as follows: 2½, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40c.

VICTORIA.—The 1d. card of the new type comes on white as well as on buff.

The Philatelic Press.

BY E. H. R.

It is not the intention of the writer to censure the entire fraternity of philatelic writers and publishers, but it is an undeniable fact that improvement is possible even in our best journals, while it is discouraging to read some of our publications. As a "constant reader" of philatelic literature, we beg leave to submit a few comments on the contents of the philatelic press.

What to put in the papers and how to state it so as to interest the largest number of collectors are the points to be kept in view by the "instructors of philately." A subscription list is supposed to embrace both advanced collectors and those who have had little experience, and a publisher must cater to both of these. The philatelist must, therefore, overlook items which are not news to him, and the beginner must not complain if he fails to comprehend or be benefited by everything he reads.

Originality should be the aim of every writer. Articles on "What is Philately?" "How to Collect," etc., have gone the rounds until they have lost the value they once possessed. Articles which set the reader to thinking are the class that the publishers should endeavor to present. One should carefully compare any statements the writer makes, with his own views; he should ascertain that the writer is correct before believing every thing he says.

Descriptions of rare and little known stamps are very interesting reading for advanced collectors, but it is to be regretted that few of our writers are capable of composing articles of this kind. It is unnecessary, however, to preface these articles with a full histo-

ry of the country, its inhabitants, rivers, mountains and other characteristics, nor will it be interesting if the stamps are simply listed, giving denomination, date and color. Counterfeits are being unearthed and doubtful stamps discovered continually and discussions of these will always be interesting to both classes of collectors. Facts which lead to the emission of certain stamps form the material for articles suited to the tastes of the younger class.

Subscribers tire of constantly reading of a publisher's future intentions. The latter would be perfectly justified, however, in inserting short editorials as an incentive to new subscribers, but to fill a page with promises of treats to come rather imposes on the reader's good nature.

"There are 30,000 stamp collectors in New York," said an enthusiast on the subject, "and the number is constantly increasing. This has been my hobby for three years. I got started on it in a purely accidental way. One day, while on Broadway, I stopped during a shower of rain under an awning by the stand of a dealer in old books, some of which I naturally glanced at; among them was a large album of stamps. I had no particular knowledge of stamps then, but saw that such a collection must have considerable value. I asked the dealer, carelessly, what he would take for the album: \$4 being the price named, I bought it and carried it to a well known dealer in stamps and coins, who looked at the book and then at me and finally offered me \$20 for it. I at once made up my mind that it was worth \$100 and declined his offer. Finally he offered me \$60, but I told him the book was not for sale. Then I got stamp catalogues and by their aid, found I had a treasure worth \$300. I have kept it and added to it from time to time, until I have a valuable collection."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Britancute Skoopemin, Esq.

The subject of this sketch is a native and highly honored resident of one of our enterprising towns, the name of which is withheld to shield him from the autograph fiend. When quite young, he showed a marked leaning towards philately in "collecting" stamps from his father's writing desk and "exchanging" them at a neighboring candy shop. A few years later, as may be readily imagined, he fell an easy victim to the fascinating attractions of stamp collecting and at once bent his energies in that direction. In making his collections, however, he displayed a wholesome contempt for the methods and notions of what are called "advanced philatelists," preferring to follow the suggestions of his own peculiar fancy. While others were arranging their collections in regulation albums, procured at greater or less expense, he used one of Ayer's almanacs in which he pasted his specimens as he obtained them, and which he invariably carried with him. When this would hold no more, his subsequent acquisitions were stowed away in cigar boxes. In placing the stamps in his "album," he purposely ignored all national distinctions, on the ground, no doubt, that the whole world was one family, and a stamp bearing the arms of St. Domingo went next to one having the effigy of the Empress of India.

As a writer for the philatelic papers (for sample copies) he was widely known, and his philatelic library, tastefully arranged on the floor in one corner of his room, contains at least a portion, if not an entire copy, of every stamp paper published after he became a philatelist. He never subscribed for any of these journals because he never found one that

contained anything which he considered worth knowing. He scouted the idea of calling stamp collecting a "science," and contended with great ability that the only knowledge involved was where to get the greatest number of stamps for the least money.

Mr. Skoopemin, as will be surmised, belonged to the S. Allan Taylor school of collectors, and to this fact is mainly due his success in accumulating an immense collection at a very small cost. He did not patronize those grasping dealers who demanded an exorbitant price for a rare stamp, but he sought out those whose glowing sympathy for the young collector prompts them to devise ways and means for placing within his reach the coveted stamps at a mere nominal value. It is true the stamps obtained from these philanthropic dealers were open to the suspicion of not being genuine, but that made little or no difference to Mr. Skoopemin. He was not at all captious, and the possession of a grist of fac-similes afforded him as much pleasure as if they had been genuine originals. He deemed it superlative nonsense, for instance, to give five dollars for a single U. S. Local when two hundred and fifty imitations can be bought for twenty five cents.

We should like to mention a few of the gems which sparkle in the before mentioned almanac and cigar boxes, but have only space to refer to them in a general way. In addition to most of the rarities of which the plodding collector has read, but which he has never seen, it contains a great many of whose genuine existence the most advanced philatelist has not had the slightest intimation. This is but another instance of what can be accomplished by a combination of energy and brains.

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THE GAZETTE is entered at the Altoona Post Office as second class mail matter.

Mr. Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, New York, will receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for this paper.

DECEMBER, 1885.

Any one sending us the names of four subscribers and one dollar, will receive a copy of this paper free for a year.

For the most complete and correct list of Mexican mints and their marks, we offer a minor proof set of 1880 and 1881.

A large number of subscriptions expire with this issue of the GAZETTE which we shall be very glad to see promptly renewed; not so much on account of the money it may bring us as the proof it will furnish that our efforts are appreciated. We have been much gratified during the past month by the renewals sent in.

DR. CHARLES P. HENRY.

The P. P. A. has adopted the following resolutions relative to the death of Dr. Chas. P. Henry :

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from this life, a member of this association, whose brief sojourn in philatelic journalism has made him numerous friends, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the death of Dr. C. P. Henry, publisher of the *New England Philatelist*, of Fitchburg, Mass., is a calamity to the cause of philately, and a matter for deep and sincere sorrow on the part of the members of this, the Philatelic Press Association, as well as to the entire philatelic public whom the press represent, and that we do, both as an association and individually, tender to the partner and near friends and relatives of the departed, our heart-felt sympathy in this bereavement; and be it

RESOLVED: That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to such friends and relatives of the deceased as the Director of this association may direct; and that these resolutions be published in each and every journal, the proprietors of which are members of this association.

Some notices of exchange which are entitled to admission had to go over until next month when we hope to catch up. We again ask those who send them to make them short, and to keep within the prescribed rules.

Mr. W. M. Clemens informs us that for various reasons the *Old Curiosity Shop* will not appear just at present. This will be regretted by the old friends of that excellent paper.

The *Stamp Collectors' Journal*, published for the benefit of the leading English stamp dealers, is very indignant because "a somewhat obscure paper hail[ing] from Altoona, Philadelphia, accuses in an indirect manner, Stanley Gibbons & Co. and Whitfield, King & Co. of selling counterfeit stamps," an imputation which it says "is as base as it is scandalous."

It is, of course, quite natural for our contemporary to rush to the defence of those from whom it receives its main support, even if our 'imputation' is well founded. Its business is to serve its employers, and it should not be asked to commit suicide by telling all it knows, or ought to know, about these eminent dealers, and our only purpose now is to remove a false impression which the paper quoted seems to have, namely, that we accused 'indirectly,' the first named firm, of selling counterfeits. We made the charge explicitly, and we have the counterfeits, obtained directly from them, in our possession, some of which we have heretofore mentioned. In regard to Whitfield, King & Co., the only stamps they offer to which we took exceptions were the Samoa, concerning which we are waiting further information, but they are selling those Alsace and Lorraine with inverted net work, which we do not believe even their retainers of the *Journal* will have the hardihood to claim are genuine.

J. B. K. Lee, 1507 H St, N. W. Washington. D. C., Chas. E. Rankin, 1201 Clay St., San Francisco, Cal. and A. L. Hamilton, Box 824, Montreal, Canada, each announce the publication of a philatelic paper some time in January next. The sample copy fiend will please take notice.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. M., New Orleans.—Your piece having L on one side and W on the other, is a token, and of a class that is difficult to attribute. Without name of issuer or his town, and having a local circulation, their identity is not widespread. It may be Swedish, but more probably German. The piece having s m in monogram belongs to Munster, the letters standing for Stadt Munster.

P. M., Ishpeming.—We should very much like to see your dime and quarter of 1856 with twelve stars; neither of them is known with less than thirteen—seven to right, five to left and one above.

F. Stahl, the St. Paul stamp dealer with two residences writes us that he is the only one of the name in that city who deals in stamps. He further says that he proposes to publish, in a short time, the "Minnesota Philatelist," which will be circulated free, and that he will then give us as much space in his paper as we have given him in ours. We shall be pleased to hear from Mr. Stahl.

It is always a pleasure to note any improvement which is made in our exchanges. Among those that deserve special mention in this connection are the "Exchange," "Michigan Philatelist," "Philatelic Herald" and "The Philatelist." Of the more recent ventures, the "Philatelic Magazine," "Philatelic Tribune" and "New York Collector" are worthy the support of collectors. We have not room to mention others, but wish them all success.

A dispatch from Shanghai states that a quantity of Roman coins of the periods between the reign of Tiberius and that of Aurelius, has just been discovered in the inland province of Shan se.

FOREIGN COPPER COINS.

BY FRANK W. DOUGHTY.

Ancient Copper Coins.—IV.

Let us now turn our attention to the most important of the many series of ancient copper coins, those struck under the Roman Empire, the mistress of the ancient world.

The copper coinage of Rome presents, even at the first glance, an anomaly, from the fact of its forming the *standard of value* in the place of gold or silver, to which this honor is usually awarded. It is divided into three principal series. 1. The coinage of the Roman Republic. 2. The coinage of the Empire. 3. The issues under the Empire for her various colonies throughout the entire then known world.

The first issues of the "as," as the Roman standard was termed, are supposed to have taken place under the reign of Servius Tullius, 578, B. C. The earliest specimens which have been handed down to us, however, are of much later date. These consist of square ingots of copper bearing upon them representations of domestic and other animals, such as the ox, elephant, hog, hen, etc. The origin of the employment of these figures needs no explanation. With the earliest Romans, as with all primitive peoples, a system of barter, or exchange, unquestionably prevailed. As they increased in wealth and power, it became inconvenient to exchange their actual possessions, ox for hog and hog for corn. Copper, or rather bronze, was available and already in use for weapons, domestic utensils and objects of art, and upon great ingots of this metal representations of the animals to be exchanged were impressed. From these

pieces of copper is derived our word *pecuniary*, from the Latin term *pecunia*, cattle, referring, beyond question, to the devices upon the early coins. The *as* were not of arbitrary value at first, but were always weighed; the usual weight being in the neighborhood of a pound.

As time passed, the "as," though still continuing in use, underwent a change. From the square it passed to the circular form; the weight became arbitrary, regular subdivisions were adopted and the system of weighing each payment as made, fell into gradual disuse. The use of animals and other objects upon it were discontinued, a uniform type being employed in their stead. This was the double, or Janus head, for the obverse, consisting of two male heads heavily bearded and joined upon a single neck, one facing right and the other left, while upon the reverse the representation of a vessel's prow was impressed. The weight was also reduced from one pound to nine and one-half ounces. Upon the reverse of the "as," above the prow the numeral I occurs, signifying *one as*.

The subdivisions of the "as" were the half, or *Semis*, bearing upon it the letter S, to denote its weight as that of half the "as," placed upon the obverse behind the head of Jupiter—the usual type; the *Triens*, or third of the "as," distinguished by the head of Minerva and four dots, or pellets, to denote its weight, that of four ounces; the *Quadrans*, or fourth, distinguished by the head of Hercules and three pellets; the *Sextans*, or sixth, distinguished by the head of Mercury and two pellets; the *Uncia*, or ounce, which was the twelfth part of the "as," distinguished by the head of Minerva and one pellet, and the *Semi-Uncia*, or half ounce.

There were also larger pieces, likewise of circular form, some specimens of which are as much as four and five-eighths inches in diameter and thick in proportion. These immense coins were called *Decusses*, denoted by an X, and were of the value of ten *ases*. Upon the obverse they bore the head of Roma, behind which was the numeral X, and upon the reverse of some specimens appears the prow, as upon the "as," upon others a figure of Victory driving a *biga*, or two-horse chariot, with the word ROMA beneath.

(To be continued).

"Copperheads."

BY PROF. F. M. BIRD.

Under this designation are included two different, though related, classes. It would be better if numismatists could agree to distinguish "war cards," or metallic advertisements, from "war tokens," whose inscriptions are merely political or patriotic. (The word 'token' has been applied to both kinds, as in England and Canada; but 'card' has a definite and restricted meaning). Both sorts were issued, we may suppose, with a mercantile view, since they passed for a cent and could be manufactured (in quantities sufficient) for much less; the issuers of the 'cards' killed two birds with one stone, advertising their business at the same time. Cards and tokens appeared about the middle of the war, most of them bearing date (when at all) 1863, and some 1864. Change was scarce then, and they circulated freely. Millions of them were, no doubt, worn out in the process, but many other millions remain, and are useful only to collectors. Coins strictly they are not, of course, but as much so as many other

pieces that come under that general head.

Of war tokens there seem to be less than 400, including mulings and different metals, the latter largely restrikes. Of original pairs of obverse and reverse there must have been less than 200. The commonest are "Army and Navy," "Not One Cent," and the flag and Gen. Dix.

The number of war cards is much greater. In my drawers are between two and three thousand, and there may be many which I have not seen. They come from all parts of the north, but in very unequal proportions. New England supplies but few, and New York has many; about half the firms and more than half the pieces being from New York city, whose most various advertisers were Eroas, pies; Gruber, drugs; Work, metal signs; and Gavron, sausages. After New York came Buffalo, Brooklyn, Albany and Troy. New Jersey has but few, and Pennsylvania not many; chiefly from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The south, of course, produced but few; the west led in this enterprise Cincinnati shows more advertising pieces than New York city and state together, and the smaller towns of Ohio together are well ahead of Cincinnati. Detroit furnished as many advertisers as New York city, and the rest of Michigan nearly as many as Cincinnati. Indiana had about a hundred; Illinois, including Chicago, not as many as Indiana; and Wisconsin nearly twice as many. Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri are feebly represented, and from Kansas I have but one. The western pieces generally are less common than those from the east, and of perceptibly different type. With many of the former the obverse closely copies the cent.

A few years ago the scarcer cards used to bring fancy prices, and to be catalogued separately, sometimes through pages. That day seems to be over, the few who are specially interested in this line having "formed their collections"—or so the dealers say. Some two years ago I bought at auction, for less than a cent and a half apiece, a lot of near 2000, several hundred of which (as I was afterwards assured), had cost their former owner 15 cents each. The ordinary auction lots are full of duplicates, and contain very few scarce pieces, so that one buying in this way would have to handle thousands to get a collection of three or four hundred.

War cards and tokens are probably the most despised class of stamped metals, and with reason. They cannot for a mement compare with the British 'tokens' of 1790, etc., either in size, beauty of design or variety of interest. Yet something may be said in their favor. If they are the meanest kind of "coins" they are also the cheapest; if they are numerous they are also small. And to the future student of American history they will have some value, as presenting a series of facts as to the business (mainly the retail business), of the country in various localities.

N. R. Thompson and A. A. Melton were lately cutting down a tree near Dickinson's Bridge, Ga. They noticed that a different kind of wood was dovetailed in the tree and cut it out. Inside they found a cavity scraped out in which was concealed \$1,000 in silver coins, none of which had dates later than 1855. Indications are that the money has been there twenty-five years.—*N. Y. World.*

Coin Sales.

Dec. 15.—The collection of Confederate paper money and bonds of Mr. R. P. Thian, of Washington, D. C., together with coins, medals, badges, miniatures etc. Bangs & Co., N. Y.

Dec. 15 & 16.—Ancient Greek and Roman, Foreign and American coins and medals, comprising the collection of a deceased collector, and those of E. T. Wright and the late C. R. Walker. Stan. V. Henkels & Co., Philadelphia. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman.

Dec. 16, 17, 18, 19.—The American Numismatic collection of A. W. Mathews of Lowell, with important selections from the collections of J. Colvin Randall being the third from this cabinet, and J. N. T. Levick. Bangs & Co., N. Y. Catalogue by W. Elliot Woodward.

Dec. 22.—Collection of Confederate paper money, and the numismatic library of Dr. William Lee, Washington, D. C., and collection of U. S. Fractional Currency of W. W. Thurston, Wellsville, N. Y. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., N. Y.

The statement has been made that there are in circulation in Canada a number of counterfeit silver coin. The Finance Dept. has investigated the statement, and traces it to the fact that the new coinage has not the letter "H" in small size underneath the wreath below the denomination of the coin. The Finance Dept. desires to have it known that when the royal mint is unable to do the work for Canada or other colonies, Heaton & Sons, of Birmingham, are employed to make the coin, in which case the firm puts the letter H on, and when the royal mint does the work the H is omitted.—*N. Y. Herald.*

How Auction Sales Of Coins Are Conducted.

Some of our readers may be interested in the modus operandi of an auction sale of coins. We will endeavor to explain to them that they may learn the process by which from \$50,000 to \$100,000 worth of coins annually change hands in the United States. The principal and desirable feature in the business is the large and valuable cabinet, although sales are frequently made up of duplicates from important collections, or of several small collections combined. So great is the expense that it is seldom that a sale realizing less than \$1000 yields a profit to the cataloguer. The usual charge for cataloguing is 25 per cent, which includes every expense, the preparation of the manuscript, the printing of the catalogue and the auctioneer's fees. From the time the expert receives the coins until the catalogue is ready for distribution, it is seldom less than six weeks, and oftener two or three months, much depending on the extent and class of coins to be offered. The average catalogue may be counted at a cost of \$2.00 per page on an edition of 700 copies, which is the number now required in this country. The distribution of the catalogue is at present made chiefly through eight dealers, the largest number allowed to any is usually 100; from this they fall to 75, 50, 40 and so on down to 5 or 10 copies, the cataloguer reserving for himself the greater number for his own customers. For the examination of coins to note if they meet the descriptions given, and the executing of bids, dealers charge 10 per cent.

Mr. Lyman H. Low has just received a collection of 23,000 pieces of mediæval and modern copper coins which he recently purchased at private sale in London.

Numismatic Items.

A NEW Washington Masonic medal has just appeared.

MANY of the Canadian tokens had their origin and first circulation in cities of England and Ireland.

THE Duke of Modena counterstamped every piece of coin in his collection with an eagle, the arms of the Dutchy.

MARSDEN, in his history of the island of Sumatra, published in 1784, in speaking of the currency says "the Spanish dollar is current everywhere."

ENGRAVED pieces are of trifling interest to numismatists. Coins and medals are counted as of general interest and value only when they are struck from dies.

You cannot too highly value your 1799 cents. They greatly exceed the rarity of issues of this denomination of other years, and it is a most unusual exception when one is met with in fine condition.

THE Denarii of the Marsian League, B.C. 90-87, resemble the Roman, though ruder in execution. The legends are mostly in Oscan, and the coins are all rare. It is not known that copper was struck.

THE American Numismatic and Archæological Society of New York held a meeting devoted to the science, on the 24th ult., at which an interesting paper was read by the president, Mr. Daniel Parish, Jr., on the medals of Gibraltar.

CHRISTIAN types on the Roman coinage have been but twice made a subject for special notice; Walsh, in 1828, and King, in 1873. Both are very interesting, especially the elaborate work of the latter whose thorough review of the subject is likely to stand unimpeached.

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