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The Stamp Collector's Examiner.

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**Published on the 1st of every Month.**

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PRICE THREEPENCE.

**PUBLISHED BY A. PARSONS & Co.,
POST OFFICE, LEAMINGTON.**

ALFRED SOUTHER, PRINTER. LEAMINGTON.

To Our Readers.

This Magazine, projected at a period when a vain and futile mania, to quote a provincial contemporary, has reached its sixteenth year of existence is no novelty, the increasing number of Stamp Collector's both at home and abroad has necessitated the publication of a magazine conducted on a scale hitherto extinct, among the many pamphlets devoted to the instructive and highly amusing pursuit of stamp collecting, none have deemed it necessary to confine themselves exclusively to the collector's interest, yet many opening chapters have set forth that they will work assiduously for the interest and protection of the collector and unwary novice, none we are sorry to say have kept to their promise. Our aim in securing the attention of collector's and the trade generally is to exclude anything at all deleterious to the trade.

It is a well known fact that persons engaged in the manufacture of forged stamps cannot deceive their victims unless their nefarious trade is well backed by some periodical, all of such publications we believe are quashed.

Having briefly reviewed the present condition of the Collector we will add a few words in our own behalf. The projectors of this publication are well acquainted with various gentlemen on the continents of Europe and America and in the Colonies, and by this long wanted co-operation of foreign correspondents will be enabled to give the earliest and most authentic notices of new issues, excluding any new product of the forgers "inventive genius," except to denounce them in their proper and appropriate character, in conclusion we tender our grateful thanks to our friends for their promised assistance and support.

The Stamp Collector's Examiner.

No. 1. Vol. 1.

MAY, 1865.

PRICE 3d.

UTAH AND HER STAMP.

Situated in a Country little known to the outer world, far from the boundaries of civilization, and bordering near to the celebrated Humboldt mountains is Utah territory, a place which 10 or 12 years ago was a howling wilderness, a resort of the midnight depredators of the forest trails, who lived by pillaging the bands of American and European emigrants passing *en route* to the eldorado of the far West, such was the country now known as the "Heaven of the Mormons." Twelve years have wrought many changes in a country populated by an enterprising and industrious class of persons, where a few years ago stood an immense prairie, covered with gigantic trees, many measuring 40 feet in circumference, now stands the city of the Great Salt Lake and Capital of Utah; the City was organized September 9, 1850, the area of the whole territory is 109,600 square miles; estimated population in 1863, excluding Indians, 88,193, the city contains several public Institutions, many of them on a par with our own in England, it possesses a few newspapers, the leading one, "*The Desert News*," is published daily, a handsome Post Office has been recently erected at the expense of the United States Government, and a Supervisor General, Mr. T. B. H. Stenhouse, has been appointed, the Mails are regularly transmitted two or three times a week by the Overland Stages, who change their horses near to Salt Lake City. The Capital is also connected with New York and California by Telegraph. Although Utah lies in, and is surrounded by the rich

gold and silver producing districts now being developed within the territory of the United States, it has, by the peculiarities of its inhabitants, become rather an agricultural than a mining territory. The people of Utah are strongly prejudiced against any movements or enterprises which, according to their notions, conflict with their pastoral and patriarchal institutions; hence the mineral riches of Utah have not yet been developed to an extent corresponding with the activity prevailing in all the surrounding territories. Much of the land of the Territory is mountainous and barren, but it is dotted throughout most of its extent by fertile valleys and grazing grounds, which are sufficient for the support of a very large population. The Territory is traversed from the north-east to the south-west of a high and rugged spur of the Rocky Mountains, commonly known as the Wasatch Range, and it is at the western base of these mountains that the Mormon settlers have located their famous Great Salt Lake City. Stretching away to the southward of this lake there is a range of valleys for 200 miles, in which such fruit as peaches, apples, pears, plums, apricots, &c., are cultivated with success, together with the grains and other agricultural products of the temperate zone. The upper tributaries of the Colorado River, viz., the Green and Grand Rivers, constitute the principal streams of the Territory of Utah; most of the lakes are saline, Great Salt Lake being the largest of its kind. The presence of so much salt in the waters, and in the tracts of land adjacent to these salt lakes, baffles all attempts at cultivation.

The STAMP emanating from the Government of BRIGHAM



YOUNG, who by the way is Governor General, is here exhibited in fac simile; the original is very rough in engraving and general appearance, and notwithstanding the immense number of Latter Day Saints in London and other parts of the United Kingdom, no information can be gathered respecting

the authorized issue of them at the Capital in Utah. A friend of ours residing in that paradise of the far west kindly sent us a few lines concerning a coin, the date of birth being 1856, an account

of this would be wholly uninteresting to the readers of this Magazine, but Mr. T. B. H. Stenhouse, the gentleman before alluded to, forwarded to us last autumn a letter containing one of these Mormon productions, the stamp was black on white, and obliterated with the post mark of "Brigham City" our informant added that only the stamps of the United States were then in use, this information, authenticated with the seal of the State, settles at once the probability of the Mormon stamps being one of the "has beens" of the postage stamp fraternity.

THE O'CONNEL ESSAY.

ST. JOHN'S in NEW BRUNSWICK is the birth place of virtually the rarest stamp on record, from this colonial city emanated eight years ago a label, which, for excellence and richness in appearance, cannot be equalled. Until very recently all that was then known of this *recherche* essay was introduced by Mr. Mount Brown, in his catalogue on postage stamps, collectors accepted the information until the stamps had spoken for themselves, twelve months since this long looked for opportunity was given to them. An influential person connected with the Colonial Office in Downing Street succeeded in procuring eight copies, all obliterated with the word "Specimen" across the face of the stamp; two of these copies are now in this gentleman's collection, the remaining six being distributed to his friends. One of the six we saw exhibited for sale in a Stationer's shop in Gresham Street, together with a 12d. Canada, likewise defaced with that notorious word "Specimen."

A curious legend is connected with these O'Connel essays, but it is impossible for gentlemen employed even in the Colonial Office to collect any authentic information respecting the result of their issue. A magazine published in the West of England, which, for its pretensions, ought, as Mr. E. L. Pemberton remarks, to be *Aut Cesar*

ant nullus, for authentic intelligence, inserted an article in their April number on the subject of North American Stamps, referring to the O'Connel essay, an engraving of which we exhibit :—



the writer Mr. Overy Taylor asserts that the die "as he terms it" was destroyed, such however was not the case, the steel plate, not a solitary die is still in existance in New York City, carefully preserved with a number of plates connected with the Republics of Costa Rica, Nicaragua the P. S. N. C. &c. Again, the 'offending' Postmaster was not ignominiously dismissed but vacated his appointment voluntary disgusted with the treatment experienced at the hands of the obnoxious Lieut. Governor, His excellency the Hon. Arthur H. Gordon C. M. C, I believe. To return from this digression, the date of issue of the O'Connel's is previous to 1858, and not 1862, as M. Moens tells us. That the labels in question were intended to supersede the crown impressions is obvious from the fact that the usual number of sheets arrived at St. Johns from New York, the legend continues that the Governor made the "Alarming Discovery" while inspecting the debit accounts of the province, unfortunately for O'Connel the New York printers in their invoice set forth the name of the individual ornamenting the Stamps, and, as the representative of royalty, was invested with the absolute control of the Colony he intimated to O'Connel that such an "offence" would not be over-looked, and that an ample apology was necessary in presence of the legislature. This O'Connel refused to comply with, but subjected to continual annoyance from the executive government he at length sent in his resignation which it is hardly necessary to add was "gratefully accepted."

RETROSPECT OF THE MONTH.

Under this heading will be collected all that appears in new issues, also resuscitated obsoletes not catalogued by Mount Brown and other compilers.

A week previous to the late lamentable flood in Wallachia, which devastated the entire lower portion of the magnificent City of Bucharest, was promulgated the new issue of postage stamps for the Danubian Principalities. The design of the stamps is far from artistic, Munich in Bavaria, the City of the fine arts is ascribed as the cradle of these labels: but we doubt this from the fact that the Bavarian engravers exhibit higher merit than is introduced in the execution of the new Moldavians. Now that His Royal Highness Prince Couza is in full power over his territories we had been vain enough to anticipate the issue of a series of stamps ornamented with an appropriate emblematical design of the future prospects of the Principalities, the reverse of our great expectations lies before us, printed on rough blanc paper, in ink equally on a par with the body of the Stamps in three values viz., 2 5 20 paras, colours respectively, amber, Denmark blue, and red, profile of his Highness to the right, and the description of the present Moldo-Wallachians is complete.

Florence, the new capital of Italy, remarkable for picturesque grandeur of buildings, majestic mountains, and beautiful paintings, and frescoes by the Old Masters, has commemorated the auspicious event of her admission to royalty by issuing the long looked for 2 c. stamps. Sixteen months ago, when the new issue for all Italy was given forth to the world, the 2 c. was found to be wanting to complete the set; since then the probable date of issue of the 2 c. was discussed for months by the Italian Collectors, in the absence of information from the officials at Turin (at that time the capital) they were on the alert for the deficient value, and at length their patience has been rewarded. The design of the new stamp is similar to the 1 c. of the last issue, and, as is usual in Italy with her newspaper labels, the value forms the centre work, printed in gold-brown ink on white paper, they have a very attractive appearance.

Western Australia has just issued another variety of colour in the present one penny stamp, the colour of which is gambouge. The label under view is perforated in the centre, denoting that the sender is a convict.

We are just in time to announce the issue of a new Prussian, value, drie (3) pfennige, colour, bright mauve, uniform with the issue of 1861.

Schleswig Holstein with a half-schilling stamp, similar in design to the last issue concludes the present paper on authenticated individuals.

NOTES ON SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

BY JNO. G. BOEL.

The vast SOUTH AMERICAN continent extending from the city of Panama in New Granada, to Cape Horn and Tierra del Fuego, has furnished collectors with the rarest variety of stamps on record to wit, Corrientes, Brazil, New Granada, Buenos Ayres and Peru the latter country embracing the, P. S. N. C. In my notices of the above and other countries, I shall endeavour to describe their position in point of commerce and civilization without the coloring which many writers on South America use so freely in order to give a better picture of their narrative. With these introductory remarks, we will proceed to the RIVER PLATE, commencing with

The Argentine Confederation, since a Republic, has perhaps suffered the greatest share of South American warfare, from the time when the present site of the capital was christened Buenos Ayres, or "good airs." signifying that the climate of the country was salubrious, to within three years ago the country has been one continual scene of bloodshed and revolution; Now that President Bartolome Mitre is in office it is hoped that a better policy will be afforded to the inhabi-

THE GREAT STAMP DRAWING.

TICKETS, 1s. each.

A. PARSON'S & Co., POST OFFICE, LEAMINGTON.

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TO TAKE PLACE ON JULY 1st.

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| 0 | 5  | 0  | 11. Moon's Album                                                                                                |
| 0 | 7  | 0  | 12. Mount Brown Catalogue                                                                                       |
| 0 | 1  | 0  |                                                                                                                 |

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TO TAKE PLACE ON JULY 1st

tants. On approaching Buenos Ayres from Mont Video the traveller will be struck with the charming view presented to him in the distance. The graceful Minarets, Church towers and glittering Cupolas give a light and oriental appearance to the city. Which seated some eighty feet above the Western shore of the mighty Laplata, extends about two miles along the waters edge. The traveller however should take a protracted gaze at the scene before him as this is unquestionably the fair side of the medal, for the instant he disembarks at the Mole, and proceeds up Calle Mayo, the contrast will be as great as being suddenly transported from the Crystal Palace at Sydenham to the purlieus at Wapping. Hence we recommend him to take a long and lingering look at Buenos Ayres from the roadstead. The sway of the traitor Rosas who dared to close the navigation of the Parana by placing three iron cables across the river has now ended, his palace at Palermo, a short distance from the capital is still kept in preservation, a memento to the memory of a man whose deeds of daring and cruelty will long be remembered by his countrymen.

Buenos Ayres is divided into forty three counties, or what are termed in Spanish Partidos, these partidos are extensively used for agriculture, and for the slaughtering of cattle which roam the prairie in such abundance that they are killed for the mere fat and hides. The rolled salted beef now being sold @ 3d lb, is produced in these Argentine partidos; Many elegant public buildings adorn the city, prominent among which we find the Custom House, Rosas Palace, the Colon Theatre, British Legation, &c., The British Post Office for letters forwarded from English residents is attached to the Consulates, 28 Calle Mayo. English Stamps of the value of 1d and 1s are only used, the former being employed for newspaper postage, but it is optional to prepay the postage or not; letters forwarded by the French Mail Steamers to Bordeaux, can only be franked with the current Argentine stamps, our labels not being available for service by this line of ships; The Argentine Post Office is situated in Calle Bolivar, No. 115. The post-master is an intelligent official and speaks fluently English and the European languages, rare accomplishments in South America.



A book published in Buenos Ayres, probably the first one in the English language in that part of the New World south of the Ecuador, tells us that the movement of the General Post Office is very considerable, and it has *thirteen clerks* (the italics are my own) not including postmen. The same work in reference to postage stamps, says, "all letters posted must be prepaid with the postage stamps of the Republic," and adds, "It is greatly to be regretted that their use is not more general." The authors meaning in the extract just quoted is very misty; the Territory of the Republic composes the Western half of the basin of the Parana; and, with the exception of the Western border occupied by the Andes and its offshoots, is principally composed of vast treeless plains called *pampas*. There are only two highway roads through the country; one leads from Buenos Ayres west to Mendoza, and over a pass in Andes to Chili; the other to the northern provinces, and thence to Bolivar and Peru. There are no bridges in the interior, and the bullock carts laden with goods are three months going to Salta, near the north of the territory; the navigable rivers have as yet been turned to little account, the principal rivers are the Parana, the Paraguay, Vermejo and Pilcomayo. The soil of the country is excellent for the production of Indian corn, rice, cotton, tobacco, wine &c., but its great wealth consists in the countless herds of cattle which roam the prairies, it is estimated that there are twelve million head of cattle and seven million of sheep; Horses Mules and Asses also roam the plains in immense numbers, a magnificent charger can be bought in Buenos Ayres for four hard dollars (16s 8d.)

Next in commercial position to Buenos Ayres is ROSARIO in the province of SANTA FE, the city was founded in 1725 by Don Francisco Godroy. In 1731 a parish was formed of the town and its confines, but, subjected to the continual invasions of the Indians, it did not rise above the grade of a miserable hamlet, no notable incident marks its history until the year 1851, in which year an account of the fall of Rosas, and the separation of the province of Buenos Ayres, it acquired a preponderance, the result of which has been its progress in all branches of commerce. Thus, the lowly hamlet has transformed

itself with fabulous rapidity in the space of thirteen years. Since that time a numerous population has flocked thither, attracted by its commercial interests and the certain benefit which a locality commencing to call the attention of the whole commercial world, presented. The city of Rosario, Capital of the department of the same name, is situated on the western bank of the river Parana, 75 leagues above Buenos Ayres in a north west direction. In public buildings it possesses one Church, three Chapels, one Theatre, one Public Garden, a Custom House, and a Municipal Hall, The population is 13,000 souls, without detaining our readers with an account of its productions, which are the the same as the other provinces, we will pass on to

**MENDOZA.**—The description here submitted is applicable, previous to the lamentable earthquake of March 20, 1861. The population amounted to some 50,000 souls, but in that dreadful catastrophe, there perished over 14,000 persons! whose ashes still remain entombed beneath the ruins of the doomed city! Previous to 1861, an immense trade was done between Mendoza and Chili, it being situated on the high road to that country. It possessed Chilian, French, Italian, and English vice consuls, the latter, Mr. Ernest Green, perishing beneath the ruins of his own house. The plaza was spacious, and contained several Churches, decorated in a costly and luxuriant style, there was a good Theatre and several large Hotels; the shock was felt at 8-30 p.m. and the people rushing from their houses into the streets were instantly annihilated by the houses falling on them. Up to the present time no attempt has been made to rebuild the city a few huts alone constituting the present site of the unfortunate place. The government has, however, decreed the re-building of the city at a distance of 900 yards from the ruins of the old one, but many years must necessarily elapse before anything like the original Mendoza can be produced. Leaving the city for Buenos Ayres we will give a short notice of the city of

**CORRIENTES.**—This is a large and important province, situated between the rivers Parana and Uruguay, the Capital is called Corrientes, and is situated on the banks of the Parana, It is a fine

old city possessing many public buildings, and a population of 12,000 souls. This the only city in the Republic possessing the right of issuing bank notes and postage stamps, except Buenos Ayres; it has one newspaper, "*La Libertad*," which is well edited. Cotton, which grows in the greatest abundance, is now being extensively cultivated by English speculators for the home consumption.

The remaining provinces being very insignificant in commercial position, we will not trouble the reader with their description.



The issue of the postage stamps for the Confederation was contemplated in 1856, and the act passed in the following year, the issue of the "ship variety" "for the city of Buenos Ayres commenced in 1858 and ended in 1862-3. The Argentine Stamps, succeeding those for the Confederation, appeared in 1860 and existed until 1862, when a new president being elected the design was ordered to be altered. English, Italian, American, and French engravers submitted designs, the latter being approved of by the president. The last issue 1864, contains the bust of President Mitre, and not "Don Bernardin Rivadavia," as is stated in No 16 of the Stamp Collector's Magazine." The Corrientes were issued in June 1854, and continue in use at the present time.

Next in proximity to the Argentine Republic is CHILE, this country revolted from Spain as early as 1809, but only succeeded in asserting her independence in 1818. By the constitution of 1833, the government of the republic consists of a president and council, and a legislature of the chambers. The religion, like that of all South American countries, is Roman Catholic, but other forms are tolerated, the principal cities are Santiago and Valparaiso, Chili, after Buenos Ayres and her provinces, is decidedly the most prosperous and promising of South American States. It has a

temperate and salubrious climate, and a soil having great resources, The articles produced are wine, tobacco, sugar &c., The postage stamps, which are too well known to need a description, were issued simultaneously with those of Buenos Ayres. Recrossing the continent we proceed to the Republic of

VENEZUELA, on the death of the celebrated General Boliver<sup>9</sup> in 1830, Ecuador, New Granada, and Venezuela, the three component states of the old Spanish territory of Columbia, agreed to become independent of one another. Their constitutions are based on Republican principles, and they are leagued together for mutual support against foreign aggression. The productions of Venezuela consist of sugar, coffee, indigo, cotton, and tobacco. The Republic is partitioned into five departments, and further divided into thirteen Provinces. The principal towns are Caracas, Cumana, Varinas, and Maracaybo; Postage Stamps issued in five sections, viz., 1858, 1859, 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864, an engraving of which issue is appended.



Leaving Republics, we call at the small Island of St. Thomas *enroute* for Mexico. Nothing of importance is connected with this island, we exhibit two engravings of stamps connected thereto, and proceed to the,



## EMPIRE OF MEXICO.

Mexico city, the capital, is the most beautiful city ever built by the Spaniards in the New world, and even in Europe it would take a high place for splendour and magnificence. On whatever side you turn your eye you see before you the serrated peaks of the Cordilleras, forming a gigantic azure belt of about sixty leagues in circumference. To the south, the two volcanoes, which overtop the other peaks of the

sierra, raise their majestic summits covered with eternal snow, which, in the evening sun puts on a pale purple hue flecked with delicate ruby. At the foot of the two volcanoes gleam the lakes, like mirrors, which reflect the clouds in their waters, and where the wild swan plays its merry gambols. To the west rises an immense pile of building, the palace of Chapultepec, once the abode of the old viceroys of New Spain. Round the mountain on which it is built, stretches, in a long waving belt of verdure, a forest of cedars more than 1,000 years old; a fountain bubbles forth at the top of the mountain, its brauling waters leap down into the valley, were they are received into an aqueduct, and thus conducted into a large and populous city, to supply the wants of its inhabitants. Villages, steeples, and cupolas rise on all sides from the bottom of the valley. On one of the four sides of the Plaza Mayor (grand square) the cathedral towers majestically aloft. This magnificent edifice overtops the turrets of the Presidents Palace, a building devoid of all pretensions to architectural beauty, and now falling to decay. It is an immense pile, enclosing within its four walls the public offices of the government, a prison, two barracks, a botanic garden, and the legislative chambers. This palace occupies a whole side of the square. Thus the legislative and executive power, the board of works, commerce, all the departments of the Mexican Government in short, are in one building. On looking down at Mexico from an elevated position, you will see rising, as if from an immense boquet, spires, churches with domes of blue and yellow, tiling houses with walls stained with various colors, and balconies hung with a kind of striped cotton, which gave them a trim and jaunty appearance. Such is the present city of Mexico where Maximilian the first rules supreme. Although there are many cities in the Mexican Empire called beautiful, none can compete with the capital for pre-eminence. Having delineated Mexico City, we will return to our place of landing, viz.

VERA CRUZ.—The place where this city now stands is not the place on which Hernando Cortz first disembarked; it was not till the end of the sixteenth century that Count de Monterey, the Viceroy, laid the foundations of the present city. Destined to become the key to new Spain, Vera Cruz was built by the conquerors with all the splen-

dour they usually lavished on their undertakings. The houses were made large and spacious, and the streets crossed each other at right angles, to allow the fresh air and sea breezes to circulate freely, and to temper the intense heat of the atmosphere. Still faithful to that antipathy to tiess, which seems a distinctive trait in their hygienic principles, the Spaniards chose, as a site for their first maritime city in Mexico, a vast Sandy plain enlivened by scarcely a spot of verdure, and not even containing a single spring of water. Few remains of its former grandeur are now to be seen. Built on too large a scale for its decreasing population this city, once so flourishing, never tried to struggle against that decline which is soon made known to the traveller by its empty houses and deserted calles.

In Vera Cruz you are reminded of Oriental cities, as well from the rich and picturesque costumes of, the population, as by the appearance of the houses and public buildings. Every where you observe domes of various colors, steeples shooting high into the air, balconies ornamented with massive gratings ; and, as if to still more increase the resemblance, the women of the upper tens are never seen in the streets. The engraving here figuring is the last issue of this newly formed, and only existing Empire north of the Ecuador.



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### THE DUCHY OF PARMA.

The capital of Parma is a large and handsome city situated on a river of the same name, which divides it into two districts, it contains many magnificent structures ; the Duomo is a beautiful pile dating from the 11th century, the interior of this building is covered with frescoes, the most important being those of the cupola by Correggio

and which have called forth so much criticism ; the well known Farnese Palace contains a small but rare collection of paintings by Francia, Raphael, Vandyke, Correggio and others. In the same building is the Museum, rich in antiquities. Parma boasts of the largest Opera House in Europe, capable of holding 9,000 persons. Postage Stamps issued July 4th, 1856, January 1858, and under the direction of a Provisional Government March 1859, the annexed engraving represent the issue of 1856-57.




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### THE NEW TURKISH.

**TURKEY.**—A country of everlasting splendour where it is said the beauty of woman never fades, has added to the collector's album another series of labels, ten in number, these stamps printed in variegated colors cannot fail to relieve the present monotonous appearance of the Turkish section of the collection. The stamps intended to do duty for transmission of letters to foreign countries are here given in description, 10 paras Islay, 20 p, gold-brown, 1 piastre lavender, 2 p, Nopoleon, 5 p, carmine, and 25 red, and for the exclusive use of the capital, 20 paras, 1 piastre and 2, 5, and 25 piastres. Since writing the above we have received a reply to a communication sent to the Turkish Legation, to the effect that only the stamp of the value of 20 paras is used for the capital, the remaining four stamps doing similar duty to the French chiffre tax label, being affixed to letters received at Constantinople from the interior provinces and denoting the rate of postage on each letter, the color of these labels for inland postage are one and all printed in brown on white paper ; the engraving here exhibited represents the 10 paras,

Islay green, exclusively for the postage of newspapers to foreign countries.



### CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES.

**BAVARIA.**—The capital Munich (*Munchen*, German) is situated with its suburbs on the river Isar, and is one of the prettiest towns in Germany, Beautiful buildings adorn the city in every part. The Jesuit Church is a beautiful structure in the Italian style, and contains the remains of Prince Eugene Beauharnois enclosed in a tomb by Thorwaldsen. The frescoes which adorn the interior of the Basilica of Holy Boniface, are without exception superior in beauty and richness to all other works of living artists. The Royal Palace is divided in two parts, the old and new, the latter is a magnificent edifice built after the model of the celebrated Pitti-palace in Florence. The statue of Bavaria, with the accompanying Lion, is of copper, and upwards of sixty feet high, a special staircase has been erected leading to the head of the animal which will contain eight visitors, and there are several holes to enable them to view the surrounding country. In the cabinet of the Jesuits college is a superb collection of coins and medals unequalled in Europe, the postage stamps emanating from Bavaria are too well known to require a description here, but for the benefit of our friends who may not have seen the projected envelope stamps we here give an illustration of one of them:—





DENMARK.—Copenhagen the capital is situated on the East coast of Zealand, where the small Isle of Armack forms an elegant harbour, it is one of the finest cities in Europe, and laid out in regular, though narrow, streets, and contains many fine buildings. The Exchange is a fine structure built of brick and stone quoins, after a design by Inigo Jones. The Church of the Holy Ghost and Notre Dame are magnificent edifices, in the interior of the latter will be seen beautiful wrought marble statues of the twelve apostles, Christ and a kneeling Angel, they were executed by Albert Thorwalsden, and are supported by pedestals in full view; the prospect from the Citadel is magnificent in the extreme, stretching out in chastely delineated symmetry before us is the City and harbour, surrounded by their bastions and windmills, dockyards, arsenals, palaces, parks, streets, canals, and the shipping; places of amusement are very numerous, among those patronised by the elite are the Tivoli Gardens, Alhambra Gardens, the Comic Theatre, and the Bowling Alley. The Museum containing the productions of the Sculptor, Thorwalsden, is situated near the King's Palace, and will well repay a visit. It contains an immense and beautiful collection of works, all being the creation of one man who is thus spoken of in a work, entitled *A trip to Denmark*. "Albert Thorwalsden, the son of a poor ship carpenter from Ireland, was born in Copenhagen, 1769, his genius at an early age impelled him to Rome, where he arrived penniless, but having soon afterwards obtained employment in the studio of Signor Canova his talent quickly developed itself in the beauty and genius of his designs, and he afterwards modelled his celebrated statue of 'Jason' but obtainin no offer for it he determined on quitting Rome for his native city, all his arrangements were made for that purpose, when Mr. Hope of London seeing the east was so much struck with its remarkable beauty that he immediately ordered it in marble. This turned the tide of Thorwalsden's fortune, from that time his name was established and commissions poured in upon him." With an ample fortune elected President of the Royal Academy, he now devoted his remaining years to his honourable office. The remains of this self-made man are buried in the yard of the Museum, in the midst of his own works, a simple grave, with flowers ever freshly growing, is the beautiful monument in memory of him. The other towns in Denmark

are, Helsingør, Moen, Rendsburg, Roeskilde, &c. The envelope stamps for this country have at length been issued. The circulation was anticipated two years ago, but, owing to the difficulties in the duchies, was postponed until the war was settled, the annexed illustration of the 4s. stamp will render a description unnecessary :—



### SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN.

**ALTONA**, after Copenhagen, is the largest city of Denmark; it is situated on the north bank of the Elbe, contiguous to Hamburg, which it will ultimately rival in trade; it is built on the side of a hill, which gives it the appearance of an amphitheatre, when viewed from the river. The commerce of Altona is very considerable, as it is connected with Kiel on the Baltic Sea.

**FLENSBURG** is beautifully located on an arm of the Baltic, it is the seat of Government, and chief town of the Duchy of Schleswig. It has a large trade with Sweden, England, and the West Indies, and contains a number of oil mills, breweries, ropewalks, &c.

**Kiel**, an important city on the Baltic in the Duchy of Holstein. It has a university founded in 1664 by Christian Albert and contains a large collection of books, and a museum of natural history. During the insurrection of 1848-9 the united duchies of Holstein and Schleswig established a provisional government and employed their own stamps, a representation of the 2 schilling is here exhibited.



London, 27th April, 1865.

Add to the description of the Danish envelope, that another value similar to the first in design has appeared, value 2s. blue.

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### OUR PRIZE ESSAY.

The proprietors of this magazine have much pleasure in announcing that a valuable postage stamp album by Messrs. Grumel and Michel, of Newgate Street, will be offered for competition to stamp collectors and others, the essays submitted must be plainly written on one side of the paper only, and are restricted to the following subjects, History of postage stamp collecting. Rise and progress of the mania abroad, the articles must be perfectly genuine in the language employed and the best compilation will be selected and inserted in the magazine, the length of the essays are confined from 600 to 800 words; as we go to press on the twenty-fifth, the papers must be submitted before the eighteenth of this month.

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### ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Emily Woburn who writes from Vienna on gilt edge scented note paper of the finest gloss, propounds a variety of questions which, although not all appertaining to postage stamps, are highly amusing, the queries are numbered from one to twelve, Nos. one to seven we beg to decline answering, the remaining questions are here responded to. A Schleswig Holstein of the first issue genuine is worth about 2s. Reunion is situated in the Indian Ocean, sixty miles from our settlement; the Mauritius, Ionian stamps, are now obsolete, authenticated copies of the old Corrientes must be procured from the capital of that country or Buenos Ayres; the concluding answer to your numerous queries will consist of our thanks for your good wishes and anticipations. S. H. M. is informed that the stamp forwarded is a genuine Honolulu of the last issue.

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*In consequence of want of space we are compelled to postpone the Publishing of Home and Foreign Correspondence till next Month.*

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*Advertisements must be sent before May 20, to be inserted in the following number. Leamington, Published by A. Parson's & Co., Post Office, to which all communications must be addressed, post paid. Editor Mr. John George Boel, London.*

## W. H. SMEETON AND CO.

**A**RE NOW OFFERING the following Stamps at greatly reduced prices; used, but in good condition, Austria (1st issue) 1 and 2 kr. 2d. each; 3, 6 and 9 kr., 1d. each; second issue, 3 kr. (green) 3d. each; 3 kr. (black) 2d. each; third issue, 5, 10, 15 c. 1d. each; fourth issue, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15 kr. 2d. each; 6d. per dozen (mixed): Belgium (old issue) 10 c. 3d. each; 20 c. 2d. each; Chili, 10 c. (blue) 4d. each; Confederate States (unused) 5 c. (blue) 6d. each; 10 c. (blue) 9d. each; Denmark, 2, 4, 8, 16, sks. 2d. each; French Republic, 20, 40 c. 2d. each; Empire, 25 c. 2d. each; Hong Kong, 2 c. (brown), 4 c. (slate), 6 c. (violet), 2d. each; 8 c. (yellow), 12 c. (blue), 3d. each; 24 c. (green) 2d. each; 30 c. (vermillion) 4d. each; 48 c. (pink) 9d. each; Hanover, 1-10, 1-15, 1-30 thaler 2d. each; Bestelgeld frei, (green) 2d. each; Modena, 10 c. (blue) 4d. each; New Brunswick, 5 c. 1d. each; New Zealand penny, twopenny, threepenny, sixpenny, one shilling, 2d. each; New South Wales laureated penny, twopenny, threepenny, 6d. each; Present issue one shilling lake 4d. each; Nova Scotia, 1c., 2c., 5c., 1d. each; Parma, 5, 10, 15 c., 3d. each; 25 c. 6d. each; Prussia old issue, 1, 2, 3 silb groshen, 2d. each; Envelopes 1, 2, 3 silb groshen, 2d. each; Russia, 10 kopecs, 2d. each; Switzerland cross 5 c. blue, 10 c. yellow, 2d. each; Old 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 40 rappen, 2d. each; Spain, 1850, 51, 52, 53, 8 cuartos, 4d. each; 1854, 4 cuartos, 6d. each; 6 cuartos, 4d. each; Sweden old 4 skilling banco blue, 2d. each; 8 sk. beo yellow, 3d. each; Western Australia, lake 2d., penny carmine 2d., twopenny orange, 6d. each; twopenny blue, 3d. each; fourpenny blue, 6d. each; sixpenny chocolate, 6d. each; one shilling green, 8d. each; Wurtemberg figure 1, 3, 6, 9, kr. 8d. each; 1, 3, 6, 9, 18 kr. 1d. each.

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**A**LL ORDERS under 2s. 6d. to contain a stamp for reply.

**A**GENTS WANTED in Schools and Towns in Great Britain, where none are yet appointed. Commission, 20 per cent.

**A**LL ORDERS EXECUTED by return of Post—certain. Terms, Nett Cash.

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tigua 1d 2d each, 1s 10d per dozen;  
Argentine Republic new issue 5 centavos,  
10d each; Austria old issue 1 kr lavender,  
1d each, 9d per dozen; 2 kr new  
issue 1d each, 10d per dozen; Austrian  
Italy new issue 2 soldi, 2d each; 3 soldi,  
8d each; Baden 1 kr new issue 1d each,  
7d per dozen; landpost 1 kr (obsolete)  
1d each, 10d per dozen; 3 kr 3d each,  
2s per dozen; 12 kr 7d each; 1d Ba-  
hamas 3d each, 2s per dozen; Barbados  
green 2d each; Bavaria 1 kr 1d each, 7d  
per dozen; 3 kr unpaid letter label 3d  
each, 2s per dozen; Brazil 10 reis 2d  
each; Bremen 2 grote 2d each, 1s 9d  
per dozen; British Colombia 7d each;  
British Guiana, 1853, 1 cent red, 4 cent  
blue, 4s each; 1850, 1 cent black 2d  
each, 1s 1d per dozen; Brunswick 3 pf  
1d each, 7s per dozen; halfpenny Oey-  
lon 2d each, 1s 1d per dozen; 4d red,  
9d each; envelopes 1d blue 3d each, 2s  
per dozen; 2d green, 5d each, 4s per  
dozen; Chilli, 1 centavo, 3d each, 2s 3d  
per dozen; Confederate States, 5 cents,  
6d 10 cents, 9d 20 cents, green 1s 6d;  
Riddles, set of three, 1s 3d; Danubian  
Principalities, new issue, 1s 8d set of  
three; Denmark, 2 sk 2d each, 1s. per  
dozen; four skilling new issue, 8d each,  
2s per dozen; four skilling an, 3d each,  
French Colonies, 1 c. 4d each, or 1s the  
set of four; Granada Confederation, first  
issue, 5 c. puce 3s, 5 c. brown 3s 6d, 10 c.  
russet 4s 6d; new issue, 1855, 5 c. yellow  
2d each, 10 c. puce 1s 4d each; Great  
Britain envelopes on blue or white paper,  
twopenny 3d each; threepenny 5d each;  
fourpenny 6d each; fivepenny 8d each;  
sixpenny 9d each; sevenpenny 11d each;  
eightpenny 1s each; ninepenny 1s 2d  
each; tenpenny 1s 4d each; shilling  
1s 6d each; Greece, 1 lepta 1d each, 4d  
per dozen; 3 lepta 1d each, 7d per dozen;  
5 lepta 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 1d  
Grenada, 3d each;  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. Hamburg 1d  
each; Hanover 3 pf. 1d each, 8d per  
dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro. 2d each, 1s per dozen;  
Bestellgeld Horse 2d each, 1s per dozen;  
trefoil 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; old  
issue envelopes, green and rose 4d each;  
Holland, new issue 5 c. 3d each, 1s 8d

per dozen; 10 c. 4d each, 3s per dozen;  
15 c. 6d each, or 10d the set; Indian  
envelopes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna 3d each, 2s 9d per  
dozen; 1 anna 5d each; Ionian Islands,  
2d per set, or 7s. 6d. per dozen sets;  
Italy, new issue, 2 c. 1d each, 10 per  
dozen; 20 c. 4d each, 3s. 6d. per dozen;  
Jamaica, penny 3d each, 2s per dozen;  
twopenny 5d each, 4s per dozen; three-  
penny 6d each, 5s 6d per dozen; Liberia,  
6 cents. 9d each; Lubeck, old issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$   
sch. 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; new issue,  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. adhesive, or envelope 1d each, 10d  
per dozen; 1 sch. 2d each, 1s 8d per  
dozen; Luxembourg, 1 c. 4d per dozen;  
2 c. 1d each, 6d per dozen; 4 c. 1d each,  
8d per dozen; 10 c. 3d each, 1s. 6d per  
dozen; 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. 3d each, 2s. per dozen;  
Mauritius, penny 3d each, 2s per dozen;  
6d envelopes, 1s 3d each; 9d envelopes,  
2s each; Mecklenburg, small, new issue,  
1d each, 5d per dozen; 1 sch envelope,  
2d each, 1s 2d per dozen; Mecklenburg  
Strelitz,  $\frac{1}{2}$  orange, 1d each, 8d per dozen;  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  green, 1d each, 10d per dozen; one shilling  
mauve, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; one gr.  
rose adhesive or envelope, 3d each, 2s  
per dozen, or 2s 6d the set of nine; Mexico, new  
issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  real, 1s each; Modena Provisional  
Government, 5s for set of five; penny Nevis  
3d, each, 2s. per doz; 1 cent New Brunswick  
1d. each 10d. per dozen 12 cents, 2d. each, 1s.  
8d. per dozen; Newfoundland 2d. each, 1s. 6d.  
per dozen; Twopenny 6d. each, Eightpenny  
square 1s 4d. each, Nicaragua 2 centavos 8d.  
each, Norway new issue 2 skillings 2d. each  
1s. 9d. per dozen; Nova Scotia 1 cent 1d. each  
9d. per dozen. 2 cents, 2d. each 1s 6d. per doz.  
8 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents, 8d. each 7s. per dozen: 10 cents 9d.  
each of dozen: Oldenberg  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro 1d. each 10d.  
per dozen:  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro 2d. each 1s. per dozen: 1  
gro 3d. each 2s. per dozen adhesive or envelopes:  
old issue s. gro yellow 3d. each 2s. per dozen:  
Parma Provisional Government 5s. set of 5  
Peru, 1 doz. red 5d; one peseta, brown 10d each  
Portugal, Don Pedro, 25 reis, blue, 6d each or  
2s. the set of five; Don Louis, 5 reis, 1d each,  
7d per dozen; 10 reis, 2d each, 1s per dozen  
or 1s 9d the set of five; Prince Edward Island  
penny 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; twopenny  
3d each, 2s 3d per dozen; Prussia, 3 pf. mauve  
just issued, 1d each, 8d per dozen; Russia,  
new issue, 7d the set of three; 5 kopeks  
envelope, 5d each, 4s per dozen; 10 kopeks  
9d each; 20 kopeks 1s 5d each; St. Helena  
penny 2d each, 1s per dozen; fourpenny 8d.  
each; sixpenny 10d each; shilling 1s 8d each;  
Lucia, new issue, black 3d each, 2s 6d per  
dozen; yellow 1s each; Sandwich Islands, 1  
cent., 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; Sierra Leone,  
1s each; Saxony, 3 pf. 1d each, 7d per dozen;  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  gro. 2d each, 1s. per doz. Spain, new issue,  
2 cuartos 2d each, 1s per dozen; Sweden,  
3 ore 2d each, 1s per dozen; 5 ore 2d each,

Is 9d per dozen; Schleswig 1½ sch. green, 3d each, 2s per dozen; ¼ sch. rose, 2d each, 1s 4d per dozen; United States, new, 2 cents, 2d. each, 1s 6d per dozen; Post Office Despatch, 1 cent. blue 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Venezuela, ½ c. 2d each, 2s. per dozen; 1 centavo, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; old issue, 1s the set of three; the following are used, but only slightly obliterated; 6d Antigua, 3d Argentine Republic, old issue, 5 c. 2d each, 2s per dozen; 10 c. 5d each, 4s 6d per dozen; 15 c. 9d each, 8s. per dozen; Austria, first issue, 1 and 2 kr arms 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; 2 kr. red Zeitung, 3d each, 1s. per dozen; Austrian Italy, first issue, 5, 10 cents, arms, 4d each; 15. 20. 45 cents, 1d each, 9d per dozen; Baden figure in centre, 3. 6. 9. kr. 1d each; Barbadoes, 4d 6d and 1s, 3d each; Bavaria, 1 kr black, 10d; Old Belgium, 20 c. 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 10 c. 3d each, 2s per dozen; Brazil, 30. 60. reis, 2d each; old, 8d each; Canada, 4d each, 3s per dozen; 10 c. 17 c. 2d each, 1s per dozen; Cape of Good Hope, 1s, square, 2d each; Cuba, old issue, ½ real Plata, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Denmark, old issue, 4. R. B. S. 1d each, 6d per dozen; French Republic, 10 c. 4d each, 3s per dozen; 15 c. 3d each; 2s 6d per dozen; 1 franc, 6d each; Presidency, 25 c. 1d each, 10 per dozen; Empire, 25 c. 2d each, 1s. per dozen; French Colonies, 1fr. 40 c. 2d each; Grenada, sixpenny, 3d each; Hamburg, 3. 4. sk, 2d each; Italy, 20 c. first, second, and third issues, 6d each, 4s. per dozen; Old Luxembourg, 10 c. black, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; one sil. gro. rose, 4d each; Modena, 9 c. B. G. or 10 c. violet, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Monte Video, 60 c. 4d each, 3s. per dozen; 80 c. 3d. each; 100 c. 1s each; 120 c. 6d each; New Zealand, 1s green, 2d each, 1s 4d per dozen; New South Wales, 5s. 10d each; Nova Scotia, 5 cents. 1d each, 6d per dozen; 10 cents. 3d each; Oldenburg, 1st issue, 1 30th thaler, 2nd issue, 1 gro. 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Parma, first issue, on white, 5 c. yellow, 2s c. red-brown, 1s each, 15 c. vermilion, 6d each, second issue, 5. 10. 15 cents, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; 25 cents, purple, 6d each, 5s per dozen; Peru, one dinero red, 4d each, 3s per dozen; one peseta brown, 5d each, 4s 6d per dozen; Queensland, 1s, 2d each; Russia, 10 kopeks, 1d each, 6d per dozen; 20, 30 kopeks, 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; St. Vincent, sixpenny, 3d each; South Australia, 2d, vermilion, 1d each, 6d per dozen; old issue, rose, 4d each; 8 lolly, 2 gra, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; 1, 10, 20 gra. 5d each; Spain, 1860, to 1853, 6 cuartos, 1 854, 4 and 6 cuartos, 2d each, or 1s 6d per dozen mixed; 1860, 1 real, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Sweden, old issue, 4 sk. 600. 1d each, 9d per dozen; 8 sk. 600. 2d each, 1s. per dozen; Switzerland, first issue, 5, 10, 15 rappen (cross) 2d each; Trinidad, 1s purple, 3d each; United States, 5 cents, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 20, 90 c. 3d each; Van Dieman's Land, 4d, 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; 6d or 1s, 3d each; Western Australia, from 2d each; all others equally cheap.

**PARE STAMPS!—CLARKE AND RAWLL** have always in stock, sets of the following Envelopes, unused: Austria and Austrian Italy, 1st issue, Baden, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 kr.; Bavaria Essays, Canada (4 varieties), Ceylon, English (22 varieties), Oldenburgh, 1st issue, Prussia, 1st issue, Poland, Russia, Saxony, 1st issues; United States, (over 20 varieties); also the following adhesive: Ecuador, Bolivia, British Guiana, 1st issue, without date, and 1853, Bavaria, 1st issue, all unused; Costa Rica, all values; French Republic Essays, Granada Confederation, old issues, unused; Italy, old issues, unused; Luzon, (5 varieties); Mexico, old issues, unused; New Brunswick, 3d and 6d unused; New South Wales, Views of Sydney, and laureated; St. Lucia, all; Spain, all issues; United States Essays; Western Australia, 1d black, rose (dark and light), yellow-brown, 2d; blue, orange, yellow, 4d; blue rect, blue octagonal; orange, carmine, 6d brown, violet, &c., all unused.

**NEW ISSUES!—Danish Envelopes,** 1/2 2 sk., blue, 3d each, 1s 3d per dozen; 4 sk. rose, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Prussia, 3 pf. mauve, 1d each, 3d per dozen; Italy, 2 c. brown, 1d each, 9d per dozen; 20 c. blue, 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; Mecklenburg Schwerin, small ½ sch. white ground, 1d each, 6d per dozen; Mecklenburg Strelitz, ½ s. gr. orange, 1d each, 3d per dozen; ½ s. gr. green, 10d per dozen; 1 schilling mauve, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 1s gr. adhesive, or envelopes, 3d each, 2s per dozen; or 2s the complete set of nine; Norway, lion 2 sk, yellow, 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Schleswig Holstein, ½ rose, 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; Holland, 3 c. 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; 10 c. 3d each, 20 c. 3d each; Russia, 1d. per set of three, or 6s 6d per dozen sets; Luzon, 1844, the set of three for 4s 6d; La Guaira 1, 2, 3, 4, centavos, 2s the set; Papal States, ½ baj, brown, 1d each, 2d per dozen.

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SPECIMENS 3d; 52, 6d; 105, 1s; 250, 2s; Unused Stamps *Gratis*. 6d. packet 25 varieties Russia &c., Shilling Packets 50 varieties, Parma, Lubek, Greece &c., 8 c. 2 unused Stamps *Gratis*. price lists post free, 2d. 2 unused Stamps GRATIS. J. C. WROE, 10, Fairclough Lane, Liverpool.

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THE Stamp Collector's Miscellany, is published on the 1st. of every month price 2d. post free 3d. The April number (No. 10) now ready. Numbers 1 to 10 post free 1s. 10d. containing How to Detect Forged Stamps. The First Martyr to Stamps (appalling!) How I became a Collector, Fearless Frank or or can it be genuine! and dozens of other articles of great interest to Stamp Collector's. The tale 'Fearless Frank,' was commenced in No. 6 price 2d. containing over two dozen engravings Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 post free 11d. D. DEAN & Co., Hope Square, Weymouth.

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## EVERY COLLECTOR should have,

"How to detect Forged Stamps," by Thos. Dalston which contains accurate and comprehensive description of above 600 False stamps, post free 1s. T. Dalston & Co., Barnard Castle.

730029



THE

# Stamp Collector's Examiner.

EDITED BY JOHN G. BOEL.

No. 1. [NEW SERIES.] JULY, 1865.

[PRICE 4d.]

### A CALIFORNIAN POST OFFICE.

By BAYARD TAYLOR, Esq.,

*Secretary of Legation to the United States of America.*

A DAY or two after my arriva in San Francisco the steamer Unicorn came into the harbour, being the third which had arrived without bringing a mail. These repeated failures were too much for even a patient people to bear; an indignation meeting in Portsmouth Square was called, but a shower, heralding the rainy season, came on in time to prevent it. Finally, on the last day of October, on the eve of the departure of another steamer down the coast, the Panama came in, bringing the mails for July, August, and September, all at once!

Thirty-seven mail-bags were hauled up to the little Post Office that night, and the eight clerks were astounded by the receipt of forty-five thousand letters, besides uncounted bushels of newspapers. I was at the time domiciled in Mr. Moore's garret, and enjoying the hospitalities of his plank-table; I therefore offered my services as clerk-extraordinary, and was at once vested with full powers, and initiated into all the mysteries of counting, classifying, and distributing letters.

The Post Office was a small frame building of one story, and not more than forty-feet in length. The entire front, which was graced with a narrow portico, was appropriated to the windows for delivery, while



the rear was divided into three small compartments—a newspaper room, a private office, and kitchen. There were two windows for the general delivery, one for French and Spanish letters, and a narrow entry at one end of the building, on which faced the private boxes, to the number of five hundred, leased to merchants and others at the rate of 1,50 dls. per month. In this small space all the operations of the Office were carried on. The rent of the building was 7,000 dls. a-year, and the salaries of the clerks from 100 to 300 dls. monthly, which, as no special provision has been made by Government to meet the expense, effectually confined Mr. Moore to these narrow limits. For his strict and conscientious adherence to the law he received the violent censure of a party of the San Franciscans, who would have had him make free use of the Government funds.

The Panama's mail-bags reached the Office about nine o'clock. The doors were instantly closed, the windows darkened, and every preparation made for a long siege. The attack from without commenced about the same time. There were knocks on the doors, taps on the windows, and beseeching calls at all corners of the house. The interior was well lighted; the bags were emptied on the floor, and ten pairs of hands engaged in the assortment and distribution of their contents. The work went on rapidly and noiselessly as the night passed away, but with the first streak of daylight the attack commenced again. Every avenue of entrance was barricaded; the crowd was told through the keyhole that the Office would be open that day to no one: but it all availed nothing.

Mr. Moore's Irish servant could not go for a bucket of water without being surrounded and in danger of being held captive. Men dogged his heels in the hope of being able to slip in behind him before he could lock the door.

We laboured steadily all the day, and had the satisfaction of seeing the huge pile of letters considerably diminished. Towards evening the impatience of the crowd increased to a most annoying pitch. They knocked; they tried shouts and then whispers, and then shouts again; they implored and threatened by turns; and not seldom offered large bribes for the delivery of their letters. "Curse such a Post Office and such a Post Master!" said one; "I'll write to the Department by the next steamer. *We'll* see whether things go on in this way much longer." Then comes a messenger slyly to the back door: "Mr.—sends his compliments, and says you would oblige him very much by letting me have his letters; he won't say anything about it to anybody." A clergyman, or perhaps a naval officer, follows, relying on a white cravat or gilt buttons for the favour which no one else can obtain. Mr. Moore politely but firmly refuses; and so we work on, unmoved by the noises of the besiegers. The excitement and anxiety of the public can scarcely be told in words. Where the source that governs business, satisfies affection, and supplies intelligence, had been shut off from a whole community for three months, the rush from all sides to supply the void was irresistible.

In the afternoon, a partial delivery was made to the owners of private boxes. It was effected in a skilful way, though with some

danger to the clerk who undertook the opening of the door. On account of the crush and destruction of windows on former occasions, he ordered them to form into line and enter into regular order. They at first refused, but on his counter-refusal to unlock the door, complied with some difficulty. The moment the key was turned, the rush into the little entry was terrific; the glass faces of the boxes were stove in, and the wooden partition seemed about to give way. In the space of an hour the clerk took in postage to the amount of 600 dls.; the principal firms frequently paid from 50 to 100 dls. for their correspondence.

We toiled on till after midnight of the second night, when the work was so far advanced that we could spare an hour or two for rest, and still complete the distribution in time for the opening of the windows at noon the next day. So we crept up to our blankets in the garret, worn out by forty-four hours of steady labour. We had scarcely begun to taste the needful rest, when our sleep, deep as it was, was broken by a new sound. Some of the besiegers, learning that the windows were to be opened at noon, came on the ground in the night, in order to have the first chance for letters. As the nights were fresh and cool, they soon felt chilly, and began a stamping march along the portico, which jarred the whole building, and kept us all painfully awake. This game was practised for a week after the distribution commenced, and was a greater hardship to those employed in the office than their daily labours. One morning, about a week after this, a single individual came about midnight, bringing a chair with him, and

some refreshments. He planted himself directly opposite the door, and sat there quietly all night. It was the day for despatching the Monterey mail, and one of the clerks got up about four o'clock to have it in readiness for the carrier. On opening the door in the darkness, he was confronted by this man, who, seated solemnly in his chair, immediately gave his name in a loud voice: "John Jenkins!"

When, finally, the windows were opened, the scenes around the office were still more remarkable. In order to prevent a general riot among the applicants, they were recommended to form in ranks. This plan once established, those inside could work with more speed and safety. The lines extended in front all the way down the hill into Portsmouth Square, and on the south side across Sacramento Street to the tents among the chapparal; while that from the newspaper window in the rear stretched for some distance up the hill. The man at the tail of the longest line might count on spending six hours in it before he reached the window. Those who were near the goal frequently sold out their places to impatient candidates, for ten, and even twenty-five dollars; indeed, several persons, in want of money, practised this game daily, as a means of living! Venders of pies, cakes, and newspapers established themselves in front of the office, to supply the crowd, while others done a profitable business by carrying cans of coffee up and down the lines.

The labours of the Post Office were greatly increased by the necessity of forwarding thousands of letters to the branch offices, or to agents among the mountains,

according to the orders of the miners. This part of the business, which was entirely without remuneration, furnished constant employment for three or four clerks. Several persons made large sums by acting as agents, supplying the miners with their letters, at one dollar each, which included the postage from the Atlantic side. The arrangements for the transportation of the inland mail were very imperfect, and these private establishments were generally preferred.

Wells, Fargo, and Co. are already prominent for the cheap transportation of letters to and from New York, their charge for conveying a letter overland, in ten days, being but one dollar.

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### OUR PRIZE ESSAY.

**WE** beg to inform our readers that we have awarded the album to Mr. T. DALSTON, for the Prize Essay on Postage Stamps.

We take this opportunity of thanking the many competitors for this Album, and are sorry that only one Prize was offered, many of the articles submitted being of the higher order.

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### HISTORY OF POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTING.

By THOMAS DALSTON, Author of "How to detect Forged Stamps."

TEN YEARS ago the votaries of the interesting and instructing amusement of Postage Stamp Collecting were few and far between, and although at present the collectors in England alone may be counted by

thousands, yet the real collectors, that collect with a purpose, that read History in their stamps, that learn Geography through them, that admire the skill and taste which is displayed in their execution, these, I am afraid, are very scarce. The generality of collectors are schoolboys, who are justly nicknamed by the Italians *raccoglitori* Seina (monkey collectors) and who are continually selling and exchanging their stamps and collections. Postage Stamp collecting was at first, undoubtedly a mania, and although we have known solitary collectors for the last 12 or 14 years, yet the mania did not commence until about six years ago, when it appears to have attacked the Parisians with great vigour. Every Sunday and Thursday on the Boulevard Sebastopol, and in the Tuileries gardens, there was a kind of exchange held for the buying, selling, and exchanging of stamps, indeed on some occasions the places usually chosen for that purpose were literally crowded with zealous amateurs. But it appears this system was not allowed to continue long, as it was evidently suppressed by the authorities after a few months, on account of it being illegal to traffic in the gardens of the Tuileries. There is, however, a little business done at the same places to this day, but it is necessarily surreptitious, and is gradually dying out, thereby making room for the many new stamp dealers who are every day springing into existence.

The pursuit appears next to have extended into Belgium and Germany, where it was at first quietly carried on amongst the schools and *pensions*, from thence it appeared in England, and there are numerous collectors in London who have frequented the exchange

in Birchin Lane and Change Alley, and who will no doubt long remember the animated scene of near two hundred people of almost every class in society from the school boy to the personage of exalted rank bargaining for stamps, and perhaps the personal gratification of making good bargains themselves.

America, the would be fastest and foremost nation in the world, was not backward in its stamp dealers and collectors, but either on account of the civil war which has distracted this noble country, or on account of the nation being two commercial, its collectors are very few, although they were early to commence. In Italy the pursuit is widely spread, but Turin, the head quarters of the stamp collecting Italy, the whole city which is the pride of the Italians, and delight of Travelers, is now degraded from the Piedmontese capital to the level of a Provincial city, and it is hoped its desolate inhabitants will not take the degradation to heart and throw up their stamp collections.

When stamp collecting was fairly started, England appears to have been the foremost country in futhering the pursuit. Numerous dealers commenced the business, Magazines were issued, Catalogues and Works for amateurs, wherewith they might detect the very frequent forgeries, were published, in fact, stamp collecting gradually got to such a state that it has established literature of its own. There is no doubt but that stamp collecting will obtain permanency, for if we take a glance at the growth of *Timbrophily*, we cannot but think that it is gradually unfolding itself into a permanent institution, which will perhaps one day be to Historians, and lovers of the fine arts, what coins, and

pictures by the ancient Masters, are to them now.

The progress of stamp literature will more effectually illustrate the rise and history of stamp collecting. The mania was just in its infancy when Mount Brown issued the first Edition of his catalogue. A little later was published Dr. Grey's catalogue and Messrs. Beller's and Davies's guide, (the latter being a labour of three years) It appears, however, that Catalogues and Standard Guides could not satisfy the literary requirements of a British stamp collecting public, and there was an evident want of Magazines devoted to the subject, so collectors were not surprised by seeing two pre-eminently useful monthly Magazines make their appearance in the then, to the uninitiated, novel path, viz. :—The "Stamp Collector's Magazine," and the "Stamp Collector's Review," both of which with many more later emanations, were exclusively for the promotion of the interests of stamp collectors, and which have been infinitely useful in their varied discussions, and arguments, and in bringing to light uncatalogued specimens. Many Magazines have appeared in England since the formation of the above two, but they have mostly either through the incapacity of the Editor's, or want of capital on the part of the publishers, suddenly, and without warning disappeared, there is undoubtedly room for more good stamp periodicals. On the continent we have the excellent publications of Vallette, and make of Paris. Zschiesche and Kuder of Leipzig and Moens of Brussels. I may also mention that New York and Canada can also claim Magazines of their own. In the category of useful stamp literature, we must

not forget the elaborate Albums by Moens and Lallier, which clearly show that stamp collectors are formed of a class of persons who appreciate splendid and costly Albums. We have also Oppens, Mount Browns, and numerous other Albums and Works on forgeries by Pemberton, Lewis, and Dalston, and last, but not least, the costly plates of Moens, comprising a well executed fac simile of every known type of postage stamps. In concluding this brief essay, I cannot refrain from saying that stamp collectors at once check the systematic selling of forgeries, which undoubtedly occurs, by being more cautious in what they purchase, that collections will become, at no distant day, inundated with the vermin to such a degree that it may probably bring timbrophily to a sudden and untimely end.

#### ORIGIN OF THE PONY EXPRESS.

In the American "Statutes at Large," dated March 2nd, 1861, the following passage occurs: "The Postmaster General is directed to run a Pony Express from New York to San Francisco, in 10 days for 8 months, and 12 days for 4 months; carrying for the Government, free of charge, 5lbs. of mail matter, with the privilege of issuing postage stamps, and charging the public one dollar per half ounce letter. the contractors shall receive £20,000 per annum, and the contract expire July 1st, 1864." On the receipt of this authority from Government, the line was formed by two companies, viz.: Wells, Fargo, and Co., and the Pioneer Stage Company. A portion of the line running to Denver City, was bought subsequently by B. Holliday, Esq., of New York. By the

provisions of the Legislature, the contractors were to run a daily express from St. Louis to San Francisco for the Government service, with a stage coach service three times weekly, carrying twelve passengers and newspaper matter.

The route traversed by this overland express is here described. Letters and newspapers, intended for transmission to California, are deposited at the office of Wells, Fargo, and Co., Broadway, New York; places for passengers in the coach are also booked here, or at St. Louis, the first station on the line.

From New York the route proceeds by rail to St. Louis, on the borders of Illinois and Missouri; leaving the civilized world, the line diverges to the West on to St. Joseph, thence to Omaha city, and across Nebraska and Utah Territory, to the Great Salt Lake city; from Utah, the route passes South of the celebrated Humboldt Mountains to Carson city, and, *via* Los Angeles, to San Francisco. The whole distance is 3,000 miles, and is accomplished by the time specified by the Legislature. Wells, Fargo, and Co. also possess the finest routes in British Columbia and Vancouver Island. The organization of their movements is most elaborate, they have agents and correspondents in all parts of the world, and their office at Victoria, Vancouver Island, is as large as our General Post Office in London. I have never known a letter sent by them to miscarry. The charge for sending a letter anywhere in California is 10 cents, and so great is the public in favour of this Company, that Californian Bankers and Merchants will tell you that they would trust any amount,

in even that insecure country, in an envelope or cover, having the stamp of "Wells, Fargo and Co's Pony Express." Several rival companies have been formed—Ballous Fraser River Express, Langston Express, Victoria Town Express, and the Pacific Mail Express, all of which are in a flourishing condition. The last named company is the largest to Wells, Fargo, and Co., and have paid a large sum to the Mexican Republic for the monopoly of the trails leading to the mines and principal cities in Mexico.

#### RETROSPECT OF THE MONTH.

Nothing in accredited specimens have assumed their places during the preceding month.

Hamburg has enlivened the appearance of her 7s. stamp by a change of colour, a bright rich mauve is substituted for the hitherto dingy yellow. While referring to this free town of Hamburg, the writer of this paper begs permission to inform his readers of the fact of receiving a packet from the above town, the postage thereon being defrayed by eight forged stamps, in imitation of the 7s. yellow, duly obliterated at the Post Office. Had the fraud been detected, some great revolutions, agitated by the discovery of the forging of current stamps, would have taken place.



The exquisitely engraved new Sandwich Islands 2 cents will receive the welcome addition of two congeners in a few weeks, owing to a large stock of the old labels, 5 and 13 cents, bearing the portrait of

Kamehameha the 4th, the printers received orders not to execute further dies until the stock of labels were exhausted, the last passage has now occurred, the engravers have the designs now in hand, and we may expect the legal issue in a short period. The designs will probably correspond with the existing 2 cents, of which we give an illustration; the colours at present selected are 5 cents Islay, 13 Denmark Blue. The reigning sovereign is Kamehameha the 5th, who was born December 11th, 1830; the portrait figuring on the last issue is of this monarch.

Some stamps purporting to have emanated from Paramaribo, the capital of Dutch Guiana, have been introduced to public notice for disposal, we find on enquiry that their birth place is but 750 miles from London. The projectors of these labels must be badly deficient for the knowledge of geography, inasmuch, that the so-called Dutch Guianas are obliterated with the same postmark doing fraudulent duty on the forged Venezuelas.



It has often been affirmed that the stamps of Java, serve also for other possessions of Holland. We cannot vouch for all the Dutch West Indies employing the Jarvese stamps, but to our knowledge they are used at the present time in St. Eustatius, a single mountain, twenty miles in circumference. The stamps of Java are probably familiar with old collectors, but for the benefit of young beginners we insert a representation; the originals are printed in a brilliant carmine colour, which has an excellent effect to the eye. It is a singular fact that no compilers

of Stamp Catalogues have ever seen the Dutch Guianas personally; even Mount Brown admits that he published them from a mere description, he has never seen them, and the probabilities are great of any zealous collector ever possessing a copy of these so-called rarities.



Reprints of the rare old penny blue Van Dieman's Land are in extensive circulation at the Antipodes, they realize half-a-guinea each, readily. It is evident that the

block is in possession of a postal speculator, who has printed several fancy colours of this rare stamp. Canada has furnished another local, the property of Mr. Bancroft, the stamp contains the proprietor's head to the right, in circle, above "Bancroft's," beneath "City Express," value 5 cents, indicated in letters and words, blue, on white paper.

### WENDEN AND ITS STAMPS.

BY THOMAS DALSTON, AUTHOR OF "HOW TO DETECT FORGED STAMPS."

The mystery respecting these hitherto unacknowledged Stamps appears to be clearing up. For a long time it was totally unknown to Collectors in what part of Europe this Wenden was; not even vendors of the stamps could tell, and the inscription being in German, it was thought very probable that it was a province in some of the German States, and that the stamps in question would emanate from the said province. On looking at a map of Germany, it will be perceived that there is a very small province called Wenden, in Mecklenburg Schwerin, so small

indeed, that it seems improbable that such a small, and apparently obscure district, could boast of postage stamps, and it being situated in a country possessing stamps of its own, collectors and others were naturally of opinion that the Mecklenburg Stamps would be used in Wenden, just the same as English stamps are used in Wales, and that the so called Wenden stamps must either have been issued at some other place, or that they were fictitious. For a long time the latter was the opinion of the stamp collecting world, and the three unlucky stamps were denied existence. It seems, however, that there is a province in Russia called Livonia, which forms one of the five Baltic Provinces occupied by that country. This province is divided into two other provinces, called Letonia and Estonia, which are again subdivided into several districts or circles, one of which latter is Wenden, a district exceedingly fertile, and possessing many peculiar benefits. It seems the Czar has added to the benefits they already enjoy, by allowing them to issue stamps of their own, a boon, which they have not been slow in taking, but it appears that the despotic ruler in some degree, still holds the reins over the postal authorities, as the first stamp that appeared had an unsightly oval in the centre, in an uniform colour, which oval appears to have been destined at first for the arms of the district, and which eventually did contain the proper armorial bearings, but not till it had been issued for three years or more without them.

From the earliest date which can be traced, it appears that Livonia was a province belonging to Russia, but although it paid tribute to that State, yet it had a govern-

ment of its own. It appears, however, that the Russians did not care much for this province, although so fertile, as they did not even oppose the enterprises of foreign conquerors; so that during the distracted times, it made itself wholly independant, and it continued so until the reign of Peter the Great, when it was again brought under the rule of the Czar. Livonia was, comparatively, little known to the rest of Europe until about 1158, when some traders from Bremen, who were on their way to Wisby, in Gothland, were obliged to find refuge on the coast from the violence of the weather. From that time these industrious and speculative men visited this province more frequently, and eventually formed settlements in it. Thirty years afterwards, Menhard, 'an Augustian Monk, settled here, and having in some degree christianized the natives, became the first Bishop, but no secure foundation for establishing spiritual authority was formed, until Albrecht, the third Bishop, arrived from Germany, with a powerful company of Germans. In the year 1200, he commenced to build the town of Riga, the present capital of Livonia, which was afterwards his head quarters. Nearly a century after Canute VI. King of Denmark conquered this and the other Baltic provinces, and Waldurna III, one of his successors, ceded it to the Teutonic order, for a sum of money. This order was united with the order of the Knight's sword bearers, founded by Bishop Albrecht. They kept possession of the provinces for some time, until at length they became so weak that when the Russians attacked the provinces which had been formerly detached from them, it caused the entire dissolution of the

States, and Livonia put itself under the protection of Poland. From that time until the year 1660, this province was the bone of contention between Sweden, Russia, and Poland, when in that year, Poland ceded it to Sweden. During the rule of the Swedes, the district of Wenden was colonized by some German protestants, who being an industrious class, they soon made the most flourishing part of the population of Livonia. In the year 1720, Russia, after picking a quarrel with Sweden, marched a large army towards Livonia, with the intention of taking that province, and, after two years continual warfare, it was ceded to them by the treaty of Mustadt, subject, however, to certain privileges, one of which is allowing the use of the German language in places inhabited by Germans, and as the district of Wenden is wholly inhabited by descendants of the ancient German protestants, it will account for the German inscription on the stamps.

The Wenden stamps are purely local, being only used in that circle, and although it is several years since they were issued, yet they have never been catalogued, owing, no doubt, to the uncertainty which has hitherto attended them. As yet four stamps have appeared, the first of which are two transverse oblong ones, one for parcels and the other for letters at "Pakenmarke" and "Briefmarke" respectively denotes. The former stamp is covered with a minute pattern in red, and the latter in green, whilst the inscription is printed in black over the coloured pattern. The value of the parcels stamp is 4 kopeks, and the letter stamp is 2 kopeks.

*(To be continued in our next.)*

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NOTES ON SOUTH AMERICAN  
COUNTRIES. (Continued.)  
NICARAGUA.

[COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.]



The first Spaniard who penetrated into Nicaragua was Gil Gonzales de Avila, in the year 1582. He sailed from Panama, and

landed somewhere upon the shore of the Gulf of Nicoya, probably in the southern department of Guanacaste. With four hundred horses and a hundred followers; he advanced to the northward overland, meeting in his progress several petty chiefs, and finally came to the territories of a powerful cazique, called *Nicoya*, who courteously entertained him, and gave him fourteen thousand pieces of eight in gold, thirteen carats fine, and six idols of the same metal, each a span long, in return for which Gonzales gave him some Spanish toys, and baptized him and all his subjects, being six thousand in number. Here Gonzales heard of a powerful chief named Nicaragua, and proceeding fifty leagues to the northward, arrived in his territories, which were between the Lake of Nicaragua and the sea, comprising the district of which the city of Nicaragua, or Rivas, is now the capital, and which occupies the site of the aboriginal town. To this Chief, De Avila sent the same message which "our men were wont to deliver to the rest of the Indian kings, before they would press them, that is to say, that they should become Christians, and admit their subjection to the King of Spain, if they did not which, then war and violence would be used against them."

But Nicaragua, it appears, had heard of the "sharpness of the Spanish swords," and received Gonzales courteously and with great state, presenting him with "twenty-five thousand pieces of eight in gold, many garments and plumes of feathers." Gonzales prevailed upon him to be baptized, and he accordingly was, with nine thousand of his subjects.

Their sole objection to the rite was the prohibition of making war, and "of dancing when they were drunk," alleging that "they did nobody harm thereby, and that they could not quit their colours, weapons, and plumes of feathers, and let the women go war, whilst they applied themselves to spin, weave, and dig, which belonged to the females and slaves." Nicaragua asked many shrewd questions of the Spaniards, one of which was, "Why so few men coveted so much gold?" "Gonzales being a discreet man," gave such answers as satisfied him, although they have not been preserved for reference. After much persuasion Nicaragua consented that "the idols which he worshipped should be cast down, and a cross set up in the temple, which was hung with fine cotton cloths; and thus the country was converted!" From the territories of this chief, Gonzales, being everywhere kindly received, penetrated the country in various directions, and saw many towns, which though not large, were good and populous; and multitudes flocked along the ways to see the Spanish beards, and habits, and their horses, which were so strange to them. While thus engaged, he encountered a warlike cazique, called *Diriungan*, a name that is perpetuated in that of the existing towns of *Dirambi*, *Diriomo*

and *Nindiri*, situated to the northward of Nicaragua.

This cazique or chief, was attended by five hundred men, with seventeen women, who wore many gold plates. They were drawn up in order, but without arms, with ten colours, and trumpets after their fashion. When Gonzales came near, the colours were spread, and the cazique touched his hand, as did also each of his followers; every man presenting him, at the same time, with one or two turkeys, and each woman with twenty golden plates, fourteen carats fine, each weighing eighteen pieces of eight, and upwards. Gonzales endeavoured to persuade Diriangan to become a Christian, but the Chief demanded three days to consult upon the subject "with his women and priests." The Spaniards soon suspected that this was a *ruse*, and that it was his design to gather forces to attack and destroy them. In this they were not mistaken, for on the 17th of April, 1522, a body of several thousand Indians, armed after their manner, with cotton armour, head pieces, targets, wooden swords, bows, arrows, and darts, fell upon the Spaniards, and had it not been for the timely notice of a confederate Indian, they would inevitably have destroyed them. The strangers then returned to the market place, and received the onset of the Indians there. Several of the Spaniards were knocked down; for it seems that here, as in Mexico, it was rather the desire of the natives to capture than kill their enemies, in order to offer the prisoners as sacrifices to their gods. The Spanish horse, in this as in a thousand other instances, saved them from defeat, driving back the Indians in great terror. Gonzales,

considering the smallness of his force, resolved, upon this event, to retire from the country. In passing the town of their former entertainer, Nicaragua, they were, however, attacked, but nevertheless, succeeded in making good their retreat. The Spaniards gave a mighty account of the country upon their return to Panama; for which reason Pedro de Arias resolved to found a colony there. He accordingly soon after despatched Francisco Hernandez de Cordova, who, in 1523, founded the city of Granada, upon the Lake of Nicaragua, and subsequently, in the same year, the city of Leon, upon the Lake of Leon or Managua. Cordova erected a fort at Granada for its protection, but it is hardly to be supposed that the ruined works on the shore of the lake are the remains of this structure. Gonzales, who had gone to Spain soon after his discovery, to procure the means of conquering and settling the country, finding himself anticipated by Cordova, raised a force, and entering Honduras by the valley of Olancho, from the Bay of Honduras, marched upon the towns established by the latter. The consequences were many battles, and much disturbance and turmoil, exceeding anything which had previously resulted from the jealousies and rivalries of the conquerors of America. Very little regard was paid to the mother country or its directions; in fact, after the death of Pedro Arias de Avila, who was the first governor of the country, Rodrigo de Contreras, his son-in-law, who succeeded him, openly disregarded the order of the crown, which prohibited its officers from holding the Indians as property. For this charges were preferred against him, and he went to Spain to vindicate himself in the

"Audiencia Real." In his absence, his son, Hernandez de Contreras, resenting his father's treatment, openly revolted. Their first victim was the Bishop of Nicaragua, whose portrait is still preserved in the great cathedral at Leon. The insurgents were successful in gaining complete possession of the country; but not satisfied with this, they seized some vessels in the port of Realego, and embarked for Panama, with a view of extending their conquests in that direction, and ultimately seizing upon Peri, Hernandez, in short, conceived the idea of becoming King of the Continent, and ruler of the South Sea. He attacked and captured Panama; but on his way to reduce Nombre de Dois, encountered misfortunes which ended in his death. Thus terminated this bold and magnificent design; the magnitude of which appalled the King of Spain, and which, at one moment, seemed on the eve of a successful consummation. The anniversary of Hernandez's death, on the 23rd, April 1549, was celebrated with great solemnity in the Cathedral of Panama, until the period of the independence from Spain.

It is not necessary, nor would it be particularly interesting, to trace the early history of Nicaragua further. In due time, it was organized as a province in the Kingdom or Captain Generalcy of Guatemala, and so remained until its emancipation, in 1823. At that time Granada was among the first cities to declare in favour of republicanism, and has always, in the partisan struggles which have followed, been on the liberal side, as opposed to the servile, oligarchical, or monarchical faction, whose machinations have kept the country in a state of constant alarm, and which is still the enemy of its peace.

The part of Nicaragua, denominated Grey Town, or San Juan de Nicaragua, has been British Territory since 1841. The current postage stamps of England are used at Grey Town for the transmission of correspondence to the home country. The Nicaraguan stamps, of the values of 2 and 5 cents, are only to be obtained in the Cities of Nicaragua, Granada, and the capital Leon. We append an illustration of the 5 cent label, the view exhibited on the stamp is taken from the valley of Leon.

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#### REVIEWS OF STAMP COLLECTING PUBLICATIONS.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY GAZETTE.  
*George Stewart, St. John's, New Brunswick.*

This is a neat four-page pamphlet, published at five cents. It contains some interesting items for our Colonial Cousins; a good opening address; concluding with an attack on the "Stamp Collector's Record," for inaccuracies in the article on the "Connell Essay," in the latter journal. Their Address tells us they beg for the support of the British public, and we hope that they may succeed.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S RECORD.

*Samuel A. Taylor, Albany, New York.*

The number for June is in England, "City Despatch Posts" and their history is completed in this number. This article is probably the best one written on Locals, and we advise all British collectors to forward a subscription of 50 cents (2s.) for twelve months. In the Advertising columns, we notice the novel announcement of exchanging Carte de Visite

photographic of prominent American and European Collectors; the formation of a Stamp Collector's Album is the object.

THE STAR OF PANAMA.

*F. Lawley, Panama, New Granada.*

A Stamp collecting periodical from South America is a novelty to the British. The "Star" is 16 pages, printed in the English language, illustrated with cuts of European stamps, and the Editor continues monthly the history of South American Stamps. English printers and compositors being scarce in Central America, the price required is perhaps not too high, three specie dollars per annum, or 1s. monthly. This being the first publication devoted to Postage Stamps in America, we hope the proprietor will find the required number of subscribers to continue the issue monthly. He proposes to give gratis an unused stamp after the first number. For the benefit of British dealers, we may mention that some old issues of New Granada are offered cheap.

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ISAAC MOSES KING, once a dealer in stamps in New York, has gone on a trip to California; probably he has a few creditors in England, and on the Continent.

In the United States, large numbers of M. Moens, Cartes, are selling at 1s. 6d. each.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Mr. Howard, Harrow on the Hill.*—We know no good of Mr. Friendenburg of Tegerzeile Wien (Vienna). MM. Rosenberg is a trustworthy dealer, and we can recommend him to you in preference to the first-named person.

*A. M'Nab.*—It is impossible to fix any approximate value on your collection of one thousand varieties; if you will forward the album to our office, carriage paid, with stamps for the return, we will value it gratuitously.

*J. F.*—Nicaragua is so called after the name of an Indian King who ruled that country previous to the discovery by the Spaniards. You cannot procure the stamps at Grey Town, St. Juande, Nicaragua, that port being an English settlement. You must write to Granada or the capital Leon; the time occupied in the transit of a letter to the capital, each way, is two months. The country is in a very insecure condition at present, and it is not safe to enclose money in letters.

*A. D.*—If you want to import French colonial stamps you must write to one of their West Indian possessions, Martinique, Guadeloupe or Les Saintes, the current French Empire stamps are only used at Algeria.

*H.S.E.*—At present we can give you no reliable information on the Dutch Guiana's. We have written to Paramaribo the capital, enclosing money for the purchase of any, if in existence, our answer is due on the 2nd of this month. It is our intention to insert an article in our next number on these doubtful stamps.

*Carlos, Etonian, H. C., and Miss Hawley,* will accept the following answer to their enquiries: Collectors, when they receive known forgeries on approbation, are not

bound to return them at once ; with genuine stamps collectors are supposed to return them as soon as they have made their selection.

*H. P. E.*—Our own change for advertising will be found on page 16.

*Amicus.*—You cannot procure French Colonial stamps from Algeria, you must write to Reunion or West Indian Islands, possessed by France, if you wish to procure them from New Caledonia you will have to wait 12 to 18 months for a reply.

*J. North.*—The Stamp which you enclose to us is the new Hamburg, we cannot attach any value to it ; owing to the proximity of England to Hamburg the stamps of the latter city are always common excepting the 9, s. orange.

*John E. Malta.*—Our Agent is Mr. Muir Strada Reale, who will supply you with copies at the British price, or a trifle over.

*Clara Rathbone.*—If you will forward your Album, carriage paid, with stamps for return, we will value it gratuitously.

*X. Y. Z. Eton.*—An article is in preparation on the Phillippine Islands.

A gentleman writing from the Inner Temple, London, complains that a person residing in the north has circulated some forged Réunions 30 c. We thank our correspondent for the intelligence, and caution collectors against these imitations.

Alfred Hall would like the present address of Mr. F. M. King, late of New York, United States.

The Tribunal of Justice at Paris, has condemned M. Marion to pay 5,000 fcs. for advertising and selling the current stamps at a higher rate than exhibited on the face of the stamps.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

*(The following Letter has been forwarded to me from a Merchant at Port Louis, Mauritius.—E.D.)*

MR. JNO. G. BOEL, LONDON.

Dear Sir—Your application for some Old Reunion post franks has been received ; I am sorry to tell you that none ever existed in that Island ; I can tell you this on good authority, my present French clerk having been previously employed at the Post Office in Reunion, he states further that the Paris stamps have been in use for years, until very recent, when the stamps were replaced with those bearing a bird. The old stamps of this island are very scarce. I send you forty-two with this mail. You ask me to charge you with the used stamps, but I am unable to fix any value on them. In return for these rare stamps, as you call them, you may forward me an occasional copy of the "Times" newspaper. Accept the compliments of yours obediently, A. P.

Any comment on the information of the Reunions is scarcely necessary, when we know ourselves that French postal officials at Paris have denied the existence of their Colonial Stamps, but it is an astonishing fact that a Clerk actually employed at the Post Office in Reunion, should deny the issue of these labels.

J. G. E.

## CLARKE AND RAWLL,

32. WOOD STREET, PRINCES ROAD,  
LONDON, S.

**H**AVE FOR SALE: unused Antigua 1d 2d each, 1s 10d per dozen; Argentine Republic, new issue, 5 centavos, 10d each; Austria, old issue, 1 kr. 1000, 1d each, 9d per dozen; 2 kr. new issue, 1d each, 10d per dozen; Austrian Italy, new issue, 2 soldi, 2d each; 3 soldi, 3d each; Baden, 1 kr., new issue, 1d each, 7d per dozen; Landpost, 1 kr. (obsolete) 1d each, 10d per dozen; 3 kr., 3d each, 2s per dozen; 12 kr., 7d each; 1d Bahamas, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Barbadoes, green, 2d each; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d each, 7d per dozen; 3 kr. unpaid letter label, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Brazil, 10 reis, 2d each; Bremen, 2 grote, 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; British Columbia, 7d each; British Guiana, 1853, 1 cent red, 4 cent blue, 4s each; 1860, 1 cent black, 2d each, 1s 2d per dozen; Brunswick, 3 pf., 1d each, 7s. per dozen; halfpenny Ceylon, 2d each, 1s 2d per dozen; 4d red, 9d each; Envelopes, 1d blue, 3d each, 2s per dozen; 2d green, 5d each, 4s per dozen; Chili, 1 centavo, 3d each, 2s 3d per dozen; Confederate States, 5 cents, 6d 10 cents, 9d 20 cents, green 1s 6d; Riddles, set of three, 1s 3d; Danubian Principalities, new issue, 1s 3d set of three; Denmark, 2 sk., 2d each, 1s per dozen; four skilling new issue, 3d each, 2s per dozen; four skilling en, 3d each; French Colonies, 1 c. 4d each, or 1s. the set of four; Granada Confederation, first issue, 5 c. puce 3s, 5 c. brown 3s 6d, 10 c. russet 4s 6d; new issue, 1865, 5 c. yellow 2d each, 10 c. puce 1s 4d each; Great Britain Envelopes on blue or white paper, twopenny, 3d each; threepenny, 5d each; fourpenny, 6d each; fivepenny, 8d each; sixpenny, 9d each; sevenpenny, 11d each; eightpenny, 1s. each; ninepenny, 1s 2d each; tenpenny, 1s 4d each; shilling, 1s 6d each; Greece, 1 lepta, 1d each, 4d per dozen; 2 lepta, 1d each, 7d per dozen; 5 lepta, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 1d Grenada, 3d each;  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. Hamburg, 1d each; Hanover 3 pf. 1d each, 8d per dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro. 2d each, 1s per dozen; Bestellgeld Horse, 2d each, 1s per dozen; trefol, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; old issue envelopes, green and rose 4d each; Holland, new issue, 5 c. 2d each, 1s 8d per dozen; 10 c. 4d each, 3s per dozen; 15 c. 6d each, or 10d the set; Indian envelopes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, 3d each, 2s 9d per dozen; 1 anna, 5d each; Ionian Islands, 2d per set, or 7s 6d per dozen sets; Italy, new issue, 2 c. 1d each, 10d per dozen; 20 c. 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; Jamaica, penny, 3d each, 2s per dozen; twopenny, 5d each, 4s per dozen; threepenny, 6d each, 5s. 6d per dozen; Liberia, 6 cents, 9d each; Luheck, old issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch., 2d each, 1s. 3d per dozen; new issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. adhesive or envelope, 1d each, 10d per dozen; 1 sch., 2d each, 1s 8d per dozen; Luxemburg, 1 c. 4d per dozen; 2 c. 1d each, 6d per dozen; 4 c. 1d each, 8d per dozen; 10 c. 3d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. 3d each, 2s per dozen; Mauritius, penny, 3d each, 2s. per dozen; 6d envelopes, 1s 3d each; 9d envelopes, 2s each; Mecklenburg, small, new issue, 1d each, 5d per dozen; 1 sch. envelope, 2d each, 1s 2d per dozen; Mecklenbergh Strelitz,  $\frac{1}{2}$  orange, 1d each, 8d per dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  green, 1d each, 10d per dozen; one shilling mauve,

2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; one gr. rose adhesive or envelope, 3d each, 2s per dozen, or 2s. 6d the set of nine; Mexico, new issue,  $\frac{1}{4}$  real, 1s each; Modena Provisional Government, 5s for set of five; penny Nevis, 3d each, 2s per dozen; 1 cent New Brunswick 1d each, 10d per dozen; 12 cents, 2d each, 1s 8d per dozen; Newfoundland 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; Twopenny, 6d each, Eightpenny square, 1s 4d each, Nicaragua 2 centavos, 8d each, Norway, issue, 2 skillings, 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Nova Scotia, 1 cent, 1d each, 9d per dozen; 2 cents, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents, 8d each, 7s per dozen; 10 cents 9d each of dozen; Oldenberg  $\frac{1}{4}$  gro. 1d each, 10d per dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro. 2d each, 1s per dozen; 1 gro. 3d each, 2s per dozen; adhesive or envelopes, old issue, sr. gro. yellow, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Parma Provisional Government, 5s set of 5; Peru, 1 doz. red 5d; one peseta, brown 10d each; Portugal, Don Pedro, 25 reis, blue, 6d each, or 2s the set of five; Don Louis, 5 reis, 1d each, 7d per dozen; 10 reis, 2d each, 1s per dozen, or 1s 9d the set of five; Prince Edward Island, penny, 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; twopenny, 3d each, 2s 3d per dozen; Prussia, 3 pf. mauve, just issued, 1d each, 8d per dozen; Russia, new issue, 7d the set of three; 5 kopeks envelope, 5d each, 4s per dozen; 10 kopeks, 9d each; 20 kopeks, 1s 5d each; St. Helena, penny, 2d each; 1s per dozen; fourpenny, 8d each; sixpenny, 10d each; shilling, 1s 8d each; Lucia, new issue, black, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; yellow, 1s each; Sandwich Islands, 1 cent, 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; Sierra Leone, 1s each; Saxony, 3 pf. 1d each, 7d per dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  gro. 2d each, 1s per dozen; Spain, new issue, 2 cuartos, 2d each, 1s per dozen; Sweden, 3 ore, 2d each, 1s per dozen; 5 ore, 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Schleswig 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. green, 3d each, 2s per dozen;  $\frac{1}{2}$  sch. rose, 2d each, 1s 4d per dozen; United States, new, 2 cents 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Post Office Despatch, 1 cent, blue, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Venezuela,  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. 3d each, 2s per dozen; 1 centavo, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; old issue, 1s the set of three; the following are used, but only slightly obliterated: 6d Antigua, 3d Argentine Republic, old issue, 5 c. 3d each, 2s per dozen; 10 c. 5d each, 4s 6d per dozen; 15 c. 2d each, 8s. per dozen; Austria, first issue, 1 and 2 kr arms, 2d each, 1s 3d per dozen; 2 kr red Zeitung, 3d each, 1s per dozen; Austrian Italy, first issue, 5. 10 cents, arms, 4d each; 15. 30. 45 cents, 1d each, 9d per dozen; Baden, figure in centre, 3. 6. 9. kr. 1d each; Barbadoes, 4d 6d and 1s, 3d each; Bavaria, 1 kr black, 10d; Old Belgium, 20 c. 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 10 c. 3d each, 2s per dozen; Brazil, 30. 60. reis, 2d each; old, 3d each; Canada, 4d each, 3s per dozen; 10 c. 17 c. 2d each, 1s per dozen; Cape of Good Hope, 1s, square, 2d each; Cuba, old issue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  real Plata, 3d each, 2s per dozen; Denmark, old issue, 4. R. B. S., 1d each, 6d per dozen; French Republic, 10 c. 4d each, 3s. per dozen; 15 c. 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; 1 franc, 6d each; Presidency, 25 c. 1d each, 10d per dozen; Empire, 25 c. 2d each, 1s per dozen; French colonies, 10 c. 40 c., 2d each; Grenada, sixpenny, 3d each; Hamburg, 3. 4. sk., 2d each; Italy, 20 c. first, second, and third issues, 5d each, 4s per dozen; Old Luxemburg, 10 c. black, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; one sil. gro. rose, 4d each;

Modena, 9 c. B. G. or 10 c. violet, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Monte Video, 60 c. 4d each, 3s. per dozen; 80 c 9d each; 100 c. 1s each; 120 c. 5d each; New Zealand, 1s green, 2d each, 1s 4d per dozen; New South Wales, 5s 10d each; Nova Scotia, 5 cents 1d each, 6d per dozen; 10 cents 3d each; Oldenburg, 1st issue, 1.30th thaler. 2d issue, 1 gro. 2d each, 1s 9d per dozen; Parma, first issue, on white, 5 c. yellow, 25 c. red-brown, 1s each, 15 c. vermilion, 6d each; second issue, 5. 10. 15 cents, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; 25 cents, purple, 6d each, 5s per dozen; Peru, one dinero red, 4d each, 3s per dozen; one peeta brown, 5d each, 4s 6d per dozen; Queensland, 1s 2d each; Russia, 10 kopeks, 1d each, 6d per doz. 20. 30 kopeks, 4d each, 3s 6d per dozen; St. Vincent, sixpenny, 3d each; South Australia, 2d, vermilion, 1d. each, 6d per dozen; old issue, rose, 4d each; Sicily, 2 gra. 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; 1. 10. 20 gra. 5d each; Spain, 1850, to 1853, 6 cuartos, 1854, 4 and 6 cuartos, 2d each, or 1s 6d per dozen mixed; 1860, 1 real, 3d each, 2s 6d per dozen; Sweden, old issue, 4 sk. bro. 1d each, 9d per dozen; 8 sk. bro. 2d each, 1s per dozen; Switzerland, first issue, 5, 10, 15 rappen (cross) 2d each; Trinidad, 1s purple, 3d each; United States, 5 cents, 2d each, 1s 6d per dozen; 30. 90 c. 3d each; Van Dieman's Land, 4d, 2d each; 1s 3d per dozen; 6d or 1s 3d each; Western Australia, from 2d each; all others equally cheap.

**RARE STAMPS!!!**—A. O. MANN has always in Stock the following sets of unused Prussia last issue Envelopes, and adhesive C. Hamers & Co's Envelopes, sets of 7 colours  $\frac{1}{2}$  schilling Lubeck last issue & Bergedorf.

A. O. MANN, 23, Ledbury Road, Bayswater, London, W., send stamps on approval on receipt of stamped directed envelope.

A. O. MANN wishes to correspond with dealers on the Continent and in the Colonies.

NEW ISSUES, Prussia, 3 pf. 1d. each, 6d. per dozen. Italy 2 cent., 1d. each, 8d. per doz.

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The following stamps are used:—Hong Kong, 2, 4, 6, 8, cent., 1d. each; 12 cent.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  each; 24 and 30 cents, 2d. each; 48 cents, 4d. each; and 96 cents, 6d. each. 1d. Victoria, green, new issue, 2d.; 2d. Victoria, price 4d.; 2d. New Zealand blue, 2d.; Indian Envelopes  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, 2d. each; 1 anna, 4d. each.

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A. O. MANN wants Agents in large towns, &c., Stationers preferred.

**STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL!** A Volume of Useful Information, splendidly illustrated. Agents Wanted.

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This Magazine will be forwarded regularly every month, to any part of the world, on receipt of the annual subscription of Four Shillings; which may be remitted in unused postage stamps of small values, current in the country whence the order is received.

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Ce Journal sera transmis tous les mois, dans toutes les parties du monde, en envoyant aux Messieurs Parsons la souscription annuelle (5 francs), en timbres-poste neufs du pays d'ou vient l'ordre.

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**LEAMINGTON:**—Printed by Alfred Southee, Caxton Offices, 1, Bedford Street, and Published by A. Parsons, Bath Street, in the Parish of Leamington Priors, County of Warwick, July 1, 1865.

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# THE Stamp Collector's Examiner.

EDITED BY T. DALSTON.  
AUTHOR OF "HOW TO DETECT FORGED STAMPS."

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No. 2. [NEW SERIES.] AUGUST, 1865. [PRICE 4d.]

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## ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL IN MELBOURNE.

None but those who have visited and resided in the Australian colonies are aware with what an anxiety the arrival of the mail is monthly expected. By the ever-onward movement of civilization, steam has been introduced into the postal service between London and Australia, and letters now arrive in six weeks, which were formerly between three and four months on the passage. A letter posted in London on the 26th of January will, if the passage be a good one, be delivered in Melbourne on the 9th of March. Letters and papers to be sent via Southampton, leave on the 20th of each month, and via

VOL. I. No. II. [New Series.]

Marseilles on the 26th. They are due in Melbourne about the 10th of the next month but one.

About the 5th of each month, the telegraph authorities in Melbourne make their first preparations for the reception of the summary of the English news. One of the clerks in the office, called an operator, has to sleep all night in the office with a bell over his head, which is rung by electricity. This arrangement is a very necessary one, as the arrival of the mail is sometimes telegraphed in the middle of the night. The mail telegraph communication in nine cases out of ten is first carried on between Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. It is at Adelaide that the mail-steamer



arrives first, and that town, consequently, is the first to get the European news, and the first to transmit it. It will perhaps be as well if I briefly trace the course of the letters from Southampton.

The contract is in the hands of the 'Peninsular and Oriental Company;' and they employ a fine large fleet of steamers in carrying on the mail-service.

The last load of letters and papers arrives in wooden boxes at Southampton about two o'clock on the 20th of each month, and is immediately placed on board the mail-steamer. The mails being declared on board, and all those who are not passengers having left the ship, the steamer passes down Southampton water into the Channel, and commences her voyage. Letters for Gibraltar are landed in about five days; in Malta, in about eight and a half, and for Alexandria, in about twelve days. The mail-boxes are put in the train at Alexandria, and passing through Cairo, are taken to Suez. Here they are placed on board a small steamer, which takes them to the mail-ship, lying a few miles down the Red Sea. In about nine days they reach Aden, and such mail-boxes as are intended for that most uninteresting, inhospitable-looking locality, are left there. In about a week's time the steamer arrives at Point de Galle, a southern point in the island of Ceylon, and there discharges all her Australian mail-boxes, while she herself goes on to Calcutta. A steamer is in readiness at Galle to receive the Australian letters, and they are transhipped into her a few hours after arrival. Their next resting and discharging place is Albany, a little village-town on the southern coast of Western Australia, which lies at the head of

King George's Sound, where the steamer arrives about fifteen days after leaving Ceylon. Here the mail-steamer is met by a small one belonging to the Australian Steam Navigation Company, which immediately takes on board the South Australian letters, and steams away for Adelaide. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer having coaled, proceeds to Melbourne, where she usually arrives in about five and a half days. There she discharges her letters and papers for the colony of Victoria, and then steams on six hundred miles to Sydney, the capital of the aristocratic old colony of New South Wales.

There is always a kind of race between the large and small steamers that leave King George's Sound. The distance being shorter, the smaller generally arrives first at Adelaide, its destination. On reaching the pier, the reporter on board rushes to the Telegraph Office, and hands in a summary of the European news. This is immediately telegraphed a distance of three hundred miles, to a place called Mount Gambier, on the borders of South Australia and Victoria. It then is sent another three hundred miles to Melbourne. A flag is run up at the Telegraph Office with R. M. on it, signifying Royal Mail; and it soon becomes known over Melbourne that the mail-steamer has been telegraphed. A reporter from the office of the *Argus*, the leading journal of Melbourne, is in waiting at the Telegraph Office; and when a portion of the summary from Adelaide has been written off, he hurries in a hansom to the office, and slips are at once printed. This is done till the whole of the news has been telegraphed and written off. The first entire slip is courteously sent to his Excellency the Governor; and

then the printing of the extraordinary edition of the paper is proceeded with. Little boys very much below zero in the thermometer of cleanliness crowd the *Argus* office, and as each one gets his batch, he runs about in all directions shouting: 'Argis extrordinary—latest noos from England—arrival of the mail.' These extraordinaries are nominally three pence each, but I don't think they are to be had from the boys for less than six-pence. Great numbers are printed, and very soon bought up. The summary contains the leading events of the month; news about the Queen, the Americans, Danes, &c.; shipping intelligence; names of eminent persons who have died during the month; names of Derby and Oaks winners in May and June; funds, stock, wool sales, &c. In the summary is also the latest special telegram via Suez, which is sent from London on the evening of the 3rd of the month following that during which the mail steamer leaves Marseilles. For instance, the steamer with letters and papers leaves Marseilles on the 27th of June, and on the 3rd of July, a telegram is sent to Suez, which is there put on board the steamer, and carried on to Melbourne; so that the latest news received in Australia from England is only five weeks old, and this news travels eleven thousand one hundred and seventy-one miles, or thereabouts, by the overland route.

About two days, or rather less, as a general rule, after the steamer has been telegraphed, she herself arrives in Hobson's Bay, at the head of which is Sandridge, the port of, and two and a half miles distant from Melbourne. A small steamer goes alongside the Peninsular and Oriental vessel, and receives the

mail boxes. She takes them to Sandridge, and there they are placed in carts, and driven up to the General Post-office in Melbourne. There is a railway from Sandridge to Melbourne, but it is found more convenient and expeditious to put the boxes in spring carts, and send them by road. I believe the average number of boxes containing the letters and papers is three hundred. Extra hands are taken on at the post-office to assist in bringing in and opening the boxes; and the regular clerks sort the letters and papers with wonderful quickness. A notice is placed outside the post-office, intimating to the public when the letters, &c., will be delivered.

The arrival of the mail naturally causes a temporary excitement, which lasts for perhaps twenty-four hours.

A few words with respect to the departure of the mail. The Peninsular and Oriental mail-steamers leave Sydney on the 22nd of each month, and Melbourne on the 26th. The post-office closes at ten o'clock, but an office is kept open at Sandridge till noon. The mail-steamer sails very punctually at two, and, up to the last minute almost, letters can be posted on board in a box on deck for that purpose. Letters, however, posted after ten can only go via Marseilles. The office closes for newspapers, via Southampton, at six o'clock on the previous day. The rush to the post-office during the last five minutes is very great indeed. Melbourne is very subject to floods, as it has over-ground sewers. These become swollen by the rains, and inundate the streets. I had to post my letters last November nearly up to my knees in water. The water around the post-office was several

inches deep ; cabs would take you through the deepest part, but to reach the letter-box itself, you were obliged to go through some water. This will, I believe, be obviated when the new post-office, a magnificent building, is finished.—*Chambers's Journal.*

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### WENDEN AND ITS STAMPS.

(Continued from our last.)

The next in the category is a stamp not unlike the Russian stamps, from being printed in two colours, and it is very probable that the Russians may have a share in the manufacture of them. It is composed of a minute pattern in red, with an oval in the centre in green. The inscription is "*Briefmarke*" above, and "*Wenden schen Kreises*" below, and the value is not mentioned, but I understand it is 2 kops. The fourth and last stamp is like the above in all respects, excepting it contains the arms of the province in white on the green oval, which is, undoubtedly, a very great improvement. Forgers have been at work here, and have produced very good fac similes of the whole set. Not long ago I saw mentioned in a contemporary a stamp purporting to be the first issue emanating from Wenden, but which is however, fictitious, and I have accredited authority that it never existed as a *bona fide* stamp. It is circular shaped, with the inscription "*Wenden sche Kreis Brief Post,*" and a rose with leaves in inner circle. It is printed in light blue on white paper.

### THE TRAVELLING POST-OFFICE.

We must ask our readers to follow us in imagination—as they would have some difficulty in doing so *in propria persona*—on a journey in the travelling post-office, which we propose making.

The railway mail-service, which has been gradually developing itself during the last twenty years, has now assumed gigantic proportions ; year by year the estimates for conveying mails by railway have largely increased with a corresponding decrease in the expenses for their means of conveyance. The railway post-office, applied at first to one or two of the trunk lines diverging from the metropolis, is now, or shortly will be, extended to every considerable line of railway in the kingdom ; and by means of different junctions throughout the country, an admirable adjustment is maintained between every large district in the kingdom. The successful working of this post-office machinery, as well as the immunity it enjoys from serious derangements, is due in great measure to the absence of the ordinary railway traffic during the time chosen for the conveyance of mails. This traffic disposed of, and ordinary business-hours over, the serious work of the post-office in our largest towns may be said to commence ; and through the long night, a score or two of iron horses are whirling through space, besides an immense amount of finished work securely sealed up, a couple of hundred officials of different grades, busily engaged in all the various operations incident upon the reception and despatch of the national correspondence.

The railway post-office proper comprises a number of divisions or sections, and these,

generally, are named from the locality through which they extend; as the Bangor and Leeds Division, the Carlisle and Perth Division. These divisional parts have distinct officers allotted to them, the number regulated by the amount of work to be performed. The length of the divisions—the extent of one of which forms a post-office journey—varies slightly, averaging about 170 miles; the average length of time taken to perform the journeys being between five and six hours. It may be imagined that a proper control of this vast machinery of operations, with its scattered staff of officials, will be difficult; but the efficient working of the whole is, nevertheless, thoroughly and promptly maintained. The entire direction of the travelling officers rests with the mail office at St. Martin's-le-Grand, presided over by an inspector-general of mails, with a deputy, and to which office is attached a considerable staff of clerks. The connection between the different branches of the travelling office and the controlling office in London is kept up by a number of travelling mail inspectors.

Suppose we are at one of the many termini of railway operations—the hour close upon midnight—and that time is up, and we have just jumped into the travelling post-office to commence our duties.

Imagine, then, a railway carriage, somewhat larger than an ordinary saloon carriage, about twenty-two feet long, and as wide and spacious as the railway arrangements will allow. Seen from the outside, the large heavily painted, windowless vehicle looks more as if intended for the conveyance of her Majesty's horses than her Majesty's

mails; the roof, however, covered with glass or delicate wire-gauze, and other contrivances forming an admirable plan for ventilation, soon convinces you that it is intended for some description of the *genus homo*. It is night, you remember, and the inside looks warm and cheerful with its row of bright burning moderator lamps—to which the old globular lamp let into the office from the ceiling is fast giving place—contrasting strongly and pleasantly, as far as we are concerned, with the dimly lighted station, through which the cold night-air is rushing. The reader must abstain, however, from imagining anything like luxury in the internal fittings; everything there is requisite for accomplishing the work in hand, but there is no provision for any kind of indulgence; and spacious as the place seems, there would not be found, by looking narrowly, a single foot of spare room. Along the whole length of one side of the carriage, and encroaching materially upon its width, a number of tiers of boxes are arranged for the sorting operations; the smaller ones for the letters, and the larger ones in the centre of the office, more like shelves, for the newspapers and all that vast variety of articles forwarded according to the rules of book-post. Every available inch of space is covered with upright wooden pegs, in recesses made in the carriage sides, upon which are hung the bags—made of canvas, with the names of towns legibly painted upon them—to be used in the course of the journey. These recesses, as well as the ends of the office, are well padded over, to secure the safety of the officers.

The work has begun: a pile of bags, one from each considerable town in the neigh-

bourhood, has been thrown into the office ; one of the clerks is busy opening them, and the rest—each standing opposite to a distinct set of boxes, labelled with the names of different towns on the route—are rapidly sorting away the letters that have been handed to them from the bags. The clerks look rather sleepy, and this is natural enough, for the hour is a drowsy one, and half the world is dozing ; but the feeling is only momentary, merely the result of a patient watching for train-time. The work fairly started, they soon warm with it, and the scene becomes one of animation and a pleasant enough sort of excitement, till every bundle is cut open, and the letters composing them are disposed of in the boxes. The sorting finished, there is at once a movement among the clerks, as they busy themselves in collecting from the different boxes all the letters that have been received for the bags about to be dispatched at the first station ; the examination of them is careful or more hurried just as the time allows ; the letters are then tied up in packets in the sharp, decisive way long practice makes so easy ; and the bags are tied, sealed, and ready for delivery just as the train is brought to a stand. Here the bags are given out ; fresh supplies are received from three or four towns in the immediate district, and we are again on our journey, and in our second stage. The bags received are at once opened ; the same round of sorting, collecting, examining, is gone through ; the same process of despatching for the next and all subsequent postal stations is repeated, just as we have described.

During this, our second stage, and before

we stop again, we pass two or three important towns : not being among our great centres of population, however, they are not important enough for the mail-train to do them the honor of stopping ; so other arrangements have been made for them, and the exchange of letter-bags is effected by machinery, whilst the train is progressing at its usual speed. This ingenious contrivance deserves a word in passing, especially as it is now being called more and more into requisition. We will just step out into the adjoining van over the iron gangway that connects it with the post-office carriage. The guard is looking out for the familiar object, such as bridge, river, or cluster of trees, by which he tells his whereabouts with almost mathematical precision. Whilst he is busy finding his position, we will take the time to explain that the machinery is arranged so as to secure, simultaneously in most cases, both the receipt and the dispatch of bags. For the purpose of receiving bags, a large strong net is fixed to one side of the van, to be drawn down at the proper moment ; and close to the door, on each side of it, securely fixed to the carriage, are hollow iron bars, inside each of which, working by means of a rope and pulley, an iron arm is fixed, upon which the bags to be delivered, securely strapped in a thick, leathern pouch, are suspended ; and where the exchange has to be effected at the station we are nearing, the arrangements are just the counterparts of this. A net is spread to catch each pouch from the extended arm of the carriage, and pouches are hung from iron standards in the ground of sufficient height for the net in the train. The operation itself is just commenc-

ing ; the door is pushed back into the groove in which it works, and then the guard, touching a spring that holds up the net, it is loosened from its supports, and projects over the carriage sides ; the iron arm, acting on its pulley-rope, is drawn round into the carriage, where the pouch is rapidly fastened to it by means of a catch or spring—but in such a manner that a touch from the net-apparatus at the station will bring it off—and then let down, remaining by virtue of its own weight at right angles to the door. A moment of waiting, and then all the machinery acts its assigned part properly ; the pouch disappears from the arm, or arms (if the bags have been heavy enough for both to be used), with a whack ; the latest arrival lands in our net with another ; and all is over and quiet as before. We mean, of course, *comparative* quiet, as much as is possible amid the din and endless rattle of a train speeding away at the rate of forty miles an hour. We make our way back into the other carriage, the guard bringing with him the treasures we have watched him pick up by the way side : and these bags opened, and contents sorted off in the orthodox way, we are at the end of another stage.

Here, evidently, comes the tug of war. We have arrived at one of the principal mail-junctions in the kingdom, and an immense number of bags are waiting our arrival. These bags have been brought, somewhat earlier on, by other mail-trains arranged to effect a junction with us ; and these, in their turn, have met with other trains running across the country in transverse directions. Bags from towns near and towns remote, with letters for places all along our line of route,

as well as letters just passing, *in transitu*, from this office to some other, and here stowed in, till we can scarcely find standing space. The work, however, is resumed with more energy than ever, and it is surprising how soon, by persistent activity, we come to feel comfortable again. The necessity there is for a certain amount of work being accomplished at a certain point, acts as a spur upon us, and we feel the working-spirit of the office has to be exerted to its fullest extent.

The country through which we are now travelling is only thinly supplied with towns, and consequently the number of letters received into the office is much smaller. The clerks produce from their hiding-places under the blue-cloth covered counter a round kind of swing-seat attached to it, which turns outside ingeniously upon a swivel, and for some time are seated at their work. We take advantage of this break in the character of the duty to observe more closely the various letters that the clerks are examining.

That the office is conducted on the most approved democratic principles, is a fact patent to any onlooker. The same sort of variety that marks Society, here marks its letters : envelopes of all shades and sizes ; handwriting of all imaginable kinds, written in all shades of ink, with every description of pen ; names of the oddest, and names the most ordinary, and patronymic to which no possible exception could be taken. Here is an envelope stamped with the escutcheoned signet of an earl ; another, where the wax has yielded submissively to the initials of plain John Brown ; and another, plastered with cobblers' wax, with an impression that makes no figure in Debrett, and which,

indeed, bears undeniable evidence of having been manufactured with hob-nails! They are all mingling, for a few hours at any rate, in common fellowship—tossed about in company, honoured with the self-same knocks on the head, sent to their destination locked in loving embrace, and sometimes, in the case of the cobbler's, exceedingly difficult to part at all. Some of the addresses are amusing in their ambiguity; some are absolutely blundering; some say too little, others too much; some give the phonetic system with *malice prepense*, others, because it is nature's own rendering, and they have never known school; in all which cases, the work of examination is necessarily deliberate, hesitating, or slow.

We are at our destination at last; with a feeling of dreamy wonder that something has not happened to us; that, considering the noise and the whirl, our brain is now tied up in a knot somewhere in the head, instead of only swimming; and that our tympanum is not permanently fractured. Dusty, hungry, tired, sleepy, we hurry through the streets, with the day just breaking.

Of course, this post-office machinery, necessarily in some parts so delicate, is very liable to derangement, does get out of order, and has to depend, as we said at the commencement, to a great extent on the proper carrying out throughout the country of an infinite number of railway arrangements. This was clearly seen during the last severe winter, when delays were almost of daily occurrence, and accidents frequent. It is scarcely possible, however, that, so far as prospective arrangements can be made for changing seasons, we shall have a repetition of the failures and delays of last winter.

Railway accidents are fruitful sources of discomfiture to the post-office department. It is surprising, however, how fortunate the majority of mail-trains have been in the immunity they have hitherto enjoyed from serious calamities of this nature. When any such calamity does overtake them, it very seldom happens that the post-office arrangements suffer, except on the particular journey wherein the accident occurred. Fresh supplies of men and *materiel* are summoned with a speed that would, or ought to, surprise some other commissariat departments, and the work proceeds as if the equilibrium had never been disturbed.

Reader, you have doubtless read our paper impatiently; you don't like the way the post-office is managed; you never did, in fact, since you lost that last letter of yours, containing a coin or something else of value, and couldn't get it back by demanding it of the secretary! You haven't faith in us post-office officials, and long for some rival establishment—spirited individuals to take the matter up, and get the monopoly squashed! In the meantime, never send such letters through the post in this way again. Pray, remember that in all large departments there will always be some few liable to temptation, and who will not take pains to resist it. As the money-order office established on purpose to meet your case, we ask you, in the name of the ninety-nine honest men, not to tempt the hundredth, who will have sins enough to answer for some day!

But you are indignant that a certain letter you ought to have had is not to hand at the proper moment. However, just think how

many letters you do get, which come to your desk as true as the needle to the pole; just listen to the old gentleman yonder, as he tells how long the same business-letter from the old-established house used to be in arriving, and what was paid for it when it did arrive; above all, pray, think of the travelling caged officials—those wingless birds of the post-office—and of what they go through o' nights in order that you may have your letter or your newspaper—posted yesterday in some quiet corner of the country, four hundred miles away—with buttered toast at breakfast in town!—*Chambers's Journal*.

### RETROSPECT OF THE MONTH.

It is our pleasing duty this month to herald several new issues. Since the commencement of the present year we have had no lack of new issues, and there is every probability of as many more. We saw a few days ago several designs purporting to be essays proposed for the forthcoming series of the Sandwich Islands, we do not think they have any chance of being selected, as they bear no comparison with the current 2 c. stamp, but they are, however, good specimens of their kind.

The first new stamp which will form the commencement of this month's list is one emanating from New Granada, the value of which is 1 cent, being much lower than any hitherto issued in that country. In the centre is a shield bearing an eagle, with nine stars above its head. The inscription is "Correos" above, "one cent" below; and "E. U. De Colombia Nacionales" at the sides. The whole is enclosed in a fancy frame with rounded corners.

We find, in addition to the above, that both Saxony and Wurtemberg have issued stamps lower in denomination than any hitherto

issued in these countries. This indeed looks well for the postal system, and we are of opinion that all the European countries will some day eventually adopt the cheap and uniform system, which is so profitable in Great Britain. The Saxony stamp above hinted at is an embossed envelope stamp, similar in design to the current stamps of higher value. The shape is octagon, with an oval in the centre, bearing the arms of Saxony Crowned, "Sachsen" above, "neu groschen" below, and the numeral of value ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) in small white oval at sides. It is printed in orange.

### 1.—NOTES ON ESSAYS.

(To be continued Monthly.)

THE meaning of the word "*Essay*" is rather dubious. It is evidently from the

French word *Essai*. Mount Brown says "the term means a stamp or device suggested, but never officially issued." Another authority thinks that

they are, properly speaking, stamps which have been selected by Government, but which, through accident or some other cause, have never been issued. This moot point we do feel inclined to argue, our intention being merely to mention the different varieties of each country, and we hope it will be of assistance to the collector. We have excluded, as far as we know, the pretended essays which have been designed on purpose for sale amongst stamp collectors, and we have only given those that have been really proffered to the respective Governments.





When the postal authorities of any country are about to issue new stamps, they usually print a few sheets on common or India proof paper, and with a different coloured ink than what is intended to print them on, for postal use. These sheets are called proof sheets by printers, and are printed merely to test the plates, so that none but perfect stamps be issued, whilst the colour will prevent them being sold for postal use. These "proofs" have been called essays by some people, and are mentioned as such in the early editions of Mount Brown's catalogue; but it should be distinctly understood that they are no such thing, and of course will be excluded from this article.

The first essays in the category, and really the first that have been issued, are British ones. Almost all of them are splendid specimens of engraving and printing, but some labour under the disadvantage of being too large for postal use, whilst others are long and narrow, and thus rendered unfit for service. It would be impossible to enumerate the whole of those that have been offered to the postal authorities, as three parts of them are unobtainable, and we have only traditionary evidence as to the existence of some; so we will only mention a few of the finest specimens. I may mention that *all* the English essays are exceedingly rare, and bad to obtain.



About one of the finest of the series which were tendered at Somerset House in 1839 is a large square one, impressed in two

colours, and of which the appended engraving is an imitation. It is printed in black, but with coloured blotches across the oval frames. There are three of them in red, green, and blue. Another of the same series is one with the inscription, "Principle suggested: Beaufort House," in white letters. The design is a crown, in a white oval disc, surrounded by a plain oval frame, and two engine-turned ones; the letters V. and R. in small white ovals at the sides, and the letters and figure A. 3. C. W. in small dark squares at the angles. It is printed in blue. Dr. Grey mentions two stamps proposed by Mr. Dickenson, a paper maker, and recommended to be used by the Royal Commission on the Post-office, in their ninth Report, dated Feb 1837. The first design is an engine-turned pattern to cover an envelope, with a circular engine-turned frame in the centre, left plain for the direction. The inscription is, "One penny, not to exceed one ounce: London District post"; and it is printed in buff-coloured ink. The other one is a sheet of paper, foolscap size, almost covered with an engine-turned pattern, printed in green, with a central broad marginal frame, leaving an oblong white centre for the direction. Part of the inscription is, "To carry not exceeding six ounces." There is a very neatly-designed essay, printed in lake, with diademed head of Queen to left, in curvilinear triangle. The price is 1½d.; and we understand that there is every probability of its being issued for postal use. We have seen an essay, with the inscription, "Post paid, Beaufort House," printed in two colours, black, and red. The design is a small oval, surrounded by two oval frames, the inner one with engine-turned lines, and the outer ones coloured. We give an imita-



tion of the so-called "Prince Albert Essay," which is mentioned as such in Mount Brown's catalogue, but which is repudiated by Dr. Grey. Which is right?

The engraving at the head of this article is an imitation of a beautifully-embossed essay, which was proffered as an envelope-stamp, but which we suppose was considered inconveniently large. We will treat of the remainder of the envelope essays in our next.

### THE MAURITIUS STAMPS.

It is very gratifying, on looking over a collection of our colonial postage-stamps, to notice the skill and artistic taste displayed in their execution, and to know that they are, on the whole, comparatively better stamps than those used in the leading European countries. More especially is it gratifying to a loyal Englishman to find the likeness of our gracious sovereign repeated in almost every possible colour, and with such varieties as skill can devise. The profile of our Queen has not, however, always been chosen for the design of British colonial stamps, as emblematic figures have been occasionally chosen, and local circumstances have been taken whenever they have been considered as capable of illustration; for instance, the Western Australia, or Swan River Stamps, the design of which is a swan swimming.

The first stamps that appeared in Mauritius were issued in 1857, and were of an

emblematic character. The design is a figure of "Commerce," seated on a bale of goods, one arm resting on a shield, the other supporting a spear; in the back ground is a ship sailing. The colours are respectively blue, green, and red. A very noticeable feature in these stamps is the absence of anything calculated to indicate the value, excepting, of course, the colour. This, however, could not continue long, as it is quite evident that stamps without the value indicated thereon must needs give a deal of trouble; so, a few months after, we find that they were issued with the value hand-stamped. It appears that not long after the issue of the above stamps there was evidently a great influx of postal communication, as the authorities were entirely sold out of stamps long before they expected, and therefore could not send to England to get fresh ones executed in time for use; so that they were thrown upon the resources of the colony, and had to put native engravers to work, and the result is ten exceedingly rare stamps, bearing caricatures of our Queen.

It is worthy of note that only two of our colonies have furnished stamps for themselves, viz., Mauritius and the Cape of Good Hope, both of which are situate in Africa, and both a great distance from the mother country. The last-mentioned stamps are, however, very good ones, and reflect great credit upon the engraver, but as much cannot be said for the manufacturer of the Mauritius "native" stamp. We find, by the bye, that the British colonial stamps are mostly executed by private firms in England; some are, however, executed in New York, and a few in France.

One curious feature in the "native" stamps is the inscription, which is rather absurd in the wording. We find in the earlier ones the word "Postage" at the top, and post-office, Mauritius," at the sides, and the value in letters at the bottom.



The appended engraving will more clearly show the peculiarities in the inscription, but we must say it is a *fac simile* of one of the best engravings.

The last issue by the native engravers are less barbarous than the predecessors, both in the general execution, which is much clearer and better defined, and in the wording of the inscription, which is merely the word "Mauritius," and the value in letters. In 1862 a sixpenny blue and a shilling red stamp appeared, same design as the first issue, with the value engraved in letters at the bottom; these, however, soon gave place to a new series of stamps with the profile of the Queen in oval, very neatly engraved, the design being graceful, and the colours very judicious. The series comprises—one penny brown, twopence blue, threepence scarlet, fourpence rose, sixpence green and lilac, ninepence violet, one shilling pale brown, and five shillings mauve. It is well known that the Ceylon envelope stamps are about the neatest and best-executed stamps in existence, but we have three embossed envelope stamps emanating from Mauritius, which can fairly compete with them, both for design and execution, and we are not saying too much for them when we say that they are, as specimens of engraving and design, real gems. We give a *fac simile* of the nine-



penny one, which will prove the truth of our remark; and although it is the best-shaped in the three, yet it is not more beautiful than the sixpenny and shilling ones. The sixpenny one contains a profile of the Queen in eight-sided disc, the whole enclosed in inscribed circular frame; and the shilling one contains profile of the Queen, enclosed in oval frame.

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#### REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

#### ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., &c.,  
of the British Museum. London: E.  
Marlborough & Co. Bath: Stafford,  
Smith & Smith.

Who can say that stamp-collecting is vain and futile, when they know that such men as Dr. Gray spend time and labour in the production of works on the subject, for the use and benefit of amateurs. The compilation of a catalogue of stamps is very arduous work, and we think too much praise cannot be given to the author for the work now before us. The introduction contains much interesting matter. The table to facilitate the discovery of the postage stamp, by giving the inscription in an alphabetical form, with the name of the country opposite, is very useful; and the description of the stamps are about as comprehensive as possible.

Dr. Gray remarks, "that whatever plan is adopted for arranging stamps, to be useful, it ought to be uniform, and carried out completely, and to the letter, or it is more apt to mislead than to instruct." The author is perfectly right in the remark; but why has he not done so in the arrangement of his catalogue? Why attempt to arrange it geographically, and also to "group the countries so that those having the same money follow each other"? The mistakes arising through this plan are really absurd. For instance, he places the Ionian Islands between Malta and New South Wales, disposes of Liberia between Turkey and the Sandwich Islands, and puts Portugal in proximity with Greece. It is hoped the author will remedy this in a future edition, and either arrange it geographically, "and to the letter," or not at all, as we think that such an arrangement will, instead of teaching geography, rather tend to confound; and although a good geographical arrangement of a catalogue or collection would greatly enhance its value, yet we think an alphabetical arrangement would be preferable to the above.

The work is well got up; and, considering the quantity of printing, and the number and goodness of the engravings, we think it is, on the whole, an exceedingly good and cheap catalogue, and hope soon to see the fourth edition out.

#### HOW TO DETECT FORGED STAMPS.

By THOS. DALSTON. Gateshead: R. Chambers. Bath: Stafford, Smith & Smith. Leamington: A. Parsons.

THIS is a very neatly-printed and well-got-up little volume; the cover, which is

beautifully embellished with engravings of rare stamps, being, we think, very neat. The great number of forgeries now in the market and selling as genuine by dishonest dealers necessitate a work on the subject; and we think no collector should be without the above. The *fac similes* are so well executed, neatly post-marked, and perforated, that the most wary collectors can with difficulty avoid being "taken in" with them, without the above work. The descriptions are very comprehensive, and comprise every forgery hitherto executed.

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#### THE STAMP ARGUS.

Published by ROBERT J. MELVIN, St. John's New Brunswick.

THE first number of this very unpretending paper made its *debut* on the 15th of July, and the price charged is 50 cents per annum, or 2d. monthly. It looks well for the spread of timbrophily, the number of stamp magazines that are being published in the new world. It was our pleasing duty to herald two new magazines last month, emanating from America; and we hope that stamp collecting will spread to such an extent as will necessitate as many more. The paper under notice comprises four good-sized pages. The introductory address is filled with American wit, bright promises of future literary adornments to the pages, and excuses for the want of matter in the first number. The excuse is requisite, and we do not see any what may be called useful news whatever; but this they promise to remedy in future, and for their excuse plead that, in a literary point of view, they are "newly born," and therefore

hope to be handled tenderly until they get their feet well under them. We conclude, wishing every success to the proprietors, and hope they will get a circulation that will enable them to enlarge it.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE ARRANGEMENT OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the *Stamp Collector's Examiner*

Dear Sir,—The arrangement of stamps is a *vexata questio*. I had hitherto felt great difficulty in arranging my stamps, until I hit upon the following method, which may probably be of service to the reader. I may as well state that I don't like to put my stamps in a book ruled with coloured lines, as I am of opinion that the comparison destroys the effect of the stamps, and my plan was therefore to provide several books with blank leaves, and number them respectively Vols. I. II. III., and so on. In the first volume, to insert all the stamps that had been issued for twenty years; and, in the second, for all stamps that had been issued the following twenty years; and for every twenty years to add a separate and uniform volume. This plan would remedy the overflowing which must necessarily occur by endeavouring to form a collection in one volume, and make it inexpedient to take the stamps out of the album for the purpose of putting them in a larger and more commodious volume.

Another difficulty, and the greatest, is the arrangement of the respective countries. Properly speaking, they should be arranged geographically; but as I could only get Dr.

Grey's arrangement,—and it, I think, does not come up to the mark,—I was obliged to arrange them alphabetically. I think it would be very convenient if you could give an article in your valuable magazine on the geographical arrangement of stamps, and I am sure it would be very useful to all those who do not require either Moens' or Lalliers' album.

Yours truly,

Cork, July 18, 1865.

A. HILL.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*Alpha* wants to know which is the best and cheapest album,—Oppens, Moens, or Lalliers, and the relative merits of each? Oppens' is a very good one; it is well and beautifully bound, and neatly printed. The spaces printed for the stamps are large enough for the largest stamp issued, and the description of the stamps in the catalogue is as comprehensive as possible. There is not, however, in several countries, room for all the stamps; but this defect may be remedied by purchasing loose leaves, which may be had of the publisher. Moens' is reckoned the best album; it is splendidly got up, and illustrated with maps and arms of all the principal nations using postage stamps. Justin Lalliers' is a very beautiful volume; it is illustrated with maps and diagrams, and contains a full description of all the stamps on the page opposite where they are destined to be placed.

*P. Liverpool*.—There are forgeries of the whole set of Luxembourg, the common

1, 2, and 4 included. The whole set of Modena and the Zurich stamps are forged; and there is no doubt but that yours are imitations, as you could not purchase genuine ones at the price you name. Send them to us, and we will give you definite information upon them.

*W. Walton.*—We do not answer any questions excepting those relating to postage stamps. We remember the book you mention. It may be obtained from Ward & Lock's through any bookseller. The price is 3s. 6d. We take this opportunity to say, that in future we will answer no more questions excepting what relate to postage stamps.

*A. H. Wimbledon.*—The twelvepenny Canada stamp is not an essay; it was in circulation a short time, but very few were used. It is exceedingly rare, and your unused specimen is valuable.

*A. Sweeton* wants to know if he should collect newspaper stamps. Of course he should; they are postage stamps. It is at the option of the collector whether he should collect private postage stamps or not. We think they are *bona fide* postage stamps (*i. e.* most of them), and as such have as much right in a collection as any other stamp.

*Veritas.*—The description of your stamps are so vague that we cannot tell whether they are genuine or not. Send them at once to us, at the publisher's office, when we will inform you thereon.

*R. B.*—Your friend is mistaken with regard to the "Sydney" stamp. It was always considered as a *fac simile* of the colonial

seal; indeed, the inscription, "*Camb. Aust. Sigillum Nov.*"—which means, "*The Seal of New South Wales*"—proves the truth of our assertion. The authenticity of the stamps in question was never doubted.

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ACTION AGAINST THE FRENCH POSTMASTER GENERAL.—The Civil Tribunal of the Seine has just been called on to try an action brought by MM. L. Durand and Co., of Paris, sculptors and photographers, against the Director-General of the Post Office, under the following circumstances:—Some time ago MM. L. Durand and Co. posted a considerable number of printed circulars to artists residing in Paris. As the circulars were not sealed MM. Durand put on them a 5c. stamp only, as required by Act. 7 of the law of 25th June, 1856. The Post Office authorities, however, charged 15c. for each circular; the same as for unpaid letters. The persons to whom they were addressed were annoyed at receiving unpaid circulars, and many of them addressed unpleasant notes on the subject to MM. Durand, who accordingly commenced proceedings against the director general to recover 5000*l.* damages for the injury done to them by what they considered an illegal charge made by the Post Office. In Court the counsel for the director general pleaded the incompetence of the tribunal, as according to a decree of the 29th of August, 1790, all complaints relative to the postal service should be addressed to the executive power. The Tribunal taking this view of the law, declared itself incompetent, and condemned MM. Durand to pay all costs.

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LEAMINGTON:—Printed by Alfred Southee, Caxton Offices, 1, Bedford Street, and Published by A. Parsons, Bath Street, in the Parish of Leamington Priors, County of Warwick, August 1, 1865.