

—THE—
Philatelic Star.

Vol. 1. Sawens, N. Y. October, 1889. No. 1.

FACTS ABOUT STAMPS.

Stamps are now a necessity not a convenience as they may have been once. It does not matter much who invented them, whether Chalmers or Hill, but the object now is to improve as much as possible the postal system and lessen the expenses of the people who use them. Quite a change is there not in the manner of exchanging letters and transacting business? In the earlier days, money was paid when the letters were delivered or before giving the letter to the postmaster. In those days postage was paid according to the distance to be sent but now, according to the weight of the matter enclosed.

The number of collectors is constantly increasing and their

collections increasing in value also. Of the 225,000 collectors in the United States it is to be considered that very few have Brattleboros. The difference in value of the highest and lowest priced stamps is probably \$300.

It might be news to some to know how stamps are made.

Steel plates are used upon which are two hundred stamps engraved. They are then colored and then printed. After drying them they are gummed, the gum being a peculiar composition made of dried potatoes and other vegetables mixed with water. They are then again dried on racks, fanned by steam power for an hour and then put between paste-board and pressed; Girls stand ready and as fast as they are pressed cut them in half sheets, 100 stamps to a sheet.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

After this issue The Philatelic Star will be issued in
Adv. sheet form and sent to genuine collectors only.

Adv. rates only 2c per line; 20c per inch. CASH.

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