



Butlers'

Philatelic Observer.

MARCH, 1885.

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Australian, various colonies	0	3	1	0	Mexico, superior.....	1	0	7	0
Antigua, 1d	0	8			Newfoundland, 3 c.....	0	6	2	0
Barbadoes, assorted	0	4	1	8	" assorted	0	9	5	6
Brazil, assorted	0	3	1	9	Portugal, well mixed.....	0	3	1	6
" superior, well assorted ...	0	4	2	3	Guatemala, 1 c, 2 c, and 5 c bird	0	10	5	0
Bavaria, 50pf., 2 kinds	0	3	1	3	" 10 c and 20 c bird ...	1	4		
British Guiana, 1 c and 2 c	0	4	2	0	Roumania, well mixed	0	3	1	2
Bulgaria, assorted	0	8	4	3	S. Sinient,	0	8	5	0
" superior, 1 1/2 kinds.....			5	6	Servia, assorted	0	4	2	3
Bosnia, assorted	0	8	4	3	" splendid mixture	0	6	3	6
Capo of Good Hope assorted ...	0	3	1	4	Segua Tasse	0	4	1	6
" " <i>triangular</i>	3	6	30	0	Spain, mixed	0	2	0	6
Chili 5 c.....	0	3	1	6	" superior	0	3	1	0
" assorted	0	4	3	3	South Australia 1d and 2d	0	2	0	9
" superior, old and new	0	6	4	6	Trinidad, 1d.....	0	4	2	9
Cyprus, 1/4d.....	0	6	3	6	" assorted	0	8	4	9
French Colonies, mixed.....	0	6	3	6	Orange Free States, assorted.....	0	9	4	6
Egypt, assorted	0	3	1	3	Persia, assorted	1	3	10	6
Greece, well mixed.....	0	3	1	3	Turkey, assorted.....	0	3	1	4
Grenada, 1/4d. surcharged	0	10			" 12 kinds	0	6	2	6
Great Britain, 1d black	0	10	6	0	Victoria, 1/4d rose	0	3	1	3
" well mixed ...	0	1	0	6	" frank stamps	0	8		
Hanover, 1gr, head	0	6	3	3	United States various departments	0	4	2	3
Hawaii, mixed.....	0	7	4	3	" assorted	0	1	4	0
Mauritius, 1/4 c.....	0	6	3	9	" superior	0	2	1	0
Mexico, common.....	0	8	4	3	" and Canada, mixed	0	1	4	0

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Argentine Republic, 1852, 5 c	3	4			Guatemala, 1/4 real bird	2	9		
Costa Rica, 1/2 real blue.....	0	10	5	5	" 1 real bird	3	3		
GUATEMALA 1st issue in sets of 3 (5 c, 10 c & 20 c) 6 sets 3/3, 12 sets 5/9					Hanover, 3/4 gr black	1	3	9	6
Guatemala, 2nd issue, in sets of 4 (1/2, 1, 1 & 2 reals 6 sets 3/3, 12 sets 5/9					Heligoland, 1 pf.....	0	4	2	0
Guatemala, 1st & 2nd issues (5 c, 10 c & 20 c, 1/4, 1/2, 1 & 2 reals, sets of 7, 6/- 12 sets 11/3					Ionian Islands, in sets of 3 (1/2d, 1d, 2d,) 6 sets 11/6, 12 sets 21/6				
Guatemala, 3rd issue, in sets of 4 (1/2 2 and 4 reals, and 1 peso), rare, 6 sets 6/6, 12 sets 11/-					Samoa 1d, blue	1	6	12	6
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" " 2d "	0	10	6	0		
" " 3d "	1	0	7	6		
" " 4d "	1	8	12	0		
" " 6d "	2	6	18	0		

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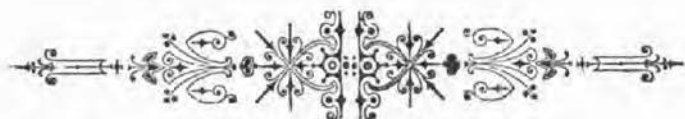
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STANLEY, GIBBONS & CO.,

Stamp Importers and Philatelic Publishers,
8, GOWER STREET LONDON, W.C.



To my Readers.

In identifying ourselves with a monthly issue we wish to state what the *Philatelic Observer* will endeavour to be. It will always be our object to convey the best and latest information, to give papers on every topic relating to Philately and Chronicle new issues and novelties. The uses of Philately we shall find opportunities of recording and illustrating, to the Readers of this we need not here enlarge on how useful it is, how wide and diversified its objects and the ever increasing interest that attaches to it. We will take it for granted that these pages will fall into the hands of the lovers of the art whose opinions of its excellence equal our own and have been arrived at long since. It has become so much a literary fashion to offer prizes on special subjects that we too, intending to run with the spirit of the time, shall from time to time and as occasion suits offer prizes for some special subject of Philately.

We believe advertisers will find in our journal a thoroughly good and excellent medium. Our journal will be Philatelic as its name intends it should be, yet it may be occasionally we may introduce a poem or some pleasant sort of literature outside the special object we have in view. Should we do this we hope our readers will find their advantage in it and the Prize Competitor and the Advertiser find too, as a result a wider circulation and a more complete renown. Having thus briefly introduced ourselves to our Readers we look forward to no brief but rather to a long acquaintanceship that it will always be our endeavour to maintain for ourselves and promote between every true lover of the Philatelic Art.

STAMP COLLECTING.

"If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well." Though how many stamp collectors forget this excellent maxim, perhaps from lack of interest, perhaps, as is often the case, because they do not know the best way to collect or other various reasons best known to themselves. Like all other hobbies and vanities, stamp collecting has its attractions, and when once undertaken and one is getting initiated into the mysteries of Philately the pursuit is generally pleasantly continued. But at present it is my purpose to give a few hints to beginners on the best ways of collecting. A beginner's album, when left to his own care, is in nearly every case in a most woeful condition, abounding in torn stamps and forgeries, with scarcely a specimen of value in the whole book; now it is needless to say that this mode of collecting is but waste of time, for few of the specimens are of use and of no value whatever. A good collection should contain only perfect and clean specimens though of course, I do not mean a soiled one is to be refused. You may keep it, but take the first opportunity you get of exchanging it for a clean one, and, thus, you will have the satisfaction of seeing your collection not only swell in number by every new specimen you obtain, but increasing in value, which to most people is an item of consideration. Beware of forgeries, though a beginner may at first be deceived, yet he will soon be able to form a tolerably correct idea as to these, for they are in almost every instance very badly printed, and it is very common to find them obliterated with the wrong postmark. But by going to respectable dealers only, a collector need have little fear of getting these pests in his collection. You may be able to judge by the price at which the stamps are offered, for instance, suppose a dealer offered you a set of Siam for 6d., or a set of Guatemala, 1877 issue, for 5d., be sure that he is endeavouring to impose upon you worthless forgeries and stop dealing with him at once.

Now we come to reprints, these are impressions struck from the worn out die for the purpose of sale. It is not every collector that admits them into his collection, but whether they ought to be collected or not is for the collector to choose, but there are cases when the originals are literally speaking unobtainable and of course in such instances a reprint is to be preferred to no specimen at all. Reprints are always unused and most dealers (that is the respectable ones) will tell you what are the reprints they catalogue. As to whether re-

prints should be admitted into the album with the originals, or a separate one kept for them is another matter for the collector's choice.

To have a good collection it is essential to study "Watermarks" this, in many cases, alone points out a distinct issue. The watermark is a device formed in the paper on which the stamps are printed. This is done in nearly all cases with what is called a "Dandy roll," which is a cylinder covered with repetitions of the desired watermark in relief. The paper passes under the roll before it is dry and the pressure of the roll compresses the paper under each repetition of the design in relief upon it. A former way that may be now in some cases used was to fasten on to a wire gauze small pieces of metal the shape of the desired watermark; or to weave pieces of thicker wire of the requisite shape into the gauze so that it produced the same effect as the "dandy roll". This watermark is a guide to the genuineness of a great many stamps, and all forgeries are without it. The watermark of the English stamps is a crown, Ceylon, New Zealand, St. Lucia, etc., have a star, Queensland has a Q surmounted by a crown, these are all English colonies. Other countries have a crown and C.C., signifying Crown Colony, as the latest issues for West Australia, Victoria, &c. Many countries have distinctive watermarks, Egypt has a pyramid, Jamaica a pineapple, India an elephant's head, Chili a numeral, Naples a fleur-de-lis.

To be continued,

NEW ISSUES.

We much regret our list of new issues is, so in-complete, in future we promise a much later and more complete list.

Antiquouia.—This country has a new 1c violet stamp.

Adhesive: 1 centavo violet imperf.

Tonsberg.—This is a town in Norway, which has taken to issuing by Post, Stamps. Two sets have been issued.

Trinidad.—Has issued a new half-penny stamp, mauve, surcharged and Registration Envelopes similar in value, size, &c. to our own, and two wrappers, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green and 1d. carmine.

Wrappers $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Green.

1d. Carmine.

Adhesive $\frac{1}{2}$ d. mauve, surcharged.

Guinea.—The 5 reis black, 10 reis bistre, and 100 reis lilac have appeared with a small surcharge.

This colony is also about to have a new set of stamps with profile of King Luis.

Gnadaloupe.—A new series of unpaid letter stamps have appeared, as follows:—

Adhesive,	5 c.	black or white
...	10 c.	blue
...	15 c.	violet
...	20 c.	rose
...	30 c.	yellow
...	35 c.	groy
...	50 c.	green

Paraguay.—Will shortly have a new set of adhesives.

Chili.—Has a new 3 c. post card.

Post card 3 c. Red on Grey.

St. Helena.—Has a new half-penny surcharged in block letters.

Adhesive $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, black surcharge.

Ecuador.—The current 5 c. and 10 c. have been surcharged in Roman Capitals "official"

Official adhesives 5 c. blue and 10 c. orange. black surcharge.

"EN PASSANT."

Our readers will be glad to hear that a Philatelic Society has been started at Birmingham, on much the same principles as the London one. There can be no question we think, of the great usefulness and influence which these Societies are capable of creating and diffusing, if properly organised on a basis of sound principle, and conducted on equally proper lines of management. In this formation and conduction it is well to note the *modus operandi*, in the organisation of the many public Societies which are every day being formed with various objects in view. So as to prevent as much as possible, the often regretted presence of, and proof that want of experience must be blamed for casual and awkward blundering which too often occur, and oftener result in bad fortune for the subject, and which, by the prudent exercise of a little forethought might have been wholly prevented. By this we mean to convey that there is in a majority of the projects and enterprises connected with Philately, an undoubted tendency to look for great and almost impossible results, with a minimum of work of a preparatory nature. We do not mean to assert that this is so in every case, but a close observer cannot fail to detect most plainly, a forcible illustration of our argument in very many instances.

Under the presidency of Mr. J. Bottely—who our readers will no doubt recognise as an ardent collector, the Birmingham Philatelic Society held its first meeting last month, and fortnightly meetings are

announced until the end of the present season; only monthly meetings being held during the summer months. Mr. W. E. Jeff is the first Vice President, and the arduous duties of the Secretary have been undertaken by Mr. C. J. Philips, whose name is not altogether unknown as that of an enthusiast in all matters relating to the science.

We have also news of the formation of a Society in Fitchburg, Mass., U.S.A. on the 6th ult. but from the nature of the advice received we presume the new Society may almost be termed a local one, and its objects not intended to embrace anything beyond purely local matters of Philatelic interest.

The strictures and adverse criticisms passed upon our current series of postage stamps, are every day becoming sharper, and are certainly *ad rem*. We shall not have long to wait for the new ones however; we notice in one contemporary a severe and scathing denunciation of that false economy in providing the country with a cheap and hardly usable article; and the same paper mentions the possibility of a decision being arrived at by the committee of enquiry at no distant date. Another goes further and announces that designs have actually been invited and discusses with an amount of certainty the probability of the approved design as representing her Majesty in "widow's weeds," rather than the misleading effigy, which has done duty up to the present.

All speculation in this direction must however, be very premature, and little may be surmised with any amount of certainty until the deliberations of the Commission have been officially made known.

Quite recently a change in the postal rate of Sweden took place, and in consequence of this, a new value—10 öre has been prepared and issued. Some of our contemporaries take it to be the first of a new set, but to the best of our belief the revision of the postal rates was the prime reason of the introduction of the stamp before us. Its design is decidedly attractive, and although perhaps this is not a sovereign virtue in the matter of what a postage stamp really ought to be, it is a vast improvement upon the series at present in use, in that country. We understand that the same firm, which provided the latest issues of Belgium were also the contractors in the present instance, and the distinctness and effectiveness of both the new stamps of the latter country, and the one just issued for Sweden proves the engraver to be of considerable ability.

As most of our readers are aware, the plan of issuing receipts for parcels despatched by *parcels post* has, since the first of January been extended to all post offices and receiving houses. By way of trial the scheme was formulated and introduced in a few of the principal offices some months ago and proved so far satisfactory that it was thought desirable that the whole country should share and have the benefit of its adoption. Where messengers and porters are employed it most satisfactory to know that one's parcels have at least been delivered into the care of the Post Office and the development of this innovation must in itself be a most agreeable fact to the public. We hope that its introduction is the forerunner of the establishment of a complete system of registration for parcels, similar to that already in force in regard to letters and missives which we are assured would be very acceptable to everyone who habitually, or only casually has occasion to make use of the late Mr. Fawcett's most useful invention.

* * *

The wearied postman toils his plodding road,—
 "May Jove," he cries, "this Parcels Post confound!
 Shall I, who erst to pallid beauty bore
 Warm welcome words, her roses to restore,
 Now check her rapture and betray her hope,
 By handing in a bar of yellow soap!
 Shall I, who found it pleasure to convey
 Pink invitations to the ball or play,
 Now bear, instead of scented "*billet doux*"
 Brown paper parcels of three feet by two?
 Shall giddy maiden blushing, run to meet
 The longed for postman in the crowded street,
 But to receive instead of lovers' suits,
 A pound of tea, or fresh soled pair of boots?
 Shall I, whose hands conveyed the wished-for cheque,
 Be at each petty tradesman's call and beck?
 Shall parcels weigh me down and crush me flat
 And take the spirit from my sharp "rat tat?"
 Perish the thought! Ere such a fate be mine,
 I'll sell the parcels, and the post resign!"

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The "*Philatelic Herald*" published by Messrs Lee & Co., to hand for February in a double number; and appears to be a well favoured advertising medium.

The "*Foreign Stamp Collectors News*," as usual contains a variety of useful information and interesting matter.

The "*Philatelic Observer*" will be regularly sent in exchange for any other magazines.

ESSAYS, WHAT ARE THEY?

Perhaps it is a stretch of my imagination to say, it is very probable, ninety-nine out of every hundred average stamp collectors, do not know what an essay is, I will try to explain as well as I can in the space allotted me. I trust I may be correct in saying an essay is a design or stamp submitted for the approval of the Postal Authorities but for some reason or other not accepted, many designs have been submitted and a stock printed, in some cases a very large one, and then never circulated. To determine what stamps are really essays would perhaps be a difficult matter, there are so many opinions on matters Philatelic. I should say the essays in many instances have been too pretty to meet the official eye, for they usually are much prettier than the stamps that are eventually issued; why it is we get such wretched stamps for Great Britain I cannot imagine, surely it is high time we had something better than the head of a girl of eighteen, we may some day get better designs and also be favoured with a few more varieties of colour, green and mauve seem to be the only colours the authorities have ever seen, take, for example the dreadful designs of other countries now circulating, New Granada, early issues Roumania, Tuscany, nor need be desired stamps better than the obsolete issues of San Salvador, Nicaragua, United States of America, or let me add than the present issues of Guatemala, but I am getting away from my subject.

To give a list of essays would be impossible. France has a large number, I fancy Belgium alone has about thirty sets and in nearly as many shades of colour, Dominica has also a decidedly pretty lot, Zurich and New Brunswick are rather nice, nearly every stamp issuing country has a lot of essays to its credit.

There are several stamps very often called essays which I think really ought not to be, for instance the V.R. 1d. black English, this stamp was really intended to free official correspondence, a stock of them was printed, however none were issued, the idea being given up, a specimen of this stamp cannot be obtained for much less than £3, the used copies of this stamp existing, were obliterated when experiments were being made with various obliterating inks, to decide the best for the purpose.

Another is the 12 cuartos Spain (type of 1857 issue) was prepared in 1860, but very few were used. This stamp is usually to be seen obliterated with two bars across, this being done by the Postal Authorities to sell to collectors, when the issue became obsolete, I presume all collectors do not consider these stamps used, the black bars across are a pretty good sign they have not been used postally.

One other example the half-anna Indian (red) first issue of that country, these are really very valuable, I fancy the price asked for a specimen of this stamp is from £6 to £8

Now whether essays should be put in an album with postage stamps? I should say decidedly not, if collected at all they should be put in an album by themselves; of course these stamps have a really higher market value than reprints, these however I will treat of at another time and trust my efforts to explain what an essay is have been successful.

A WELCOME TO THE PHILATELIC OBSERVER.

Observer Philatelic!
 A Printed Venture born
 On March's earliest morn
 We give the greeting,
 And hope for every month
 A pleasant meeting.
 Of Amateurs and Friends
 Be thou the guide
 Who love the stamp
 And take in it a pride.
 Full often now the stamp
 Kindles the Student's lamp
 As full of observation
 He, ponders on the stamp
 Of many a distant nation.
 The stamp, though small,
 Is now a theme for sages
 And in historic guise
 As time's vast river flies
 Rolls on to distant ages.
 The stamp 'tis forty years or
 better
 Since first a courier swift
 It mounted on a letter
 And since then it has posted

With swift and swifter pinion
 Wherever civilised man
 Has science or dominion.
 Full Forty years' ago [pride,
 Queen Vic. had almost girlhoods
 And Albert wise and good
 Was by her side
 Between that time and now
 How many a bright invention
 When history blows her trump
 And modulates an ode
 Can she in music mention!
 But is there one that's greater
 But is there one that's better
 Than is the little stamp
 That brings, to me a letter?
 Hail then Observer Philatelic!
 While the swift months run
 round
 May you my friend be found
 Rich with Philatelic lore
 Then I'll thank you evermore
 And laud each monthly meeting
 With a full and hearty greeting
 For the pleasure of your store.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

For the best article, written by a collector, upon the stamps of Peru we offer stamps to the value of One Guinea, the article must occupy at least two pages of this magazine, but not exceed three. All competitions must reach us not later than 15th March next, endorsed "Prize Competition". We cannot hold ourselves responsible for any manuscript sent, however we will endeavour to return, rejected M.S.S. if sufficient stamps are sent for postage.

CAUTION!!!

We have sent out approval sheets to the following which have never been returned. We have made applications and in most cases the letters have been returned.

- H. C. Williams, University, Edinburgh
- F. E. Foster Long, 32 Rockingham St, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds
- J. Baird, c/o A. C. Gordon & Co., 143 Cannon St., London
- E. A. Danby, 20 Chapel St. Ardwick, Manchester
- S. Bowdon, 17 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.
- J. H. Wilson, c/o L. Evans, 17 New Oxford St. Swansea
- G. Lorne, 36 East Road, City Road, London.

We shall be pleased to insert any names in this list sent us by other dealers if well authenticated.

THE
'EXCELSIOR' PACKETS.

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We are constantly receiving from our Customers the most satisfactory references, which alone speak for their merit.

No	1	contains	100	good stamps post free	7d
—	2	—	50	assorted	— 7d
—	3	—	30	—	— 7d
—	5	—	50	varieties	— 1/1
Including					

Orange Free State, Scarce Argentine, France, (unpaid), Thronhjem, St. Thomas, Rigi Belap, Belgium, (new issue), Turkey, India, (Official,) Cape Verde, Barbadoes, Cyprus, Swiss, surcharged, (Ausser Kurs), &c., &c.

No 7 contains **100** varieties all good stamps post free **2/1**

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BUTLER Bros., Oaten Hill, Canterbury.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JUN.

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FOR PROMPT CASH.

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APRIL, 1885.

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	s	d
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	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Australian, various colonies	0 3	1 0	Mexico, superior.....	1 0	7 0
Antigua, 1d	0 8	4 3	Newfoundland. 3 c.....	0 6	2 9
Barbadoes, assorted	0 4	1 8	" assorted	0 9	5 6
Brazil, assorted	0 3	1 9	Portugal, well mixed.....	0 3	1 6
" superior, well assorted ...	0 4	2 3	Guatemala, 1 c, 2 c, and 5 c bird	0 10	5 0
Bavaria, 50pf., 2 kinds	0 3	1 3	" 10 c and 20 c bird ...	1 4	
British Guiana, 1 c and 2 c	0 4	2 0	Roumania, well mixed	0 3	1 3
Bulgaria, assorted	0 8	4 3	S Vincent, ½ & 1d.	0 8	5 0
" superior, 1½ kinds.....		5 6	Servia, assorted	0 4	2 3
Bosnia, assorted	0 8	4 3	" splendid mixture	0 6	3 6
Cape of Good Hope assorted ...	0 3	1 4	Segna Tasse.....	0 4	1 6
" " <i>triangular</i>	4 0	30 0	Spain, mixed	0 2	0 8
Chili 5 c.....	0 3	1 6	" superior	0 3	1 0
" assorted	0 4	3 3	South Australia 1d and 2d	0 2	0 9
" superior, old and new	0 6	4 6	Trinidad, 1d.....	0 4	2 9
Cyprus, ½ piastre	0 6	3 6	" assorted	0 8	4 9
French Colonies, mixed.....	0 6	3 6	Orange Free States, assorted.....	0 9	4 6
Egypt, assorted	0 3	1 3	Persia, assorted	1 3	10 6
Greece, well mixed	0 3	1 3	Turkey, assorted.....	0 3	1 4
Grenada, ¼d. surcharged	0 10		" 12 kinds	0 6	2 6
Great Britain, 1d black	0 10	6 0	Victoria, ¼d rose	0 3	1 3
" well mixed	0 1	0 6	" frank stamps	0 8	
Hanover, 1gr, head	0 6	3 3	United States various departments	0 4	2 3
Hawaii, mixed.....	0 7	4 3	" assorted	0 1	4 0
Mauritius, 4 c.....	0 6	3 9	" superior	0 2	1 0
Mexico, common.....	0 8	4 3	" and Canada, mixed	0 1	0 4

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Argentine Republic, 1862, 5 c	6 3 4	Guatemala, ¼ real bird	2 9
Costa Rica, ½ real blue.....	0 10 5 5	" 1 real bird	3 3
GUATEMALA 1st issue in sets of 3		Hanover, ½ gr black	1 3 9 6
(5 c, 10 c & 20 c) 6 sets 3/3, 12		Heligoland, 1 pf.....	0 4 2 0
sets 5/9		Ionian Islands, in sets of 3 (½d,	
Guatemala, 2nd issue, in sets of 4		1d, 2d,) 6 sets 11/6, 12 sets 21/6	
(¼, ½, 1 & 2 reals) 6 sets 3/3,		Samoa 1d, blue	1 3 10 6
12 sets 5/9		TROMSO LOCALS , in sets of 4 (2,	
Guatemala, 1st & 2nd issues (5 c,		5, 8 ore and 5 ore. (provisional	
10 c & 20 c, ¼, ½, 1 & 2 reals),		on 2 ore.) 12 sets 3/6, 100 sets	
6 sets of 7, 6/- 12 sets 11/3		30/-	
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	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
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" " " 2d ..	0	7	3	6	30	0
" " " 3d ..	0	10	6	0		
" " " 4d ..	1	0	7	6		
" " " 6d ..	1	8	12	0		
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<i>a</i> 8	Bavaria	1 to 18 kr	7	0	6
<i>c</i> 4	Bosnia	1 2 3 5 10 and 15 kr	6	1	2
<i>a</i> 5	Bulgaria, various issues	8	1	0
<i>b</i> 6	Constantinople,	5 20 and 40 paras...	3	0	5
<i>a</i> 7	Cyprus $\frac{1}{2}$ (2 kinds)	1 and 2 piastres	4	0	6
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<i>b</i> 11	Guatemala 1871,	5 10 and 20 c	3	1	4
<i>b</i> 12	"	1875, $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 and 2 reales	4	1	2
<i>b</i> 13	"	1877, $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 4 reales and 1 peso...	4	2	0
<i>b</i> 14	"	1879, $\frac{1}{4}$ and 1 real	2	0	10
<i>a</i> 15	"	1882, 1 2 5 10 and 20 centavos	5	0	10
<i>b</i> 16	Hamburg...	8	0	10
<i>b</i> 17	"	Envelopes, complete	7	0	7
<i>b</i> 18	Heligoland	15	1	6
<i>a</i> 19	Holland	11	0	8
<i>a</i> 20	Italy; 2 c surcharged on all officials	8	0	6
<i>b</i> 21	Persia Service	1 2 5 and 10 shahi	4	1	0
<i>a</i> 22	Persia various issues	4	1	0
<i>b</i> 23	Porto Rico 1882, $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 4 6 and 8 mills de peso	6	0	6
<i>b</i> 24	Roman States, perforated	7	0	10
<i>b</i> 25	Roumania 1865,	2 5 and 20 paras	3	0	8
<i>b</i> 26	"	1866, 2 5 and 20 paras	3	0	6
<i>b</i> 27	Romagna	1 2 3 4 5 6 and 8 Bajocchi	7	3	6
<i>b</i> 28	Sardinia 1856	11	0	5
<i>b</i> 29	Saxony, arms	3 pf. $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 2 & 3 groschen	5	0	6
<i>b</i> 30	Switzerland surcharged	Ausser Kurs 2 3 5 10 15 20 25 40 50 c and 1 franc	10	0	10
<i>a</i> 30A	Switzerland, obsolete	11	0	8
<i>c</i> 31	Spain, a magnificent set	100	10	6
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<i>a</i> 33	Sweden 'Losen	10	1	0
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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

APRIL, 1885.

We are much gratified to have received so many letters from both collectors and dealers, approving of our efforts to make the *Philatelic Observer* a first-class Magazine: we shall spare no pains in the future to increase its popularity, and at all times shall be glad to receive suggestions from dealers and collectors.

Dealers, please note the *Philatelic Observer* is one of the very best ADVERTISING MEDIUMS, and is now enlarged to 20 pages.

Collectors should at once send in their subscriptions: in the course of two or three months we intend to permanently enlarge the space devoted to articles to at least 12 pages.

* * *

Throughout the whole of the Philatelic Press the cry is, "Why cannot we have a Dealers' Protection Association?" This is really becoming a matter of vast importance to every dealer in Great Britain, but why so much talk and nothing done? Surely it cannot be a difficult matter to form such an association; it really wants nothing but the co-operation of dealers; then in a few months every one would be wondering we had waited so long.

* * *

In our opinion the correct way to start the Association will be to form a Committee; it will be a very easy matter to then elect a secretary; he should be some well-known dealer who could be relied upon for doing the work efficiently. The country would, of course, have to be divided into districts, and an agent appointed for each district; if a dealer can be obtained who will do the work so much the better. Agents cannot be expected to work without remuneration. Suppose they are paid 6d. for each enquiry, and a commission of 10 per cent. upon all debts collected.

* * *

The working expenses of the Association ought not to be large; the secretary could not expect a large salary; the expenses for stationery would be, the only other item; and if every dealer who wished to avail himself of the advantages of the Association were to subscribe a small sum annually, there could not be any possibility of a failure,

We shall be pleased to obtain the opinions of dealers, and also to open our columns for correspondence upon the subject. If our efforts help, however slightly, to be the means of forwarding the formation of an "English Dealers' Protection Association," we shall be amply repaid.

Stamp Collecting.

(Continued from No. 1.)

None of the early stamps were perforated; they were printed in sheets, and when one was wanted it was cut off. But at the present time there are several different perforations to be found among stamps, but only two are common—namely, the ordinary perforation as seen in the current English and most modern stamps. This is made by small circular holes punched out between the stamps; these of course vary in number according to the size of the holes or perforations, but are from 10 to 20 in number. Then there is what is termed the Roulette perforation, because it is manufactured by a wheel passing over the paper and leaving a line of dents or small cuts between the stamps. Some of the Brazil, Chili, etc., are rouletted. Brunswick stamps have a very minute perforation. A serrated edge like a saw may be seen in the 2 grote, Bremen. But the old Finland have a peculiar serpentine perforation, which makes it very difficult to avoid tearing them, and consequently spoiling the specimen for one's album.

I do not intend to recommend any particular album, for opinions as to these are various. But a great deal depends on the collector, many in commencing only look out for variety of issues, ignoring varieties of colour, watermark, etc., and such collectors almost any album will do. But perhaps the "Improved" by Stanley, Gibbons, and Co., or the "Crown," Nos. 3 and 4, by Whitfield, King, and Co., are the most suitable for the average collector. The advantages of the latter albums are that the space for the insertion of stamps are printed on the right-hand pages only, the lefthand pages being left vacant for the reception of new issues, references, or other notes.

Having your album, we must now have a few words about mounting the stamps in it, and the best way is to procure some "Prepared Mounts" obtainable of Messrs. Butler Bros., the proprietors of this Magazine. These mounts are small pieces of gummed paper, one end of which is gummed to the back of the stamp, the other gummed to the page in the album and so forming a hinge. This method is simple and speedy and to my mind much better than the following way which is troublesome and not more effective, though some prefer it. The second way is by gumming a little tongue of paper by one end to the back of the stamp, the other fitting into a socket gummed on the page of the album. Be careful to get your stamp square to the page for when crookedly put in they have a very bad appearance.

Before mounting stamps into your album be careful to remove any paper there may be at the back, but in doing so, do not wet the face of the stamp. The best way is to get some luke warm water and lay the stamps in it on their backs, they will curl up at first but gradually straighten and will when straight be ready to be operated on. Remove the paper carefully with a penknife and dry them lightly with a handkerchief never fold post cards, and in cutting envelopes slit them at one end and do not cut the flap. Always get as clean copies as you can.

In conclusion I would remind all young collectors that stamps on blue paper are almost always rare, their colour is owing to the chemical action of the gum on the paper, and they are all old issues, worth watching for. The first issue of Barbadoes, the 5 centavos Chilian and some of the Cape Stamps are on blue paper. So far, I have said nothing about "fiscals," because I think, they, like reprints, if collected should have a separate album, though I should say it is far the best for beginners, not to collect them, but stick to postage stamps only, for by trying to do too much, you will if not careful, have on the whole uninteresting collections, where by collecting one kind only, nothing like this should happen.

New Issues.

Argentine.—From the Timbre-Poste we learn that the 5c has been surcharged twice, the first surcharge being oblique. Also the same stamp with the surcharge transposed.

Adhesives 4c. on 5c., Vermilion, black surcharge.
 " " " transposed surcharge.

Azores.—The 20 reis post card has a small surcharge.

Post Card 20 reis blue or buff.

Cape of Good Hope.—A change of watermark has again taken place. The 2d. brown and the 6d. lilac, have now a watermark of an anchor and cable.

Ceylon—Has a long list of surcharges, most of which we have seen.

Provisional Adhesives.

		POSTAGE & FIVE CENTS REVENUE		
5 cents	surcharged in black		on 8c. yellow,	wmk. C.A. & crown
5 "	" "	"	on 16c. mauve	" "
5 "	" "	"	on 32c. grey black	" C.C. & crown
5 "	" "	"	on 36c. blue	" "
5 "	" "	"	on 48c. carmine	" "
5 "	" "	"	on 64c. red brown	" "
10 "	" "	TEN CENTS	on 24c. purple-brown	" C.A. & crown
10 "	" "	"	on 64c. red brown	" C.C. & crown
15 "	" "	FIFTEEN CENTS	on 16c. mauve	" C.A. & crown
20 "	" "	TWENTY CENTS	on 32c. grey black	" C.C. & crown
25 "	" "	TWENTY Five CENTS	on 32c. "	" "
28 "	" "	TWENTY eight CENTS	on 45c. carmine	" "
30 "	" "	THIRTY CENTS	on 36c. blue	" "
56 "	" "	FIFTY-SIX CENTS	on 96c. drab	" "
1 rupee 12 c. ,	"	One Rupee TWELVE cents	on 2r, 50c maroon	" "

Italy.—Will shortly have four new stamps for parcels post, they will be as follows:—

Parcels Post Adhesives	50 centesimi,	lake	} watermark. Crown. perf 14.
	75 "	sea green	
1 fr. 25	"	dull orange	
1 fr. 75	"	deep blue	

Levant.—It has been decided to change the colours of these stamps as given below.

Adhesives	1 kopeck,	orange.
	2 "	dark green
	5 "	lilac brown.
	7 "	deep blue.

Montserrat.—The colour of the fourpenny blue has been changed to light mauve.

Adhesive 4d. light mauve, watermark. C.A. and Crown.

Persia.—A new series of stamps for this country will very soon appear.

Portugal.—A change in the colour of the 20 reis has taken place.

Adhesive 20 reis, carmine.

Shanghai.—A new set of provisionals have appeared as follows :—

Adhesives 20 surcharged in blue	on 40 cash, rose	} perf 11½
60	on 80 ,, blue	
60	on 100 ,, brown	

Sweden.—Two more new stamps will be issued in a few weeks for this country.

Adhesives 5 öre Green.

„ 20 „ blue.

Trinidad.—The series of unpaid stamps consists of the following values.

½d. 1d. 2d. 3d. 4d. 5d. 6d. 8d. 1s.

Victoria.—Three new stamps have been issued for this colony.

Adhesives, ½d. carmine

„ 1d, yellow-green

„ 2d, mauve

History of Post Office.

The History of the Post Office is a subject of interest to everybody, especially to Philatelists. There is no other public institution in the world which is so closely and universally connected with us. To the rich man and poor, old and young, it is alike: it is the one great medium binding together distant relatives and friends. Business and pleasure, sorrow and joy, are all represented in the messages passing through this mighty system.

The practice of writing letters and the system of postal communication was known to the ancients, as both sacred and profane history attest. In sacred history we find several instances of letter-writing. Regular posts seem to have had their origin among the Persians. Darius I. caused couriers with saddle horses to be always ready at different stations throughout the empire, at a distance of one days' journey from each other, in order that there might be no delay in getting reports from the provinces. During the Empire an institution similar to the modern posts was established by Augustus, among the Romans. In Germany, France, and Italy, during the 9th century, there existed messengers who travelled on horseback; they were, however, only employed for the Government. With the progress of commerce, the necessity of having posts made itself felt, and in all the larger cities of Germany mounted messengers and stage coaches began to be established. Letters were also placed in the charge of travellers, merchants, and butchers who rode about the country to buy cattle. The first establishment in this country of a postal service for the conveyance of the letters of the public, is involved in some obscurity. The letters,

both of private and public personages, were originally sent by special messengers only (records for carrying letters for the King commenced in the reign of John), and more recently by common carriers, who began to ply regularly with their pack-horses about the time of the Wars of the Roses. It appears in the records of the City of Bristol that the Corporation paid one penny to the carrier for carrying a letter to London.

(To be continued.)

En Passant.

It is a notorious fact that, while England claims to be the originator of, and the first to introduce, the Postage Stamp, this country is at the present moment far behind others, which are not usually credited with that degree of civilization at present enjoyed by Great Britain, in the matter of postal facilities. When we speak of the first country to introduce the postage label, one may rationally look for greater things from that country than might even reasonably be expected from any other, which it is well to bear in mind only followed the example set by this nation in that melancholy, Indian-file sort of fashion which has become proverbial and symbolical of tardiness throughout the length and breadth of the world. Whether we confine our researches to Europe only or to anyone of the other Continents, we shall find the results the same, and in many instances it will not be too much to say that the postal systems of those countries of which we have spoken are much more elaborate, and the advantages possessed by Austria and France for instance, by reason of this greater degree of detail in their respective systems, are not simply confined to one or two trivial points, but are really useful, and just as much required by English commerce and English business as the countries we have mentioned.

* * * *

In connection with the foregoing, we notice a letter from a correspondent to the *Mercantile Gazette*, in which the writer speaks of two important advantages possessed by other countries over us. "The first," he says, "is the power of insuring the value of a letter. This we can do even in Italy; that is to say, we can put £100 in notes or a diamond ring into a letter, and for a small sum insure their delivery.

Here we can only register a letter, and recover a trifling sum if it is lost. The second disadvantage is connected with the international post. We cannot send small parcels to another country by the post, nor even small articles of value by letter-post." The writer illustrates his argument by watching the progress made by a parcel posted in Vienna to London. It comes through Italy, Switzerland, and France to Cologne comparatively quickly, but from the last-named place to the capital of Great Britain its journey occupies an indefinite time. During this last stage it is handed to one of the parcels express companies with offices in London, who are responsible for its safe delivery to the addressee; but to attempt to calculate with any amount of accuracy, or with any hope of arriving at the time of its actual quitting the hands of the Express Company, is a something nearly akin to impossibility. This is a state of things worthy of the attention of the Government; and ere the present Administration quits office, it may be hoped that Mr. Shaw Lefevre may take the matter in hand, with a view to a possible solution of at least one, if not both, problems.

A new Philatelic Hand-Book, by Major Evans, has recently been published: we understand the compilation of this work has occupied a considerable period on the part of its author, all issues up to Jan. 1st 1885, being included in its pages. It is certainly a book of reference, and one from which a great deal of information can be obtained, notably respecting watermarks and perforation. Its publication brings to mind more forcibly the great difference there is in the many grades of collectors, regarding the extent of their collections, and the various ideas one may meet with in conversation with half-a-dozen different people, all professing to be Philatelists, are something more than curious and amusing. One perhaps is satisfied with the assistance of an old catalogue of five or six years ago, and trusts to his powers of observation to furnish him with the peculiarities of recent issues. Another may be a very ardent collector, but beyond a price catalogue for guidance when making additions to his album, uses no catalogue of reference such as we have spoken of. A third will scorn the idea of using any means for the gain of knowledge beyond the stamps themselves; while a fourth jogs along in a contented manner without the use of any sort of reference list at all. This style of thing is not to be advised, inasmuch that one man must of necessity benefit by a knowledge of his fellow-men's re-

search and examination. But, as the number of collectors increases, this class will also increase in the same proportion as it has done since the earliest days of the science. People are satisfied now-a-days with a very brief insight into the why and the wherefore of many of the ordinary points of interest in the science, which cannot fail to have an adverse effect upon its welfare at sometime or other.

Whether the newly-introduced labels, purporting to be emissions for postal use in Corea, are really genuine or not remains for time to prove. The general appearance of the 5 and 10 mon. very much resembles some of the Deccan stamps and other Indian monstrosities. The design is altogether peculiar and monotonous. In the centre of each stamp is what is thought by some to be a cockade, a sort of target in fact, composed of semicircular bands of white and colour, so arranged that the white are opposed to the coloured ones. Our province here, however, is not to describe the stamp. As in the case of the *Porte de Mar* and *Stellaland* stamps these labels may possibly prove to be the reverse of bogus, but for the present we are inclined to join issue with our Hull contemporary and await further information regarding their origin.

"Der Philatelist" has succeeded in getting hold of some very early news respecting a supposed fresh emission by Great Britain of a penny value, inscribed "Postage—One Penny," of same design as the *Inland Revenue 1d.*, converted to postal use in 1881. So far as we have been able to ascertain at present, there has been no issue of the nature described, and the only conclusion we can come to is that the worthy editor of our contemporary has, for at least once in his lifetime, committed a profound error. The announcement seems the more strange by reason of its very positive character, an illustration of the alleged new stamp accompanying the description.

Our Contemporaries.

Foreign Stamp Collectors News for April appears rather before its stated day of publication, and does great credit to its energetic proprietor.

The Philatelic Star, we are glad to see, is now improving under the sole editorship of Mr. Herdman.

The Collector—This is one of the best magazines of its kind; in the March number are some interesting notes on Philately, Coins, etc.

Received with thanks—*Philatelic Referee*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, *Universum*, *Le Commercant*, *The Dealers' Advertiser*.

Mr. J. H. Clifford has sent us one of his approval sheets; the stamps are marked at fairly low prices.

We have not any space for insertion of this month's "Caution."



BUTLER BROS.,
Oaten Hill, Canterbury.



THE 'EXCELSIOR' PACKETS

Of Used & Unused POSTAGE STAMPS,
all in good condition & warranted genuine.

- No
- 1 Contains 100 good stamps with some unused, this is the only packet containing duplicates, post free 7d.
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 - 4 Contains 12 unused stamps including Belgium, Constantinople, Dutch Indies, Italy, (estero) Alesund, Greece, &c., post free 7d.
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 - 11 Contains 100 varieties, all used, including Guatemala, Peru, Servia, Spain, St Thomas, Sweden (1 Krona) Swiss, (unpaid,) Mexico, Natal, Roumania, Venezuela, Bulgaria, Newfoundland, India (envelope,) Ceylon, Chili, Dutch Indies, Egypt, Cyprus, Belgium (obsolete,) Finland, Roman States, &c. &c. Post free 2/7.
 - 12 Contains 100 varieties of used and unused stamps including Alesund, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominica (provisional) Heligoland, Hayti, Kuroot Stoos, Maderanerthal, Thurn & Taxis, Guatemala, Orange Free State, Cyprus, Persia, Liberia Rigi Belap, Chili, Ceylon, Dutch Indies, &c., &c. Post Free 5/1
 - 13 Contains 100 varieties of used and unused stamps including Angola, Argentine Republic, Azores, Bermuda, Sarawak, Shanghai, Turkey, Sirmoor, Maderanerthal Livonia, Gambia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Liberia, Portuguese India, Nicaragua (1870) Constantinople, Salvador, (1st issue) Mexico, Kuroot Stoos, Jhind, Peru, Italy, (Estero,) Chili, Bosnia, Hawaii &c., &c. Post Free 7/7
 - 14 Contains 100 varieties of used and unused stamps including Transvaal (1879) Bhopal, Deccan, Spain (Don Carlos,) Paraguay, Venezuela, Mexico, Canada (Registered 5c) China, Ionian Islands, Rigi Belap, Hanover, Roumelia, Angola, Sarawak, Trinidad (provisional,) Orange Free State, (3d. on 5/-) very scarce, Persian Service, Rare Dominica Republic (provisional,) Bulgaria, Levant, Iceland, Fiji, Persia, British Honduras, Gambia, Uruguay, Guatemala (1877) Peru (Chilian Arms) United States (Agriculture,) Turkey (Morton's letter post) Holland unpaid (1 Gulden) Spain, Mexico, (Porte de Mar) Many of the stamps in this packet are worth from 1/- to 2/6 each and to purchase all separately would cost about four times the amount asked. Post Free 10/7.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JUN.

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Who buy them own that, at the price,
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Excelsior.

Try one, to prove their sterling worth,
Then, since Philately had birth,
Admit if you have ever met,
One packet equal to them yet.

Excelsior.

Don't stay your search, still do your best,
Then say on whom does merit rest.
Ours was the challenge, yours the try ;
To us returned, you buy with joy.

Excelsior.

All worthless imitations shun
That love the dark, but hate the sun ;
Our "packs," like roses, pink and nice.
We blazon with our own device.

Excelsior.

And day by day they're better known,
Nor does one buyer e'er disown
To join the strain that sweeps the sky,
All competition they defy.

Excelsior.

And all in distant lands who live,
Please try the kind that Butlers' give ;
Our stamps at home are all known true—
We want this equal praise from you.

Excelsior.

Our packets, in their proud position,
Are rocks 'gainst waves of competition ;
Not flattery them, 'Excelsior' calls,
But truth from off her rampart walls.

Excelsior.

See list of 'Excelsior' Stamp Packets on other page.

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Butlers'

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MAY, 1885.

No. 3, Vol. 1.

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	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Africa West, Gold Coast, Lagos and S. Leone	1 6	10 0	France, 1876, 1 franc, sage green	0 3	1 8
Antigua, assorted	1 0	8 0	French Colonies, two issues, extra good	0 5	3 0
Argentine Republic, extra good	0 6	3 6	Gold Coast, Lagos and Sierra Leone, assorted	1 6	10 0
Australian Colonies (4) ½d., 1d., 2d.	0 3	0 11	Great Britain, 1d. obs. (one million 135s.)	—	0 1
Australian Colonies, 7 colonies	0 4	1 3	Great Britain, ½d., 1½d., 7½d.	0 2	0 9
Austria, old issue, assorted	0 3	1 9	" higher values, extra good	0 5	2 6
" assorted	0 2	0 10	Great Britain, finely assorted	—	0 3
" new issue, assorted	0 3	1 9	" 1884, assorted	0 3	2 0
Austrian-Italy, extra good	0 4	1 11	" registered envelopes entire	0 6	3 0
Baden, extra good	0 6	3 0	Greece, extra fine	0 4	1 6
Barbadoes, 1d., light blue	0 3	1 6	Grenada, including new issue	0 11	6 6
" 1d., dark blue, without value	0 5	3 3	Guatemala, assorted	1 9	—
Barbadoes, ½d., 4d., 6d.	0 10	7 6	Hanover, 1gr. head	0 4	—
" ½d., and 1d., two issues, assorted	0 4	1 9	Hawaii, 1c., rose	0 8	5 0
Bavaria, well assorted	0 1	0 4	Hayti, well assorted	1 8	12 6
Belgium, well assorted	0 1	0 4	Holland, extra good	0 1	0 4
" old issue	0 3	1 9	" old issue	0 3	2 0
Bermuda, 1d., rose	0 5	3 0	Hong Kong, well assorted	0 7	3 9
" other values, assorted	1 3	10 0	Hungary, extra good	0 1	0 4
Bosnia, assorted	0 11	5 6	" envelop. green and pink	0 3	1 9
Brazil	0 4	1 11	India, well assorted	0 2	0 6
" 4 issues, very superior	0 6	3 0	" new issue	0 4	2 3
" 1883 and 1884 only	0 8	5 0	" 1 rupee, old and present issue	0 5	2 9
British Guiana, 1c., 2c., assorted	0 4	1 10	India, O. H. M. S., assorted	0 3	1 0
Bulgaria, old and new issue, extra good	0 11	5 6	Italy, extra fine	0 1	0 4
Canada, assorted	0 1	0 5	" official, assorted	0 2	0 8
" 2c., registered	0 3	1 3	" " 2c. surcharged, well assorted	0 3	1 0
Cape of Good Hope, 1d. and 4d., assorted	0 2	0 11	Jamaica, 1d., 2d., assorted	0 2	0 10
Cape of Good Hope, other values	0 8	5 0	" 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s.	1 0	7 0
" " ½d. and 2d.	0 5	2 0	Japan, 5 sorts	0 5	2 6
Central America, extra good	2 0	15 0	Levant, well assorted	0 10	6 0
Ceylon, 2c., 4c., 4c.	0 4	1 11	Lombardy, extra good	0 4	1 11
" extra good	0 6	3 9	Luxemburg, assorted	0 2	0 9
Chili, 5c., two issues	0 4	1 11	Mexico, 25c., blue	0 7	4 4
" 1, 2, 5, 10, three issues, extra good	0 9	5 0	" extra good	1 0	8 0
Columbia, well assorted	1 6	10 0	Natal, 1d., rose	0 4	2 9
Coloniais,	0 3	0 11	Newfoundland, 3c., blue	0 6	3 11
" extra good	0 5	3 0	" extra good 7 sorts	0 11	6 6
" 50 varieties	—	1 6	New South Wales, 1d., 2d., ass.	0 2	0 10
" 100	—	2 6	" surcharged, o.s.	1 3	10 0
Costa Rica, assorted	2 0	—	New South Wales, 4d., 6d., 1s.	0 6	4 0
Cuba, many varieties	0 5	3 0	New Zealand, ½d., 1d., 2d.	0 2	0 10
Denmark, assorted	0 1	0 3	Nicaragua, new issue, well ass.	2 6	18 0
" 1864, assorted, skillings	0 2	0 8	Norway, well assorted	0 2	0 6
Danish West Indies, assorted	0 10	6 6	Orange Free States, well assorted	0 10	6 0
Dutch Indies, well assorted	0 3	1 9	Peru, extra good, assorted	0 10	7 0
Egypt, 1872, assorted	0 5	3 0	" 1 dinero, red, green	1 6	11 0
Egypt, 1879, asorted	0 3	1 9	Porto Rico, assorted	0 8	5 6
Finland extra good	0 3	1 6	Portugal, extra good	0 3	0 10
Fiscals, great variety, assorted	0 5	2 6	" red	0 2	0 8
France, well assorted	0 1	0 3	Prussia, head and eagle, well ass.	0 3	1 9
" 5000 4s., 10,000 7s. 6d., 50,000 33/s.	—	—	Queensland, two issues	0 3	1 0
			Roumania, extra good	0 3	0 9

THE PHILATELIC OBSERVER.

	Per doz.		Per 100	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Russia, well assorted	0 1	0 4		
" new issue	0 5	3 0		
Sardinia, assort-d	0 4	2 6		
Saxony, extra good	0 8	4 9		
Servia, well assorted	0 5	2 9		
South Australia, 1d., 2d.	0 3	0 10		
Spain, well ass., many issues	0 2	0 6		
" 1 peseta, assort-d, 5 sorts	0 8	4 0		
" old and rare obsolete	0 10	6 0		
South American, extra good	0 8	5 0		
" 20 varieties, very fine	—	6 0		
South American, 30 varieties, very fine	—	8 0		
St. Christ, St. Vincent, St. Thomas	0 11	7 6		
Straits Settlement, well assorted	0 8	4 9		
Sweden, well assorted	0 2	0 4		
" official, well assorted	0 3	1 5		
" losen	0 9	7 0		
Switzerland, well assorted	0 1	0 4		

	Per doz.		Per 100	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Switzerland new issue	0 4	—		
" unpaid letter, incl. 500	1 9	—		
" envelope, assorted	0 3	1 9		
Ta-manna, 1d., 2d. assorted	0 3	1 6		
Transvaal, ass., incl. surcharge	2 3	—		
Trinidad, 1d., red obsolete	0 6	3 6		
" 1d., red, 1883	0 5	3 3		
" other values, assorted	0 10	7 0		
Turkey, well assorted	0 3	1 8		
United States, well assorted	0 1	0 4		
" new issue	0 4	2 0		
" Treasury, well ass.	0 5	2 9		
" War, 3, 6	0 6	3 0		
" extra good	0 8	4 6		
Venezuela, 1874-1882, extra good	1 0	7 0		
Victoria, assorted	0 2	0 6		
Western Australia, 1d., 2d., ass.	0 5	2 3		
West Indian, superior, 1/2d., 1, 2, 4d.	0 10	5 6		
Wurtemberg, well assorted	0 2	0 6		
" service	0 5	3 0		

Fifties and Five Hundreds supplied at Hundred and Thousand Rates.

CONTINENTALS, ETC.

No.	per 1000		5000	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
4. Many varieties	0 4	1 6		
3. " without 10pf., red, German	0 7	2 6		
2. Superior, no German or Bavarian, many Holland, Belgium, Denmark, &c.	1 3	5 9		
1. Extra fine, without French, German, or Bavarian, incl. Finland, Roumania, Canada, Russia, Spain &c.	2 6	11 6		
A. 1. As imported, above 120 varieties, without 10 pf. red German, or 20pf. blue Bavarian	1 0	4 9		
One million No. 4, £ 12; one million No. 3, £ 18; No. 2, £ 30.				
5. Denmark, Sweden, Norway, only	2 3	10 0		
6. France, Holland, and Belgium, only	1 0	4 9		
7. Austria, Hungary, and Swiss, only	2 0	9 6		
8. Canada, United States, Spain, and Russia	2 6	11 6		

No.	£	s.	d.
23. 500 Continentals, same as No. 3	3 0	0 4	
24. 500 " " "	5 0	1 3	
25. 500 " " "	6 0	0 7	
26. 500 " " "	7 0	1 2	
27. 500 " " "	8 0	1 4	

Cheap Variety Packets.

Cheap Packets.

9. 500 extra fine, same as No 1., for...	0 1	5
11. 500 superior, same as No. 2	0 0	8
13. 500 as imported same as A 1, about 50-60 var.	0 0	7
13b. 500 as imported same as AA 1, about 80 var.	0 0	9
No.	£	s. d.
14. 1000 Colonial, well ass., incl. Barbadoes, Trinidad, British Guiana, Australian Colonies, &c, for	0 8	6
15. 500 same as No. 14.	0 4	6
16. 250 " " "	0 2	6
17. 100 " " "	0 1	3
18. 1000 South America, incl. Peru, Bolivia, Columbia, Chili, Argentine &c.	2 17	6
19. 500 same as No. 18.	1 10	0
20. 250 " " "	0 16	0
21. 100 " " "	0 7	0
22. 1000 none European, about 15 countries	0 6	6
500 ditto, same as No. 22.	0 3	6
250 " " "	0 2	0
100 " " "	0 1	0

37. 6 none European, all different, incl. unused	0 0	1
38. 12 ditto ditto	0 0	2
39. 20 ditto ditto	0 0	4
40. 30 ditto ditto	0 0	6
41. 50 ditto ditto	0 1	0
42. 100 ditto ditto	0 2	6
43. 200 ditto ditto	0 9	6
44. 300 ditto ditto	1 6	0
45. 400 ditto ditto	2 10	0
46. 6 West Indian, all different, incl. unused	0 0	3
47. 12 ditto ditto	0 0	8
48. 20 ditto ditto	0 1	6
49. 30 ditto ditto	0 2	9
50. 50 ditto ditto	0 5	6
51. 100 ditto ditto	0 15	0
52. 6 South American, all different, incl. unused	0 0	3
53. 12 ditto ditto	0 0	6
54. 20 ditto ditto	0 1	3
55. 30 ditto ditto	0 2	3
56. 50 ditto ditto	0 4	6
57. 100 ditto ditto	0 13	0

Large Variety Packets, or Fine Collections of Used and Unused, and extending in the largest over about 200 Countries.

No.	£	s.	d.
101. 25	0 0	2	
102. 50	0 0	4	
103. 75	0 0	6	
104. 100	0 0	9	
105. 150	0 1	6	
106. 200	0 2	3	
107. 300	0 4	6	
108. 500	0 7	0	
109. 750	0 12	0	
110. 1000	1 12	6	
111. 1500	3 10	0	
112. 2000	7 0	0	
113. 3000	25 0	0	
114. 4000	60 0	0	
115. 5000	150 0	0	
116. 6000	400 0	0	

READ THIS! READ THIS!
GIVEN AWAY £300

				£
1	Grand Cash Gift	...	...	50
2	"	...	...	20
10	Collections of Foreign Stamps containing	...	1000	£ 10 each
	varieties	...	...	£ 5 each
10	Pairs Mulready Envelopes	...	...	£ 1 each
40	Packets rare sets Foreign Stamps	...	...	10/- "
40	"	...	...	5/- "
40	"	...	...	2/6 "
200	Rare Sets ...	...	...	1/- "
100	Packets rare Stamps	...	...	2/- "
100	"	...	...	1/- "
200	" Beautiful Scraps	...	...	1/- "
100	Splendid Photo Albums ...	...	...	5/- "
100	" Stamp "	...	...	4/- "
100	" Scrap "	...	...	4/- "
100	Views of London	...	...	3/- "
100	Pocket Books ...	...	...	3/- "
100	Penknives	...	...	1/- "

We offer **£300** in prizes varying from £ 50 to 1s consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the packets mentioned below, the distribution to take place November 1st 1885. If we obtain the requisite number before that date, the award will take place sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused and other scarce stamps. Post free, 1/2. Abroad, 1/5.

No. 2. A collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps all different many Rare. Post free. 1/1. Abroad, 1/3.

No. 3. Consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps of various designs. Post free, 1/-. Abroad, 1/2.

We refrain from mentioning the stamps packets will include as owing to the immense number that will be sold. The packet will be continually varying. We can however guarantee that the packets alone will be worth the money. The **Prizes** simply being offered as an inducement to patronize us on a future occasion.

Special Notice.—Any person sending remittances for 5 packets will receive 6 packets and 6 receipts.

Please Note.—We must have number required before distribution can take place.

Remittance to be made by P.O.O. or Penny Stamps.

Papers please send rate for 6 Insertions of this Advertisement.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON,

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

50, Amberley Road, Harrow Rd., LONDON

BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

MAY, 1885.

We have received of late a great deal of correspondence from dealers in favour of the proposed "Dealers Protection Association." Many of the correspondents seem to find it a source of relief in writing long letters to lay all their past and present woes before us, few have come forward to offer assistance. It certainly does appear strange that through all the agitation that has been filling the press on this subject Dealers are slow to take advantage of so favourable an opportunity. It is however certain that the time has now come when a stop must be put to the practices of the increasing number of the Defrauders. There is but one way by which it can be done, that is co-operation.

* * * * *

That it will meet a long felt want is admitted, but should a Society be formed, and we hope it will, it will not be the slightest use to go half way. What is needed is a Society that will stand. In the past few years many societies have started, though why they are not now existing is a question requiring no deep penetration. Considering the large number of dealers there now are, and the willingness of many to do something for their own protection, surely the remedy should be easy.

* * * * *

Unless dealers take advantage of the present opportunity, they must not expect Editors of Magazines to continue to devote valuable space to this movement

* * * * *

The new Post Office Protection Act does not appear to do much good. Some short time since were advertised 5 Bolivia 1868, 9d., 9 Shanghai 10d., 3 Buenos Ayres 1860, 9d., 3 Ionian Islands 8d., (all forgeries). This will perhaps prove to collectors the necessity of buying of dealers who have a reputation at stake.

New Issues.

Barbados.—The colour of the current Fourpence has been changed.

Adhesive 4d. red-brown.

Ceylon.—Another addition to the many surcharges has appeared.

Provisional Adhesive 5 cents, in black or 96 cents, drab; wmk. C.C. and Crown.

Dominican Republic.—Following is a description of the new stamps as given by *The Philatelic World*: "Shield in centre, with usual arms and branches at side; below, on a scroll, DIOS. PATRIA. LIBERTADI; above, on a curved label, REPUBLICA, and on a straight label, DOMINICANA. In the 1, 2, and 5c. the value is in two lines in letters at the bottom and in large figures, in rectangles, in the lower corners. The 10c. and 20c. are the same, except that the value at the bottom is on a scroll-shaped label in the ends of which are the figures of value."

Adhesives, 1c., green; perf. 12.

2c., red ,,

5c., blue ,,

10c., orange,,

20c., brown ,,

Ecuador.—The 50 centavos has been surcharged OFICIAL.

Official adhesive 50 centavos, green, black surcharge.

Montserrat.—The colour of the Twopence-half-penny has been changed

Adhesive 2½ blue; wmk C.A. and crown; perf 14.

Natal.—The current One Penny has been surcharged in block type in two lines ^{ONE HALF} _{PENNY} the original value is obliterated by a stroke.

Provisional Adhesive ½d., black surcharge on 1d., rose; wmk C.A. and crown.

Peru.—The following stamps have been surcharged with a triangle of a new type.

Adhesives 20c., carmine, purple black surcharge

Unpaid letter stamps 5c., red ,, ,,

10c., yellow ,, ,,

50c., brown ,, ,,

Sungei Ujong.—The current 2 cents. Straits Settlements has been surcharged in Italics in two lines: *Sungei Ujong.*

Adhesive 2 cents, rose, black surcharge; wmk C.A. and Crown.

St. Vincent.—Mr. A. Myerscouch informs us he has received the ordinary 2½ (surcharged) with the 2½ pence crossed through by two bars and 1d. surcharged above, all in black, from the impression at the back it appears to have been done with a hand stamp.

Provisional Adhesive 1d. surcharged or provisional 2½, black surcharge.

Trinidad.—Mr. Myerscouch has also shown us the ordinary 1d. newsband with the surcharge HALF-PENNY in black.

Provisional Newsband $\frac{1}{2}$ d. black surcharge on 1d. carmine.

Timor.—Macao stamps surcharged "TIMOR" for this Portuguese settlement are being used the surcharge being in black letters.

Adhesives 20r., carmine

25r., violet

80r., grey lilac

New Zealand.—Special wrappers are now in use for franking The New Zealand Gazette to Justices of the Peace. The wrappers are on white and blue paper, above are the words ON PUBLIC SERVICE ONLY, then the Royal Arms; and below: NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE, then two parallel lines, EXEMPT FROM POSTAGE being printed between.

Spain.—During a scarcity in Barcelona of the 5 centimos cards a provisional card appeared. Three lines from the border, in the corners are stars and in three lines is inscribed ESPANA TARJETA POSTAL PROVISORIO *Por no haber en venta de las de 5 centimos.* For the address are three dotted lines, the first headed by Sr. D, the third by *en*, below is *A qui solo va la direccion—Enero de 1885.* It is without a stamp but having a rectangular frame in the right upper corner, on which 5 centimos is printed.

We shall be much obliged if correspondents will give us any information about new issues they obtain. If possible the stamps should be sent us, they will be carefully returned and postage refunded.

History of Post Office.

Continued.

Shakespeare used the words "post" and "carrier" as synonymous. As these carriers travelled the journey through with the same horses, this mode of transmission must have been very slow, yet it was for long the only conveyance available by the public. Government posts—*i.e.*, relays of horses and men under control of Government—were not established till nearly two centuries later; but as early as the time of Edward II., horses were kept by private individuals for hire, so that a messenger might travel post, *i.e.*, by relays; and as "*Haste, post, haste,*" is found

written on the backs of private letters at the close of the 15th century, it may be inferred that the use of this mode of conveyance was not restricted to the correspondence of Government. In 1481, when Edward IV. was pursuing his Scottish wars, he established relays of horses 20 miles apart between York and Edinburgh, by which letters were conveyed 200 miles in three days. In 1548, the charge for post-horses impressed for the service of the Crown was fixed by Statute at one penny per mile. There seems to be no evidence of the *existence* of any system for conveying the letters of the public during the reign of Elizabeth, although posts for forwarding the public despatches were doubtless *organised*, inasmuch as one Thomas Randolph is mentioned by Camden as being Chief Postmaster of England in 1581; and it appears that in Ireland the first horse-posts were established in this reign during O'Neil's wars, for the purpose of bringing intelligence of military events. In the reign and by the direction of James I., the first post was established by Government to foreign countries: it is described as being "for the benefit of English merchants." As early as 1514, the alien merchants residing in London had established a post-office of their own from London to the outposts, appointing from time to time their own Postmasters; but in 1568 a quarrel arose among them, the Spaniards appointing one Postmaster and the Flemings another. The dispute was referred to Government, the English merchants also appear to have presented a petition in the matter, explaining that this post acted unfairly towards them by keeping back their letters, etc., and so giving the foreigners the advantage of the markets. The issue of this dispute is not known, but it seems to explain the expression in the text. The internal correspondence was not thought worthy of consideration, and special messengers were still employed to carry the letters of State. In order to prevent the Crown couriers from loitering on the road, it was customary for each Postmaster to endorse on the despatch the hours of the courier's arrival at his post-house. A letter of 1623, from the Deputy Mayor of Plymouth to Sir Edward Conway, Secretary of State, is in existence, bearing such endorsements. The courier started from Plymouth at 11 a.m., June 17th, and arrived in London at 8 a.m. on the 19th.

The people, however, were now becoming a power in the State, and three years afterwards a series of posts for England and Scotland were

established, and conducted according to careful and judicious regulations. This was followed by the abolition of all local and private posts, and the income of the Post-office was claimed by the King. Bye-posts were soon established, running in all directions from the great main road. This new establishment was entrusted to Thomas Witherings, who had before been appointed Foreign Postmaster, but in 1640 he was superseded for alleged abuses in both his offices, which were sequestered, and thenceforth were under the care and superintendance of the principal Secretary of State. From this time the Post-office may be considered to have become one of the settled institutions of the country. The object of the Crown in establishing this letter-post was probably quite as much the foundation of a profitable monopoly as the accommodation of the public.

In 1683 a London District Penny Post was set on foot, as an adventure, by an upholsterer, named Robert Murray, and was made over by him to William Dockwra. This was denounced by the ultra-Protestant party as a contrivance of the Jesuits, and it was alleged that if the bags were examined they would be found full of Popish plots. Nevertheless, Dockwra seems to have conducted his undertaking with success for some years, till its profits excited the envy of Government, who seized it on the ground of its being an infringement of the rights of the Crown. In 1685 Dockwra was appointed Comptroller of the Penny Post Department, which was kept distinct from the General Post Office, but in 1698 he was dismissed with a pension.

In 1685 the revenue of the Post Office, which in 1663 had been conferred on the Duke of York, now that that Prince had succeeded to the throne, was settled on the King, his heirs, and successors, the amount then being estimated at £65,000 a year.

(To be continued).

“En Passant.”

It is wonderful to realize that in the space of less than half a century Sir Rowland Hill's invention should have assumed such vast proportions and become almost a universal institution. Cheap postage has not only resulted in its adoption by almost every civilized people, but its quick developement has led to the establishment in those countries of the telegraph and telephone business and other means of communication, now

closely related to the penny post! It is needless to touch upon the voluminous reports and statistics regarding these relatives and adjuncts of postal business, with which we are not so interested perhaps, but the facts recently published concerning the Post Offices of the world are worthy of note by collectors. The figures are adjusted to Dec. 1883 the compilers finding it entirely out of all question to attempt to bring them to a later date. In Europe alone there were 65,500 receiving offices, 41,500, telegraph offices and 225,000 wall letter boxes. The total number of persons employed by the various post offices was 356,000, and in the 12 months there were transmitted 3,683,000,000 letters, 546,000,000 postcards 1,046,000,000 books and parcels, 1,672,000,000 newspapers and 117,000,000 telegrams the gross weight of the matter sent through the post being estimated at about 800,000 tons. Then people wonder where all the stamps are used.

* * * * *

Our remarks respecting the security of the Post Office as a means of transit for articles of value have been taken up by our Bury contemporary. A writer in that journal confines himself more especially to the question as touching philatelic interest and appears to regard it not so much of vital import to the commercial world generally. We claim the attention of the Government to this question not only on the score that stamp collectors and dealers would immensely benefit by a more liberal assurance in case of loss, inasmuch that they are at a bad discount under the present arrangements, but because we believe the nation is in need of a safer method for the transmission of articles more than ordinarily valuable.

* * * * *

We have some recollection of having seen years ago, in one of the then stamp papers, a rough scheme of our present parcels post, realized by the late Post Master General. The idea was admittedly crude, but from what we remember of it, there was certainly the basis of our new system of carrying parcels by post. It may be hoped then, that the question of greater assurance to the public on the part of the post office when entrusted with articles of more than £2 in value, having first been mooted in the philatelic press, the day is not long distant when this will have also become one of the benefits of the postal administration of this empire.

* * * * *

The past three months have been singularly marked by the comparatively small number of newly issued stamps. Just now there seems to be a dearth of novelties. It is calculated that about one fifth only of the usual number have come to hand since Jan. 1st. No cause can be attributed to this except that stamp-issuing countries as a body, are gradually nearing the millenium in the matter of providing satisfactory stamps for their individual uses. This would not appear to be the case with Great Britain where the provision of serviceable labels is at present assuming the proportions of very grave difficulty.

* * * * *

What may be termed genuine provisionals are the 1c. United States *unpaid* letter stamps issued on the afternoon of Feb. 14th, 1885,—Saint Valentine's day. The Americans have of course found a name for them and in two dealer's catalogues we find them quoted as Saint Valentine's provisionals. It appears that the post office at Bergen Point N.J. ran short of one cent postage stamps on account of the increased number of letters and packages consequent upon the popular method of observing that day. We are informed that about 60 of these unpaid stamps had been provisionally used when a fresh supply came to hand, so that these few labels (as used) will become very rare, and soon may be numbered amongst the unattainables. In connection with this we warn our readers not to purchase *any* that may be offered, unless accompanied by the original envelope, and even in that case great caution must be observed.

* * * * *

In the event of Lord John Manner's amendment, for admitting the addresses free on the new sixpenny telegrams, being successful Mr. Shaw Lefevre will probably abandon the bill until next session. This will delay the passing of the measure fully twelve months.

* * * * *

In 1882 there were only about 50 stamp collectors and dealers in Cyprus. In 1884, that number had increased to 300 and probably now there are many more.

* * * * *

A great deal of comment is made in recent issues of several American Journals, relative to the admission of Hamburg and other locals into collections. The question has been the round of the English press long

ago: but the album publishers in the States seem to provoke the American citizens by the ever present spaces for these labels. No publisher there deems his album complete without a few pages devoted to them.

A paragraph appears in the current number of the *Collector*, respecting some alleged frauds by a letter carrier in the employ of the post office at Llandudno. It is a case of very great interest to stamp dealers and we have taken the liberty to quote the gist of it. Two firms, one of which is very well known have suffered from the fraudulent proceedings of this man and it is very probable the business he had so neatly devised, and was as neatly carrying into effect would not have been discovered but for a very trivial incident. A Mr. Haseldon of Llandudno wrote to Messrs. J. H. Lacey, & Co., for some stamps on approval but these, although forwarded in the usual way failed to reach the applicant. This was shewn by a postcard from Mr. Haseldon stating he had not yet received the stamps asked for on Feb. 3rd. Inquiries were instituted and the dishonest postman was brought to book. The evidence before the magistrates went to show that the prisoner had written a letter to Messrs. Lacey & Co. previously, which purported to come from St. Cuthbert School at Llandudno, and asking for "really good stamps" for prizes to pupils instead of books—a very plausible reason. The stamps were sent per registered post, and as subsequently proved were signed for by the prisoner himself on whose round was the address in question. After other evidence had been taken the prisoner was committed for trial on two charges of larceny the Recorder remarking that the evidence did not warrant a committal for false pretences with which the prisoner was originally charged.

Our Contemporaries.

The Philatelic Star for May is interesting and greatly improved.

The Foreign Stamp Collectors' News for May, contains some well written and useful articles.

The Oldham Philatetical Times is a new venture published by Greaves Rothwell & Co.

The Collector (Hull), as usual is full of information.

Received with thanks—*The Hermes, Welt Post, Philatetical Exchange, Le Commerçant, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung, The Philatetical Courier, Collectors' Companion, Canadian Philatelist.*

We would draw our readers special attention to an offer of Messrs. Ferguson's in our advertising pages.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JUN.

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DEALER IN POSTAGE STAMPS,

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BALTIMORE, Md., U.S.A.

ALL KINDS OF STAMPS BOUGHT
FOR PROMPT CASH.

ALL DEALERS are requested to send
me their WHOLESALE LIST.

 Good Offers always Welcome.

Philatelic Papers please copy this Adver-
tisement, and send in Bill.

To DEALERS.

At the following low prices we can
offer

	Per doz.	Per 100
	d.	s. d.
Porto Rico 1884 ½ mil., unused	3	1 3
" " 1882 ½ mil., "	3	1 3
Hamburg 1½ & 2½ sk., "	4	2 3
Newfoundland 3c. used	6	3 3
Italy, 2c. on officials, used	2	0 10
Cape of Good Hope, used ass.	3	1 0
Spain 1 mil., 1870 used	3	1 3
" used assorted	0	0 6
" ½c., green, unused	2	0 9
Cyprus ½p. used	5	3 0
Greece 1 lept., unused	3	1 5
Switzerland, <i>Ausser Kurs</i> 2c.	3	1 0
" " 3c.	3	1 6
Canada, used assorted	0	0 6
Argentine, 12c., provisional type perforated or unperforated	0	4 6

BUTLER BROS.,

Foreign Stamp Merchants,
CANTERBURY.

ESTABLISHED * A.D. 1881.

THE PHILATELIC STAR

This is a Bi-monthly Journal devoted
to the Science of Philately, and is published
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Africa West, Gold Coast, Lagos and S. Leone.....	1 6	10 0			France, 1876, 1 franc, sage green	0 3	1 8		
Antigua, assorted.....	1 0	8 0			French Colonies, two issues, extra good	0 5	3 0		
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Austria, old issue, assorted.....	0 3	1 9			“ higher values, extra good	0 5	2 6		
“ assorted.....	0 2	0 10			Great Britain, finely assorted.....	—	0 3		
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Bavaria, well assorted.....	0 1	0 4			Hayi, well assorted.....	1 8	12 6		
Belgium, well assorted.....	0 1	0 4			Holland, extra good.....	0 1	0 4		
“ old issue.....	0 3	1 9			“ old issue.....	0 3	2 0		
Bermuda, 1d., rose.....	0 5	3 0			Hong Kong, well assorted.....	0 7	3 9		
“ other values, assorted.....	1 3	10 0			Hungary, extra good.....	0 1	0 4		
Bosnia, assorted.....	0 11	5 6			“ envelop, green and pink	0 3	1 9		
Brazil.....	0 4	1 11			India, well assorted.....	0 2	6 6		
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“ ½d. and 2d.....	0 5	2 0			Japan, 5 sorts.....	0 5	2 6		
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Egypt, 1872, assorted.....	0 5	3 0			“ 1 dinero, red, green.....	1 6	11 0		
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" official, well assorted	0	3	1	5	Victoria, assorted	0	2	0	6
" losen	0	9	7	0	Western Australia, 1d., 2d., ass.	0	5	2	3
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110. 1000	1	12	6
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Australian	6	0	2	0	2	5	0	8
"	12	0	5	0	5	3	0	10
"	24	1	3	1	2	4	0	10
"	40	3	6	3	0	4	0	10
Antigua, ½d. to 6d. ...	4	0	7	0	7	18	1	6
Austria	10	0	5	0	4½	11	0	3
Austrian-Italy, 1850-61	7	0	6	0	6	8	0	3
Argentina, 1c. to 16c.	6	0	11	0	10½	9	0	9
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*Baden	7	0	6	0	6	12	0	3
Bavaria	8	0	4	0	4	13	0	3
" 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18 kr.	7	0	9	0	8	14	0	3
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** Brazil, 10 to 1000 reis	16	1	6	1	4	20	0	2
British Guiana ...	6	0	9	0	8	21	0	2
Bulgaria	6	0	9	0	8	22	0	2
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Costa Rica ½ and 2 reales	2	0	6	0	6	30	0	2
Costa Rica, new issue	4	1	0	0	11	31	0	2
Constantinople, 5, 20, 40 paras	3	0	5	0	5	32	0	2
Cuba	12	0	11	0	11	33	0	2
"	4	0	3	0	3	34	0	2
Colonial	12	0	5	0	4½	35	0	2
"	25	0	8	0	8	36	0	2
"	50	1	3	1	2	37	0	2
"	100	2	9	2	8	38	0	2
"	150	6	6	6	0	39	0	2
"	200	10	6	10	4	40	0	2
Denmark, 1864, 2s. 16s.	5	0	3	0	3	41	0	2
" 1875	8	0	3	0	3	42	0	2
*Dominican Republic	2	0	5	0	5	43	0	2
*Danubian Steam Navig	4	0	8	0	8	44	0	2
Dutch Indies, 1 to 50c.	5	0	6	0	6	45	0	2
Egypt, two issues	10	1	0	0	11	46	0	2
Finland	6	0	4	0	4	47	0	2
France, Empire, 1c. to 80c.	6	0	5	0	5	48	0	2
France, Republic, 1c. to 1 fr.	14	0	7	0	7	49	0	2
*France, Republic, 1c. 2c., 3c.	3	0	2	0	2	50	0	2
*Germany, Empire	11	0	6	0	6	51	0	2
" 1875, 3 to 50	7	0	2	0	2	52	0	2
*Great Britain, 1884, unused	8	3	6	3	3	53	0	2
Great Britain, ½d. to 5s. different values.	16	1	0	1	0	54	0	2
Great Br. ½d. to 10s.	50	7	0	6	9	55	0	2
" 1884, used	8	1	0	1	0	56	0	2
Greece, 1 to 40	8	0	4	0	4	57	0	2
Gold Coast, ½d. to 6d.	5	0	8	0	8	58	0	2
Guatemala, 1871, 5, 10, 20c.	3	0	10	0	9	59	0	2
Guatemala, 1875, ¼, ½, 1, 2 reales...	4	0	10	0	9	60	0	2
Hamburg, envelopes, complete	7	0	8	0	8	61	0	2
" localis	110	1	0	0	10	62	0	2
Havti	5	1	3	1	2	63	0	2
Heligoland, 1867	8	0	9	0	8	64	0	2
"	18	1	6	1	4	65	0	2
Holland, ½c. to 25c.	11	0	3	0	3	66	0	2
Hungary, incl. envelop.	8	0	3	0	3	67	0	2
" telegraph, 5, to 50	5	0	3	0	3	68	0	2
Hong Kong, incl. new issue	10	0	9	0	9	69	0	2
Honduras, 1878, head.	4	1	0	1	0	70	0	2
India	10	0	3	0	3	71	0	2
" new issue, incl. rupee	4	0	3	0	3	72	0	2
India, O.H.V.S., ½a., 1a.	2	0	2	0	2	73	0	2
Italy, 1c. to 60c.	12	0	3	0	3	74	0	2
" official, 2c. surch. on off	8	0	7	0	6	75	0	2
Jamaica, ½d. to 1s.	8	0	4	0	4	76	0	2
Japan	4	0	3	0	3	77	0	2
"	7	0	10	0	9	78	0	2
Lombardy	5	0	4	0	3½	79	0	2
Luxemburg	5	0	3	0	2½	80	0	2
Mexico	5	0	10	0	9	81	0	2
Natal	4	0	5	0	4½	82	0	2
Newfoundland ...	5	0	7	0	6	83	0	2
Norway	6	0	3	0	2½	84	0	2
Nicaragua	4	0	11	0	10	85	0	2
New Zealand, ½d. to 1s.	7	0	6	0	5½	86	0	2
Orange Free States	4	0	7	0	6	87	0	2
Peru	5	0	8	0	7½	88	0	2
Prussia, obsolete	7	0	5	0	4½	89	0	2
Porto Rico	5	0	7	0	6½	90	0	2
Portugal	5	0	2	0	2	91	0	2
"	12	0	10	0	9	92	0	2
Queensland	6	0	4	0	3½	93	0	2
Roumania	7	0	3	0	3	94	0	2
"	14	0	8	0	7	95	0	2
Russia, including new issue	7	0	4	0	3½	96	0	2
Spain, mostly old, incl. pes	12	0	3	0	2½	97	0	2
Spain, mostly old, incl. pes	20	0	9	0	8	98	0	2
Spain, mostly old, incl. pes	36	1	6	1	4	99	0	2
Spain, 1 pes 1873-1878	5	0	7	0	7	100	0	2
" 4 " 1873-1878	5	1	6	1	4	101	0	2
Sweden, 1872, 3 ore. to 1 kr.	8	0	4	0	3	102	0	2
Sweden, 1874, official 3-1 kr.	7	0	7	0	7	103	0	2
Swed cn, unpaid (losen)	8	0	10	0	9½	104	0	2
Switzerland	10	0	3	0	2½	105	0	2
" new issue	8	0	10	0	9	106	0	2
Strait Settlements	6	0	8	0	7½	107	0	2
Saxony	6	0	8	0	7½	108	0	2
* .. arms...	5	0	4	0	4	109	0	2
*Sardinia, 1858	9	0	3	0	2½	110	0	2
"	12	0	4	0	3	111	0	2
"	14	0	5	0	4	112	0	2

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100	" Scrap "	4/- "	20
100	Views of London	3/- "	15
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We refrain from mentioning stamps the packets will include as owing to the immense number that will be sold, the packet will be continually varying. We can however guarantee that the packets alone will be worth the money. The **Prizes** simply being offered as an inducement to patronize us on a future occasion.

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<i>a</i> " " 1882	1 3
<i>a</i> Hamburg $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$	2 3
<i>b</i> Newfoundland, 3c	3 3
<i>b</i> Cypus $\frac{1}{2}$ piastro	3 0
<i>b</i> Italy 2 c. on official	0 10
<i>a</i> Spain 1 mil 1870	1 3
<i>b</i> Portugal assorted	0 8
<i>b</i> Bulgaria, well assorted	4 0
<i>a</i> Argentine 12 c provisional type, perforated or unperforated	4 6
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<i>b</i> Canada ,,	0 6
<i>b</i> Roumania assorted	0 9
<i>b</i> Italy Segnatasse	2 0
<i>a</i> Persian service, per 3 sets of 4	2 0

BUTLER BROS.,

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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

JUNE 1885.

"En Passant."

As an interesting feature to this Magazine, it has been decided to open a correspondence column—questions to be asked and answered by subscribers. All questions must relate to Philately.

* * * *

The Dealers' Protection Association does not make great progress. To assist towards its formation, any dealer willing to become a subscribing member, should at once send in his name either to Mr. Edwin England, Lorne Street, Hull, or to Messrs. Butler Bros., Canterbury, who are prepared to give all the assistance that lies in their power to promote the formation of an association.

* * * *

The Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Post Office (Sites) Bill gave their decision on the 20th ulto, with regard to that part of the bill which authorizes the Post Master General to acquire lands adjoining the existing buildings at St. Martins-le-Grand, in order to extend the accommodation for the discharge of business. A rival scheme, involving the purchase of a site belonging to Christ's Hospital presents more frontage than the official plan; but it is alleged by the Post Office authorities that it would be more expensive and would impede efficiency in working. The Committee determined to pass the Post Office scheme, at same time making provision for the protection of the Gaslight, New River and other Companies and firms whose rights of way, the carrying out of the scheme will necessarily in some measure interfere with.

* * * *

The death of the Dowager Queen Emma of Hawaii is announced as having taken place on the 25th ulto. Her portrait is familiar to us as adorning the 1c, 15c, and 1 dollar of the 1882-3 issues of Hawaii. She was the widow of Kamehameha IV, who died in 1863, and was the daughter of an Englishwoman and a native chief. When the present King Kalakaua was elected in the year 1872, on the death of Kamehameha V, Queen Emma contested his election and a civil war was threatened; but opposition to the new king ceased on his recognition by Queen Victoria. Queen Emma arrived in England on a visit in July 1865 and left in July 1866.

The Philatelic science is represented at the Alexandra Palace, by a prominent London firm.

The national memorial to the late Post-master General, Mr. H. Fawcett is to take the form of (1) a tablet in Westminster Abbey; (2) a scholarship tenable by a blind person at any University; and (3) the promotion of the higher education of the blind in connection with the Royal Normal College and the Academy of Music at Norwood.

A movement is on foot in Chicago with a view to organize a Company whose business will be the buying and selling of Stamps, on an extended scale. Unity is admittedly strength, but whether this synonym will prove a practical guide to a business in Stamps remains to be seen. We have in mind the failure of the *New Jersey Philatelist* Publishing Co., which we take it, may be instanced for uses of argument, on account of its close relationship to the subject before us; and which if not actually a financial failure, at least found it impossible to continue the publication of the journal from which it took its name. However the one thing needful to a firm of Stamp dealers, viz. Capital—may more readily be found, where there are a number of people interested in the venture, and on this account the Chicago Society, if it eventually comes into existence, should find business not so difficult to obtain, as it is too often the case where a small capital is only available.

The projected scheme for the amalgamation of all the West Indian Colonies for postal purposes, has fallen through; and in connection with this announcement, we think it will not be out of place to remind

our readers of the little tumult of voices of aggrieved philatelists which occurred when the details of the scheme were first promulgated. It was alleged that its propositions if carried into effect, would practically do away with the choice variety of our West Indian Colonies' stamps, which was merely the truth, and to the grumblers a most serious thing from a philatelic stand-point. The original scheme has however, been abandoned, much to the satisfaction of those scientists who thought fit to take exception to the proposal: but we notice that Messrs. De La Rue's stock-dies are accommodated to the uses of each Colony, so that the Grenada penny value is simply a copy of the penny stamp in use in Trinidad with the name of the latter Colony extracted, and Grenada put in its place.

* * * *

Some well-executed forgeries of the 1853 issue of Spain are being offered, particularly the 1 Cuatro of that issue, which stamp is catalogued at 10s., although we believe it is difficult to obtain a genuine copy at that figure.

New Issues.

Jamaica.—The following stamps have undergone a change of colour—thus:

Adhesive	½d.,	pale green
„	1d.,	rose
„	2d.,	grey

Mexico.—An issue of official cards has occurred, bearing on the left the arms of Mexico, TARJETA CARTA in upper centre; *Debe abrirse cortas puntos* below.

Official cards (without expressed value),	single,	green on white card
„	„	blue „
„	„	carmine „
„	reply,	green „
„	„	blue „
„	„	carmine „

Natal.—Lately post-cards of two values have appeared:

Post cards,	½d.,	brown, on pale buff card
	1d.,	carmine, „

Persia.—New stamps of the following values have been issued.

In size they are not larger than the English 1d. adhesive.

Adhesive 1 Shahi, emerald green, on white wove paper

2	„	rose	„
5	„	purple	„
10	„	brown	„
1	Kran,	grey	„

St. Lucia.—A new fourpence has appeared.

Adhesive 4d., bistre, wmk. C.A. and Crown.

St. Christopher.—The sixpence has been surcharged in two lines

FOUR
PENCE in Roman capitals. The one penny has been cut in two obliquely, and each half surcharged, Halfpenny, in small type.

Provisional adhesives ½d., black surcharge on half of 1d., rose

4d., „ „ on Sixpence, green

Great Britain.—The current One Shilling adhesive has been surcharged in black letters 1 R
OFFICIAL

Azores.—The following stamps have been surcharged with small type:

Adhesives 20 reis, carmine, black surcharge

25 „ brown „

50 „ blue „

Jhind.—British Indian stamps surcharged à la Puttialla, are now in use in this State.

A Subscriber informs us, a short time ago he purchased a set of Italian 1853, 5c. green, 20c. blue, and 40c. red, but on examination the supposed 5c. was found to be a 40c. Our informant assures us that it is beyond doubt a genuine stamp, and bears a postmark! “14 Ap. 1854.” As in no catalogue a 40c. green is mentioned, we shall be much obliged to any dealer or collector who can give us any information on the subject.

Fiscals.--A word about them.

† By DINERO.

Without any desire to depreciate the value of Fiscal labels, I propose in a few remarks to urge Collectors either to leave them alone altogether or collect them in an album by themselves, do not add a single fiscal to your collection if you wish to have a collection for your friends to

admire. Fiscal Labels as far as their intrinsic value goes are as valuable as Postage labels, for without the *mania* for collecting Postage stamps they would be as much despised and help to fill up the waste paper basket a great deal faster than the Fiscals.

Possibly many people collect Fiscals, Postage stamps, News bands, and Post cards all in one album, how many of these have a really good collection to show their friends? usually such collections are without any specimen of value and contain a lot of torn and damaged stamps, the collector not being able to devote sufficient time to his collection to make it worth having. Young collectors have a great liking for large fiscals, why, I cannot imagine, perhaps they help to fill up an album easily or it may be upon the boyish principle of getting as much in quantity as one can, whether it be in the form of stamps or candy, quality disregarded.

I myself, cannot see much beauty in a collection of Law, Tobacco, and other kindred stamps, all mixed up with postage labels, there is not the least bit of uniformity in them; this alone should be a powerful argument to induce collectors to either leave them alone or to do as I have already suggested.

Collectors of Fiscals have however one thing in their favour, Fiscal labels are fast going out of date, one label being made to do duty for both fiscal and postal purposes and it may be in years to come the stamps they have collected will fetch long prices, many fiscals will never be rare, at least for a long time, too many of them having been used.

Unless a Collector has a very long purse, he will do well to leave either Fiscal or Postal labels alone, to collect both will cost him a lot of money and time, and even then I am sure he will not get a good collection of either. Just fancy a person collecting old china, coins, fiscals, postage stamps, birds eggs, crests, monograms and autographs, well it is just possible his friends might consider him sane but certainly most people would say he was not capable of taking care of himself, not perhaps be very wrong either.

Now in conclusion let me urge upon collectors the absolute necessity to make up their minds to do one thing at a time and remember that *If a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well*, if my remarks are considered I am certain collectors will leave either Fiscal or Postage labels alone, but my advice is to collect Postage labels.

History of Post Office.

(Continued.)

IN 1708 an attempt was made by a Mr. Povey to establish a $\frac{1}{2}$ d post in opposition to the official 1d. post, but the enterprise, like Docwra's, was suppressed by a law-suit.

Up till 1720 the cross-posts were but imperfectly organised; places out of the ordinary roads suffered by the delay. Ralph Allen, of Bath, proposed to remodel the system, and procured from Government a lease of the system for his life, for £6,000 a year. He lived 40 years after his bargain, and so managed to improve the bye-posts that he made an annual profit of £12,000. He, however, deserved it, for he greatly improved the country districts, and spent his gains on works of charity and princely hospitality. His name has been immortalised by Pope in these words:

Let humble Allen, with an awkward shame,
Do good by stealth and blush to find it fame.

At his death the Post Office found the cross-posts established in all parts of the country, the whole of which were brought under the control of Mr. Wm. Ward, the Postmaster-General. Up to that time Members of both Houses of Parliament had enjoyed the privilege of sending and receiving letters through the post without payment. In 1784 it was found necessary to curtail this privilege. It had been the custom to frank scores of letter-covers for the use of friends by the means of a signature. They were often forged, or obtained from servants, who found a ready market for them. By this means it was calculated that £170,000 was lost by the department annually. It was not till 1840 that it was wholly done away with.

Although coaches were running the whole country as early as the middle of the 17th century, yet it is strange that it did not occur to anyone till 1783 to carry the mail bags by them. A gentleman named Palmer submitted a plan to Mr. Pitt, for the better despatch of letters, by substituting mail-coaches for the solitary mail-cart or post-horses, which had hitherto done service. The advantage of sending the mails by coaches which would carry passengers and would be well guarded, was obvious. He also suggested other important alterations as, that the mails should be so timed as to arrive in London, and so far as might be in other places, at the same time, so that letters might be delivered

altogether; and that they should be despatched from and arrive in London at a time convenient to the public, the mails having hitherto left at all hours of the night. This plan was vehemently opposed by the officers of the Post Office; but Mr. Pitt saw its merits, and, under his auspices, an Act was passed authorising its adoption. The speed of the mails was at once increased from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to more than 6 miles an hour. The number of letters also greatly increased, owing to the greater safety, regularity, and speed of this new system; and many towns petitioned the authorities to establish mail-coaches in their districts. Palmer's plans were so successful that the revenue of the Post Office rose in twenty years from £250,000 to £1,500,000. Three hundred and eighty towns, which had formerly only three deliveries a week, had a daily delivery before the end of the century.

In 1796 the rates were raised, the scale being fixed at a minimum of 3d. and maximum of 9d.. It was afterwards still further raised, till the whole system toppled over.

Coaches had taken the place of postboys; but the roads were heavy, and 6 miles an hour afforded room for great improvement. This was partly furnished by Mr. McAdam, who so far mended the roads by a system known now by his name as to raise the speed to 10 miles an hour, the Devonport mail running the journey of 216 miles, including stoppages, in 21 hours 14 minutes; but in 12 more years the road of iron for the first time supplanted every other mode of conveyance by the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester line. Up to this time little use was made of the then existing railways, and it was not till 1838-9 that an Act was passed to provide for the conveyance of the mails by railway companies. Since then the Post Office has used the railways of the country to the fullest extent, the missing links being still supplied by mail-carts and foot-messengers. In 1829 the General Post Office was removed from Lombard Street to St. Martins-le-Grand.

Before the establishment of railways, it was one of the sights of London to witness the departure of the mails. The coaches started one after another amid a crowd of sightseers; but Stevenson was at work, and the glory of the existence of the Royal Mails seems like a thing of the distant past.

In 1827 some concession was made to the public by rescinding the rule which imposed double postage on two letters written upon one sheet of paper, or even on a letter and a bill if upon the same sheet. In

1836 the stamp duty of 1½d. on newspapers, which put a clog on the liberty of the Press, was reduced to 1d., the result of which was a perfect deluge of these public instructors gorged the Post Office bags.

For the great radical change which took place in our Postal systems we are indebted to Mr. (afterwards Sir) Rowland Hill. He published a pamphlet in 1837, showing that the system as it stood was costly and inefficient; that partly from franking privileges and partly from impolitic charges on payable letters, it had fallen into a weak state, and the outlay was enormous, while the returns were disproportionately small. He in 1839 startled the officials by proposing to reduce the postage to 1d. for any distance. The idea was opposed by the authorities, but the House of Commons investigated the matter, and his plan was to a great extent accepted.

It was predicted that if the 1d. post were adopted, the revenue on the department would not recover itself within forty or fifty years.

For the first few months the metropolis alone had the benefit of the reduction, but at the beginning of 1840 (January 10) a Penny Post for the whole of Great Britain and Ireland became an established fact. The immediate result was an enormous increase in correspondence, but for some years there was a deficit in the revenue. The first year the number of letters had sprung from 76 millions to 169 millions, and the rapid increase has been well maintained:—

In 1845	...	...	...	271,000,000
1855	...	...	...	456,000,000
1865	...	...	...	720,000,000
1875	...	...	...	1,009,000,000
1883	...	...	...	1,280,636,200

(To be continued.)

Our Contemporaries.

Foreign Stamp Collectors' News is still up to its usual standard of excellence.

Philatelic Journal of America is a well got-up Magazine; and doubtless will gain popularity.

Collectors' Companion (Chicago) claims to be the only journal inserting original articles. English journals must look to their laurels.

The Collector (Philadelphia) rather a curious journal; does not confine itself to Philately—for instance, it tells us *type setting is taught in Japanese prisons*.

Received with thanks—*Le Commercant, The Empire State Philatelist, General Anzeiger für Philatelie, Welt Post, Canadian Philatelist, Philatelic Courier, Deutch Briefmarken Zeitung, Stamp World, The Stamp Collectors' Journal*, etc.



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Of Used & Unused POSTAGE STAMPS

all in good condition & warranted genuine.

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 - 2 Contains 50 stamps, all different, including Brazil, Canada, Chili, Luxemburg, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, United States, (envelope) Victoria, and many obsolete varieties, post free 7d.
 - 3 Contains 30 varieties of used and unused stamps, including Argentine, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Swiss, Porto Rico, Sardinia, (2 kinds) Cape of Good Hope, Finland, Italy, (official) Wurtemberg, (official) Roumania, Ceylon, Spain, &c., post free 7d.
 - 4 Contains 12 unused stamps including Belgium, Constantinople, Dutch Indies, Italy, (estero) Alesund, Greece, &c., post free 7d.
 - 5 Contains 50 varieties including Cyprus, Newfoundland, Australian Colonies, Orange Free State, Cape Verde, (scarce variety), Greece, Finland, Porto Rico, Jamaica, Belgium (new issue), Luxemburg, Thronhjelm, San Marino, Barbadoes, (new issue), Spain, Sardinia, Japan, Canada, (Registered), Scarce Argentine, India, (Official), New Zealand, Rare Denmark, (Service,) Servia, (obsolete), United States, (envelope,) Swiss, (Ausser Kurs), Italy, (Official), &c., post free 1/1
 - 6 Contains 6 unused entire Post Cards, including Christiansund, Japan, Russia, (2 kinds) Servia &c. Post free 8d.
 - 7 Contains 20 varieties of unused stamps including Maderanerthal, Angola, Hayti, Portugal, St. Thome & Principe, Azores, Greece, (unpaid) Hamburg, Brazil, Luxemburg, Peru, &c., &c. Post Free, 1/1.
 - 8 Contains 30 varieties used and unused including Argentine, Western Australia Bulgaria, Chili, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Azores, (unused) scarce, Roumelia, Thurn and Taxis, and many others rare. Post Free 1/1
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 - 12 Contains 100 varieties of used and unused stamps including Alesund, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominica (provisional) Helligoland, Hayti, Kuroot Stoos, Maderanerthal, Thurn & Taxis, Guatemala, Orange Free State, Cyprus, Persia, Liberia Rigi Belap, Chili, Ceylon, Dutch Indies, &c., &c. Post Free 5/1
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See list on other page.

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The original letters may be seen,*

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It is the best packet I have ever had, I will advise all my friends to get the "Excelsior Packets" if they want really good stamps.

O. M.

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I have been exceedingly pleased with the 2 No. 8 packets which I have had of you, and consider them well worth the money.—A. C.

Chelsea, S.W.

I received "Excelsior" Packet of Stamps safely, and shall show it to my friends as it is such a good one.—C. H. K.

Portsea.

I am obliged to you for your promptness in forwarding the stamps and cannot praise the excellency of your packets too much.

A.C.

Bath.

Your packet of stamps gave me great pleasure, they are the best and rarest I have ever had for the same money.—G. E. B.

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All kind of good stamps bought for prompt cash or exchange. consignments solicited, to which prompt attention will be given. especially wanted.

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Good Colonials

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500 various entire post cards, envelopes, &c.,— many varieties, Colonials, &c.	} ...	5	6	„
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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER

OCTOBER, 1885.

“En Passant.”

Most of our readers will recollect the animated discussion which took place among the English Philatelic papers a couple of years back, upon the question of the authenticity of those labels now known as the Mexican Porte de Mar Stamps. Some of the United States journals also participated in the discussion, and opinions for and against these labels were pretty freely expressed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is from the *Collector's Companion* we learn that at the recent New Orleans Exhibition the Mexican Government made a fine show of Postage Stamps, consisting of the various issues for that State, and including the whole set of the Porte de Mar labels.

Our contemporary considers that all doubts as to their genuine origin may therefore be set at rest, inasmuch that, having been placed on Exhibition by the Government credited with their issue, there can be little room left for even the greatest sceptic to treat them as otherwise than a genuine emission.

* * * *

Reverting to the very difficult question of the ways and means for the prevention of fraud and forgery in the stamp world, our Hull contemporary suggests a novel, and certainly drastic method wherewith, to rid the Science of a most troublesome question. “The remedy” says the writer referred to, “lies with Collectors themselves; if there were no buyers there would be but a corresponding number of sellers and the provision of an effectual remedy is to be solved by an adoption of the same lines as applied to the receiver of stolen goods—he being in the eye of the law more responsible for the theft than the thief.”

* * * *

We admire the doubtless good intent which prompted the writer to an utterance of the foregoing. Certainly the legislature of 1883 has done but little in the desired direction, and even its most ardent supporters at the start are now lukewarm in their belief that the New Post Office Protection Act will serve the purpose it was professedly designed to accomplish. But whether the law, if altered as suggested and brought into active operation, would meet the requirements of the case, is for experiment to decide; we fear the remedy would be worse than the evil. People would scarcely run the risk of prosecution through unquestionable ignorance on their part of the *modus operandi* of the successful forgery-monger; and the interest in the Science would dwindle as a matter of course.

It is hardly necessary to remind our contemporary perhaps of the great likelihood of humanity to err, and if there is a fault at all with collectors it is by reason of that abject ignorance so often quoted against them; but at the same time we altogether fail to see in what other practical way that want of knowledge is to be replaced by knowledge itself, except by the purifying ordeal of obtaining experience for themselves at the hands of those rogues, whom, our contemporary would presumably let go unpunished, while the victimised collector enjoys a sojourn within the four walls of one of Her Majesty's Houses of Detention.

* * * *

We notice that in the 10c. Post Card, which has recently been put into circulation in Belgium, there is an adoption of the same departure noticeable in the current Post Cards of some other countries on the Continent. At the outset, when the general public had yet to learn the regulations of the Post Office, the instructions on the face of the card, about writing only the address on that side, were most proper and eminently useful. But the utility of them in these days cannot be of any appreciable value, and might as safely be dispensed with in England as in Belgium and other European systems. The same rule applies to our halfpenny wrappers, and the working of the Registration Department is so well known now, as to render the instructions on the envelopes sold by the Post Office quite superfluous. There is much that our authorities at home might adopt from the postal administrations of our neighbours to advantage.

* * * *

Now that we are writing on this matter, we may state that the correspondence which has recently taken place between the Secretary of the Post Office and the publishers of the *Philatelic Referee*, on the subject of the use of unsealed envelopes in place of the official wrapper, has not ended satisfactorily from a point of gain in Postal reform. The substance of the reply to a suggestion from the publishers of the journal referred to, that the use of envelopes in this way should be permitted, as in the United States, is as follows:

"That although it is the practice not to challenge here the circulars and other book packets occasionally received from abroad in unsealed envelopes, yet it is not deemed advisable (and the matter has received very careful consideration) to depart from the rule which requires the ends of Book Post covers to be entirely open."

Major Evans, R.A. is of opinion that many of the more recent productions of rouletted and pin-perforated French Stamps were not genuine postal emissions at all, but as usual, discovered, or rather made for the edification of collectors, and with no prospect of actual use at all. This we are told applies especially to the *Unpaid Letter Stamps* of the Republic, which may now be met with *rouletted*, these stamps properly being only used by the Postal officials.

There seems to be no settled issue for Peru at present. The four Stamps recently chronicled are said to have appeared on the authority of General Caceres at Arequipa. We suppose that, considering the very disorganised state of the country, which happily is now past the turning point, it is a matter for congratulation that there is even a remnant left of the former Postal System.

The issue of a separate series of Stamps for Monaco, has at last become an accomplished fact, and probably some of our readers already possess specimens. The profile within the oval represents the present Prince of the Principality, which in some copies, owing no doubt to faulty engraving, conveys the impression that His Highness has dropped into a quiet doze. We cannot evince any marked admiration for the artist's work in the labels, three values of which is all we have yet seen. The engraving and printing we understand is the work of a Paris firm.

We learn that in Oregon, U.S.A., Postage Stamps are current as small change, owing to a scarcity of one and two cent pieces; and similar provisional currency is reported from Kansas.

* * * *

A report has been made to the Royal Artillery Institution by its Secretary, Major Hime, R.A. on some recent experiments with a pigeon-post for military purposes, the object being to shew the great value of these birds as a means of conveying messages long distances, when telegraphic and other means of communication have been cut off or interrupted. The experiments are spoken of as being very satisfactory.

* * * *

Before concluding our remarks this month we will take the opportunity to solicit of each of our readers a small favor, which being simple, we believe to be within the power of everyone of them to grant us. The "Observer" is essentially a collectors' medium, and for this issue we refused insertion of three large advertisements in order to retain our reading matter, which we understand to be of first importance. This refusal is a source of pecuniary loss to us for the time being, but we look for a return of double worth in the popularity and usefulness of our journal. We have confidence in our present subscribers to do their utmost to increase the circulation of the "Observer"; a paper backed up by a large subscription list can afford to dispense with a multiplicity of dealers' announcements. We recognise that a few are necessary, but the tendency now-a-days is to rob the reading matter where larger space is required for display of advertisements. This is wrong both in principle and practice excepting in cases where the paper is published especially as a dealers' medium, to which of course our remarks do not apply.

We therefore ask our readers individually to use their best efforts to make our paper more widely known. The price of 12 consecutive numbers, posted on day of publication is now 1s. 6d. inclusive of postage.

To prevent damage to stamps in removing them and give a neat appearance to the album collectors should always affix them with Prepared Stamp Mounts, their trifling cost places them within the reach of everyone, by their use the untidy appearance of blotches of gum upon the pages of a Stamp Album, and its unpleasant stickiness upon the fingers is entirely dispensed with.

They are made in two sizes, No. 1 for affixing ordinary adhesives, 3d. per 100, 1s. per 1,000, No. 2 size for affixing cards by using two mounts to each, are sold at 4d. per 100, 2s. per 1,000 post free. BUTLER BROS., FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS, CANTERBURY.

History of the Post Office.

(Continued)

It must be borne in mind that the figures represent letters only. Besides the 1280 million letters in 1883 there were 288,206,400 book-packets, 140,682,600 newspapers and 144,016,200 postcards making a grand total of 1,858,541,400 postages for the United Kingdom in one year.

At the establishment of the penny post the well known Mulready envelope was prepared by the authorities for prepaying letters, but was so ridiculed that it had but a short reign, and the adhesive stamp took its place.

From this time minor improvements have been continually made and the system stands out now as one of the most perfect of its kind.

In 1848 the additional advantage was given of a book post, a privilege which was gradually extended to the colonies. The halfpenny post and postcards were introduced in 1870.

There are at the present time about 15,000 post offices besides nearly 13,000 letter boxes and pillar boxes in the streets.

There are over 600 mails daily between London and other post towns in England and Wales. The letters are first stamped and placed right way up. They are sorted into twenty great divisions then further classified into different towns and finally according to the different post towns. The bags are sealed and conveyed to the travelling postal vans. These vans are padded to provide against accidents and elaborately

fitted up with all necessaries for further sorting the letters. The work done is precisely the same as in an ordinary post office. The bags are given out and taken up by means of a spring and net apparatus. It is a rare occurrence for a station to be passed without a safe exchange.

All correspondence for Ireland is sent to Holyhead and placed on steamers fitted up exactly similar to the railway sorting vans.

It is wonderful how such a prodigious task is accomplished in a so thoroughly perfect manner as there is comparatively no machinery. There are employed in the Postal Department between 80 and 90 thousand servants and every man in this great army has his work to do at a certain hour and he does it. There is rarely any failure.

Although there are so many thousands of letters passing through the post office daily, yet there are but comparatively few which do not reach their destination. A considerable number are however posted which present great difficulties to the authorities in delivering. Some are not addressed at all, others are mis-spelt, mis-directed, insufficiently addressed or altogether illegible. Numberless for instance are the letters bearing such addresses as

John Smith, Gardener, Flowerdale.

Circulars especially, are posted in London and other large towns with addresses no more explicit, relying on the perserverance of the officials in finding their owners. Many county gentlemen seem to cherish the idea that the names of their mansions should be known equally far and near from their manorial acres.

As a good example of some of the addresses they have to cope with I have copied a few from an article on the Returned Letter Office in a Magazine dated 1864.

Uncle John, Hoppoosite the Church,
London, Hingland.

Ann M——, Oiley white, Amshire,
(Isle of Wight, Hampshire.)

Ash-Bedles in such for John Horsel, Grinder, in the county of Lestysheer.

(Ashby-de-la-Zouch.)

For Mister Willy wot Brinds de Baber in Lang Gaster ware te gal is.

(For Mr. Willy what prints the paper in Lancaster where the gaolis.)

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a town which gives infinite trouble to letter writers, there are 50 different ways of spelling the name and few letters give it right. The letter for the Lancaster editor contained an essay by a foreigner *against public schools*.

(To be continued.)

Beginners as well as advanced collectors who desire to rapidly increase their collections at a moderate cost and at the same time obtain nothing but genuine and perfect specimens for their collections will find they can advantageously do so by purchasing the "Excelsior" Stamp Packets. These packets have for a long time been before collectors, and their excellent value has been well tested. The prices range from 6d. upwards. A four page list of these packets can be obtained post free by application to Messrs. BUTLER, BROS., Publishers and Foreign Stamp Importers, Canterbury.



New Issues.

BRITISH LEVANT.—Three Stamps have been surcharged for the use of the British Post Office in Turkey.

Adhesive	40 PARAS	surcharged in black on	2½d. Lilac
"	80	"	5d. Pale Green.
"	12 PIASTRES	"	2/6 Lilac.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The 1 peso gold, with network has been surcharged "5 francos."

Adhesive 5 francos on 1 peso with network.

FRENCH LEVANT.—France has now followed the example of England and Germany and has surcharged three stamps for the use of the French Post Office in Turkey.

Adhesive	1 Piastre	on	25c.
"	3	"	75c.
"	4	"	1fr.

GUINEA.—The 25 reis mauve Cape Verde has been surcharged GUINE.

Adhesive 25 reis mauve, black surcharge.

HONG KONG.—From the *Philatelic Record* we learn, a Stamp Duty Label of one dollar fifty cents has been used postally.

Fiscal Postal 1 dollar 50 cents.

MACAU.—We have to chronicle four more surcharges for this colony.

Adhesives 10 reis on 40 reis blue surcharged in black.

10	"	50	"	green	"	blue.
20	"	80	"	grey	"	black.
40	"	50	"	green	"	red.

UNITED STATES.—From the *Philatelic Record* we quote the following:—Washington, D.C., July 11th. The Postmaster General has approved the design for the 10 cents special delivery stamp authorized by Congress at its last session. The stamp will be about twice the size of the ordinary postage stamp, and the shape of a dollar note. On the left of the stamp there is a pretty vignette of a messenger boy in uniform, across the top are the words UNITED STATES SPECIAL POSTAL DELIVERY and along the bottom the price of the stamp, ten (10) cents, is expressed in figures and letters. Conspicuous on the body of the stamp are the words SECURES IMMEDIATE DELIVERY AT THE SPECIAL DELIVERY OFFICE. The whole design is very pretty and effective. The Postmaster General yesterday gave it into the hands of the American Bank Note Company of New York.

VICTORIA.—The 1d. Newsband is now printed in green.

Newsband 1d., Pale Green.

Our Contemporaries.

We shall be pleased to send this Journal in exchange for any philatelic journals published throughout the world. Editors desiring to make this exchange will kindly inform us, to insure a regular delivery.

We understand, on good authority that the *Foreign Stamp Collectors Journal* and the *Philatelic Referee* are to be amalgamated.

—O:O—

A. WEINBERG, CORFU, GREECE.

The greatest Dealer of Greek Postage and unpaid letter Stamps Postcards and Rarities. Price list will be sent Post free on request.

IMPORTANT!

IN consequence of so few applications for these Packets we have been obliged to defer the Draw until November, 1886. If the numbers are not obtained then we shall give Prizes according to numbers received to close our offer.

Read This! Read This! Given Away! Given Away!

1	Grand Cash Gift	£50
2	ditto £10 each.. .. .	20
10	Collections of Foreign Stamps, 1,000 var., £3 each	30
10	Pairs Mulready Envelopes, £1 each	10
40	Packets Rare Sets Foreign Stamps, 10/- each..	20
40	" " " " 5/- "	10
40	" " " " 2/6 "	3
200	Rare Sets, 1/- each	10
100	Packets Rare Stamps. 2/- each	10
100	" " " 1/- "	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 5/- "	25
100	" Stamp " 4/- "	20
100	" Scrap " 4/- "	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	15
100	Penknives 1/-	5

WE offer £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s, consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No 2 packet, a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

No 3 packet consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps, various designs, post free 1/-, abroad 1/2.

No 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South American, W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

*No. 6, 200 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.

*No. 7, 250 Foreign Stamps from all parts of the globe, many scarce, post free 3/2 abroad 3/9.

No. 8, 500 assorted stamps, including some very rare stamps, post free 1/1 abroad 1/3.

*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money: the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for 5 packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Butler's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON & CO.,
FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,
AMBERLEY ROAD, HARROW ROAD, LONDON. W.

WHITFIELD KING & Co.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AND

PHILATELICAL PUBLISHERS,

LACEY STREET, IPSWICH.

SPECIAL OFFERS TO COLLECTORS.

	s.	d.
Alsace and Lorraine, with reversed network 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, & 25c. set of seven for	1	6
Costa Rica, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 4, reals, and 1 peso ... set of four for	2	6
Mauritius, 1858 (Britannia), vermilion, red-brown, blue, 6d. unperforated, and 6d. perforated, ... set of five for	2	6
Mexico, Porte de Mar 1880 issue, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, & 100 centavos, set of six for	3	6
Persia, Service 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi ... set of four for	1	6
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d. ... set of four for	1	0
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. ... set of eight for	4	0
Salvador, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 4 reals... set of four for	2	6
Servia, 1869 issue, 2, 10, 20, 25, 35, 40, and 50 paras ... set of seven for	1	0

All the above are Unused and in Good Condition.

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*Sheets of Stamps sent on approval.***LIST OF WHITFIELD KING & Co.'s PUBLICATIONS,**

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2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 5s., 6s. 6d., and 8s. 9s.; all Post Free.

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WHITFIELD KING & CO.,

LACEY STREET, IPSWICH,

ESTABLISHED 1869.

SPECIMEN

No. 6, Vol. 1.]

[NOVEMBER, 1885.



Butlers'

Philatelic Observer,

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France (Chiffre Taxe) splendid mixture	- - -	4/0 „ 100
Roumania, assorted	- - -	4/6 „ 1000
Servia, well assorted	- - -	2/- „ 100
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POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS,

AND COMMISSION AGENTS, ESTABLISHED 1871,

Have a large stock of Stamps of all countries for Sale at prices that cannot be equalled.

Wholesale price list, contains many lines of Valuable Stamps not generally quoted wholesale. Post Free.

PARCELS SOLD AS IMPORTED.

This system insures a Parcel, large or small being obtained undivided. Purchasers have stamps at special prices and are not likely to be undersold. List issued periodically offers also Stamps of other Dealers, held by us for sale on commission. Exchange trade has special attention devoted to it. Foreign and Colonial Dealers are invited to send consignments, which we shall be glad to have for Cash or Exchange.

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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER

NOVEMBER, 1885.

"En Passant."

Mr. Patrick Chalmers, whose name is doubtless well known to our readers, has prepared for circulation another pamphlet entitled "Important additional evidence, in behalf of James Chalmers, in papers bequeathed to the South Kensington Museum Library, by the late Sir Henry Cole." Everyone who has watched this controversy, or who is interested in the question at issue are recommended to procure a copy of this pamphlet. It throws important additional light on the Chalmers's claim and is viewed by some as sufficiently conclusive evidence to entirely dispense with further regard to the truthfulness of the Rowland Hill theory. Whether Mr. Chalmers will ever succeed in making his grievance a really national one or not requires more than human prophecy to decide at present. Usage and custom have a great deal to do with it. What we have been used to look upon as history, takes unlimited persuasion sometimes to assure us to the contrary, that our old belief is incorrect, and in the case before our notice that Sir Rowland Hill after all was not the man to whom we are indebted for the Penny Postage Stamp.

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We desire to warn our readers against forgeries of the Persian 5 Krahn 1878 issue, some excellent imitations of which may be met with.

* * * * *

This is what *Truth* says: Not fifty miles from London there is a rural postman, who, twenty years ago, was thought to be medically unfit for a permanent appointment. He was therefore made a *temporary* letter carrier. His wages are 12/- a week. He has to walk thirty five miles a day. He is liable to instant dismissal, is not eligible for any pension, and enjoys no annual holiday. In England we do not buy or sell our slaves; we only hire them temporarily"

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* * * * *

We need be chary of what we accept as gospel now-a-days. It seems that the recently chronicled surcharged Senegal labels, owe their existence, so far as the overprinting is concerned, to the "complaisance of a Post Office." An official letter published *Le Timbre Poste* states that the precise cause of their issue was that some colonial offices were not supplied with the usual date or obliterating stamps and were thus compelled to use this means of cancellation. We may take it for granted this statement is not far wrong and those who are unfortunate enough to have copies in their possession must comfort themselves as best they can with the fact that their surcharged Senegal labels are less valuable to day than they were yesterday. But is it not time that this toying with a certain section of the public should be stopped? We think no object is more worthy of the interference of the authorities at this moment. Probably however it would be a matter of great difficulty now to find the person really responsible for the issue of these labels; although the fraud is none the less a transgression of the law because the difficulty attending the detection of the offender is unusually great.

* * * * *

We have heard of the red-hot platinum wire as a preventive against the use of stamps for prepayment of postage a second time, and its adoption in the "Black Cabinet" of the Madrid Post Office in its inquisitorial business. Various authorities, in fact everyone competent to quote upon the subject were, until recently, quite satisfied that this *gabinete negro* was a thing of the past and its doings fully entitled to be considered a matter of history. As regards the use of the platinum wire perhaps they were right. But if we are to believe the disclosures lately made in the columns of the *Times*, in the publication of correspondence from its official representative in Madrid, the operations of this institution, the black cabinet, is in working order again with every modern facility behind it. In the present system the sharpest of knives and a powerful cement does the necessary work and the artists are said to do their part admirably. Serious accidents are reported however, consequent as a matter of course, upon the wholesale operations carried on, and to quote the correspondent, "the receiver of a letter is sometimes not a little astonished to find inside his envelope a letter addressed to somebody else from a place and by a person to him utterly unknown." It is reported that the private letters of an ex-minister have not been excepted from the inquisition and probably if the truth was known this is the cause of the present stir in the matter. It is a notorious fact that the confidence placed in the Spanish Post Office by the British Government is very restricted.

* * * * *

Here is another item for discussion by the curious. A foreign contemporary stated recently (and of course it has been copied into the English journals) that the English 2½d. value in blue has been seen by a

certain contributor to M. Moen's paper, surcharged "Cyprus;" the writer at the same time expressing some doubt of its being a genuine issue. Unquestionably he is right. We believe we are correct in asserting that this stamp has never been heard of in England, surcharged as described, much less chronicled.

* * * * *

One of our subscribers writes, that just before the alteration in the telegraph rates to the minimum charge of 6d. he saw one of the usual blank forms with the old 1/- octagonal stamp embossed in the right hand upper corner, but does not know whether such forms are still in issue, under the reduced tariff. While thanking him for information of the item, we may add that to the best of our belief these embossed forms have been issued to large business houses for some years past and probably these shilling ones will be succeeded by stamped 6d. forms.

* * * * *

The subject of the use of bronzes in printing stamps has received less attention than perhaps any other of the more or less noticeable features of the stamp world. Possibly this is due to its somewhat obscure nature and its prospective appearance at first sight an item apparently devoid of interest to the ordinary reader which would prompt the average writer to reject it, at any rate as subject matter. We venture to submit however the following result of a cursory glance through an advanced collection, which we recently made, with the view of compiling a list of stamps printed in bronzes, that is to say, in gold, silver and bronze, which are severally known to the printing world by the cognomen of "bronzes." In local post stamps, especially those coming from the United States, gold and silver bronzes are plentifully used, the former however predominating; and in the Russian Rural district labels a liberal application to many of the issues will be found. As our collection did not include Hamburg "locals" we cannot quote with regard to these labels, nor should we have cared to have done so had the album we inspected, contained them. We have on previous occasions stated that our sympathy with these particular labels is very limited. Of the 1881-3 series for use in the Copenhagen local post, the 10, 25 and 50 ore values were printed in gold. We noticed a fair example of the Dominican Republic 1880 1 peso also printed in gold bronze. A Finland local for Tammerfors attracted our attention—the blending of blue and bronze colour presents a pleasing effect, this was the 12 pennia issued in 1874. The 1 franc of the 1877 series for France and the same value in the 1881 issue are familiar to most of us although good copies retaining the bronze intact are scarce. It is worth noting that the use of these bronzes is evidently becoming less which may be attributed to their unserviceable nature. This may be noticed in the 1868 Holland 50c. gold, which was supplanted 4 years later by a stamp of more wearable colour; and again in the

Italian 1856 series of which the three lire value although in use some 16 years was at last superseded. The 5 and 2 Sen of Japan, 1876-9 issues respectively appear in a green bronze and good specimens are uncommon, a very recent addition from Thind, consisting of the Imperial 1 ana envelope with brown stamp embossed, surcharged with the name of the state in silver, proves a very effective treatment, but the least rubbing displaces some of the bronze which strengthens the experience respecting the use of bronzes. The Persian 5 krahm of 1878 is printed in a deep gold, and upon referring to our catalogue we find also that the 10 krahm of the same series appeared in bronze on blue white and yellow papers. Very few albums can boast of a couple of copies of the first issue Spain—City of Madrid. The 1 and 3 cuarto, issued in 1853 were both printed in bronze, little of which however remains. The 1862 1 franc of Switzerland in gold bronze, is well known, but scarcely so the 60c of the same issue which also appears in bronze. The 1 franc is now printed in maroon. A very good copy of the Australian 1855 6d. in bronze completes the list of these stamps made during a brief inspection of the collection referred to which was an advanced one, but doubtless a diligent search through a good catalogue would bring to light some others.

The comparative uselessness of these bronzes in postage stamps is greatly due to the process of application in the manufacture of the labels. To produce a bronze print it is first necessary for an impression to be taken with a solution of size or an ink of light colour and the bronze in a fine powdered state is then applied with a camel hair or similar brush. With very little wear of the nature to which postage stamps are usually put, the bronze comes off leaving behind it the original treatment in color or solution of size as the case may be. This accounts for the existence of so many stamps, which, although catalogued as bronze printed, may frequently be met with in a color totally wide of either gold, silver, or bronze.

Some suggestions for Postal Reform.

Without any wish to say I am more capable of undertaking the superintendence of that vast piece of machinery, the British Post Office, than any one who has hitherto undertaken the task, I think I shall succeed in showing the readers of this paper that our present Postal system is in many ways far behind that of many continental nations this surely should not be, when we consider Great Britain was first in establishing the Penny Post, but it is too true that now we follow the ways of other nations, being unable to get any newer and better ways of providing for the correspondence of this country. Germany

and several other countries have a Pneumatic post in the United States, a Special Delivery Service has just been organised, so that a letter posted at the special Delivery office, bearing a stamp of ten cents value, insures its immediate delivery; thus in many ways being almost equal to our latest innovation, the Sixpenny Telegram, although this Special Delivery Service only covers the service in the town in which it is posted

I would suggest an alteration in our Registration regulations, we are at present asked, to pay a fee of twopence, the only benefit we derive is, if the letter is lost or stolen while in the care of the Postal officials, the Postmaster General, will compensate the sender for a sum not exceeding Two pounds. Why cannot we have a sliding scale? for instance a fee of one penny might be charged for letters that do not contain articles of value but of which the sender desires to have a receipt for their delivery; then commence with our present fee of twopence for letters containing coin or articles of value, and so graduated that any amount may be sent with equal safety, this would not entail a greater risk upon the Post office authorities as they are so very careful of Registered letters that it is almost impossible to lose even one in fact I believe a graduated Registration fee would produce a large increase to the revenue of the Post Office.

Now the charge of 8d upon a letter containing coin or any article of value, posted in any letter box instead of taking it to an official and obtaining a receipt for it, is very excessive, and in many instances is done in ignorance, perhaps Stamp Dealers refuse more of these unpaid Registered letters than any other tradesmen, if the authorities think it necessary to charge a higher fee, certainly 3d or 4d would pay very well indeed, the work is practically the same, except the postman has to collect the *sightpence*. A letter containing unused Postage stamps is liable to this fee, of course only a very few of the letters containing stamps are discovered. It may be very necessary to keep temptation from the postmen and sorters, but how can any one send say *fivepence* or *sixpence* in a letter, postal orders are not issued for such a small sum so the sender must pay twopence for the Registration fee, one penny for postage, thus costing 3d to send 5d, now this is a most absurd regulation, it would be far better if a sum of two shillings were the highest amount that might be enclosed in an unregistered letter.

(To be continued.)

New Issues.

ANGOLA.—An alteration has been made in the colours of the two following stamps:—

Adhesives 20 reis	-	red.
25 „	-	violet.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Fiscal stamps are now being used in this colony for postal duty.

Fiscal Postals—2d.	lilac,	-	wmk, c. c. and crown.
4d.	"	-	" " "
6d.	"	-	" " "
8d.	"	-	" " "
1/-	chocolate	-	" " "
2/-	green	-	" " "

CAPE VERDE.—The 20 and 25 reis stamps have undergone a change of colour.

Adhesives—20 reis	-	red.
25 "	-	violet.

FRENCH COLONIES (St. Pierre and Miquelon.)—The 40 c. stamps of 1877 issue has been surcharged in Gothic capitals, with figures of value at top, S. P. M. under.

Adhesives—10 c. on 40 c.	-	vermilion and black.
15 c. on 40 c.	-	" "

GWALIOR.—The following stamps of British India have been surcharged Gwalior in Roman capitals horizontally. The cards and envelopes in addition to the surcharge bear a coat of arms.

Adhesives— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna,	green,	black surcharge.
1 "	brown,	" "
1 "	6 pies., drab,	" "
2 "	blue,	" "
4 "	green,	red "
6 "	buff,	black "
8 "	lilac,	" "
1 Rupee,	grey,	red "

Envelopes— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, arms and surcharge in red
1 " brown, arms brown, surcharge in black.

Postcards— $\frac{1}{2}$ " brown, arms brown, surcharge in black.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ plus $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, brown, arms brown, surcharge in black.

JHIND.—Jhind has a new issue, for which the stamps of British India have been surcharged.

Adhesives— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna,	green,	black surcharge.
1 "	brown,	" "
2 "	blue,	" "
4 "	green,	" "
8 "	violet,	" "
1 Rupee,	grey,	" "
Envelopes— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna,	green,	red "
1 "	brown	silver and brown surcharge.

Official Adhesives— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, black surcharge.
1 " brown, " "
2 " blue, " "

Postcards— $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, brown, " "
 $\frac{1}{4}$ plus $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, " " "

LABUAN.—A provisional adhesive has appeared by the surcharging of the 16 cents blue with the value 2 cents in black

Adhesive—2 cents on 16 cents blue, black surcharge.

MACAO—Similar to the Angola and Cape Verde stamps above chronicled, two stamps have been changed in colour.

Adhesives—20 reis, red,
25 „ violet,

MONACO.—The following is a list of the stamps issued.

Adhesives—1 c. - olive grey, on white.
2 c. - grey violet.
5 c. - blue.
10 c. - red brown, on buff.
15 c. - rose.
25 c. - green.
40 c. - deep slate, on rose.
75 c. - black.
1 franc - black, on yellow.
5 francs. - carmine, on greenish grey.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 4 c. postcard has been surcharged in small Roman capitals 3 cents.

Postcard—3 c. on 4 c. - red brown, black surcharge.

ST. THOMAS and PRINCE.—Change of colours.

Adhesives—20 reis - red.
25 „ - violet.

TURKEY.—From a contemporary we note that the 5 piastres is now printed in red brown, on salmon.

Adhesive—5 piastres - red brown, on salmon

History of the Post Office.

(Continued)

When it has been ascertained that nothing more can be done to effect the delivery of an imperfectly or improperly addressed letter, it only remains to have it sent back to the writer—This is done if possible without the letter being opened. If the envelope bears a name or address printed on it, it will not be opened but forwarded back according to this address. This arrangement has however led to serious mistakes and confusion, so much so that the Postmaster General has repeatedly had to appeal to the public on the subject. The letters have frequently fallen into the wrong hands through people using other people's business envelopes. The remedy of course lies with the writers themselves.

In 1861 the Saving Bank was introduced and in 1869 the Government bought the Telegraph and placed them under control of the Post office. A still later improvement is the Establishment of the Parcels Post. The saying that there is nothing new under the sun is well illustrated here. We find a similar institution in the time of Queen Anne. The following items will give a good idea of the sort of articles franked through the over-sea post about that date. They are from a volume

containing Entries relating to 1703 found among the records of S. Martins-le-grand.

Item. 3 suits of cloaths for a nobleman's lady at the court of Portugal

Item, Two bales of stockings for the use of the ambassador of the King of Portugal.

Item. A deal case with 4 fitches of bacon for Mister Pennington of Rotterdam.

Item. Eleven couple of houndes for Major-General Ompeach.

Entries are also found of

Two Servant maids going as laundresses to my Lord Ambassador Methuen

Dr Crichton carrying with him a cow and divers other necessaries.

We are not told whether Dr. Crichton and his cow were duly marked with the London free-mark stamp before they are posted. At the time there were no adhesive stamps to apply to them.

The *Postal Telegraphic and Telephonic Gazette* states that the number of parces transmitted by the Parcels Post in its first week of business was 289,385. In the eighth week ending Sept 25 the number had increased to 370,119.

Although the Parces Post arrangements have been very extensive and elaborate yet there is still great room for improvement and the amount of business has some-what disappointed its projectors. Such then is the history of the growth of our great Postal System. I have said nothing about the different issues of stamps envelopes, and cards; their changes and varieties have been described in numerous catalogues and it would be out of place in this article to enter further into the subject.

(The End)

Our Contemporaries.

The Philatelic Star, this journal continues to improve, with the commencement of vol. iii some farther improvements are promised.

The Stamp News. The Sept. part appeared dated *May to Sept.* consisting of 12 pages this includes five numbers in one. The subscription to this magazine is 2/6 per annum. As the publisher consider it fair to publish their magazine on this principle we presume subscribers receive about three numbers for their money. Can one wonder that so many collectors fear to give their support to Philatelic Journals. Without wishing to say a word against the good intentions of the publishers, we question if the principle is a just one?

Those of our readers who are fond of a game of chance should should read the advertisement of Messrs Ferguson, on the cover of this magazine.

Messrs J. H. Lacy & Co. are selling some wonderfully cheap packets of Christmas cards, we have seen samples and can say they are marvels of cheapness.

IMPORTANT!

IN consequence of so few applications for these Packets we have been obliged to defer the Draw until November, 1886. If the numbers are not obtained then we shall give Prizes according to numbers received to close our offer.

Read This! Read This! Given Away! Given Away!

1	Grand Cash Gift ..	...	...	...	£30
2	ditto	£10 each..	...	...	20
10	Collections of Foreign Stamps, 1,000 var.,	£3 each	...	...	50
10	Pairs Mulready Envelopes, £1 each	...	...	...	10
40	Packets Rare Sets Foreign Stamps, 10/- each..	...	...	...	20
40	" "	"	5/-	"	10
40	" "	"	2/6	"	5
200	Rare Sets, 1/- each	...	...	...	10
100	Packets Rare Stamps, 2/- each	...	...	...	10
100	" "	1/-	...	...	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	...	...	...	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 3/-	"	...	...	25
100	" Stamp	4/-	"	...	20
100	" Scrap	4/-	"	...	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	...	...	...	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	...	...	...	15
100	Penknives 1/-	...	...	...	5

OFFER £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s, consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No. 2 packet, a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

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No. 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South America W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

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*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money: the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for 5 packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Butler's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON & CO.,

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AMBERLEY ROAD, HARROW ROAD, LONDON. W.

WHITFIELD KING & Co.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AND

PHILATELICAL PUBLISHERS,

LACEY STREET, IPSWICH.

SPECIAL OFFERS TO COLLECTORS.

	s.	d.
Alsace and Lorraine, <i>with reversed network</i> 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, & 25c. set of seven for	1	6
Costa Rica, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 4, reals, and 1 peso set of four for	2	6
Mauritius, 1858 (Britannia), vermilion, red-brown, blue, 6d. unperforated, and 6d. perforated, set of five for	2	6
Mexico, Porte de Mar 1880 issue, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, & 100 centavos, set of six for	3	6
Persia, Service 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi set of four for	1	6
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d set of four for	1	0
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. set of eight for	4	0
Salvador, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 4 reals... .. set of four for	2	6
Servia, 1869 issue, 2, 10, 20, 25, 35, 40, and 50 paras set of seven for	1	0

All the above are Unused and in Good Condition.

Wholesale Quotations will be sent on application.

Collectors are invited to send for our Price List of Cheap Packets and Sets of Stamps, which will be sent Gratis and Post Free. Our prices will be found to bear favourable comparison with those of any other Firm.

*Sheets of Stamps sent on approval.***LIST OF WHITFIELD KING & Co.'s PUBLICATIONS,**

A detailed Prospectus of which can be had on application :—

THE CROWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS, newest edition.

2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 5s., 6s. 6d., 8s., and 9s.; all Post Free.

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS, 21st edition.

7s. 3d., 8s. 9d., 9s. 9d., 13s. 3d., 23s. 6d. and 26s.; all Post free.

THE STANDARD COLOR CHART.

Designed to illustrate and identify the colors of Postage Stamps. Printed in 142 colors. Price 3s., Post free.

IMPORTANT TO DEALERS. We publish every alternative month a large and very complete *Wholesale List*, which we will send regularly to any Dealer on application. Our Stock is very large, and the prices will, on comparison be found to average considerably lower than those quoted by any other Wholesale Firm.

All Orders are executed the same day as received. All Stamps sold by us are
WARRANTED GENUINE.

ADDRESS :—

WHITFIELD KING & CO.,

LACEY STREET, IPSWICH,

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Butlers'
 Philatelic Observer,

SUBSCRIPTION 1/6 PER ANNUM Post Free.

ABROAD 2s. POST FREE.

BUTLER BROS.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,
 CANTERBURY, ENGLAND.

Publish monthly a wholesale list, the prices in which will be found to compare very favourably with those of other dealers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO FOREIGN DEALERS.

We desire to receive consignments of stamps in exchange for stamps from our wholesale list, exchange will be sent per return mail. Good stamps only required.

ATTENTION:—desirons faire un échange avec les marchands dans tous les pays du monde. Liste de gros nous envoyons sur demandé à tous les marchands.

ACHTUNG. Wir suche Tauschverbindung mit Briefmarken Handlungern in allen Ländern der Welt. Engros Preisliste franco.

BUTLER BROS. CANTERBURY, ENGLAND.

PUBLISHED BY

BUTLER BROS.,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTER
 CANTERBURY, ENGLAND.

NEW STAMP ALBUM

NOW READY, THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE

Imperial Postage Stamp Album,

In Two Volumes, entirely revised, and brought up to the present date (1885).

Prices Post Free and Securely Packed.

- No. 5.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, strongly bound in embossed cloth, gilt lettering sprinkled edges. The two volumes, 14s. 6d.
No. 6.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, superior embossed cloth, ornamental gilt lettering and border. The two volumes, 17s.
No. 7.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, handsomely bound, with gilt lettering and ornaments, bevelled boards, gilt edges, and patent expanding clasp. The two volumes, 19s. 6d.
No. 8.—Crown 4to, on superior quality paper, handsomely bound, extra gilt, bevelled boards, gilt edges, and patent expanding clasp. The two volumes, 22s. 6d.
No. 9.—Crown 4to, on superior quality paper, handsomely bound in morocco relief, gilt edges, two patent expanding clasps. The two volumes, 32s. 6d.

Uniform with the above, being designed as a companion Volume,

The Imperial Post Card Album.

- No. 5a.—Style No. 5 (see above), post free, 4s. 2d. No. 6a.—Style No. 6 or 7 (see above), post free, 5s. 8d. No. 8a.—Style No. 8 (see above), post free, 8s. 8d. No. 9a.—Style No. 9 or 10 (see above), post free, 11s. 3d.

Illustrated 12 page prospectus post free on application.

Stanley, Gibbons, & Co., 8, Gower Street, London, W.C.

J. H. LACY & Co.,

ROTHERHITHE, S.E. ENGLAND,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS,

AND COMMISSION AGENTS, ESTABLISHED 1871,

Have a large stock of Stamps of all countries for Sale at prices that cannot be equalled.

Wholesale price list, contains many lines of Valuable Stamps not generally quoted wholesale. Post Free.

PARCELS SOLD AS IMPORTED.

This system insures a Parcel, large or small being obtained undivided. Purchasers have stamps at special prices and are not likely to be undersold. List issued periodically offers also Stamps of other Dealers, held by us for sale on commission. Exchange trade has special attention devoted to it. Foreign and Colonial Dealers are invited to send consignments, which we shall be glad to have for Cash or Exchange.

Provisionals, New Issues, and general regular supplies required.

J. H. LACY, & Co.,

ROTHERHITHE, S.E. ENGLAND.

BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

DECEMBER, 1885.

"En Passant."

There is an announcement in print that a copy of the 40c of the third issue of Sardinia has been unearthed, printed in blue, the color of the 20c and postmarked "*TORTONA 18 Mar. 54. 4.s.*" The origin of the subject of the discovery is accounted for by the fact that in the course of manufacture three separate operations were necessary to the completion of the process, and some of the errors caused by this lengthy development would be sure to escape detection at the hands of the official inspectors, but there is also a possibility that the label in question is a fresh sample of the refuse left on the premises of the contractor for the supply of these stamps, of which there was a great deal. We were under the impression however, that it had long ago been attentively picked over, and every possible variety of error and failure, for which the years 1868 and 1869 were so notorious, had each in turn been thoroughly well advertised and following perhaps the eternal fitness of things, now become forgotten. But this appears not to be the case. The postmark on the newly discovered variety leads one to suppose that so comforting a calculation is closely akin to building castles in the air. The precise wording of the cancelling stamp is given above, and to the date we direct especial notice. Now the April of 1854 is pretty generally allowed to be the date of the first issue of stamps for Sardinia, although it is quite within the range of practical possibility, that the admission is not based on any official record; still the views of known theorists should count for something; it

can be admitted that this and other questions of a similar nature have been made their special study and in this light then should we respect a decision as has hitherto been accepted without remark. Too much haste in abandoning the old faith is to be deprecated, especially in matters analogous to the one before our notice. If however the new 40c, although but a trivial variety, brings with it any authoritative weight we shall all of us be prepared to learn the new lesson concerning the date of Sardinia's first issue with somewhat less heart burning than would be the case if we had to found a new belief on the opinion of an enthusiastic discoverer.

* * * * *

Our Brussels contemporary describes a wonderful surcharge on the post card of Göre for Sweden., which is said to completely cover the required stamp. The overprint consists of a circular design, in the centre of which, on a colored ground is the numeral 5, representing the provisional value. A circular band of color bears the inscription KONGL SVENSKA POST VERKET, and the value also expressed in words. The surcharge is impressed in blue.

* * * * *

The Spanish Government are responsible for the ground work of a Postal administration in RIO DE ORO which we may explain in direct and phraseology, is a place of growing importance on the West Coast of Africa, lat. 28° or thereabouts. The 5c. 10c. and 15c. stamps of the Spanish current issue have been officially noted with an appropriate surcharge, which by the way, appears to have been impressed by recourse to a hand stamp. The appearance of the words in the surcharge in some instances are reported to be indistinct and even irregular. There has of late been a gradual increase of trade in various branches at Rio de Oro, principally however with the interior, and the Home Government has probably been alive to the future value of the place and acted accordingly. We believe the establishment of a post office here is intended in a great measure to secure a substantial proof that it is to the Spanish Government that the settlement owes its allegiance.

* * * * *

We understand that Mr. C. B. Harness of London, has communicated a proposal to the authorities that the present one penny stamp should be perforated diagonally and either half be made available for use as a half-penny stamp. A circular has been issued explaining the merits of the suggestion and although the opinion of the heads of the Post Office is not yet known there has been some free comments on the proposal by the press. In addition to the fact that partially cancelled penny stamps can be bought for a nominal price, the question

might be put to the author of the suggestion, on what grounds he supposed the innovation of this description would materially improve existing arrangements? Is there any necessity for the change? The perforation across the stamp would, we think, render the process of separating one whole stamp intact from the other extremely difficult; and it might also be pointed out that the size of the present half-penny label is not a bit too large for convenient management. There can be no doubt too, but that the introduction of such a scheme would at once result in the development of a vast mine of wealth, wherewith those who might well turn their ability to better account, would and could easily defraud the department to an extent hardly to be estimated. We are not blaming Mr. Harness for bringing his suggestion forward, we should have liked it better had it been of a somewhat more practical nature

* * * *

In our last issue we made some passing reference to a communication from one of our readers about the telegraph forms bearing the embossed stamp, representing the fee for transmission of the message. As we anticipated there is a "sixpenny" form in circulation to meet the reduced tariff which is embossed with the old sixpenny stamp in pale purple a blank space being left both on the face and at the back of the form to receive the die. There is also a rule concerning the issue of these stamped forms which enables the public in case of spoiling one to cut out the stamp and attach it to an unstamped form with the assistance of a little gum or other adhesive material. We have nothing to say against this arrangement, which is only remarkable for the unusual conciliatory views of the authorities in permitting its existence, of which it is unquestionable evidence. We do think however that the privilege ought to be extended to the stamped envelopes sold by the Post Office. There is much objection to the employment of these even in large houses of business and private correspondence. The fact that the value of the stamp will not be refunded if the envelope is spoilt, without an immense amount of trouble almost entirely prohibits any general use of them by the public. The envelope may be rendered useless by wrongly addressing it or in a hundred different ways, but that does not alter the fact that the stamp cannot be used if detached from the envelope. The value of an embossed stamp on a spoilt envelope we may safely say is *nil*, although it has not done postal duty, as we believe the Post Office will only refund money in cases where a large quantity is presented and then only at face value. The extra money originally charged to cover cost of paper is never refunded, and moreover one would be wrong to expect it. We think therefore it would not be too much to ask H.M. Postmaster General to lend his assistance to a much needed reform in this matter. The separate use of embossed stamps on spoiled telegraph forms is permitted and why not of envelopes too?

Philately.

Since the earliest days of Philatelic Journalism it has been and will continue to be the custom of every journal devoted to stamp collecting to make one effort to uphold and explain its uses and the amount of knowledge gained by following such an amusing, yet instructive hobby, therefore it is not necessary to give an apology for entering upon a subject so trite as a Plea for Philately.

Let us first look at our subject in the light of a hobby, for hobbies are of great use in their way, and almost every person follows a hobby of some kind. Hobbies are indeed very profitable, in that a man may become a connoisseur in his line, and perhaps an authority; many of our greatest men have devoted their time to hobbies, Walpole was one of the most famous collectors of Bric a Brac in his day and had such a quantity of curiosities that his house resembled a veritable shop of antiquities. But those who follow the amusement chiefly for the hobbies sake are schoolboys by a great and overwhelming majority, truly they have a right to be classed among the ranks of stamp collectors, but a very small per centage of this great army follow up their hobbies with the spirits of thorough enthusiasts, a great deal of this may be the fault of the parents who look upon stamp collecting as a useless though expensive amusement, and endeavour often to dissuade their enterprising offspring from following a hobby that to them appears only to make some tremendous holes in the pockets, but I would call the attention of such to the advantages of allowing in such cases their sons and daughters to follow their own chosen amusements for stamp collecting is able, and does teach us, a great many lessons at once, namely, History, Geography and Politics are all included in this pleasing instruction book, "the stamp album," and a boy soon gains knowledge this way whereas in the ordinary routine of school work he would endeavour to shirk, that which to him by stamp collecting becomes a pleasure.

Historical subjects that may be gathered by the perusal of an album can of course only show modern events, the postage stamp not having been brought into use until the year 1840, but for example of modern events we can trace the many changes of government in Peru

by the surcharges of the Chilian Arms on the stamps, and the changes of government of France are depicted by firstly the head of Liberty representing the Republic of 1819, and in 1852, by the head of Napoleon during his presidency and who later became emperor is shown by the laureated head of the emperor on the stamps of 1863, but too much space would be occupied were we to enter fully into the examples that may be given by looking at the stamps of such countries as Spain, as well as the new issues that have been called into use by the deaths of reigning sovereigns.

(To be Continued.)

New Issues.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The design of the 12c stamp has been altered to match the current $\frac{1}{2}$ c and 1c, the color is now deep blue.

Adhesive—12 c. - deep blue.

BANGKOK.—The 32c Straits Settlements 1st issue (two annas India surcharged,) bears the additional surcharge of "B"

Adhesive—32 c. on 2 annas.

BRAZIL.—The design of the 100 reis has undergone a change,

Adhesive—100 reis. pale mauve.

CONGO STATE.—We learn, stamps for this state are being prepared in Brussels, on which a portrait of the King of the Belgians will appear,

EASTERN ROUMELIA.—The following stamps have been surcharged with the Bulgarian arms, some also bearing the words "South Bulgaria" in Russian characters,

Adhesives—5 paras,	lilac and black,	black surcharge.
10 "	green and black,	"
1 piastre,	blue and black,	"

FRENCH COLONIES.—Two new post cards have been issued, bearing stamps corresponding in design with the current adhesives.

Post cards—10 centimes, black on lavender.
10 X 10 " " " pale blue.

GUINEA.—The Cape Verde, 20 reis stamp, has been surcharged for use in this Colony.

Adhesive—20 reis - carmine.

LUXEMBURG.—The colour of the 10c Post Card has been changed to pink.

Postcard—10c - pink on buff.

NABHA.—In our last issue we omitted to chronicle the following stamps. They are similar to those of Puttiala and bear the surcharge "Nabha State" in black.

Adhesives—	$\frac{1}{2}$ a.	green,	black surcharge.
	1 a.	brown,	" "
	2 a.	blue,	" "
	4 a.	green,	" "
	8 a.	lavac,	" "
	1 r.	grey.	" "
Official adhesives—	$\frac{1}{2}$ a.	green,	" "
	1 a.	brown,	" "
	2 a.	blue,	" "

The Postcards and envelopes have been surcharged with a coat of arms.

Post cards—	$\frac{1}{4}$ a.	brown	deep blue surcharge.
	$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4}$ a.	"	" " "
Envelopes—	$\frac{1}{4}$ a.	green,	red and vermilion surcharge,
	1 a.	brown,	silver and brown surcharge,

NICARAGUA.—A reply card for inland use has been issued.

Post card—2 x 2 centavos, brown on buff

PORTUGAL.—The 20 reis postcard now appears in bright blue.

SHANGHAI.—A correspondent sends us two stamps which have undergone a change of color.

Adhesives—	80 cash	salmon pink.
	100 "	pale yellow.

SPANISH AFRICA—Two stamps of the current of Spain have been surcharged in three lines. (1) AFRICA; (2) RIO DE ORO; (3) ESPANA. They are surcharged in mauve.

Adhesives—	5 c.	pale green.
	15 c.	pink,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The current 5c blue has been surcharged in fine Roman capitals ³CENTS

Adhesive—3: on 5c blue.

TIMOR.—The Macau stamp of 20 Reis value, has been surcharged for use in this Colony.

Adhesive—20 reis carmine.

TRANSVAAL.—Four surcharged stamps have appeared as follows.

Provisional adhesive—	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1/-	green.
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 3d.	violet, 1885. black surcharge.
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d.	black, 1878. Red surcharge.
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d.	" 1878. " "

VICTORIA.—The 1d. post card is now printed on white.

Post card, 1d. rose on white

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

Collectors wishing to complete their collections should purchase sets of stamps. Set of *7 Bosnia 1/-; *11 Sweden Service 9d.; 5 Bergedorf 5d. 8 Samoa 4/-; 4 Persia Service 1/-; 4 Guatemala 1877. 2/-; 3 Tromso 4d.; 7 Alsace and Lorraine 1/6; 5 Mauritius (Britannia) 3/6; 9 German Empire 5d.; 11 Sardinia 5d.; 2 Corea, 5 and 10 Mon 2/6; *3 China, 6d. Postage one Penny per set. *Those marked thus* are used.* Complete list may be obtained of Messrs. BUTLER BROS. Stamp Importers, Canterbury.

Findings.

Brazil was the first country to follow the example of Great Britain, in the cheap postage scheme. The first issue appeared on July 1st. 1843, although the order for the change was made in November 1842. Why the stamps with numerals appeared first instead of the design with the head of the sovereign, was that the Postmaster General fancied it would be showing disrespect to the monarch to obliterate his face.

7,500 people are employed in the Japanese Post Office.

Austria issued the first post card in 1869, Bavaria and Luxemburg both claim the honour of issuing the first reply cards.

The *Philatelic Herald* of America, states, "A curious method of cheating the government revenue was once discovered in Spain, some people covered the stamps used by them with a kind of varnish, the cancellation being struck over this could be washed off when the letter arrived at its destination and parties occasionally kept up a correspondence with only one stamp between them."

The Postmaster General's annual report, ending March 1885, contains a large amount of information to stamp collectors and any one fond of statistics. A fair increase is shown in all Departments, viz.: Postcards, 4.4 per cent.; Letters 2.9 per cent.; Circulars and Book

packets 8·8 per cent: Parcels 11·3 per cent: Newspapers 0·7 per cent. Each person on an average received 42 letters. The gross profit during the year was £2,646,298, being less than the previous year.

The Post Office Authorities have issued a circular headed "Important Notice to Stamp Dealers and the Public," setting forth the clauses of the Post Office Protection Act. Shall we soon hear that the stamp dealing millionaire, devoted *another* portion of his vast fortune towards the printing of this circular?

Our Contemporaries.

Foreign Stamp Collectors News has appeared in a much improved form.

Stamp Collectors Journal has commenced its eighth volume and is now devoted solely to the interests of Philately. We wish it still greater success.

The Empire State Philatelist comes to hand in an attractive cover and is really worthy of large support.

Philatelic Journal of America is a well got up Journal but requires more original matter, the best articles are copied from a prominent English paper.

Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal, is evidently published regardless of cost. It is well printed, well written, and appears twice each month.

Received with thanks *Capital City Philatelist Le Commercant, Welt Post, The Hermes, Deutsche Briefmarken, Zeitung, Toronto Philatelic Journal, La Timbrologie*,

Publishers of stamp papers are invited to send their paper in exchange for this.

PABLO GEWELKE,

BUENOS AYRES, CASILLA 962,

ARGENTINA.

Wholesale Price List of Stamps
of South America 2d. post free.

W. F. GREANY,

827, BRANNAN STREET.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Desires to receive consignments of British Colonial and other stamps, and can offer in exchange such scarce stamps, as Sandwich Is., Guatemala, Hong Kong, China, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico and U.S. departments.

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 3/2 abroad 3/9.

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SPECIAL OFFERS TO COLLECTORS.

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Alsace and Lorraine, <i>with reversed network</i> 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, & 25c. set of seven for	1	6
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Mauritius, 1858 (Britannia), vermilion, red-brown, blue, 6d. unperforated, and 6d. perforated, ... set of five for	2	6
Mexico, Porte de Mar 1880 issue, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, & 100 centavos, set of six for	3	6
Persia, Service 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi ... set of four for	1	6
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d ... set of four for	1	0
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. ... set of eight for	4	0
Salvador, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 4 reals... set of four for	2	6
Servia, 1869 issue, 2, 10, 20, 25, 35, 40, and 50 paras ... set of seven for	1	0

All the above are Unused and in Good Condition.

Wholesale Quotations will be sent on application.

Collectors are invited to send for our Price List of Cheap Packets and Sets of Stamps, which will be sent Gratis and Post Free. Our prices will be found to bear favourable comparison with those of any other Firm.

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A detailed Prospectus of which can be had on application :—

THE CROWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS, newest edition.
2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 5s., 6s. 6d., 8s., and 9s.; all Post Free.

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS, 21st edition.
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ESTABLISHED 1869.

Butlers' Philatelic Observer,

SUBSCRIPTION 1/6 PER ANNUM Post Free.

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Send for Price List of
Packets, Sets, Albums, &c.



GOOD COLLECTIONS WANTED FOR CASH.

Collections may be sent on approval by post, registered, the lowest price that will be accepted must always be stated.

OLD COLONIALS and all kinds of RARE STAMPS WANTED

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Send for WHOLESALE LIST, Post Free.



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WHOLESALE & RETAIL FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS.
CANTERBURY, ENGLAND.

NEW STAMP ALBUM

NOW READY, THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE

Imperial Postage Stamp Album,

In Two Volumes, entirely revised, and brought up to the present date (1885).

Prices Post Free and Securely Packed.

- No. 5—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, strongly bound in embossed cloth, gilt lettering sprinkled edges. The two volumes, 14s. 6d.
No. 6.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, superior embossed cloth, ornamental gilt lettering and border. The two volumes, 17s.
No. 7.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, handsomely bound, with gilt lettering and ornaments, bevelled boards, gilt edges, and patent expanding clasp. The two volumes, 19s. 6d.
No. 8.—Crown 4to, on superior quality paper, handsomely bound, extra gilt, bevelled boards, gilt edges, and patent expanding clasp. The two volumes, 22s. 6d.
No. 9.—Crown 4to, on superior quality paper, handsomely bound in morocco relief, gilt edges, two patent expanding clasps. The two volumes, 32s. 6d.

Uniform with the above, being designed as a companion Volume,

The Imperial Post Card Album.

- No. 5a.—Style No. 5 (see above), post free, 4s. 2d. No. 6a.—Style No. 6 or 7 (see above), post free, 5s. 8d. No. 8a.—Style No. 8 (see above), post free, 8s. 8d. No. 9a.—Style No. 9 or 10 (see above), post free, 11s. 3d.

Illustrated 12 page prospectus post free on application.

Stanley, Gibbons, & Co., 8, Gower Street, London, W.C.

J. H. LACY & Co.,

ROTHERHITHE, S.E. ENGLAND,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS,

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Have a large stock of Stamps of all countries for Sale at prices that cannot be equalled.

Wholesale price list, contains many lines of Valuable Stamps not generally quoted wholesale. Post Free.

PARCELS SOLD AS IMPORTED.

This system insures a Parcel, large or small being obtained undivided. Purchasers have stamps at special prices and are not likely to be undersold. List issued periodically offers also Stamps of other Dealers, held by us for sale on commission. Exchange trade has special attention devoted to it. Foreign and Colonial Dealers are invited to send consignments, which we shall be glad to have for Cash or Exchange.

Provisionals, New Issues, and general regular supplies required.

J. H. LACY, & Co.,

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BUTLERS'
PHILATELIC OBSERVER,
JANUARY, 1886.

“En Passant.”

Looking through philatelic spectacles the year just closed has hardly been a satisfactory one to us as scientists, and it cannot be said to have brought even an instalment of the good old times hoped for among the commercial community of the stamp world. Both collectors and dealers generally alike are dissatisfied with the year's work. Another 12 months has been meted out to those whom we are accustomed to look to for discoveries and resuscitations, and the chroniclers have had a similar opportunity to increase the record of new issues; let us peep at the results. Discoveries have, in a measure, been plentiful and we have had some interesting things brought to light, but there are many doubtful subjects still. It will scarcely be necessary to recount the net results here, but these discoveries are not the less valuable to students. The total of newly issued stamps in 1885, shews a remarkable reduction from those chronicled during the past few years, the preceding twelve months (1884) being noted for a rather larger influx of fresh stamps than usual. During the last few months of the old year the average was especially low. The extraordinary numbers and character of the year's surcharges calls perhaps for special remark; they have become more numerous than ever, but the earlier part of the year gave birth to most of them. Since the days of the Peruvian vagaries these undesirable contributors to the album page have quickly increased out of all proportion to reasonable requirements by the various administrations issuing them. The probability is however, and we think it may be assumed that the effect of thrusting upon the market such a multiplicity of surcharged labels will not be long in asserting itself. In the opinion of many a' most the extreme length of tether has been obtained in England, and there has been at last some awakening to the precise value of these labels. For the last three or four months we have been glad to note that their presence in the

monthly record of novelties has not been so conspicuous as we have almost become accustomed to find it. In this connection might be mentioned those Indian States for use in which the Imperial stamps have been surcharged. These overprinted labels are virtually new issues, inasmuch that the States referred to had no separate series until these emissions took place, some extraordinary and apparently wanton varieties are present nevertheless. Our remarks of course do not apply to every instance, but exceptions we are sorry to say are few and far between that a stringent criticism might not well be applied to. There has been noted a fair sprinkling of post cards somewhat in advance of the number of adhesives; while news-wrappers have also received attention.

By far the more serious subject for comment is the unmistakable decline of stamp collecting, distasteful though it may be. Despite the opinion of those who habitually look to the bright side of things it is too true that business is not only at a standstill but it has been discovered that interest in the science is growing less. The exact cause is hard to seek although some profess to have the whole secret of the depression at their fingers ends. We have also seen the belief put forward that the low ebb of every line of business affects Philately in a much greater way than is generally supposed. It may to a certain extent be responsible, but we are inclined to think that the causes are due to no outside influence but that the fate of the Science is entirely within its own control. In the first place we attribute a great portion of the mischief to the imprudent circulation of "remainders" which are always sold at high prices when they first come into the market, and the same stamps become a great deal less valuable as soon as the anxiety to possess copies decreases. Another source of mischief is the large traffic in *forged* stamps, which we trust will be greatly checked by the coming revelations recently promised by one who is said to have been behind the scenes. The third reason we believe to be an unquestionable lack of literature bearing upon the pursuit. Of some hundreds of journals, magazine, and literary publications in England only four claim dedication to the interest of stamp-collecting. We question whether this tale of scant support is not in itself sufficient proof that something is rotten in the Denmark of Philately. We have our circle of readers and we presume the other papers receive some sort of support from their respective readers, yet the total of the four subscription lists would not represent one quarter of the total number of Philatelists in the country. It is admitted that a considerable amount of exchanging goes on, but supposing that each reader of the "Observer" lends his copy to his non-subscribing friend (we wish everyone would do so) and the same example is followed by readers of journals other than our own, there is still one half of the great body of English stamp collectors to be provided for. Nothing being lost by discussion except ignorance, it is a matter of necessity that facilities for argument should be increased in proper proportion to our present requirements. The remedy rests with collectors.

Next year we hope to have a pleasanter tale to tell and we are looking for brighter times to assert themselves in English Philately during the next twelve months. It is a noteworthy fact that stamp collecting in America was never more flourishing. There is much to be thankful for and still more to hope for. Let every possessor of a collection of stamps ask himself, "What am I doing to help Philately forward?", "have I made any researches? I have the means at my disposal a collection and surely there is room and to spare for help and greater interest from every quarter. Have not I found out something of use to the Science at large? and is there not this or that stamp in my album, copies of which are equally as scarce as good descriptions and notes concerning its designs. Then if so set to work at once. Do not be content to let things slide as they are doing at the present moment as everybody can do something to keep the old ship afloat.

Willing horses must not be expected to work too long or next years records will be even more discreditable than those of Philatelic events in 1885.

The Stamps of Corea.

In our May number, we felt it our duty to doubt the authenticity of these labels, but we are now compelled to chronicle them as a genuine emission. Perhaps a few remarks as to the position of Corea, and also its postal system may be of interest. Corea is a peninsula, situate on the north east of China, and is a continual cause of dispute between China and Japan, but at the present time Japan is in the ascendant. The Coreans however claim to be an independant state, and sometime ago with a most laudable desire, wished to establish a Postal system of their own, and to this end issued the following labels

5 Mon	Carminc
10 "	Blue

but as soon as the stamps were issued the Japauese officials (who went to organise the Postal system for the Coreans) met with so many difficulties, that the idea was given up, and the Japanese system is established in the country, we can vouch for the correctness of this statement, as we have seen an envelope from Corea bearing Japanese stamps. The design gives a representation of the Corean arms, which are a circle with a white rim, and the inside composed of semi-circular bands of white and colour. The 5 Mon has this target-like design, in the centre, enclosed in a rectangular frame of four panels, there is also a circle in each corner of the stamp. The inscription is in Chinese characters the top line meaning. POSTAGE STAMP OF THE GREAT KINGDOM OF COREA. The same inscription is in the lower line, but in Corean, the side panels contain the value.

In the 10 Mon the central design is enclosed in a larger circle, bearing inscriptions similar to those in the upper and lower spaces of the 5 Mon. Four octagons form the angles, the word "Corean" is in English in the upper space, and the word "Post" is also in English on each side of the stamp. Each stamp has its value in English characters at the bottom, both stamps are printed on white paper. Although the issue consists of only two stamps it must shortly become very scarce, collectors will do well to secure these stamps, they are sure to rise in price, and may soon perhaps become almost unattainable, except to collectors who are blessed with a long purse.

New Issues.

AZORES.—The 2 reis Portugese stamp has been surcharged in black.

Adhesive—2 reis black, surcharge in black

CONGO.—The following provisionals have been issued, the design being made by the alteration of the Belgian dies of the issue 1869-78.

Adhesives—5c - green
 10c - rose
 25c - blue
 50c - resoda
 Post Card—15c - red brown

ECUADOR.—Two new post cards have appeared

Post Cards	2 centavos	black on white
	3 "	" " rose

GIBRALTAR.—We have seen, three Bermuda adhesives and a Barbados Registration envelope surcharged GIBRALTAR, we presume they are the forerunners of a complete issue.

Adhesives—2½d.	ultramarine	black surcharge
	4d.	orange " "
	6d.	lavac " "
Barbados Registration Envelope		" "

MACAO.—The two following provisionals have appeared.

Adhesives—5 reis	surcharged on 25 reis	carmine
10 "	"	on 50 reis green

MALTA.—A five shilling stamp has been issued for use in this island.

Adhesive—Five shillings—carmine

MEXICO.—The green stamps have now been superseded by a series of the same design, the colours of which we give below

1 centavo	light green
2 "	carmine
3 "	yellow brown
4 "	rose
5 "	ultramarine
6 "	purple
10 "	orange
12 "	bistre
25 "	bright blue

The Stamps of China.

In a short account of the History of the Chinese Postal system there is not any necessity to enter into an elaborate description of the stamps of this mighty Celestial Empire, for the very simple reason, that up to the present time only three labels have been issued viz.

1 Candarin	Green.
3 "	Red.
5 "	Yellow

The system is divided into two parts, one being the Government post, the other the Peoples' post, we will describe the former first. The Government post is not intended to be used for any other purpose than to convey the "Imperial Gazettes" and official notices of all kinds, although it may be that sometimes, persons who are high in favour at court, are allowed to make use of this post, no stamps are used, consequently the Government of China has no Postage stamps. China is undoubtedly far behind other nations in its postal system, although the Chinese claim to have had a "post" for centuries and yet these celestial beings a few hundred years ago, were in a much higher state of civilisation than any part of Europe, they however seem scarcely able to move with the times, and make themselves a place on a level with the great powers of Western Europe. The People's post is not carried on by the Government but by a number of licensed Companies or Co-operative Societies, in each town there are several offices, but of different companies, the system is good and can be trusted almost to the extent we trust our own. The following description of a post house in Shanghai, is given by a traveller in China. "Close to the small east gate of Shanghai, and in one of the most popular thoroughfares, stand the offices of a letter and parcel delivery company, called the Tianshun house. It transmits letters through four postal lines, connected with the first cities in the central

provinces, Kiangnan, Kiangsi, Horan, and Chihkiang, indirectly also, with the remote country parts in those directions. Each of these lines is served separately by its own particular firm; but the junction of the four at Shanghai is completed by the union of these four firms in a general partnership, limiting its own liabilities. Its mode of working will be understood by following it on any single line, say that which runs along the coast of Chihkiang, and extends to the north east corner of the Fokian province, a distance of not quite seven hundred miles, there are employed upon it sixteen postmen. The names of these are written in large characters upon a board hung up in the receiving house and most of them are partners in the business. There are fixed days for the receipt of letters on this line, making about twenty post days in the month. For each post day one man is nominated as carrier, and his name is regularly advertised upon the letter board, one day at least previous to his departure." All these companies use the same stamps, so that in some way they must be under the control of the Government, or there may be a general understanding between them that it is better for all to conform to one rule. The stamps are not very handsome, the design consists of a large dragon in the centre, China, in English characters at the top, at the bottom is seen the value also in English characters, in the two angles on each side of the word China, is seen the value in Chinese, the stamps vary in colour, from carmine to a pale red, and from yellow to deep orange, but the colours are substantially correct as stated above. These remarks do not apply to the Local post of Shanghai.

Fottings.

The highest price ever paid for a Russian Stamp was £60. This amount was paid for the 1869 issue of the Saratoff Local.

* * * *

Up to December 1884, 31,301,885,334, stamps had been printed the number of each value being $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2,970,705,120; 1d., 26,651,930,040; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 105,603,360; 2d., 385,171,080; $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 284,475,696; 3d., 223,381,000; 4d., 175,221,180; 5d., 26,413,680; 6d., 217,048,960; 8d., 4,608,720; 9d., 11,235,080; 10d., 5,963,476; 1/- 225,378,060; 2/- 6,715,820; 2/6., 789,884; 5/-., 6,413,686; 10/- 461,438; £1., 285,054; £5 84,000.

* * * *

The Galliera collection of Postage stamps is said to be worth £57,600, Sir Daniel Cooper sold his collection for £3,000.

* * * *

Mr. J. M. Randall of Boston advertised the following sets in the "Philatelic Squeal," he however does not guarantee any stamps to be genuine, except those he buys at foreign post offices.

Set of 4 Cape, triangular	1853.	5d.
" 4 "	" "	1860. 5d.
" 6 Corrientes		5d.
" 2 Cabul		2½d.
" 12 Mexico (Porte de Mar)		7½d.
" 2 Reunion		2½d.
" 7 Swiss Cantenals		5d.

When will collectors see the folly of buying stamps offered at prices they know genuine stamps cannot be bought for, they should recollect it is to the advantage of a dealer to sell stamps at the very lowest remunerative prices. Respectable dealers do not sell forged stamps.

A word in Season.

Once more it has become our unpleasant duty to warn stamp collectors in general of a system of extensive and dangerous frauds which are being practised in London. The recent demand for surcharged stamps, and the high prices obtainable for some of the scarcer varieties, have brought into play once more the ingenuity of certain unprincipled scoundrels, whose whole lives are spent in devising plans for swindling collectors. The provisional Ceylons are this time favoured with their attention, and quantities of forged surcharges are being placed in the market. Conspicuous among these are specimens of the rare 20c on 32 c, slate, not only in its normal condition, but with *inverted* surcharge. Also the 5 on 48c., 5 on 24c., green, 5 on 96c., 1 rupee 12c on 2 rupee 50c., and others, all with *inverted* surcharges. The original stamps without surcharge are bought up from dealers here and there, a forged surcharge is printed upon them, and they are offered to the public as genuine provisionals. We venture to assert that *not one single legitimate specimen* of any of the stamps enumerated above with inverted surcharge has been found up to the present time, and whoever offers them for sale is offering (whether in ignorance or with fraudulent intent) *forgeries*. The old violet Indian bill stamps are also being manipulated for purposes of fraud. Specimens of these are obtained from old bills (and they were frequently left unobliterated), and are surcharged in green, "Service-Postage." They are then offered to the unwary (at a price that is "tempting" but not *too* low, for fear of exciting suspicion) as genuine old unused provisionals.

We can only utter a warning note. It is for collectors to keep their eyes open, and protect themselves; but so long as they persist in indulging in dreams of obtaining *rare* stamps much below their market value, and are content to buy, if only the price be cheap, from anybody and everybody, so long will they continue to be the prey of the class of vagabonds to whom reputation would be a superfluity, and honesty an intolerable burden. Look out also for provisional Portuguese Indies with forged surcharges, and French "errors of colour" chemically produced.—
The Philatelic Record

Our Contemporaries.

Foreign Stamp Collector, a consumptive looking journal, contains nothing worthy of comment in the first number, and doubtless is destined for a short life.

Philatelic Star and Coin Collector, commences vol. III. with a much enlarged and improved number, an improvement could be made by having the numbers stitched and cut, under skilful management it should make its way.

Stamp News, again appears, two numbers in one, we are afraid it will never improve.

British Philatelist, another new journal, consists of eight pages of matter and advertisements, as no charge is made for a copy, it may perhaps have a wide circulation, but will it pay?

Received with thanks, *Empire State Philatelist*, *Foreign Stamp Collectors News*, *Stamp Collectors Journal*, *Toronto Philatelic Journal*, *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, *Stamp Dealers Journal* and *Philatelic Magazine*

PABLO GEWELKE,
BUENOS AYRES, CASILLA 962,
ARGENTINA.

Wholesale Price List of Stamps
of South America 2d. post free.

W. F. GREANY,

827, BRANNAN STREET.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Desires to receive consignments of British Colonial and other stamps, and can offer in exchange such scarce stamps as Sandwich Is., Guatemala, Hong Kong, Cains, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico and U.S. departments,

IMPORTANT!

IN consequence of so few applications for these Packets we have been obliged to defer the Draw until November, 1886. If the numbers are not obtained then we shall give Prizes according to numbers received to close our offer.

Read This! Read This! Given Away! Given Away!

1	Grand Cash Gift ..	...	...	...	£50
2	ditto	£10 each..	...	...	20
10	Collections of Foreign Stamps, 1,000 var.,	£5 each	...	...	50
10	Pairs Mulready Envelopes, £1 each	...	...	...	10
40	Packets Rare Sets Foreign Stamps, 10/- each..	...	...	...	20
40	"	"	3/-	"	10
40	"	"	2/6	"	5
200	Rare Sets, 1/- each	...	...	...	10
100	Packets Rare Stamps, 2/- each	...	...	...	10
100	"	1/-	...	...	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	...	...	...	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 5/-	"	...	...	25
100	" Stamp	4/-	"	...	20
100	" Scrap	4/-	"	...	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	...	...	...	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	...	...	...	15
100	Penknives 1/-	...	...	...	5

XXX offer £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s, consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No. 2 packet a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

No. 3 packet consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps, various designs, post free 1/-, abroad 1/2.

No. 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South America W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

*No. 6, 20 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.

*No. 7, 250 Foreign Stamps from all parts of the globe, many scarce, post free 7/2 abroad 3/9.

No. 8, 500 assorted stamps, including some very rare stamps, post free 1/1 abroad 1/3.

*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money; the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Buller's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON & CO.,

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AMBERLEY ROAD, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W

WHITFIELD KING & Co.,

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AND

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Mauritius, 1858 (Britannia), vermilion, red-brown, blue, 6d unperforated, and 6d perforated, ... set of five for	2	6
Mexico, Porte de Mar 1880 issue, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, & 100 centavos, set of six for	3	6
Persia, Service 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi ... set of four for	1	6
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d ... set of four for	1	0
Samoa, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. ... set of eight for	4	0
Salvador, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 4 reals... set of four for	2	6
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NOTICE OF REMOVAL!

BUTLER BROS.,
STAMP IMPORTERS,
CANTERBURY,

Will on MARCH 22nd, 1886,

REMOVE

THEIR STAMP BUSINESS

TO

141, MANSFIELD ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.

In consequence of the enormous increase of our Stamp business we have found it absolutely necessary to obtain more commodious premises. We shall in future be able to execute orders with *even greater* punctuality than formerly.

After MARCH 22nd next, please address all communications,

BUTLER BROS.,
FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,
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NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND.

PUBLISHED BY BUTLER BROS. CANTERBURY.
ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.] [ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

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 No. 7.—Crown 4to, on extra stout paper, handsomely bound, with gilt lettering and ornaments, bevelled boards, gilt edges, and patent expanding clasp. The two volumes, 19s. 6d.
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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER

FEBRUARY, 1886.

"En Passant."

After all there appears to be more in a name than is claimed by tradition, especially if the name happens to be "Jones" and its bearer lives in Wales. A letter simply directed to "Mr. Jones, Wales" was posted at Preston and delivered next morning to Mr. Pryce Jones, M.P. Newtown in Montgomeryshire. Beyond entitling Mr. Pryce Jones, M.P. to consider himself *the* "Jones" of Wales the "epistolary curiosity" seems to be somewhat common-place. To take it out of that category, it so happens that Mr. Pryce Jones was the intended recipient of the missive. We are told that this gentleman receives on an average more than two thousand letters every day, and that among this swarm of correspondence, letters addressed simply "Mr. Pryce Jones, Wales" are constantly reaching him. With this explanation before us it is not a very difficult matter to account for the "epistolary curiosity," as Mr. P. J. must be a well known man, especially within the limits of the Principality, and his name is therefore proportionately familiar to the officials in the Welsh post offices; hence letters bearing a vague address are sent by the sorters to the best known man bearing the name used. Smiths Browns or Robinsons who are entitled to the distinguishing adjective prefixed to their names, will probably now find letters, in default of more definite addresses, will drift to them. The most extraordinary part of the business is that anybody in Preston or elsewhere, should think a letter, addressed as we have described, sufficient to find the person it was intended to communicate with. The wit, if any, in the matter really belongs to the Post Office Official, who made his selection as to "The Jones, of Wales."

* * * * *

Post Office eccentricities if related too often are apt to become most tiresome reading, but now that we are on the subject, we believe the post card which took nearly nine years to reach its destination has never been cited as a philatelic curiosity. The card was posted at Slough a place about eighteen miles from London on the evening of the 15th of October 1874, and was in the hands of the postal officials travelling up and down the country until September 18th 1883, when it was safely delivered in the Metropolis to the person it was originally intended to go to, having thus been on the road eight years and three-hundred and thirty-eight days. This curiosity we believe may now be seen in a shop window in Cannon St. E.C. Another very similar but more recent instance of the pertinacity of the post office is a postal

curiosity also a post card, in the hands of one of our readers at Ipswich which was posted there on the 9th of April, 1885. The address was inscribed wrongly and this error led to the card being sent to 32 towns and postal districts, in the hope of finding the rightful owner; but the hunt had to be given up and the post card was returned to the sender only a week or two back, with the usual official intimation that the addressee could not be found, having thus been on journey nearly ten months.

* * * * *

There is a report current that it is not the intention of the authorities to print any further quantity of the present half-penny stamps as it is supposed that enough stock is at present in hand to meet the requirements of the public until April, when it may be inferred the projected new issue of stamps will take place. We are not able to advise too much credence to be placed in the statement, we have recounted, nor is it probable we think that the department intends to revert to Mr. Harness's suggestion should a substitute be required by reason of the stock of half-penny labels falling short of the 1st of April. The sequel of the tale turns on this broad statement of the intentions of the authorities and it is to this that we attribute the likelihood of the report being premature and substantially incorrect.

* * * * *

The longitude of Gibraltar and the Bermuda Islands is so widely different that it is hard to suppose that this is the reason why the stamps of the latter Colony have been surcharged for use in Gibraltar and the ornamentation of stamp albums. Quite the reverse we anticipate. The 2½d blue has no sooner come into service in Bermuda than an overprint is necessary thereon for another Colony. Up to the present the good people at Gibraltar have been content to use the postage stamps of the old country to frank their correspondence, and why the authorities whose great wisdom for economy is beyond question, should go to the expense of surcharging the Bermuda labels for special use seems to be outside sane reasoning. But that the surcharge is there is a fact nevertheless.

* * * * *

Reverting to the extract given in our January impression, with regard to the circulation of forged Ceylon stamps, one of our readers writes as follows: "There is probably no collection so safe from the inroads of the forger as that which includes only used specimens of postage stamps." Our correspondent who claims some considerable experience in collecting gives his opinion that this plan if generally adopted would dispose entirely of the likelihood of many of the cleverest forgeries being sold in sufficient numbers to pay even the cost of production.

To make a good imitation costs a great deal more money than is generally supposed and from cheaply lithographed specimens, carelessly drawn there is not much to fear in the way of the public being victimised by them. "The demand for them being less, there would be little or no return for these ingenious people to look to, to reimburse their outlay." The same writer concludes an interesting letter, which

we wish we had room to print in full, by quoting the following, but the fact that a letter carrier collects so many used specimens in so short a time must not be taken as a fair example of what anybody else, not being a letter carrier, could do, as the opportunities for collecting would be very different. He says "I am acquainted with a postman in one of our large manufacturing towns, who has amassed a grand collection of something like 4,000 varieties in less than three years which have all done postal duty. The collection was examined by me a few weeks ago and since that one of the best judges of the day has pronounced that not a single forgery disgraces its pages, and with two exceptions the stamps are all perfect specimens. A great point with my collector friend would seem to be that the stamp to secure a place in his collection must be one with a well defined postmark. Some of his specimens might be objected to on the ground of over-obliteration but he claims rather more value for those than otherwise." We shall have more to say about this next month.

* * * * *

Most of our contemporaries we note have re-iterated our warning in January against the Indian bill stamp forgeries and the bogus surcharges among the Ceylon stamps. To the same class may be added the recent alleged issue for the Reunion Isle. Once more in the record of Philatelic history have the stamps of the island become the vehicle of fraud or attempted fraud upon the public, as we are happy to say, the circumstance to which we now refer has not sufficiently developed as to prove a serious matter in this connection, as unfortunately was the case with the systematic reprinting of the original issue. In our October issue we drew attention to the circulation of a number of surcharges on certain French colonial stamps, for use as alleged at the time, in the Island of Reunion. We are now able to inform our readers that these over-printed labels are wholly bogus, being indebted for their origin to a gang of forgers in the French capital.

* * * * *

Collectors will soon be able to increase their specimens of Belgium stamps by the 2 franc label issued in that country last month. We recollect the announcement appearing about some eighteen months ago, that the two franc value was in the prospective, and it is not a little singular that the fore-cast should have been so far in advance of its issue. A London firm is credited with the workmanship of the design which resembles the one franc stamp in many respects. The principal deviation from the design of the last named label is the absence of the laurel branches, which has made room for a bulky looking ornament representing the horn of plenty, and the change is one for the better. At a rough glance if it were not for the difference in color, the 2 franc stamp might easily be mistaken for its companion value the one franc.

* * * * *

An authority in stamp matters lays down a very good rule regarding the valuation of labels that come within the category of "rare stamps", and the rule is this; "in rare stamps there is not a market value, the only real value being what a purchaser can be induced to give for it.

The plan of forcing upon members of the International Philatelic Union an outside literary magazine, as the official organ of the Society, does not appear to recommend itself in practice. We are led to opine this a safeguard against success, from an inspection of the balance sheet for 1885, which has just reached us. A sum total of £4, represents the amount of the years monetary transactions, and rather more than half the annual income is required to meet the royalty charged by the publisher of the official organ, which paper is not exclusively devoted to the provision of a record of the Society's work. In the course of the twelve month the member's roll has gone through the process of halving, the subscriptions being now reduced in number to thirty, although the total income of the year is not so much affected as would otherwise be the case if the toll per member had not been raised to two shillings. We fear in this particular the chances of the Society have been seriously curtailed and its province encroached upon, as such an institution naturally thrives the greater in proportion to the largeness of its sphere of work. Postage stationery and printing are also represented on the expenditure side by comparatively heavy items amounting to £1 12s. 3d. and it would have been more satisfactory we think, had the financial statement been supplemented by foot-notes explanatory of how these items were made up. As however, we are not behind the scenes we can only presume that the requirements of the Union in this department are large. The balance in hand at the end of the year is about 14/- less than the previous year's report shewed, and altogether we are sorry not to be unable to congratulate the Society on a more flourishing report, which we are inclined to think might have been otherwise had the lower subscription been allowed to remain and the other circumstance we have referred to been absent.

New Issues.

BELGIUM.—Three new stamps have been issued, of similar design to those of the 1884-5 issue.

Adhesives—	20 centimes,	olive
	50 centimes,	dull yellow
	2 franc	violet

CEYLON.—Two post cards have appeared of the value of 3 and 10 cents.

Post cards—	3 cents,	purple on buff
	10 "	brown "

CHILI.—The colour of the 20 centavos stamp has undergone a change.

Adhesive—	20 centavos,	grey
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GUANACASTE.—The 1, 2, and 40 centavos stamps of Costa Rica have been surcharged horizontally in small type Guanacaste, and the 5 and 10 centavos have been surcharged in capitals vertically.

Adhesives—	1 centavo,	green,	surcharged in black
	2 "	carmine,	" "
	5 "	slate	" "
	10 "	orange	" "
	40 "	blue	" red

LIBERIA.—A new issue of all values has appeared.

1 cent,	pink	6	grey
2 "	light green	8	dark grey
3 "	deep lilac	16	yellow
4 "	chocolate	32	blue

MOZAMBIQUE.—From a contemporary we learn a new series of stamps has been issued for this Portuguese Colony.

Adhesives—5 reis,	black	50	blue
10 "	green	100	brown
20 "	carmine	200	violet
25 "	pale lilac	300	orange
40 "	chocolate brown		

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—From the same source we also learn the following stamps have been issued for the Portuguese Indies.

Adhesives—1½ reis,	black	1 tanga,	pink
4½ "	bistre	2 "	blue
6 "	green	4 "	purple
		8 "	orange

SHANGHAI.—A post card of the value of 20 cash has been issued.

Post card—20 cash, pale brown on white.

SURINAM.—The following values of unpaid letter stamps have appeared for use in this colony.

2½, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 40 cents

TOBAGO.—The colour of the one penny has been changed to rose.

Adhesive—1d. rose

The Postage of the World.

MANY are the changes which have taken place since the penny postage was first instituted in Great Britain in 1840. At that time letters were obliged to be taken to the chief post-offices to be franked with the clerk's signature in token of payment. What a staff of clerks would have to be employed at the present day to frank each letter posted.

It was calculated that in 1840 over one hundred and ninety-one million letters passed through the post-offices of the United Kingdom, and in 1881 this number had risen to the enormous total of one thousand one hundred and seventy-six millions, thus showing the great advantage that was derived by the public through the institution of the penny post.

To turn first to the stamps of Great Britain we find no artistic merit whatever such as may be found in several of the Continental and foreign Countries. The picture of a young girl about seventeen represents the Queen of England and Empress of India. It is rumoured that there is to be a new issue of the English stamps about April, so that, perhaps, at last we are to have a photo of the Queen of England, after fifty years' reign, instead of the present juvenile face. In England it costs a halfpenny to remit a newspaper from one town to another, however short the distance, and here again we are behind the times, for in France a newspaper can be sent all over the country for one centime, or one fifth of a half-penny. Surely it is time that England, the first country in the world commenced a reform in its charges, and instituted

a farthing inland newspaper postage. Many countries' history is told in their postage stamps, as is evidenced by the 214 issue of Spain and 178 of the United States.

In the latter country we find stamps bearing the profiles of Franklin, Jackson, Washington, Garfield, Lincoln, Stanton, Jefferson, Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, and Perry, the most prominent men of that country. In Spain and France, too we may trace the overthrows of Republic and Monarchy in its postage stamps. Compared with countries that followed England in the institution of postage this country is still very much in the rear, for whilst in Great Britain the lowest value in stamps is a half-penny, in Spain 20 single stamps may be obtained for a sum equal in value.

In Porto Rico a stamp of equal low value is issued, viz., a $\frac{1}{2}$ milésimo de peso, or 1-2,000th part of a peso (4s.). In the country there are no less than 6 different stamps below the value of a half-penny, the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 mil de peso.

Many other countries are in front of Great Britain in the cheapness of their postage, as an indication of which France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Monaco and Luxemburg issue a 1 centime stamp, Bulgaria a 1 stotinka, and Greece a 1 lepta, all of which are of a value equal to 1-10th of a penny. A letter was received in England recently from Monaco bearing 113 stamps of different denominations with which the postage had been paid.

Many alterations have been made in stamps to prevent fraud, and in England alone nearly a dozen different designs have been issued, some printed with letters in angles and certain water marks, but none of them appear to be effectual in preventing forgery. Recently a clause was inserted in the Stamp Act, forbidding the use of dies for the purpose of making stamps, and inflicting a penalty of £20 on all persons discovered with a die in their possession bearing the impression of the Queen. It is estimated that the American Government are defrauded of nearly a million dollars a year owing to used stamps being washed and put into circulation again.

In Chili and Peru, where war is constantly breaking out, General Caceres has lately issued a set of stamps, whilst Eastern Roumelia, the scene of the late crisis in the East of Europe, has also surcharged its stamps since the unity with Bulgaria.

The country that ranks first as regards artistic merit is undoubtedly Persia, upon whose stamp a portrait of the Shah is shown rendering the stamp more like a picture than a means of transmitting letters. Many countries in the event of their running out of the stock of a certain value, surcharge the higher values with that which is required others, again, cut the stamps in half, as was evidenced in Dominica (English possession) recently, where, having come to the end of their half-penny adhesives, the authorities commenced halving the penny stamps for the purpose of a half-penny postage.

In England recently it was resolved to have one stamp for revenue and postage alike; this was followed by the colonies, where the plan was also adopted. The majority of the English and colonial stamps are manufactured by De La Rue's, though some are made by the American Bank note Co., New York, among the latter being the

Newfoundland stamp upon which the Queen is represented in widow's weeds, an impression which would be more suited to Great Britain than the present one.

Doubtless all are aware of the balloon postage in use during the Franco-German war, consisting of a sheet of thin paper folded to the size of an ordinary commercial envelope, bearing the design of the Arms of the French Nation supporting a tablet with the inscription "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," the same tablet supporting a hand pointing to "Republique Francais" encircled with glory. Surrounding this tablet may be seen the scales of Justice probably referring to "Egalite" clasped hands, "Fraternite" and wreath representing "Liberte." The legend is: "Par balloon monte, Decret du 26 Septembre" 1870, "in the top left-hand corner, while in the opposite corner appears: "Affranchissement obligatoire—France-Algerie, 20 centimes—Etranger taxe ordinaire."

Many other instances of peculiar stamps might be chronicled if space permitted, but we must content ourselves with the foregoing description of a few characteristics of the 'postage of the world,' though even after the stamps have been obliterated a certain value attaches to them, owing to the large number of persons who take an interest in collecting old postage stamps.

Many of the first issues of various countries have realized fabulous prices, notable among them being the British Guiana first issues, and the Sidney Views; these will fetch from £5 to £10 each for genuine specimens. Coming nearer home we find the 1 fr. Orange French Republic first issue worth £4 at the present day. Even in England from £3 to £5 have been offered for a genuine V.R. English black penny stamp, whilst £3 has been given for the Mulready envelope.

The first issues of Natal are equally scarce, as also are those of Mauritius and Cabul, together with the Spain (two reals) 1852 issue. All these, if genuine, will command a price varying from £2 to £10 a-piece, according to the preservation of the stamp. Some collectors take a special interest in the variety of water-marks and plate numbers (i.e., small figures on the issue of Great Britain, which have letters in all angles)

Only about three months ago, a gentleman in London paid £3,000 for a collection comprising many rare and curious stamps; the addition of which to his album would make his collection worth £25,000 or six hundred and thirty thousand francs. Some idea is thus obtained of the value of some of the d faced adhesives which many people have in their earlier days (when perhaps in want of sufficient means to obtain food) passed over as utterly worthless.

In conclusion it may be stated that the cost to the post-office authorities of penny postage stamps is about 8d. per 1,000. A metropolitan penny post was first started in 1683. The average cost of all letters was about 6½d.; for a single letter sent fifteen miles and under, the charge was 4d. On the 20th January, 1840, the uniform rate of one penny per ½oz. came into operation. *Tit Bits*

Correspondence.

To the Editor of *Butlers' Philatelic Observer*

SIR,—As a Reader of *Butlers' Philatelic Observer* from the beginning perhaps you will excuse me if I call attention to what I believe a serious error in your observations contained in "EN PASSANT" in your January Number, on the state of Philately. There you boldly state Stamp Collecting is on the decline; now this is what I must respectfully but very firmly deny and my proof is this,—the present price of Stamps. Only very lately a friend wished me to procure him some particular issues giving me the prices I was to pay and at which he knew they had been bought but I totally failed to execute his wishes and the prices asked were in some cases treble and more, than that I was instructed to give. It would be folly to deny the general depression in trade, but your assertion that the interest in stamp collecting is declining is disproved by what I have stated; a declining interest would send stamps into the market, rare issues would become cheaper and a real Album be far easier to be possessed by the man of moderate means than now. Not only in my opinion, is stamp collecting not declining but there is no fear, likelihood or even possibility that it can, every New Country that adopts the Postal System becomes at once a competitor in the market for stamps: take the very notice in your own Journal that follows the remarks on the stagnation of the Stamp Trade, namely, your notice of the Kingdom of Corea, is not Corea at once interested and self interested by her adoption of the Postal System, in all that pertains to Philately? of course she is and I think, Sir, it anything but improbable may even very likely that from that distant Peninsula, Corean Collectors may send to you for issues that will prove my words. As to the literature on Stamp Collecting and the journals it supports perhaps you may in another issue afford me space, to say something, but this is a wide subject in itself and I am pleased among many appearances and disappearances of Philatelic Publications to find your own maintaining the position it assumed at commencing and without agreeing with it in this instance, am always glad to welcome it.

London, Feb. 4th, 1886.

Yours truly, CONFIDENCE.

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100	" " " " 1/- "	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 3/- "	25
100	" Stamp " 4/- "	20
100	" Scrap " 4/- "	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	15
100	Penknives 1/-	5

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- No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.
- *No. 6, 20 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.
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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER.

MARCH, 1886.

"En Passant."

We owe a few words of apology to our readers for the late appearance of this month's number, but, in consequence of our removal from Canterbury to Nottingham, the delay has been unavoidable. Being unable to obtain suitable premises at Canterbury for our constantly increasing and extensive trade, we determined to remove to one of the best and most flourishing towns in the United Kingdom. At Nottingham, where we are now located, we have facilities in many ways for executing orders, hitherto unattainable. With increased help in all our departments we shall execute every order with the greatest expedition and despatch possible. The communications we have received either as matters of comment or as original contributions, to the *Philatelic Observer*, we are not able to use this month but every communication shall receive due attention. Few, perhaps, are aware of the temporary difficulties removals from one part of the country to a distant other part are apt to occasion, while using every effort to attend to business as usual. We hope these few words will acquit us of any suspicion of neglect or inattention to the orders of our friends who have been compelled to wait a little before being attended to, we assure all, now, no further fear need be entertained of any communication, not being instantly attended to.

* * * * *

The letter we published last month and the one in our present issue, on the waning interest in Stamp Collecting, are fair samples of a mass of correspondence we have received since our comment on the subject appeared in the January number of this magazine. Our remarks have attracted more attention than we ever had reason to hope for and we shall feel amply satisfied if the discussion results in the smallest good. Our correspondent "Confidence" quotes as his reason for refuting our statement the present high price of stamps, and illustrates his argument by the assertion that he was recently unable to obtain some "particular issues" at treble their known original cost. This dictum would have been more telling for or against us if our correspondent had named the "particular issues" to which he refers, inasmuch that it is a well known fact that hoards made by wealthy collectors on the continent and in this country, have made a large number of stamps unobtainable at any price. We know of one collection where the V.R. black penny English stamp is represented by 82

copies of the same stamp; the Cape of Good Hope stamps printed from wood blocks; the old Saxony labels; the first issue of the United States, and many other instances may be quoted where these miserly propensities have effected similar hoards. This is the reason of the scarcity of many of the better class stamps, and the consequent difficulty in obtaining them—not the increasing popularity of Stamp-collecting. On the other hand there are instances without number where obsolete stamps have greatly depreciated in value, and lost their old status so to speak, which is greatly attributable to the circulation of forgeries as we have already pointed out. We believe without doubt, that so long as there is this drawback to the study of the science, Stamp-collecting will become to the outside public a more and more hazardous pursuit apparently, and Philately will lose caste. That the acquisition of a Postal System by countries which have previously been without any organised service is likely to increase our field of research we are willing to admit, but not in so wide a sense as our correspondent would have us.

The letter from "F. H. R." in our present issue throws light on the subject from another point of view to that taken by the writer already referred to, and we are inclined to think with him that Philately to-day would have been the stronger had it not been at one time idolised as a pet pursuit of a fashionable world. Philately was then a fashionable mania—nothing more. Growth and progress might have otherwise been slower, but it would have been the more sure. The precise object of our January article was more to draw attention to the three reasons given, viz: remainders or reprints, *forgeries* and a lack of good literature, the gradual effect of which will be perhaps difficult to perceive for the time being, but if allowed to go unchecked will not the less seriously mar the future of Stamp-collecting.

As we have repeatedly said, the remedy rests with Collectors, and to Collectors we must look for the initiative in the matter but with the view to provide our readers and ourselves with the opportunity of registering at least our joint protest against the main cause of the depression, viz: the circulation of so many forgeries, we propose to Petition Parliament on the subject. The document we think should be based upon the prayer of the petitioners as simply as possible, and the gist of this will be found in another column. The Petition as soon as prepared will lie at our office for signature, by those who wish to do so personally but we hope all our readers in other parts of the country will send us their authority to append their names on their behalf as favorable to the object of the Petition. We commend this movement to everybody who takes an interest in the welfare and progress of the Science. It is high time a decisive stop was put to this pernicious practice of "selling" the public by launching into the market a flood of forged stamps, the great mischief of which no one can fully estimate.

The sequel to the long vista of surcharged labels recently hailing from Ceylon is to be found in the record this month of a new 5c. stamp for the doubleduty of Postage and Revenue. The question is, as already pointed out, which of all this mixed host of super-printed labels may we

accept as genuine. We have one eminent authority asserting that "not one single legitimate specimen" of any of the stamps with the inverted surcharge are of proper origin, and on the other hand we have an equally great authority stating without any qualification whatever, that this is all a mistake. Now watch the result of this conflicting testimony. The public do not see the wires pulled but either one opinion or the other must give way; it is clear they cannot both be correct and each conviction is spoken or rather written in language that cannot be doubted. There is probably a surprising revelation in store for us as collectors, as at present the case seems to be one for somebody's secret commissioner to investigate.

* * * * *

There is probably only a very small percentage of the great body of stamp collectors all over the world, who claim the inclusion of fiscal stamps in their study of Philately. The subject itself may be rejected on principle, although the scientific term by which the pursuit is known to us properly brings the study of revenue stamps within its meaning and in searching out the derivation of the word, we might reasonably anticipate that "Philos" and "telos" the two Greek roots, signified more particularly tax stamps in the more correct sense, as although by the aid of that oft quoted free translation, it has been generally admitted to be a suitable title for the "science of Postage Stamps," yet it is not impossible that fiscals themselves have more claim *prima facie* than purely postal collectors like to accept as a fact. We believe the first dictionary to include and explain the meaning of the word Philately was published in New York, but the definition in this case to the best of our belief favored "postage" stamps as the science to which it referred. This however is only what has for a long time now, been accepted by the public as correct, and this common admission was greatly strengthened by a computation, made in 1883 that the proportion of purely postage stamp collectors to those who included fiscals or collected fiscals only, was just ten to one. It would be interesting to know the name of the individual who thought out the fitness of including the whole world of collectors of all sorts under the name of Philately, but we have become so accustomed to its use now that to christen the hobby afresh would be like attempting to learn a new language very late in life. To return to revenue stamps however, we should like to see them much more sought after than they are. Unfortunately there is only a limited amount of literature about them to be had, and consequently they offer almost too wide a field for the beginner. The best catalogue of fiscal stamps that we have seen, owes its origin to a United States publisher and is of course devoted to United States stamps only. There was once a proposal before English Collectors that a handbook on this country's revenue stamps should be prepared and published, but either from faulty advertisement of the proposal or bad management, the idea never got further than the expression of a dozen people that the book should be brought out. The late Lord Brougham is credited with having once said that "he who sets himself the task of forming a collection of fiscal stamps will in many cases, find that he has undertaken a task far beyond his power, unless he has unlimited means;" but this argument loses much of its force when we

remember that it is possible to collect Revenue as well as Postage stamps, in a used condition.

There is an amusing reference in one of the Comic papers this month with regard to farthing postage, although the public must be pretty well up in the rates of French postage to appreciate the pungency of the following cutting from *Mooashine*,—"The suggested "farthing stamp" is still a far thing, we venture pence-ively to remark; though on the Continent a stamp of this *centime*-ental value is actively adhesive." In France a newspaper can be sent for one *centime* which will allow 10 to be sent for our English penny; and circulars and similar light weighing printed matter come in for the same low rate for transmission. While we do not advocate such a low rate as that of France there would unquestionably be a vast benefit conferred upon the nation by the introduction of a farthing post for newspapers. But we presume the objection lies in the fact that the Department could not very well reduce the rates on one class of matter without admitting a multitude of trade and private circulars to the same category, on the principle of "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." We are aware of no other objection to such a reform in our Post Office and certainly there is not a doubt that in the tremendous increase of business for the Department the same logical results might be looked for as was the case when the penny post first became a fact. There would not be wanting a proportionately remunerative return and the possible evil of flooding the country every-day with small printed matter already a nuisance is counterbalanced on the other hand by a positive good.

A singular and somewhat novel method of keeping one's specimens is that of mounting them on a sheet of white cardboard put into a frame with glass and hung up as an ordinary picture would be. The idea is a good one so far as the adornment of the walls are concerned, but we should hardly be inclined to recommend its adoption unless the wish is to scatter your collection over the surface of the walls of a three or four story house from the attic downwards, as the usefulness of the collection would be considerably minimised. We can imagine the convenience of having to refer to the 1885 issue of Brazil in the second floor sitting room while one is in the basement studying the earliest emissions of that country.

The authorities at St. Pierre and Miquelon have adopted a course in reference to the issue of their surcharged stamps which is a worthy example for other post offices similarly situated, to make a note of and copy. By so doing a good deal of harm might be prevented and a step in the right direction might be recorded in the reform of stamp collecting. In consequence of the small stock of postage stamps on hand in the colony, all letters must be franked at the post offices, and stamps will no longer be delivered to be taken away. Such is the tenor of a notice issued a few weeks back by the resident authority in these islands, and it is thought that this ultimatum will bring to a full stop the practice by speculators at the present day of buying up large quantities of surcharged issues, and we sincerely hope

the result may come as hoped for. In this month's record of newly issued stamps we notice that the type of the surcharge recently chronicled in Gothic letters on the 40 centimes has been changed to one in Roman capitals. The numerals "05" have also proved handy; they are stated to differ slightly in type and thus two minor varieties have been made. The two higher value stamps—the 75c. and 1f. are also mentioned as surcharged.

New Issues.

BERMUDA.—The three-pence has undergone a change of colour and is now printed grey.

Adhesive—3d. Grey.

CEYLON.—We have a new stamp, postage and revenue, value 5 cents, colour purple.

Adhesive—5 cents, purple.

FARIDKOT.—A new value has appeared same type as $\frac{1}{4}$ anna 1883.

Adhesive—6 pies, black on white

NORFOLK ISLAND.—We hear, upon good authority, a series of stamps will shortly be issued for this Island.

SANTANDER.—The *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles an issue for this State. Three stamps have been issued lithographed on a white wove paper.

Adhesives—1 centavo, light blue

5 centavos, red

10 " violet

SERVIA.—A reply card has been issued for this country 10 X 10 paras. brown on buff.

Post Card—10 X 10, brown on buff.

TOBAGO.—A provisional stamp, value one half-penny, has appeared

Adhesive— $\frac{1}{2}$ d, surcharged on 6d, light olive.

VICTORIA.—The 3s. "Stamp Duty" is now printed in light brown on white paper and the 10s. has been changed to green on white.

Our Petition to Parliament.

As will be seen from our remarks in another column, we desire to register our protest, and our readers to do the same, against the abominable practice of flooding this country with *forged stamps*, and therefore creating and increasing the likelihood of collectors and the public generally being victimised, by purchasing them in the belief that they are genuine. To enter this protest we hope to shortly be able to present to Parliament a petition against this state of things, and the motive that prompts us to do so is we hope one that will animate every one of our friends who send us their names, viz.: the welfare and prosperity of Philately.

The authorities have already moved in the matter so far as publishing in the *Gazette* an abstract of the Act of 1884, bearing upon the

subject, but as will be gathered from the following we think a further step should be taken and a search made. We ask everybody interested in Philately to co-operate with us in this matter, to lay before Parliament our idea of the remedy that is required, by sending us their authority by post card or otherwise to append their names, especially our readers and those of as many of their friends as it is possible to obtain, as favorable to the Petition.

The document as soon as prepared will lie at our office for signature at 141, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, and those who wish to sign it personally are invited to call upon us and do so. The following will be the text of the prayer,

"That in view of the opportunities and facilities for the perpetration of fraud daily increased by the manufacture and circulation of *fac-similes* and imitations of used and unused postage stamps, and by these labels being offered for public sale as genuine Post Office issues from the countries alleged to be represented, *We Pray*, that all such labels may be seized and destroyed by the Government, and that the Post Office Protection Act of 1884 may be put in motion against those persons in whose possession such stamps may be found."

The St. Louis & Cincinnati Locals.

ST. LOUIS.

In the latter part of November, 1882, a company was organized in St. Louis, Mo., for the purpose of conveying letters and packages in the business or central part of the city, under the title of the St. Louis City Delivery.

At first the scheme was regarded as a humbug by the merchants. But the business of the company increased so rapidly, that at the time of their dissolution, (three weeks later) they enjoyed the patronage of the people in the vicinity, and were making money fast. As their business caused a large decrease in the city receipts the government stepped in, in the form of a United States Marshal, and denounced the business as an infringement on the U. S. privilege—or rather monopoly—of carrying mails on a postal route. The streets of a city being considered as such, and ordered discontinuance of the same, which order was of necessity promptly complied with. Many merchants were left from 25 cents to \$500 or more out at the discontinuance of the local post, as the members of the firm hastily left St. Louis, leaving no trace behind—and the many merchants who had purchased the stamps, were so much out at that time. But as only a limited supply was left in the hands of the company, which were all bought by a St. Louis dealer, the merchants are now realizing upon them, as many have disposed of their stamps at prices paid, and we have met some that thought us fools if we offered them 50 cents a 100 for them—not seeing what good they were to us.

There were 25,000 printed for this company, 20,000 of which, we are given to understand, were sold to the company's patrons.

The color is pink, some of which are much darker than others. They are all printed on white paper in sheets of 25.

CINCINNATI.

A short time after the St. Louis company was established, a member of the company was sent to Cincinnati to establish a branch office to be known as the Cincinnati City Delivery Co. But they had only fairly started, when they were compelled to quit. In Cincinnati about the same number of stamps were issued, only about 3,000 being used. By order of the government, all the remaining stamps of the St. Louis and Cincinnati, were cancelled by a circular cancelling mark. The unused are considered to be worth more than those cancelled—and those on the original envelope command a premium as high as 50 cents or more.

The same company had stamps printed for New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Baltimore.—*American Paper.*

Jottings.

PROBABLY the smallest and most unique post office in the world is a barrel, which swings from the outermost rock of the mountains overhanging the Straits of Magellan, opposite Terra del Fuego. Every passing ship opens it to put letters in or take them out. Every ship undertakes to forward all letters in it that is possible for it to transmit. The barrel hangs by its iron chain, beaten and battered by the winds and storms, but no locked or barred post office on land is more secure.

To many of the younger collectors the signification of the words, "Thurn and Taxis" which appear on the old German stamps must be by no means clear. People are as much, if not more puzzled about "Thurn and Taxis" than the zollverein. One may search geographies and gazetteers without obtaining any solution to the inquiry so often propounded: "What is meant by "Thurn and Taxis?"

The story of the mystery is easily told. Thurn and Taxis is not the name of a place but of a family whose ancestors were first heard of in Italy as the *della Torres* lords of Valsassiva. Eight of the family were in succession lords of Milan. The last of the eight, one Guido, the Rich, perished in a feud with the Viscouti and one of his sons, Lamorel I., settled in the territory of Bergamo, and took from the mountain Tasso the name of *del Tasso*, and afterward *de Tassis*. His great grandson inherited the possessions of his predecessors, united the titles, and was known as Roger I. of Thurn and Taxis. This personage was knighted by the Emperor Frederick III. in 1450, and in the latter part of the century founded the fame of his house by the establishment of a post in the Tyrol. This venture proved to be the initial step toward the foundation of a service whose functions only ceased with the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866. During that year a large portion of the German States served by the Thurn and Taxis post office became incorporated with Prussia, and on the 18th of January, 1867, this princely monopoly ceased to exist.

A few days ago we received a letter addressed "Butler Bros, Stamping Porters, Canterbury." Can anyone enlighten us as to the duties Stamping Porters perform?

Correspondence.

To the Editor of Butlers' Philatelic Observer

Sir,

In your last month's impression there appears in your review of the past year's work, a statement that the unmistakeable decline of stamp collecting has become a serious subject for comment. Well now sir, as a collector of 15 years' experience and with an album of a little better than five thousand varieties, I should like to give your readers my opinion in the matter. When I started collecting, the mania that everybody had to induce everybody else to become a philatelist of the first water had begun to spend itself and in 1870 and 1871 there was abundant evidence that the hobby was losing a good deal of its national popularity which perhaps could well have been dispensed with altogether from the first. The leaps and bounds by which collecting popularised itself was the cause of *Punch's* appeal:—

When was a folly so pestilent hit upon,
As folks running mad to collect every spit upon
Post Office stamp that's been soil'd and been writ upon?

People who became collectors for the time being because this or that was a popular amusement and an essential element in the fashionable world have gradually become buried to the existence of the noble science of to-day, and I firmly believe that fully five out of every six who started when I did, would fail now to shew you a collection of stamps of any account. They have ceased to trouble themselves about a subject which was once the rage of the day and this process is still going on, call it decline, secession, or what you will. This is the cause of the diminution in the extent of the once great world of commerce, and the alleged decline in stamp collecting has been mistaken sir, for the weeding out of Valueless Contributions to the welfare of our hobby. Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this,

I am, &c.,
F. H. R.

Hendon, March 10, 1886.

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IMPORTANT!

IN consequence of so few applications for these Packets we have been obliged to defer the Draw until November, 1886. If the numbers are not obtained then we shall give Prizes according to numbers received to close our offer.

Read This! Read This! Given Away! Given Away!

1 Grand Cash Gift	£30
2 ditto £10 each.. .. .	20
10 Collections of Foreign Stamps, 1,000 var., £5 each	30
10 Pairs Mulready Envelopes, £1 each	10
40 Packets Rare Sets Foreign Stamps, 10/- each..	20
40 " " " " 5/- "	10
40 " " " " 2/6 "	5
200 Rare Sets, 1/- each	10
100 Packets Rare Stamps, 2/- each	10
100 " " " 1/- "	5
200 " Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	10
100 Splendid Photo Albums, 3/- "	25
100 " Stamp " 4/- "	20
100 " Scrap " 4/- "	20
100 Views of London, 3/- each	15
100 Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	15
100 Penknives 1/-	5

WE offer £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s., consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No. 2 packet, a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

No. 3 packet consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps, various designs, post free 1/-, abroad 1/2.

No. 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South America, W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

*No. 6, 20 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.

*No. 7, 250 Foreign Stamps from all parts of the globe, many scarce, post free 3/2 abroad 3/9.

No. 8, 500 assorted stamps, including some very rare stamps, post free 1/1 abroad 1/3.

*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money: the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Butler's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

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 consignments, which we shall be glad to have for Cash or Exchange.

Provisionals, New Issues, and general regular supplies
 required.

J. H. LACY, & Co.,
ROTHERHITHE, S.E. ENGLAND.

BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

APRIL, 1886.

"En Passant."

We are all of us pretty well aware of the vagaries usually attendant upon the life of a by-post. The very compound itself is suggestive of petty transactions hardly worthy of a postal service, although this would be more complete if the first part of the word was provided with a final letter "e." We find in the current month's record of new issues, details of two stamps which have been prepared for use in the Arendal (Norway) local post. The precise date of issue was the ninth of the month, and two days later both these values—the 7 and the 9 öre were surcharged in black, with a larger numeral 5, the new value intended to be thus created being the 5 öre. We believe that the emission has been accompanied with the customary recommendations from the inevitable "somebody," but at the same time we have no hesitation in reiterating the suggestion that for purposes of sale to collectors and not for legitimate use were these labels issued. We have since ascertained too, that four other values in various colors have now made their appearance, which in their turn have been followed by a further issue of all the series printed from the same dies, with the colors indiscriminately changed, so that the 7 öre takes the 2 öre color the discarded color of the 7 öre goes to the next lower value—the 5 öre and so on. Thus in less than a fortnight we have a fully-fledged By-post with a supply of a good round score of labels, including two surcharged values.

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 fully Catalogued. These descriptions have been greatly extended, which, combined
 with the enormous number of new issues, has rendered necessary a corresponding
 increase in the extent of the work. This new Catalogue consists of nearly 200 pages,
 showing an addition of no less than 40 pages on the previous edition.

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THE TWO BOUND TOGETHER ...	2/6	3/6	4/-
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J. H. LACY & Co.,

ROTHERHITHE, S.E. ENGLAND,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS,
 AND COMMISSION AGENTS, ESTABLISHED 1871,

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 have stamps at special prices and are not likely to be undersold. List issued periodically
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partly from the Natal stock, and the higher value is the penny St. Vincent in carmine, while the registration envelope may be recognised as a portion of the Barbados complement. Such a medley of contributions to any postal service can hardly find a parallel in history, and the fact that the good people of Gibraltar have been favored with such a mixture savours of the rough and ready policy of modern officialism. It is a matter of surprise too that a less troublesome and expensive way was not adopted, and the only logical reason that can have prompted this procedure is the probable necessity to reduce the stocks on hand in some of our colonies. A change may be contemplated all round in the Natal, St. Vincent, and Barbados stamps, and as the current issue of English labels for the time being has hitherto sufficed for the requirement of Gibraltar, there is no doubt a separate legitimate series in preparation for that colony.

The following table of the surcharged series may be useful, as it is made up from news per the last mail at time of writing from Gibraltar :

Adhesives :	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	green	} Bermuda.
	1d.	rose	
	2d.	dull lilac	
	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	sky blue	
	4d.	orange	
	6d.	violet	
	1s.	buff	
Postcards	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	brown on buff—Natal.	
	1d.	carmine on buff—St. Vincent.	
Wrapper	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	brown on slate—Natal.	
Reg. Env.	2d.	light blue on white—Barbados.	

Since penning the above we have learnt that the colors of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., and the 1s. Bermuda have been altered to green, grey, and light brown respectively.

It would appear that the number of complaints lodged against the establishment of foreign post offices in Constantinople does not decrease, and it is just possible that several European countries having representative offices there will be asked to withdraw. England and Germany have specially surcharged stamps for use in the Eastern capital. We believe, the Turkish post offices themselves have not the germ of punctuality about them, generally speaking.

In the midst of all the controversy about the surcharged French stamps for the Reunion Isle there has just been published by the *Timbre Poste* a proof of their genuine character. To wit, the editor of that journal, who has all along we must admit, been thoroughly conversant with the various points in the history of these labels, has produced a letter-press copy of the order from the Governor of the colony "authorising the surcharging of this old stock to the extent of three hundred thousand stamps"—each label being produced in quantities proportionate to the requirements of the public. Therefore in spite of the hurly burly of opinion for and against these labels there is not now much doubt we think that they belong to a genuine emission, although

of course there is ample room to question the necessity for their issue from a postal point of view. In addition to the authority quoted above there has been plenty of letters recently received franked with the 25c. surcharged on the 40c stamp which are thus admitted by the Post office to possess the necessary franking power so that there is little room left to question the origin of at least the used specimens.

As an instance worth noting of the way in which sub-varieties are created and trivial straws left for the catalogue makers to catch at we may quote the Portugese 20 reis stamp. This up to the present has been supposed to be and accepted as identical in design to that of the same value in the issue preceding this one. But a distinction with a difference has been made out against the stamp. A collector has discovered that the space between the two numerals of value is greater than formerly, so that the figures are further apart. A fresh issue is noted for Mozambique and we believe that this new series has been taken as a model for fresh sets for the Portugese Indies, with the exception of the variations in the different values from reis to tangas, but beyond this we may take it that the dies used in both cases are very probably accomodating ones and are identical with each other. The new labels may be described as similar to the Portugese 1870 issue slightly modified although as a matter of course perhaps, the palm for finish and business like workmanship belongs to the last issue. The tablet in the upper part of the old design is somewhat conspicuous by its absence and this has made room for the oval shaped band bearing the inscription to be continued round the upper part of the stamp. This band is one of solid color and the inscription consists of the same words as before in white letters. In the labels for use in the Portugese settlements the only difference noticeable is the necessary one in the alteration of the name and values. There are seven stamps of this series and nine for Mozambique.

The use of Stellaland stamps in British Bechuanaland has been discontinued for some time past, although some authorities assert it was not until the territory was annexed to Cape Colony that it became known as British Bechuanaland. Still it seems most feasible to us that the stock of Stellaland stamps should be used up in the ordinary course whether the name of the state is changed or not, before any fresh issue was prepared. The fact that provisional stamps in the shape of surcharged Cape stamps are now employed strengthens our argument. Four values have been noted up to the time of writing but there is a difference of opinion about the surcharge on the half-penny label. We have seen it in black whilst one of our contemporaries on the Continent quote the overprint in red. The values seen already are the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. 2d. and 6d.

A SEARCH FOR FORGED STAMPS!!

See the February and March numbers of *Butlers' Philatelic Observer*.

The Drawback to Philately.

Every amusement, every mania, every pleasure one can take in life, has its drawbacks, its impediments to perfection, and the amusement, mania, science, or whatever title you may give to stamp collecting, is by no means exempt from this misfortune. We will dwell on the great evil, which has partially ruined collections, viz., forgeries. Let us take into consideration young collectors: they have no experience, and in many cases no adviser to lead them over dangerous places, they must trust only to luck to a certain extent; in exchanging they must be exceedingly careful to not only choose a person with whom they are sufficiently acquainted to know his character, but they must enquire into the means by which he obtained the stamp in question; if taken off a letter, or given by an older friend to the exchanger, it is excusable to believe in its genuineness, but, if bought, more caution should be observed, as counterfeits have been made to such perfection that an older head than the novice's might be puzzled until comparing it with a genuine one. Beginners often make a gross mistake in believing that because a stamp is cancelled it is more likely to be genuine. This, of course, is folly. If large firms, such as the one in Boston, can engrave a stamp so beautifully, can they not cancel them? Any schoolboy may cut two or three triangles or circles out of rubber cork, make a pad, saturate it with ink, and cancel as many stamps as he pleases. Be careful to take nothing for granted without first investigating thoroughly.

It is much better to refuse stamps that are questionable even to the apparent loss of your collection, for one counterfeit spoils a page of genuine ones, it hurts the eyes of older collectors, and not only lowers the value of the collection, but causes it to be felt that if there is one counterfeit, there are very possibly more. It is well for a young collector to take one or more journals on Philately, reading carefully the experiences of others. As a last caution we should advise dealing strictly with dealers whom you know to be honest, by either experience or hearsay. Almost every small dealer has some speciality that he offers much below the standard price, and these are often forgeries. It is best to go steadily upward, and in a short time you can say with honest pride: "I have a genuine collection without one forgery."

New Issues.

BERMUDA.—The stamps for this island have been changed in colour, as under:—

Adhesives—half-penny, pale green.
two-pence, brown violet.
four-pence, orange red.
six-pence, purple.
one shilling, brown.

A Postcard of the value of three half-pence has been issued.

Postcard—ponny half-penny, carmine on buff.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—The stamps of Stel'aland are now obsolete, and a series of the Cape of Good Hope stamps have been surcharged for use in the part of that country which has been annexed to Cape Colony.

Adhesives—half-penny, black, red surcharge.
 one penny, rose, black ,,
 two-pence, brown, ,, ,,
 three-pence, lake, ,, ,,
 six-pence, violet, ,, ,,

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS—A new issue has appeared, of the same type as those lately issued for Mozambique.

Adhesives— 5 reis, black.	Adhesives— 50 reis, blue.
10 ,, green.	100 ,, brown.
20 ,, bright carmine.	200 ,, violet.
25 ,, lilac.	300 ,, orange.
40 ,, chocolate.	

CHINA—This country has now issued a new series of stamps, of a smaller size than the previous issue.

1 candarin green.
 3 ,, lake.
 5 ,, yellow.

CYPRUS.—A new value of 12 piasters, of the same design as the current issue for this island, has been issued.

Adhesive 12 piasters, red.

LAGOS—A half-penny stamp, same type as the current issue, has appeared.

Adhesive—half-penny, green.

NATAL.—We have seen the following new surcharges.

Half-penny on one penny, red, black surcharge.
 Two-pence on three-pence, grey, ,, ,,

PERU.—A contemporary states that a new issue will shortly appear, consisting of the following values.

Adhesives— 2 centavos, yellow.	Adhesives—20 centavos, green.
5 ,, grey.	50 ,, rose.
10 ,, blue.	1 sol, black.

PERSIA.—A series of unpaid letter stamps has been issued, of the following values.

Adhesives— 1 shahi, blue on white paper	Adhesives—1 kran, blue on white paper
2 ,, ,, ,, ,,	2 ,, ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, ,, ,, ,,	5 ,, ,, ,, ,,
6 ,, ,, ,, ,,	1 toman, ,, ,,
10 ,, ,, ,, ,,	
15 ,, ,, ,, ,,	

PHILLIPINES.—A new value of 1-8th de centavo has been issued.

Adhesive—1-8th de centavo, yellow green.

ROUMANIA.—Another of the new type has appeared.

Adhesive— 5 bani, green.

SHANGHAI.—Two provisionals have appeared. The 80 cash flesh and 100 cash yellow have been surcharged in blue with "40 CASH" and "60 CASH."

Adhesives—40 cash on 80 cash, blue surcharge.
 60 ,, 100 ,, ,, ,,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. — *The Illustrites Briefmarken Journal* chronicles two reply postcards, viz.:

Postcards—1 X 1 cent, green.

3 X 3 cents, blue.

TURKEY.—*The Timbre Poste* chronicles the two following stamps

Adhesives—5 paras, blue on pale lilac.

25 piastres, black on grey black.

* * We shall at all times be pleased to receive any information relating to new issues.

Our Petition to Parliament.

We desire to register our protest, and our readers to do the same, against the abominable practice of flooding this country with *forged stamps*, and thereby creating and increasing the likelihood of collectors and the public generally being victimised, by purchasing them in the belief that they are genuine. To enter this protest we hope to shortly be able to present to Parliament a petition against this state of things, and the motive that prompts us to do so is we hope one that will animate every one of our friends who send us their names, viz.: the welfare and prosperity of Philately.

The authorities have already moved in the matter so far as publishing in the *Gazette* an abstract of the Act of 1884, bearing upon the subject, but as will be gathered from the following we think a further step should be taken and a search made. We ask everybody interested in Philately to co-operate with us in this matter; to lay before Parliament our idea of the remedy that is required, by sending us their authority by post card or otherwise to append their names, especially our readers and those of as many of their friends as it is possible to obtain, as favourable to the Petition.

The document has now been prepared and will lie at our office for signature at 141, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, and those who wish to sign it personally are invited to call upon us and do so. The following is the text of the prayer:—

"That in view of the opportunities and facilities for the perpetration of fraud daily increased by the manufacture and circulation of *fac-similes* and imitations of used and unused postage stamps, and by these labels being offered for public sale as genuine Post Office issues from the countries alleged to be represented, *We Pray*, that all such labels may be seized and destroyed by the Government, and that the Post Office Protection Act of 1884 may be put in motion against those persons in whose possession such stamps may be found."

If you agree with the spirit of this movement please send in your name and address at once or call and sign the Petition personally. The more names we get the greater likelihood there is of our Petition attaining some practical results.

Sarawak.

The country of this name is little known and seldom spoken of except in connection with philatelic matters. It is a district on the north-western coast of Borneo, with an estimated population of 200,000. Sarawak is governed by a Rajah, who is nominally subjected to the Sultan of Borneo, but is really independent. A Sultan bears nearly the same relation to a Rajah as an Emperor does to a King in more civilized lands.

Sarawak is not mountainous, as it lies between the hills and the shore. The principal river is the Sarawak, a navigable stream, at the mouth of which is located the capital of the same name. It is a city of 25,000 inhabitants. The government of this interesting country is a peculiar one. Its head is an Englishman, with a Hindoo title and Malay subjects. A great part of these latter belong to tribes of Dyaks. The Dyaks are noted for their singular custom of collecting human heads. It makes no difference whether the head be that of an enemy or not; in any case it is cut off and dried, and the Dyak places it on exhibition in his hut, with as much pride as a philatelist shows his stamp collection. This unpleasant habit was forbidden by the first English Rajah, and is now practically extinct in the dominions of his successor.

The way in which the singular state of government mentioned came into existence is as follows: James (afterwards Sir) Brooke was yachting in the East Indian Waters, thinking of a plan to suppress piracy there. In 1838 he visited Sarawak, and in 1840 assisted Muda Hassim, the ruling Rajah, in fighting the rebellious Dyaks. Muda Hassim, perceived before long that he was unable to keep in subjection such a turbulent people, and, as he was the heir of the Sultan of Borneo, to whose kingdom he expected to succeed, he decided to resign the Rajahship in favour of Brooke, if the latter would consent. Accordingly, September 25th, 1841, in the presence of the assembled population, James Brooke received the power of Sarawak, and was soon after confirmed by the Sultan. Under his wise rule the country prospered, and at his death June 11, 1868, he was succeeded, by his nephew, Charles Johnson Brooke, who found head hunting suppressed, piracy stopped, laws, trade, and other requirements of a commercial state. He is the present Rajah.

One postage stamp was issued during the lifetime of Sir James. It was a three cent, brown on yellow, and appeared in 1868. In the corners were the letters J. B. R. S. which signify James Brooke Rajah (of) Sarawak. In the centre was his portrait. In 1871 the new Rajah issued another three cent stamp, same color, bearing his own portrait. The letters in the corners remained, but J. was changed to C. to stand for Charles. A set of 5 values followed in 1875. The currency is Dutch; 1 Gulden, 100 cents.

Two cts., mauve; 4 cts., brown; 6 cts., green; 8 cts., blue; 12 cts., rose.

A revenue stamp is also known, it is of the value of three cents and is printed in black on slate colored paper. It is quite scarce in this

country.

Both the three cent stamps are extensively imitated by forgers. The best counterfeits come from Boston. They are well got up, but, on comparing with the genuine, one will see that the engraving is not quite fine enough, and the perforation is detective; Nevertheless they doubtless deceive many. *Empire State Philatelist.*

Correspondence.

To the Editor of Butlers' Philatelic Observer

Sir,

To your remarks in last month's number may I be permitted to add one word in reference to fiscal stamps. It is best to keep these in a separate book if one desires to collect them, and the receptacle can be sub-divided into as many departments as you have sorts of stamps. Law, Customs, Bills, and the various duty stamps are best kept each to themselves in the pages set apart for them, and it is very undesirable that they should be at all crowded. A reasonable space given to each specimen gives you a good effect and in the designs of most fiscal stamps there may be found greater beauty than in the present postage stamps of almost any country. I am a collector of English fiscals and do not find it a more expensive hobby than postage stamp collecting.

Yours, etc.,
PHILOS.

NOTICE to Subscribers abroad.—With the June number will commence Vol. 2 and to ensure the first number of the new volume being posted on the day of publication, it will be necessary to remit us the amount of subscription (Two Shillings) before June 15th.

WM. V. D. WETTERN, JUN.,
WHOLESALE
DEALER in POSTAGE STAMPS,
176, Saratoga Street,
BALTIMORE, Md., U.S.A.

ALL KINDS OF STAMPS BOUGHT FOR
PROMPT CASH

ALL DEALERS are requested to send
their WHOLESALE LIST.

New List GREATLY ENLARGED, just
issued, sent Gratis and Post free to
Dealers only. Every Dealer should
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GOOD OFFERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

STAMP MOUNTS!!!

1/- per 1000.

BUTLER BROS.,
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W. F. GREANY,

827, BRANNAN STREET.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
Desires to receive consignments of Brit-
ish Colonial and other stamps, and can
offer in exchange such scarce stamps, as
Sandwich Is., Guatemala, Hong Kong,
China, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa
Rica, Mexico and U.S. departments,

IMPORTANT!

IN consequence of so few applications for these Packets we have been obliged to defer the Draw until November, 1886. If the numbers are not obtained then we shall give Prizes according to numbers received to close our offer.

Read This! Read This! Given Away! Given Away!

1	Grand Cash Gift ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£50
2	ditto	£10 each..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
10	Collections of Foreign Stamps, 1,000 var.,	£3 each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
10	Pairs Mulready Envelopes, £1 each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
40	Packets Rare Sets Foreign Stamps, 10/- each..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
40	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
40	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
200	Rare Sets, 1/- each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
100	Packets Rare Stamps, 2/- each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
100	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 5/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
100	" Stamp " 4/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
100	" Scrap " 4/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books 3/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
100	Penknives 1/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

WE offer £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s., consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No 2 packet, a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

No 3 packet consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps, various designs, post free 1/-, abroad 1/2.

No 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South America W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

*No. 6, 20 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.

*No. 7, 250 Foreign Stamps from all parts of the globe, many scarce, post free 3/2 abroad 3/9.

No. 8, 500 assorted stamps, including some very rare stamps, post free 1/1 abroad 1/3.

*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money: the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Butler's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON & CO.,

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AMBERLEY ROAD, HABEOW ROAD, LONDON, W

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100	"	1/-	5
200	" Beautiful Scraps, 1/- each	10
100	Splendid Photo Albums, 3/-	"	25
100	" Stamp	4/-	"	20
100	" Scrap	4/-	"	20
100	Views of London, 3/- each	15
100	Ladies' and Gents' Pocket Books	3/-	15
100	Penknives 1/-	5

WE offer £300 in prizes, varying from £50 to 1s, consisting of 1343 different articles, on condition that we obtain 10,000 applications for the undermentioned packets, the distribution to take place November 1st 1886. If we obtain the requisite number before, the gifts will be awarded sooner.

No. 1 packet consists of 1000 Rare Foreign Stamps, including various unused, post free 1/2, abroad 1/5.

No. 2 packet, a collection containing 100 Foreign Stamps, all different, many rare, post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

No. 3 packet consists of 12 large and beautiful sheets of Scraps, various designs, post free 1/-, abroad 1/2.

No. 4, packet, 150 Foreign Stamps, all different, including rare South America W. Indian, European, &c., post free 1/7, abroad 1/10.

No. 5, Nice set or sets of stamps, either used or unused post free 1/1, abroad 1/3.

*No. 6, 20 stamps all different, including rare Asiatic, African, West Indian, and others equally scarce, post free 2/1, abroad 2/5.

*No. 7, 250 Foreign Stamps from all parts of the globe, many scarce, post free 3/2 abroad 3/9.

No. 8, 500 assorted stamps, including some very rare stamps, post free 1/1 abroad 1/3.

*With No. 6 packet 2 receipts given, No. 7, 3 receipts

We refrain from mentioning the stamps the packet will include, as owing to the immense number that will be sold the packets will be always varying. We can, however, guarantee, that the packets alone will be worth the money: the prizes simply being offered as gifts, as an inducement to patronize us on future occasions.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Any person obtaining orders, and sending remittances for packets will receive 6 receipts and 6 packets in return.

PLEASE NOTE.—We must have the number required, otherwise the distribution of the above gifts will not take place on date named, or until the number is received. Remittances to be made by postal order or penny stamps.

The winning numbers will be published in *Butler's Philatelic Observer* for December, 1886.

L. D. & J. K. FERGUSON & CO.,
FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTERS,

AMBERLEY ROAD, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W

THE PHILATELIC OBSERVER.

IMPORTANT TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

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BUTLER FRÈRES,
 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM,
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PUBLISHED BY BUTLER BROS., 141, MANSFIELD ROAD,
 NOTTINGHAM.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER,

MAY, 1886.

With this number we bring to a conclusion the First Volume of the *Philatelic Observer*. Its completion has extended a little over twelve months, because one of the numbers we were unable to produce at the usual date but the volume comprises twelve numbers, as we intended it should. In thanking our friends for the very liberal support we have met with, we think our success must be greatly attributed to the fact that we have fulfilled our announcement at commencing and made the *Philatelic Observer* what we announced it should be, emphatically a Collectors' Journal, thus the Stamp Collector has found our Journal exclusively devoted to his interests and for the purposes of his information, and on these lines we shall still continue to run. We hope on the receipt of this Number our present subscribers will forward us, at once, a renewal of their subscriptions and that we may also receive a large addition of new subscribers and for whose subscriptions we also ask. Pleased as we always are to send single Numbers, we think the subscribers for the whole issue must ever find their advantage in having a continuous series of monthly parts. A complete volume becomes a book of reference, a single, or several separate but not continuous numbers remain, after all only fragmentary, besides the cost is small, being only ONE SHILLING and SIXPENCE yearly, post free. Many who have started Philatelic Publications have lamented the apathy of the public and have complained that for want of support their Journals have, as it were, only blossomed but to die. But ought not many of those that have passed away to have considered how little blossom their journals possessed and that they who took them in and looked for fruitage found they had subscribed and hoped in vain? If Journals are worthless they will not live, and the public are not to blame if they refuse to encourage what is worthless. We do not say all the unsuccessful Philatelic Journals that have passed away were worthless and deserved their fate, but this we do say, that we could lay our hands on many that never ought to have been published and that never contained, in a philatelic sense, anything worth reading or remembering. In thanking then the public for the support we have received, we beg to assure all that we shall spare no pains in the future to keep our journal fully at the stand point of success and see it permanently and thoroughly flourishing as now: in the first number of the New Volume will appear an interesting article entitled a *Peep into the Future*.

“En Passant.”

There is a singular paucity of any sort of information to hand during the last few weeks about new issues. Items of a good, bad, or indifferent nature seem to have alike deserted the arena of stampology for the time being. Collectors of sub-varieties generally will be able to find however, an enlarged field for working upon and applying themselves and their pockets too, in the recent postal changes in Guatemala. We heard it remarked the other day, *apropos* of what we are about to relate, that some very queer things in the matter of surcharges and other eccentricities that might well be placed in the same category, have frequently come from the republic already, and the past days of postal life and doings there would form an eligible subject for any writer with some experience of the country to work upon. It is just possible, but we venture to suggest it as a possibility only, that the Post Office people there, now and again, require something in the shape of recreation and this is their notion of taking it. A desire to be as nearly compatible as possible with the general rule doubtless accounts for the happiest of happy ideas, about the “evidence of the necessity of higher value stamps,” which, to use the words of the decree authorising their issue, will be put into circulation “in order to supply the need.”

Some eleven hundred thousand stamps, representing the entire remaining stock of the label primarily intended to be used for the payment of the suspended Northern Railway tax have accordingly been operated upon in the following way. A description of the stamp will perhaps first be necessary and the result of a cursory glance represented the portrait of the late President, who died from wounds received in one of the battles last year in Salvador. This is enclosed in an oval band in which appears the name of the state *REPUBLICA GUATEMALA*, and above the oval is the inscription *FERROCARIL EL NORTE* on a scroll by itself, and below the value in words *VALE UN PESO* is inscribed on a straight tablet. The above is enclosed in a single lined frame and the design is printed in vermillion. The surcharge is in black and is by no means a common-place one, containing several attempts at ornamentation in the way of little details of a printer's office not unlike small links of a chain. At the top are the words *CORREOS NACIONALES* followed underneath by two or three of the small ornaments referred to. On the next line below is the value repeated in figures thus 25c. 25c., being separated by another ornament of the chain link kind. The word Guatemala in very thick heavy letters comes next and then the value as already described follows on the next line in duplicate, but as if to make assurance doubly sure the value is again repeated on a separate line at the foot, thus 25 centavos. The 50c. and 75c. surcharges are identical with this one except of course where of necessity the figures are altered, but in those of the 100c. and 150c. a change is made in one or two places. We will take the 100c surcharge first, and in this one the ornaments vary in

size and shape. The word Guatemala in the third line of reading appears in letters of considerably less size than described above, both as regards length and breadth, and in the repetition of the value beneath the letters EN are missing from the word centavos, so that it appears as 100 CTAVOS. The surcharged stamp of 150c which we have seen, boasted of the initial letter G in Guatemala upside down and the type of the word itself is again altered in this value to ordinary block type. In course of time no doubt there will be more of these sort of varieties to point out in the same issue, but for the present we will leave them and merely remark in doing so that the net addition to the album, where the collector has a lively eye to precept and doctrine will be about seven varieties and subvarieties.

* * * *

In the House of Commons on the 7th of May, Mr. J. H. Heaton on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, moved for the discontinuance of the charge of higher rates of postage in Great Britain than those which were charged to the public in other countries, for postal service by British steamers carrying mails to and from the colonies and the possessions of Great Britain in India and elsewhere. The meaning of the motion he explained to be that the people of this country should be in a position to take advantage of the treaty which was called "the Postal Union," and the anomalies which were a great disadvantage to the commercial community should be removed, and as some amount of interest attaches itself to the reply given by Mr. Fowler on behalf of the Government, we reprint the gist of it. The machinery of our English Postal system must be something wonderful in its construction and working, and in Mr. Fowler's reply the curtain is lifted for a moment on some part of the interior. In the course of a lengthy speech he stated that as a matter of fact, there was no differential postage rate except to the East and West Coast of Africa, and that which had been looked upon as an injustice was a practical advantage to this country. Inside the Postal Union there was one universal rate of 2½d. charged, and there was 2½d. more for sea service. Certain countries in the Union were freight carriers by sea, and others were freight carriers by land. We carried the ocean postage, and though there was an apparent loss in our carrying letters from France to India for 2½d. it must be remembered that our letters were carried at the same rate across the Continent of Europe, and the proportion sent at our cheap rate was small in comparison with those sent at their cheap rate. Our foreign and colonial postage was carried at a loss of £365,000 a year, and if the charge was to be reduced from 5d. to 2½d., the question would arise upon whom the loss should fall?

* * * *

Holkar is the name of one of the many protected States of Central India and is moreover familiar to most people through the legends connected with the personality and doings of a certain Prince Holkar of bygone ages, but our reference to it on this occasion is not so much to enter upon a disquisition on the character ascribed to this despotic ruler by legendary romance, as it is to place on record the fact that His Highness, the Maharajah of Indore—the present state chief of Holkar has caused to be prepared and issued a separate and

distinct series of stamps for the particular use of the good people of this particular state. Our readers will doubtless be able to call to mind without any very serious stretch of memory, the Imperial surcharged stamps adopted first by Puttialla and afterwards by Gwalior and other states in India, but in this instance the lead given by the Puttialla post office has been altogether departed from in the matter of the method adopted in preparing the Holkar stamps. The new design consists mainly of a portrait of the Maharajah in Eastern costume with a background of horizontal lines, enclosed in an oval in a rectangular frame. Our correspondent to whom we are indebted for most of the information we have respecting these stamps, quotes the remainder of the design as composed of four squares at the four angles of the stamp filled in with ornaments, and in the other part of the frame thus left blank is the name and value of the label in coloured letters on a white ground. On the left hand side there is the Hindoo equivalent for Holkar State Postage and on the right the same appears in the Queen's English. The value in the top and lower part of the frame is also inscribed in English and Hindoo characters respectively. The stamps are large ones and our correspondent mentions having seen three values of half, one, and four annas, but, as there is no reference to the colours they are printed in, we must make some further comment on this subject in our next number.

* * * * *

Post card collectors will be interested in the report of a contemporary chronicler to the effect that the new Ecuador cards bearing the value inscribed "Centavos de Sucre" represent the new name given to the piastre there in honour of the "Gr. Marixal Sucre," to whose bravery and service the state and people of Ecuador owe a debt of gratitude.

* * * * *

Le Timbre Post through the assistance of a correspondent in St. Pierre and Miquelon is enabled this month to throw some light on the new procedure at the post offices there, which we mentioned in our March issue. We learn from this authority that the Governor's decree provides that no stamps purchased at the post office shall be taken away but must be used by the purchaser before quitting the office. The most feasible way of carrying this into practice would have been, we should have thought, to see that the stamps as sold were affixed to the letters they were intended for and handed across the counter for cancellation in the usual way. But from the following it will be found, the course adopted is somewhat more round-about. When it is wished to prepay the postage on a letter or packet a ticket is handed to the sender very similar to our railway labels, which is adhesive and can be affixed in the same way as a postage stamp. This ticket bears an impression of the date stamp and after being attached to the article for transmission a hand stamp is applied, bearing the letters P.D. above a thin bar, beneath which is the fee prepaid in figures 5, 10, 15, or 25 as the case may be. Such is the sum and substance of the new order of procedure.

* * * * *

Reports are current about the great probability of a new issue for Western Australia, which we hear on very good authority is likely

to take place early next Spring, that is about August or September of the so called Australian Spring. We believe that in the new series the familiar swan will be lost to sight but as yet we have been unable to find out what will be the chief feature of the design.

Postal news from Shanghai points to a strange event in the history of the world's post-offices. Recently the 80 cash and 100 cash values were surcharged respectively with "40 cash" and "60 cash" in block type in blue ink, for the alleged purpose of meeting the requirements of the post office in these values, for the time being. The existence of the surcharged stamps was singularly short, for exactly one hour and seventeen minutes after the first label had been issued to the public the new stock of forties and sixties arrived.

Our readers are warned against buying any of the so called Rio de Oro Stamps, created by surcharging the current Spanish issue.

New Issues.

CEYLON.—Two more of the new series of stamps are now in circulation viz:—25 and 28 cents. The design of these stamps consists of the head of Her Majesty in an octagon, the numerals of value are placed below on a fancy-shaped tablet, the values being in colour on white ground.

Adhesive 25 cents., light brown.
 „ 28 „ grey green.

DOMINICA.—The Sixpenny value has been surcharged in black "Half-Penny" in two lines,

Adhesive 4 Penny surcharged in black, on 6d. green.

GUATEMALA.—A series of higher value stamps has been issued by the surcharging of the remainder of the stock of stamps used for the payment of the Northern Railway Tax now suspended. The design of the Northern Railway Stamps consists of a portrait of Don Justo Rufino Barrios, the late President. This is within an oval frame inscribed REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA, on a scroll above the oval, is the inscription FERROCARRIL AL NORTE and on a tablet at the foot, VALE UN PESO.

Adhesives 25 centavos, vermilion, surcharged in black.

50	"	"	"
75	"	"	"
100	"	"	"
150	"	"	"

Following is a translation of the decree authorising the issue:—

"Whereas there is evidence of the necessity of putting into circulation postage stamps of higher values than those of the issue of 1881, in order to supply this need, the Acting-President decrees:—

" 1.—That a provisional issue be made, divided into five lots, of the following values :—

300,000	of 25	cents.
300,000	of 50	"
250,000	of 75	"
150,000	of 100	"
100,000	of 150	"

" 2.—These provisional stamps are legalized for the expressed values, and will circulate until a new and uniform issue is made

" Let it be communicated.

Rubricated by the President

"PALACE OF THE GOVERNMENT GUATEMALA.

HERRERA,

" February 12th. 1886.

Minister of Fomento "

HOLKAR.—One stamp has been issued for this Indian province. This stamp is printed in color on white wove paper and bears a portrait. It is expected other values of 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas will shortly appear.

Adhesive $\frac{1}{2}$ anna purple.

INDIA.—The half anna envelope stamp is now printed in blue, Envelope $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, blue or white.

MONACO.—A series of postcards, envelopes, and news-bands was issued on April 1st. The envelopes are made of white paper, the cards are printed on yellow and the news-bands on a drab paper.

Envelopes	5 cent.	blue on white.
"	15 cent.	pink on white.
" 10 X 10	"	" " on yellow.
Post Cards 10	"	" " on yellow.
" 10 X 10	"	" " " "
Bands	1	" olive on drab.
	2	" brown violet on drab.

TOBAGO.—A post-card of the value of one penny has been issued, the type is the same as the half penny.

Post Card 1 Penny, carmine or buff.

Natal Provisionals and Surcharged Stamps.

The various South African Colonies have always been noted for the prolific way in which they produce extra or provisional issues, and Natal is not behind her sisters in this respect. Various reasons have been named as causing this remarkable state of affairs, but none of them are in themselves sufficient to satisfactorily account for the numerous vagaries observable. That the supply required of certain stamps may be under estimated by the authorities, when ordering will reasonably account for the stock running out, but that the estimates should be repeatedly, persistently, and uniformly below the natural needs of a community is a matter that experience should certainly rectify. Fiscals were surcharged and used as postals while postage stamps of different denominations were surcharged with various styles of type in other

values. These variations are almost innumerable, and it is difficult to describe all their differences intelligibly. For the benefit and instruction of our readers we submit the following, which is a tolerably full and accurate catalogue of these stamps:—In 1869 the 1d. carmine 3d. blue, large and small perf., and 6d. mauve and grey lilac stamps of the types of 1860 to 1864 were surcharged horizontally all in black with the word "Postage," in four different kinds of type. The first had the word all in ordinary Roman capitals 2mm. long and followed by a full-stop (.). In the second the initial letter only was a capital, (2mm. long) and there was also a period (.) at the end. The third was almost the same except that the capital "P," was $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. In the fourth kind the surcharge was in Roman capitals $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long, and was not followed by a period. In the same year (1869) the one shilling green, type of 1864, was also surcharged in black in all the four different styles above mentioned. Of the first style the surcharge on some of the 1d. stamps was reversed as was that also of the 3d. stamps of the second type.

In 1870 to '73 the 1d., 3d., and 6d. of the type of 1860 to '64 were surcharged vertically on each side of the stamps, with the word "Postage" (without a period) in block letters, 2mm. long. This surcharge was in red on the 3d. stamps and in black on the two other values.

In the same years the one shilling, green, of the type of 1864 was surcharged with the word "POSTAGE" in small black capitals, 1mm. long, in a curve following the inner lower line of the oval and without a period following. These were surcharged in three different colours—green, black, and carmine.

In July 1873 the one shilling red brown fiscal was surcharged in black vertically in its centre with "POSTAGE" in Roman capitals, 2mm. long (without period). The same fiscal was also used in 1873 for postal purposes without any surcharge.

On the 1d. carmine, type of 1860, was in 1873 surcharged in black horizontally the word "POSTAGE" (without period) in block capital letters $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long.

In the following year (1874), the same stamp was vertically surcharged on each side with "POSTAGE" (no period) in Roman capitals, 2mm. long.

In 1875 the 1d. orange and 6d. rose fiscals of the 1870 issue were used as postals without any surcharge.

From 1875 to '79 the word "POSTAGE" (without period) in Roman capitals, 2mm. long was surcharged horizontally in black on the 1d. carmine, 6d. mauve and lilac, and the 1d. green of the types of 1860 to '64. In some of the 1d. stamps the surcharge was reversed. In 1877 the 1d. orange fiscal was used provisionally as postage with the same surcharge in black. In 1875 the 1d. rose, issue of 1874, was surcharged HALF $\frac{1}{2}$ HALF in block Roman capitals. The same stamp is also found with the word "HALF" horizontally surcharged in Roman capitals $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. The numeral $\frac{1}{2}$ is found in various positions in different specimens—above the word HALF, below it, in its centre, and on all parts of the stamp.

In 1877 we find the 1d. orange fiscal of 1870 used for postal purposes, and surcharged in black in two lines "POSTAGE" in Roman capitals and Half-penny with capital "H." and the original value is obliterated by three black lines. In some cases the surcharge is reversed.

In 1878 and '79 we find the postal 6d. mauve and lilac, type of 1862, and the fiscal 6d. rose, type of 1870 surcharged in black in two lines—"POSTAGE" in Roman capitals, and One Penny capital O and P—and the original value in both cases obliterated by three black lines. Of this 6d. rose fiscal, there are four varieties (the ordinary surcharge, reversed surcharge double surcharge, ordinary and reversed) and surcharged with One Penny the word "POSTAGE" being omitted.

Besides the above there exist the following which are indisputably genuine as well as old though we have not been able to obtain information as to their use:—3d blue surcharged obliquely, "10d" in black and 1d. carmine with similar surcharge.

These, it will be seen, form no less than forty-four distinct varieties of provisionals and surcharges, besides regular issues that were in use in this colony in the single decade between 1869 and 1879 and the large majority of them for one penny. Of course, if we count as varieties the stamps in which the numeral $\frac{1}{2}$ appears in different positions on the 1d. rose of 1874 as used in 1875, the number may be indefinitely increased.

It really seems, in view of all the facts as if some one in authority in connection with the Naval Postal Department had exercised his best ingenuity to so complicate this provisional matter as to puzzle the most indefatigable and painstaking philatelist.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Volume 2 of *Butler's Philatelic Observer* commences with the June Number. Subscriptions should, at once be sent in for the New Volume

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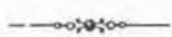


VOL. II.]

JULY, 1886.

[No. 13.

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BUTLERS'
PHILATELIC OBSERVER,
JULY, 1886.

The English are accused by foreign writers of issuing stamps so uniform in appearance as to be saddening and monotonous to the eye. England they say issues very fine stamps undoubtedly, but there is no variety in them: and then they contrast with ours those of the United States, whose stamps may be reckoned the finest in the world. Brother Jonathan doubtless goes ahead in his stamps as in other matters, some fully agree that in place of outline, expressiveness of facial peculiarity and delicacy of touch the American stamps are the best specimens of philatelic art yet produced. It is a subject worth considering why Europe, the real home of art, lags behind in this matter, and lags so much behind that not only the United States produces better stamps than she does, but even the little Republics of South America and notably Guatemala and Costa Rica surpass her. If there is one country in the world from whence we might have expected a series of fine stamps, that country is Italy, but here again the New World outdistances the Old, and the Italian postage stamps are really among the poorest that have been produced. Time will doubtless alter all this and in the end there will be a rivalry between nations and countries as to who shall send out the finest postage symbols. We are perfectly aware that many look down upon Timbrology, even yet, but day by day, their numbers get fewer, while its admirers and supporters grow and increase with an advancing ratio that is sometimes startling. In the end this increase will have a marked effect on all Stamp Issues, and will, we have little doubt, result in England herself producing a series of stamps, which if they do not surpass, will at least, equal any others in the world.

But to return to our American Cousins, why should they have taken such marked pains to excel in philatelic productions? Or did they not take such pains and did the faculty come to them naturally, as Topsy grew or "guessed she grew"? Be it as it may, in their postage stamps, in their revenue stamps, in their trade stamps, excellence still makes itself visible.

"En Passant."

It has been announced that the agreements now existing for the transmission and conveyance of mails to the United States from this country, will expire on the 1st of December, and we believe it is the intention of the present Government not to renew the contract. What the newly elected Parliament will be prepared to do in this direction it is of course not possible to say, but as the present system is one of which great fault has been and can even now be found, there is a great likelihood of some such steps being taken by the Post Office, come what may. Last year there was an outcry raised against this method of carrying the mails, and at one time in the commercial world it almost amounted to an agitation. It has been shown as an instance of the present ineffectual plan, that the mails leaving Liverpool on Thursday repeatedly overtake the ships carrying those despatched on the previous Tuesday. We do not remember having seen any explanation from those who have from time to time occupied the office of Postmaster General since public attention was first drawn to this subject in 1884: but as a matter of fact we suppose that, had any of Her Majesty's Ministers of the Department undertaken to reply to the matter, the only thing that could have been definitely said would have been that Her Majesty's Government was not able to cancel the existing contracts at a moment's notice. There will be probably, a great deal of the time intervening taken up by the making and arranging of the new system and its order of working. Such a machine as the Post Office we must remember is not taken to pieces in any vital part and put together again in five minutes. We are glad to be able to note however that a radical reform is likely, if only the political atmosphere admits of the carrying out of the intentions of the present head of "things postal." We are indebted for the following to *Stubbs' Gazette*, which may be accepted as an authority in these matters.

* * * * *

"The present arrangement of despatching the American mails three times a week—namely, on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from London, and on the following day from Queenstown—having been found the most convenient that can be adopted in the interests of all parts of the United Kingdom, the Postmaster General proposes to continue that arrangement; but, while giving the preference to ships calling for mails at Queenstown, he will be prepared to consider offers for the conveyance of mails from other ports of the United Kingdom. Instead of entering into arrangements extending over long periods of time, the Postmaster General proposes to take up, month by month, or quarter by quarter, the most efficient vessels sailing from Liverpool *via* Queenstown to New York on the days above mentioned. The owners of such vessels will be remunerated by a payment per voyage based upon the amount of correspondence carried; and the payment the Postmaster General will be prepared to make for vessels calling at

Queenstown and waiting for the mails will be at the rate of 3s. per pound weight for the letters and postcards, and 3d. per pound for the newspapers, printed papers and patterns or samples contained in each mail. For vessels not calling at Queenstown the remuneration will be 1s. 8d. per pound for letters and postcards, and 1½d. for the other articles—bulk rates which are equivalent to the rates per letter or paper ordinarily paid for the conveyance of ship letter mails”

The stamp and postcard collections at South Kensington are said to be bad ones, and very poor in detail. From three different journals we have gathered this, but it seems to us that once a report of this nature gets wind there are writers ready at once to pounce upon it and make the most they can of the subject. The collection of Afghan stamps has been the chief subject for invectives. One of our contemporaries quotes it as “excessively meagre”; another refers to the “imperfect state of arrangement of the specimens,” and a third joins in with regrets about the “terrible incompleteness.” While admitting the great value of these mediums in the due attraction of the public mind to any question, we would suggest to our contemporaries that they should invite, as we do, those of our collector-friends who are possessed of good collections to offer the loan of them to the Exhibition authorities, and so augment and so help to alleviate the “terrible incompleteness” and the “excessively meagre” character of the present representatives of the science at South Kensington. It is very unlikely that these offers would be refused if they were made, but taking such a contingency as a possibility even, the good principle of the thing and the evidence that there are a few people at least ready to help would be a subject well fitted we think for leading articles on the part of our friends, who, ready to criticise are not so willing apparently to help the facts of the case.

We understand that Mr. Henniker Heaton, whose proposal for a reduction in the present tariff of postage to the colonies was referred to at some length in our last issue, has received from the Postmaster General an intimation that a scheme for meeting his suggestion for cheaper international postage is under the consideration of the Department. We have not heard however that Mr. Heaton lives in very great hopes of the good likely to result in the desired direction, as the communication he has received states that the scheme will not go as far as the one put forward in the House of Commons on the 30th of March, for an international penny post.

During the past month there has appeared for the island of Ceylon a first instalment of the new series so long ago predicted. It was hoped by a few ardent believers in the faith of representing her Majesty as she is, that the authorities would see their way to instruct the engravers of the new stamps to take as an example for the portrait the Canadian bill-stamps: but their hopes have not been fulfilled. The two values already to hand shew very little or no alteration in the portrait of the Queen. It is reported that the remaining values to

complete the series will be of the same type: it seems indeed a very unusual thing for any of the colonies or dependencies of this country to be supplied with more than one type for the whole set required. De la Rue was the introducer, we might almost say inventor of the accommodating dies for postage stamps. Many of the colonies' labels in the main part of the design are identical and the only difference discernible is the variation in the names and values. The new Ceylon labels are very meagre in appearance: the spaces in the angles being filled up with unmeaning ornaments—sunflowers mostly, and the colours are imperfect; by this we mean they appear to come short of clearness, and in fact are most dull in appearance. Our readers will have found further reference to these stamps in our New Issues column.

* * * * *

We have a letter from a subscriber in Vienna in which he mentions the preparation of a series of letter cards, sixteen in number, consisting of the 3kr. with inscriptions in eight different languages, and the 5 kr. similarly treated. He attributes the innovation to the wish of the authorities to provide residents in that country with letter cards from which they can learn the regulations relating to their use without troubling to call in the services of a professor of languages.

* * * * *

New stamps for telegraphic business will probably be required in Russia, Spain, Italy, Germany, and possibly too our own country. On the 1st of July the new tariff came into operation and the changes made from the old list of charges are so varied and the new rates per word so very odd that the probability mentioned above seems a very logical conclusion at which to arrive after perusing the amended tariff. We ought to mention that this is the outcome of the International Telegraphic Conference held at Berlin in the autumn of 1885.

* * * * *

A long looked-for event has become a matter of history this month. Our remarks must be short necessarily, as space is limited; and the subject does not call for much comment. In the new labels now in circulation in Greece our friends will not find a great deal we fear to please them, in the matter of art. As evidence *prima facie* of an ingenious achievement by crowding together as much ornamentation as possible they will be invaluable, but as works of art they are spoilt for this reason. The Post-office people in Greece seem mightily opposed to perforation, as the new stamps are divided in the same way as of old. The head of Mercury occupies the main part of the design, but in the present instance the engraver has not succeeded in producing so clear a portrait as in the previous issues. The joint authors of the design are M. M. Heinrick and Doms, both of Belgium, who are responsible also for the 1869 issues in that country. From a contemporary we learn that the same two are to be joint authors of the stamps for the Congo Free State, which are now in course of preparation.

* * * * *

Here is a subject open for suggestions. Given that Home Rule is granted to Ireland, what sort of designs will the new postage labels consist of?

New Issues.

ANGOLA.—A new series of stamps has been issued for this colony, of the same type as those lately issued for Mozambique.

COLOMBIA.—A new stamp (we presume the first of a series) has just appeared, bearing the inscription *REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA*.

Adhesive, 1 centavo, orange yellow.

DOMINICA.—We have received another provisional halfpenny stamp for use in this island, the sixpenny green has been surcharged HALF PENNY in black.

Adhesive $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. green, black surcharge.

FRANCE.—The 25 centimes has been changed in colour to black on rose.

GREECE.—Three stamps, of a new type, have just been issued, the design is the head of Mercury, in a circle, but the stamps *are still* unperforated.

Adhesives. 25 lepta blue.

50 lepta

1 drachma grey.

PORTUGAL.—The 25 reis has been changed in colour to red brown.

PERU.—The 1 centavo yellow, 1879, has been surcharged with the triangle and has a further surcharge of *AREQUIPA* in circle.

ROUMANIA.—Another of the new type has been issued.

Adhesive. 10 bani, red on buff

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—We have received the current sixpenny stamp surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with a hand stamp, the original value appears to have been crossed out with a pen.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. green.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A halfpenny wrapper of the new type has just been issued.

Wrapper. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. violet on manilla paper.

A Deep into the Future.

M.S.S. FOUNDED ON FACTS.

What I am going to tell occurred not more than six weeks ago. I have been enabled to put it into readable form with the help of a few shorthand notes pencilled down at the time, so that I can vouch for its substantial accuracy. I am not an advanced collector, neither would it be right to catalogue myself as a needy one in the matter of philatelic knowledge, but I will ask your readers, Mr. Editor, to bear in mind that I am not an expert in stamp matters and possibly some of the sentiments expressed on the occasion when I accepted an invitation to attend an exclusively philatelic dinner would surprise them almost as much as they did me. I had never before attended a similar gathering, and it had not previously occurred to me how enjoy-

able such an one could be made. In matters of this sort it is perhaps best that one's readers should have some little idea of the locality where the events now to be chronicled took place, but not having the requisite permission to disclose the names of my friends I will at once say all that is possible under the circumstances, and which probably, Sir, will be sufficient, or do much to alleviate the curiosity of your readers.

A certain house, not a hundred miles from Thornhill Square, London, N., is the residence of mine host, and without paying more than passing flattery to the goodness of the fare provided for the inner man, I will pass on to remark upon the intellectual food of which there was plenty, both in the form of oral testimony and explanations from various of the company assembled and in the comparison of each others albums and collections. All those who accepted invitations were supposed to bring with them their collections, and it was almost amusing to note among so comparatively few the many different examples of mounting and storing postage stamps and cards. To admit of my passing over a good deal of conversation and discussion with which I will not trouble you I will revert to newspaper phraseology, "after the cloth had been removed." While this very necessary business was going forward and in the interval prior to the chairman rising to give the first toast of the evening there was another general comparison of albums and discussion. There were twenty-two present and right pleasant company I found them. I had no conception that Philately was to so great an extent a practically endless subject, stamp collector as I am. That which is usually found in Magazines concerning it is after all only a primitive exposition, and only gives a partial idea of what Philately really means and really consists of. After the customary loyal toasts, the occupant of the vice-chair rose to give the toast of the evening, "Greater prosperity to the Philately of the future." In doing so he made an excellent speech. An exclusively philatelic speech was something new to me, and as a matter of fact it is not a small thing to realize that for rather more than an hour the speaker referred to entertained his brother-collectors present with a capital and logical review of Philately past, present, and, to use the precise quotation, "the probable future of the science." It was to the last section of his speech that I paid perhaps most attention and it is that part which I have endeavoured to reproduce. Without further comment I will unveil the transcription of my notes.

After referring *in extenso* to the great strides the science had made in recent years, the recovery from the level to which, as a mania it had sunk, and the important position it now had among recreative pursuits the speaker continued, "and we have much to look for in the time to come. Those peace-loving citizens of this country who scoff at the bare suggestion of an early return to timbromania, may live on in blissful ignorance of the fact that it undoubtedly will come, for it seemed without question to him that it was more to the outside public than those now interesting themselves in the science, that we had to look to for the eventual good or ill of Philately. There would be in the future a return to that objectionable practice—actually mania for

collecting these "barbarous pieces of paper, barbarously defaced," as one of the London dailies had been good enough to style the collection of foreign postage stamps. That qualifying on the part of the *Standard* newspaper shewed a great want of good feeling or at least a need of charitable good-will towards the ambitions of one's fellows. This, he would remark in passing was one of the many insults heaped upon the pursuit from similar sources, but which generally resulted in more good than harm. This sort of argument, if argument it might be termed, required very little to refute, and if the author of the quotation he had mentioned would only take the trouble or had only done so before writing down his opinions of the science, he (the speaker) should opine that the *Standard's* contributor would have materially altered the purport of his article. To return however, the only logical interpretation he could put upon the signs of the times was that we were drifting to a similar state of things as had already existed within his recollection, and his hearers would comprehend his meaning when he mentioned the appellation which had been in a like manner bestowed upon the service, namely, that of a "fashionable mania." He would venture to substantiate that statement by recounting an incident, which the speaker explained, only occurred the day previous and in which he was interested personally. He would say by way of preface that he owed the major portion of his collection to an elaborate system of exchanging, especially in the case of the minor varieties and genuine variations in colour. He need hardly go into details, but he should like to mention *en passant* that he believed in the existence of genuine copies of some of the Norwegian 1856 issue as we found them, which were alleged to have been altered by the employment of chemicals. Chemistry was a capital thing to lay the blame to when puzzled catalogue makers found more varieties coming from a given country than they could account for. In the case of some of the Turkish again he did not share the belief of the chemical agency in changing colours to the extent that some would have them. He did not believe it possible. His collection had been greatly, he might say enormously enriched by exchanging, and he strongly urged every collector to adopt the same plan. Proceeding, the speaker said the incident he had referred to might be justly taken as one of the many omens of the future—an important one, if the spread of the abuse of rational principles of collecting, was not strictly guarded against. It might also well be termed a glimpse of a very possible future, for it had occurred to him, as it would doubtless suggest itself to his hearers in view of the every day business in buying and selling stamps—that if a certain stamp suddenly merited a premium being offered for it over and above the price usually set down to it, then there must be in sight of the broker or dealer a good facility for disposing of the label again. The case in point was a good illustration of this. He had a stamp in his album which once belonged to the collection of the late Mr. Fredc. C—, of Hastings, which was sold in various lots soon after his death in 1879. The stamp had some initials on the back, and these he had all along assumed to belong to the original owner, which had since proved to be the case. It was one of the early European issues, rarely to be

met with except in old collections now. It appeared that it had already changed hands several times; a collector at Lyons or somewhere in the South of France had become possessed of it owing to the disposal of the collections of a nobleman of that country. The son he understood was now anxious to get together as many as possible of the specimens which originally comprised his father's collection. In carrying into practice this extravagant idea there had been created a market for stamps with a pedigree, strange as the qualification might seem. I am told, continued the speaker, it is not now an uncommon thing in France, when purchasing specimens of old issues of various countries' stamps, not exclusively European either, for enquiry to be made as to the number of hands such and such a stamp has passed through and in what noted collections it had at one time or another been numbered. This was termed the pedigree of a stamp. He asked them, could one well imagine anything more absurd? He was glad it did not emanate from any of his own circle of friends. The very reason of its being absurd was however the most likely cause of its becoming in vogue amongst collectors all over the world. For his own part he feared it was such absurdities as these that would bring down the science again to even below the level of a "mania" if it were possible to find a lower grade. A more illusionary value could not be put upon their stamps than any consideration for these so-called pedigrees. There were some other things which he might mention in this connection, as equally liable to lower the position the science had now reached rather than improve the tone of the pursuit. Principal amongst these was the sale of "reprints and remainders"; the turnover in £ s. d. in the course of year on this account alone must amount to a large item in the profits of the dealers and middlemen. The traffic in this rubbish was, as a matter of fact, conducted on the principle that "half-a-loaf was better than no bread," and if only the transaction was a quarter as honest as the principle said to be involved there would not be so much ground for complaint. But it was not so. It was said that where the genuine was to all intents and purposes unobtainable, a set of imitations were as good; but as philatelists they could not agree with that. A set of stamps not having yet done postal service might be generally admitted more pleasing and probably more interesting to the vulgar taste than the same stamps would be in a used condition. The choice between the two by a genuine philatelist could be readily imagined, and especially so if the unused labels happened to be obsolete remainders or worse still—reprints. The bad effect of these things would of a surety assert itself in the brief return to the old days of mania-stricken enthusiasts, who took up the hobby for a very limited period only to discard it. This could but reduce the usefulness of Philately as a scientific pursuit, because its respectability would be affected. It was not the speaker's wish to debar anyone from enjoying the same recreation which they themselves found in their albums, but it would indeed be disheartening, after so long a period of gradual growth in vigour and usefulness that there should be a possibility of its becoming nothing more than an unreasonable pursuit—the victim of a mania-struck public."

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BUTLERS'

PHILATELIC OBSERVER

AUGUST, 1886.

In our last number and in this part of our Magazine we expatiated on the excellence of the American stamps, an excellence that has stricken Continental Philatelists no less than ourselves. So conspicuous is this that there seems to be no stamp where excellence is lacking and where their superiority over other nations is not maintained. Take a fiscal Match Tax, the execution is good; take a quack medicine stamp, it is no less well done. Last month we pondered over this, as our readers will remember, and asked why it is. The answer however that we found difficult to give, had perhaps, been given by an American himself, a year or two before. Mr. Russell Lowell, while the American Minister here speaking on one occasion at a public meeting, said that there was no country in the world where the people mixed so much brain with the labour of their fingers as his own. No doubt this is the explanation, the mixture of brains with the work of the hands makes the American naturally artistic. Why the English have not excelled in the matter of stamps is this, that art never entered into their conception of them. When the old and original penny English stamp was produced it was not an uncommon observation of the day that anybody of a mechanical turn of mind, with an ordinary bread and cheese knife, might be able to make a tolerably good counterfeit. We do not think counterfeiters, had there been any, would have found their ingenuity very profitable, because there were original checks that would soon have brought their fraudulent practices to grief and exposure, but still the plain fact remains that the first stamp was but a heavy and clumsy production. But then, Rowland Hill was but a practical man, the son of, if not himself, a commercial schoolmaster, he sought for nothing but use and cared nothing for beauty. The dispute as to who invented the postage stamp

has never turned upon a matter of effigies nor of designs, or, as we should perhaps in our day say, essays, but as to whom the credit belongs of having had the first idea of placing a piece of square gummed paper on a letter as a frank for it. Let us not be thought to undervalue the worth even of the single thought of doing so, for whatever its execution has been, and however little it seems in itself, the result has been great, perhaps magnificent. What we contend for is that the subject of Art and let us write in it large letters of HIGH ART never entered into the brains of the first producers of the postage stamps but their ideas were confined solely to the notion of use. Of course, since then, a New Generation has risen up and if the New Generation is anxious to have art and beauty in its postage stamps we have little doubt it will succeed and have them. We do not attribute the poorness of the English stamps to any actual English, mental, artistic incapacity, but to the fact that the English mind has never been fully devoted to the subject. Our several Post Masters General have seen in the postage stamp but a great commercial engine, it is that unquestionably, and will unquestionably remain so, but no less it is the fact that, in future, besides so seeing it, the world, at large, will ask the Post Master General and expect him to see that the English stamp, as a symbol, does not fall behind that of other nations, either in Art or interest.

“En Passant.”

Not a great while ago whilst referring to the condition of business in stamps from a pecuniary standpoint, an English author wrote with profound simplicity—“dullness! dullness! all is dullness.” Without regard to any special wisdom there may or may not be in this remark we will substitute for dullness the word “jobbery” for we think that in scanning the list of new issues recorded this month more than one instance may be found in which the altered phraseology, will commend itself as peculiarly suited to the several circumstances. The vagaries noted for *Aalborg* in the form of a fresh batch of surcharges on the 1887 issue followed immediately by a new set of seven labels, and the modification of the stamp belonging to *Odense* another by-post or local post in Denmark, form two instances of what might be termed we think, playing at post offices; just as it is possible to imagine a school of infants in the early days of life adopting the deliveries by the familiar postman as the summit of infantile ambition. It would seem that whether the business of these local posts requires it or not, there is always behind the scenes a guiding hand ready to direct the issue of a score of surcharges and then a fresh series of stamps, or *vice versa*. In the case of the *Aalborg* by-post, which we referred to before on the

occasion of the issue and surcharge of a 3öre label in April, there have followed the surcharges already mentioned a set of seven values ranging from one to fifty öre in value, and consisting of no less than four types. A different type is used for each of the four lower values and the 20, 25 and 50 öre, are of the same design as the 10 öre. Now it is difficult to conceive what actual use there can be for all these labels in merely a local post confined to the area of perhaps just a square mile. To suggest their creation is due to an appreciable increase in the legitimate business of letter carrying only, would be, we fear, very far from the real cause of the issue. Above and beyond the professed use to which the stamps of these local posts are put, viz., that of prepayment of letters carried by the post, there is always an enormous demand on the proprietors for sets of any new stamps they may issue from people interested in the circulation of new stamps amongst collectors. The frequent repetition of similar procedure does not appear to lessen the demand for large quantities by single individuals. Some curious facts are related from one of the Portuguese Settlements—Macao, and we may repeat them here because some of them help to prove the existence of the practice we have alluded to. It is alleged that of some twelve boxes of stamps and postcards and other post office requisites despatched by ship from Portugal seven only were delivered to the post master at Macao; the remaining five not being found in the hold of the vessel until after its return. The limited stock thus left at the post office proved to be altogether insufficient to meet the demand for the new stamps and it was only a necessity when surcharging was resorted to—at least so says report. Now here we must leave it an open question as to whether the five cases were intentionally missed when the ship reached Macao, personally we should imagine it would not be an easy matter to accidentally *overlook* five large boxes however gigantic the ship hold might have been. Considerable credence is placed in the report in some quarters, but we fear we must confess to a deal of diffidence in accepting so flimsy an explanation.

* * * *

Since our last issue we have been somewhat severely taken to task by a Philatelist who called upon us, about our remarks concerning the action of the press with regard to the collections at the South Kensington Exhibition. Whilst assuring us that the subject was devoid of any pecuniary interest to him he thought that we were not at all justified in making our observations in the tone we did because the question of lending help to the show authorities in the way suggested had not previously been mooted. It is to be regretted certainly that some such suggestion was not made earlier and acted upon, but in our note on the subject last month we did not intend this regret to be construed into black-mail against our contemporaries even though they have with almost one accord, abused the efforts made by the authorities to give Philately a place in the Indian and Colonial Exhibition. The following is an extract of the paragraph to which our friend has taken exception. "While admitting the great value of these mediums in the due attraction of the public mind to any question, we would suggest to

our contemporaries that they should invite, as we do, those of our collector-friends who are possessed of good collections to offer the loan of them to the Exhibition authorities, and so augment and so help to alleviate the 'terrible incompleteness' and the 'excessively meagre character of the present representatives of the science at South Kensington. It is very unlikely that these offers would be refused if they were made, but taking such a contingency as a possibility even, the good principle of the thing and the evidence that there are a few people at least ready to help would be a subject well fitted we think for leading articles on the part of our friends, who, ready to criticise are not so willing apparently to help the facts of the case. We are able to state on fairly reliable authority that the collections now on view will be sold by tender after the Exhibition is closed.

* * * *

Everybody has heard of the dire catastrophe which one day not long ago befel the Korean post office and all its contents. According to report the stock necessary to carrying on a post office, was along with the building itself fired by a mob and totally destroyed. The absolute truth of this statement, though generally accepted at the time is now questioned by reason of the appearance of three other stamps of higher values than the two already known to be in existence. The new stamps are the 25, 50, and 100 mon. which we are told were in use postally for a short time only, but the currency thus obtained entitles them to a place as postage stamps. We shall be willing enough to admit them as such supposing the credentials they bring with them are worthy of investigation and if upon enquiry it should prove correct that a quantity of the higher values was saved from the fire, they will be treated so as a matter of course; but until then we advise our readers to accept these statements about the 25, 50, and 100 mon. with the greatest reserve. In order if possible to elicit some further tidings concerning them we will put these questions to those who are anxiously pushing them before the public. Were these stamps originally printed in Germany? Have they ever been as far as the Korean peninsula? and if they were at the post office there, as alleged, at the time of the fire, how was it that just these very stamps were saved, and no others, those which had only been in use a little time and were consequently very scarce amongst collectors. We should like to go further but space forbids: still, now that we are on the subject there will be no harm done in asking to whose praiseworthy foresight are we indebted for rescue from the flames of these precious labels?

* * * *

The two letter cards issued last month from the French Capital are remarkable for the exceptional economy which has evidently been observed in their preparation. Not only are the colours poorly executed and miserably finished but similar objectionable features are observable in regard to the paper used. The latter is of the most ordinary description and comes poorly off when quality is made the test of cheapness. The smaller series of the Belgian letter cards appear to have been taken as a pattern in preparing the French ones

just issued, *i.e.*, as far as the design of the card goes. The inscription is the very essence of brevity, consisting as it does of two words only, CARTE-LETTRE, and the English equivalent to this will not be very difficult to divine. They are impressed with the 15 c. and 25 c. stamps respectively of the current issue which represent of course the same value as in the case of adhesives, and the colours used are for the lower value, blue on straw tinted paper and for the 25c, black on pink.

A delay in the issue of a certain stamp which has been long promised tends to add considerably to the interest in the specimen when it actually comes to light. This we have noticed is especially the case if the advent of a series of stamps has been chronicled and speculation been moving as to their probable character. As a matter of fact we are not exactly sure that a separate series of labels for Guinea has at any time been specially predicted, but it has been generally understood we believe that some effectual way of providing stamps necessary for the post office here would be one of the changes now being made in the various stamps of the Portugul Colonies. We have a set of seven adhesives definitely set apart for use in Guinea shewing in the design a portrait of the king. The next noticeable part of the stamps is the oval band which encloses the above and bears an inscription appropriate to the occasion. The labels present a very neat appearance but do not lack effectiveness and when mounted in the album will form a very good contrast with the appearance of the labels previously in use.

New Issues.

ANTIGUA.--Three post-cards have been prepared for use in this Island.

Post Cards, 1 penny carmine.

1 X 1 " "
1½ X 1½ " "

AUSTRIA.--We have now received one of the letter cards mentioned in our last number, the inscription is printed in black, the card is white within and coloured without.

Letter Card, 5kr., pink on grey.

BELGIUM.--Two letter cards have appeared bearing stamps of the new type.

Letter Cards, 10c. carmine on blue.
25c. blue on pink.

CEYLON.--Another stamp of the new design has been circulated.

Adhesive, 15c. olivo green.

COREA.—Three high values, namely 25, 50 and 100 mon. are supposed to have been issued, remarks relating to these stamps will be found in "En Passant."

Adhesives, 25 mon. orange.
50 " blue green.
100 " dark blue and rose.

CUBA.—The colour of the 2½c. de peso, has been changed to ultramarine-blue.

Adhesive, 2½c. de peso, ultramarine-blue.

COCHIN CHINA.—The French Colonies stamp of 25c. ochre has been surcharged "5" it also bears beneath the numeral, the additional surcharge, C.C.H.

Adhesive, 5c. on 25c. OCHRE.

CURACAO.—A post card of the value of 5 cents. and an adhesive stamp of the same value will shortly be issued.

DOMINICA.—In addition to the surcharge mentioned in our July number a new adhesive and two postcards have been issued.

Adhesive, 4d. grey
Post Cards 1d. X 1d. carmine on buff.
" " 1½ X 1½ brown on buff.

DENMARK.—AALBORG, although this post has only been established a few months a second issue has appeared,

Adhesives, 1 ore, brown
2 ore, blue
5 ore, brown and blue
10 ore, black and brown
20 ore, green and black
25 ore, black and blue
50 ore, blue and gold

FRANCE.—Two letter cards have been issued.

Letter cards 15c. blue on straw
" " 25c. black on pink

FRENCH COLONIES.—Four of the unpaid letter stamps of the low values have just appeared.

Unpaid letter stamps 1c. black.
2c. "
3c. "
4c. "

The current 25c. stamp has undergone a change of colour corresponding with that lately issued for France.

Adhesive 25c. black on pink

GAMBIA.—Three of these stamps have been changed in colour as follows:—

Adhesives, 2½d. ultramarine
3d. sage green
1s. brown

GRENADA.—Three new reply post cards have just been issued viz—

Post Cards ½ X ½ green on buff
1 X 1 carmine on buff
1½ X 1½ brown on buff

INDIA.—A stamp of an entirely new design has been circulated, the design consists of the head of the Empress on a groundwork of horizontal lines within an octagonal band.

Adhesive 4 annas 6 pies, pale green.

ITALY.—Two stamps have been issued for postal packets.

Adhesives, 10 centesimi, olive green
20 „ blue

LABUAN.—Two stamps have been changed in colour as follows—

Adhesives. 10 cents, olive
16 „ dull blue.

MONTSERRAT.—A penny reply post card has been issued.

Post Card, 1 X 1 carmine on buff

MADAGASCAR.—We have received some of a series of postage labels that have been issued by the British Vice-Consul at Antananarivo. The labels consist of two series, one for letters, the other being for packets. The Labels are type set and of a rather large size, being more than three inches long by two inches wide. The letter labels are divided by rules into three parts, at the top are the letters B.C.M., below the first rule is the authorised weight, below the second line the postage rate, the other letter labels are of the same design, the whole is enclosed within a border of two lines. The parcel labels are without, the dividing lines, at the top is the word POSTAGE, below in the centre the value, in figures, and at the bottom the value, in words, the whole being enclosed in an ornamental border.

Letter Labels 6 pence vermilion, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

1 shilling violet, 1 „

1 „ 6 pence violet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

2 „ violet, 2 „

Postal Packets 1 penny 1 oz. violet.

3 half-pence $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. black and red.

2 pence violet. 2 oz.

3 „ violet. 3 oz.

4 „ violet. 4 oz.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ „ black and red. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

NEVIS.—Two reply postcards of the values of 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. have been issued.

Postcards 1d. X 1d. carmine on buff.

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

NORWAY.—KRAGERO, a new local post has been started for this town, the stamps are all of one design and consist of an island with a small promontory with a lighthouse at the extremity, the whole being enclosed in a circle, in the distance is a ship. Above the design on a scroll is KRAGERO BY POST beneath the circle in a straight line is 'ore.' The stamps are lithographed.

Adhesives 2 ore, green on light green.

5 „ brown on pale pink.

7 „ ochre on pale yellow.

10 „ brown on pink.

PERU.—Some of the stamps of the new series have been put into circulation,, the alterations being simply changes of colour.

Adhesives, 1 centavo, lilac, type 1879.

2 " green " 1876.

5 " orange " 1877.

50 " vermilion " 1874.

1 sol. brown " 1874.

REUNION.—The 30c. French colonies stamp of 1876 to 81 issue (imperforate) has been surcharged respectively 5c. and 20c.

Adhesives 5c. on 30c. brown.

20c. on 30c. "

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—We have another surcharge from this island, the 6d. stamp being surcharged ONE PENNY.

Adhesive 1d. on 6d. green

TOBAGO.—The 2½d. stamp has been surcharged ½ PENNY

Adhesive ½d. on 2½d. ultramarine.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of Butlers' Philatelic Observer.

Sir,

Will you permit me, as a reader of your Journal, to make a few remarks on the article in your last number entitled "A Peep into the Future?" Interesting as I always find your magazine I think, however, it has this defect that it is apt to take a rather downcast and dispiriting view of Philately. At the beginning of this, you reviewed the past year and stated it had been a gloomy one for Stamp Dealers and Collectors, and yet, last year, the returns of Dealers and others were heavier than ever! And now you discover that there is something coming over our interesting pursuit that will sink it below a mania—if that be possible—No, Sir, it is not possible to sink it below a mania, nor is it a mania. Those however—to return to your article—who wish to have a pedigree for their stamps are they likely to injure or benefit Philately? My opinion is the latter: if a stamp had been in the possession of a celebrated poet, orator or statesman it would, at least, be no worse, and if it by chance had an autograph affixed would it not be all the better? Certainly: for it would possess the double advantage of being both an autograph and a stamp and so far from seeing anything objectionable or likely to injure Philately in such a circumstance, I think there is reason to congratulate ourselves that we have another aspect under which we can view and collect stamps and that is, their Pedigree.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

X.K.

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