

THE INTERNATIONAL
STAMP RECORDER



And Curiosity Magazine.

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH.

No. 1, Vol. I.]

MAY 1st, 1868.

[Price 2d.

CONTENTS.

Address to our Readers	...	...	...	...	...
Recent and undescribed Emissions	...	...	...	...	...
The Millionth: a three volume sensation	..	..	..	..	..
My Album, or a Collector's Adventures in France	...	...	...	...	...
Statue of Sir Rowland Hill	...	...	...	...	...
The Post Office as it was	...	...	...	...	...
Half-penny Postage for England	...	...	...	...	...
Down Stairs in Somerset House	...	...	...	...	...
Review of Philatelic Publications	...	...	...	...	...
POSTAL SCRAPS: Riddle for the Post Office—Letter Posting Extraordinary—The Postmen's Grievances—The Muffin Man—The Fatal Letter.					
Prize Distribution	...	...	...	...	...
Advertisements.					

NOTICE.—All purchasers of this and succeeding Numbers of THE STAMP RECORDER are entitled to receive gratis, with each copy, a genuine rare Foreign Postage Stamp.

DEWSBURY :

A. TOLSON, AND CO.,

THE FOREIGN STAMP AND CURIOSITY DEPÔT,

WELLINGTON ROAD.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Annual Subscription to THE STAMP RECORDER from all countries except Austria, Prussia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, United States, and the East Indies, is 2s. From the above-named countries the Subscription is 3s.

Remittances may be made in unused stamps of the lowest value in use in the country whence the order is sent.

All Subscriptions to be sent to A. Tolson & Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury, to whose care all communications for the Editor are to be addressed.

NOTICE!—A New TALE,

'How I became a Collector'

is in preparation, and will shortly appear in the *Stamp Recorder*. It should be read by every Stamp Collector.

NOTICE.—Through an unforeseen accident we have been unable to insert any Illustrations in the *Stamp Recorder*, this month, but we promise that our future numbers shall not lack Engravings.

A. Tolson & Co., Foreign Stamp and Crest Depot, Dewsbury.

OPPEN'S POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM AND CATALOGUE.

Enlarged, revised, corrected and brought up to the present time, by Dr. Viner. With illustrations of some of the rarest stamps. A full description of the Arms of each Country, and the Coinage, Area, Population, chief Town, Reigning Government. Ninth Edition. Post free, 6s. 6d.; in superior binding, bevelled boards, gilt edges, post free, 8s.

* * The album may be had alone, price 4s. 6d.; in superior binding, bevelled boards, extra gilt edges, 5s. 6d., post free.

A. Tolson, and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

A. Tolson & Co.'s New Series of Foreign Stamp Packets.

1. THE SIXPENNY PACKET OF USED AND UNUSED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 20 varieties, including rare Heligoland, Egyptian (with pyramid and sphinx), Servian, Roumanian, Austrian Mercury, Greek, old Austrian (1850), old Prussian, Swiss, Saxon, &c. All warranted genuine; post free, 7d.

2. THE SIXPENNY PACKET OF LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS, contains 12 varieties, including American, English, Scotch, and Hamburg Locals. All warranted genuine; post free, 7d.

3. THE PACKET OF MIXED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 100, including old Faden (figure 1850), &c. All warranted genuine; post free, 7d.

4. THE SHILLING PACKET OF LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS contains 25 varieties, including Constantinople, Dresden, English, Scotch, American, and Hamburg Locals. All warranted genuine; post free, 1s. 1d.

5. THE ONE-AND-SIXPENNY PACKET OF USED FOREIGN

STAMPS contains 100 varieties. All in good condition and warranted genuine; post free, 1s. 8d.

6. THE ONE-AND-SIXPENNY PACKET OF HAMBURG LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS, contains 116 varieties. All warranted genuine; post free, 1s. 8d.

7. THE HALF-A-CROWN PACKET OF USED AND UNUSED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 100 varieties, including rare Heligoland, Egypt (with pyramid), Servia, Austrian Mercury, Virgin Islands, Roumania, French Republic, Confederate States, Venezuela, rare old Sicilian, Modena, Romagna, and other scarce stamps. All warranted genuine; post free, 2s. 8d.

8. THE FIVE SHILLING PACKET OF USED AND UNUSED FOREIGN STAMPS, contains 150 varieties, including rare old Brazil (italic figures), Parma, first issues of Spain, Schleswig Holstein, 1848, Virgin Isles, Venezuela, St. Lucia, Nevis, Turk's Island, La Guaira, Egypt, &c. All warranted genuine; post free, 5s. 2d.

A. Tolson & Co.'s

CHEAP SETS OF FOREIGN STAMPS.

All unused except those marked thus (*).

	s.	d.
Bergedorf, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3 and 4 s. h. ... set of 5	1	4
* Brazil (large roman figures), 10, 30, and 90 reis	3	7 6
* " (italic figures), 10, 30, 60, and 90 reis	4	1 6
* " (italic figures), 180, 300, and 600 reis	3	31 6
Egypt (with sphinx), 5, 10, 20 paras, 1, 2, piastres	5	1 6
Hamburg (locals), adhesives and envelopes	116	2 0
Heligoland, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 6 sch	4	1 3
Lubeck, 180s, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 4 sch. adhesives	6	1 6
Do. do. envelopes	6	1 9
Meeklenburg Strelitz, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 sch., 1, 2, 3, agr. adhesives	6	1 8

ADVERTISEMENTS.

SETS OF STAMPS *Continued.*

Do. 1, 2, 5, agr. envelopes	..	3	1	0
Modena, 5, 10, 10, 15, 25, 40 c., 1 lira, and 10 c. <i>tassa gazette</i> ...	..	8	2	0
Nicaragua, 2, and 5, c. ...	..	2	0	9
Oldenburg, 1862, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 3 gr. adhesives ...	..	5	1	0
Do. $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 3 gr. envelopes	..	4	1	0
Parma, "Duc di Parma," 15, 25, and 40 c. ...	..	3	1	0
Parma, Prov. Gov., 5, 6, 9, 10, 20, 40, and 80 c. ...	..	7	2	0
Portugal, 1867, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50, 80, 100, and 120 reis ...	..	8	3	0
Romagna, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 20 baj. ...	..	9	2	0
Servia (head), 1, 2, 10, 20, and 40 paras ...	..	5	1	0
Schleswig Holstein, 1849, 1 and 2 sch ...	..	2	1	2
Sicily, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 gr.	..	7	2	0

All warranted genuine.

TRY our Sixpenny Packet of used Foreign Stamps, containing 50 varieties, including Spain, New Brunswick, Van Diemen's Land, &c. Post free, 7d.

A. TOLSON & Co., DEWSBURY.

NICHOLLS, GRIFFITHS and CO., Stamp Dealers, 105, Exmouth Street, Stepney, London, E. Agents wanted in all schools and colleges; 25 per cent. commission. Stamps sent on approval. Correspondents wanted everywhere.

LOOK HERE! Cheap Stamps! 60 well mixed, several unused and obsolete, including Denmark, Italy, Saxony, Swiss, French Colonies, Van Diemen's Land, &c., &c. Post free, 7d. **GEORGE MERSON**, Mid Street, Keith, N.B.

MONTE VIDEO! For Sale a genuine Monte Videan Stamp (block letters), 120 centesimos oblong. For price apply to **A. Tolson and Co.**, Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE, illustrated each month with all newly issued stamps. Annual subscription, 4s. Post free. **ALFRED SMITH** and Co., Queen Square House, Bath.

THE SOUVENIER Packet No. 1, contains 12 unused stamps, including many rare and obsolete. 1s., post free, 13 stamps.

THE SOUVENIER Packet No. 2, contains 30 used and unused stamps, including rare and obsolete varieties. Price 1s., post free, 13 stamps, at the West-Yorkshire Stamp Depot, 818, Westgate, Dewsbury. **H. O. PORRITT** and Co., Proprietors.

IMPORTANT to Stamp and Crest Collectors. **A. Tolson and Co's.** stamp and crest circular should be sent for by

every stamp and curiosity collector. Gratis on application to **A. TOLSON** and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

JAMES J. WOODS, Hartlepool, having instructions to Sell a fine and very complete collection of Postage Stamps, the property of **E. L. Pemberton, Esq.**, of Birmingham, selected with great care by that well-known amateur, has much pleasure in announcing that a detailed Catalogue of the contents is now ready, and from the immense number of specimens contained in this collection, the advertiser feels sure that the present is an opportunity, for completing sets, rarely to be met with. The Collection contains many thousand specimens, selected by **Mr. Pemberton** himself, and the accumulation of which has been a work of some time. The Catalogue itself will prove of great value to Collectors as it contains descriptions of a large number of stamps not noticed elsewhere. The Collection comprises full series of the stamps of the various countries upon which **Mr. Pemberton** has been writing during the last year, as well as all the rarest varieties of perforation, watermarks, and accidental errors known, most of which are in the finest state of preservation.

The Catalogue will be sent post free for 6d.; abroad, postage extra.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—**A. TOLSON** and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury, are open to purchase a quantity of British Colonial Stamps. Parties having any to dispose of are requested to state quantity and price.

HELIGOLAND.—The set of Four, all unused and in excellent condition. Post free, 1s. 4d.

SERVIA.—The Set of Five unused. Post free, 1s. 1d. **A. TOLSON** and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

WANTED, large lot of mixed English Colonial Stamps, for other Stamps in exchange. Rare Stamps and Essays. **GUSTAVE LEGLISE**, Dunkerque, France.

MACHINES à Vapeur des Fabricateurs le plus distingué d'un franc doze, en vente à la Stamp Depot, 818, Westgate, Dewsbury. **H. O. PORRITT**, & Co., Proprietors.

RARE STAMPS SENT FOR INSPECTION.—Egypt official, Straits Settlements, Spain (new issue), Hayti (new issues), Holland, New Granada, Peru, Papal States; also any other kinds of old and rare stamps sent on approval. **E. CLARKE**, 32, Wood Street, Kennington Cross, London, S.

Magic of Science! Brilliant Experiments!

STATHAM'S INSTRUCTIVE PRESENTS combine Science with Play, and knowledge with amusement, and obtained Prize Medals for "quality and cheapness," London, 1862, and Paris 1867.

Statham's Chemical Amusement Chests, and Portable Laboratories, afford a fund of instructive amusement in Chemical Recreation, and supply a constant pastime in "Chemical Magic," *free from danger.* 5/6, 7/6, 10/6, 12/6, 21/6, 31/6, 42/-, 63/-, 105/-, etc.

Statham's "First Steps in Chemistry," (145 Experiments) 6d.

Statham's Electrical Amusements, 30/-, 42/-, 63/-, 105/-, etc.

Statham's Electrotype Amusement, 5/6, 7/6, 10/6, 21/-, etc.

Statham's Powerful Microscopes, 10/6, 21/-, 42/-, etc.

Statham's Magic Lanterns (with 12 slides), 7/6, 10/6, 21/-, etc.

Statham's Model Steam Engines, 5/-, 10/6, 21/-, etc.

Statham's Conjuring Cabinets, 7/6, 15/-, 21/-, etc.

Send two stamps for Illustrated Catalogue of Scientific Amusements.

W. E. STATHAM, 11a, Strand, LONDON, W.C.

ALFRED SMITH & Co.'s Announcements.

GIVEN AWAY!—Newly issued Brazilian, Finland, Spanish, Danish, Belgian, Portuguese, Servian, Old Brazilian, Munich, new Prussian (kr) and Bavarian stamps are given with the numbers of "The Stamp Collector's Magazine" for the present year. Annual subscription 4s.

EGYPT.—A new Egyptian stamp (with pyramid, sphinx, etc.) is given in Alfred Smith & Co's new Shilling Packet of unused foreign stamps (20 varieties), which also contains Servian, Montevidean, Roumanian, Turkish, Brazilian, Nicaraguan, Portuguese, Martinique, Confederate States, and other good stamps; post free 1s 1d

HELIGOLAND.—A new Heligoland stamp is given in Alfred Smith and Co's new Shilling Packet of unused British Colonial stamps, which also contains newly issued British Honduras, Nevis (new colour) Newfoundland, Guiana, and other rare stamps; post free 1s 1d.

SHEETS OF CRESTS.—Sixpenny sheets of Crests, beautifully illuminated post free 7d. each. 1s. sheets of Naval Crests, each containing forty varieties, and of the Arms of the Oxford Colleges, containing twenty-five varieties, post free 1s 1d each. Large Illuminated Sheets of the Arms of the Oxford Colleges in relief. post free 3s. 1d.

ONE HUNDRED CRESTS for Eighteenpence. Alfred Smith and Co.'s New Eighteenpenny Packet of Crests contains one hundred varieties, all beautifully stamped in coloured relief. Post free 1s. 7d.

MIXED CRESTS.—The New Shilling Packet of Mixed Crests containing 25 varieties, of the Royal Arms, Arms of the Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, Barons, Baronesses, Baronets, H. M. Regiments, Ships, etc., etc. Post free 1s. 1d.

FORTY NAVAL CRESTS for One Shilling. Alfred Smith & Co.'s New Shilling Packets of Crests and Mottoes of H. M. Ships contains forty varieties, finely executed from the dies now actually in use in the Royal Navy. In coloured relief. Three packets, post free, 1s. 1d.

CRESTS.—Sixpenny Packets of the Arms of the Royal Family, arms of dukes, marquises, earls, viscounts, barons, baronesses, baronets, and colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, and crests and mottoes of regiments and ships of the Royal Navy, each containing 12 varieties; post free 7d

LALLIER'S, OPPEN'S & STAFFORD Smith's Postage Stamp Albums at all prices. Send for list (given gratis on application) to Alfred Smith & Co., Queen-square House, Bath.

STAMP & CREST ALBUMS.—Stamp Albums from 6d. to 25s.; Crest Albums from 6d. to 42s. See list, sent gratis on application to Alfred Smith & Co., Queen-square House, Bath.

PHOTOGRAPHS for Lallier's Album.—The set of Thirty-eight Photographic Portraits of Sovereigns, specially prepared for this Album, is now ready, price 5s. 1d

QUEEN SQUARE HOUSE, BATH.

THE INTERNATIONAL
STAMP RECORDER & CURIOSITY MAGAZINE.

TO OUR READERS.

In introducing the *Stamp Recorder* before the public, it is the intention of the proprietors to make it a valuable means of affording instruction and literary amusement for the leisure hours to all classes of society, but particularly to the Timbrophilic community.

It will contain serial and other tales, essays, &c., on stamps and other curiosities, and will furnish its readers with the latest and most reliable information on new issues, timbrophilic curiosities and other postal information.

Dealers will find this Journal a cheap and valuable medium for advertising their goods: a desirability which has not before been offered in the many *mal venue* Journals which have from time to time appeared in the Timbrophilic arena, to disappear in a few, or even after the lapse of one month, to appear no more, through editorial weakness or lack of or in many cases, second-hand information.

It has frequently been stated that Stamp collecting was on the decline and that it was fruitless to commence, with any probability of success, another Magazine devoted to Timbrophilic subjects, but we can inform those persons who were so certain of its failure and notwithstanding the many attempts they have made to suppress the *Stamp Recorder*, that the number of subscribers already obtained is far beyond what was expected from the short time it has been announced to appear, which is a fact in itself that Stamp Collecting is not in such a desponding state.

MANUSCRIPTS.

We shall be glad to receive any original tales, essays, &c., from any of our readers, which if suitable will be inserted. Manuscripts must only be written on one side of the paper, and the name and address of the sender must accompany them. MSS of which we cannot avail ourselves will be returned, if stamps are sent to defray postage.

CHARADES, ENIGMAS, ETC.

We invite our ingenious young friends to send us Charades, Rebuses, Enigmas, &c., for the solution of which, prizes consisting of a variety of of unused Foreign Stamps will be given.

THE PRIZE CHEQUES.

The Prize Cheques issued with this number entitles our subscribers to a chance in the drawing for the Prizes (full announcements of which are given in another part of the number) to be drawn at the end of the volume

CORRESPONDENCE.

All letters, and advertisements intended for insertion in the following numbers must reach us not later than the first of the month, addressed to the editor of the *Stamp Recorder*, care of A. TOLSON & Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

When wandering about the streets, a few days after my arrival, I saw exposed for sale a few stamps, amongst which I observed several specimens which I had not then obtained, upon enquiry I found the price so low that I immediately suspected them to be forgeries, and though I searched for the least flaw I could not find any, that, coupled together with the dealer's assurance that they were genuine, completely overturned my scruples, I pocketed the tempting specimens, and left the *botaque* rejoicing at the *bon marche* I had bagged."

"When I reached my hotel I found my friend pouring over the '*Timbre Poste*,' which had just arrived, he was so intent in the perusal of an article on fictitious stamps, that I had gained his side before he was aware of my presence; with a start he sprang from his chair, as I shouted, unable to repress my pleasure any longer, 'Look, look! Harry, I have got another important addition to my collection.'" "Let me see it, now come," said he, at the same time trying to seize my hand, "why keep a fellow in torture like this? Ah! I believe you have been done, look there," he said, showing me the article he had just been reading, "let us compare them, blue on white, head of Mercury, &c., forgery, flaw in the head, there you see, you have been taken in almost as soon as we have arrived, but let us away to the knave who has had the affrontery to offer such worthless trash as this to the public, as a genuine article;" "but stay, it may not be of the same issue," I replied, clinging to the hope that it might yet be genuine, for I was a little ashamed that I should have been so easily duped; for since the first time I had been imposed upon, when I was at school and but a novice, that it made such an impression on my mind that I suspected every stamp

that was offered me, therefore I detected many forgeries which anyone less wary would have accepted as genuine. I had been noted for my shrewdness in detecting fictitious stamps, and had been generally consulted as a connoisseur by older collectors than myself, I was therefore no little piqued at the thought that I should have been so carried away by a momentary desire to obtain the specimen, that it had blinded my prudence and I had paid my money for a mere valueless scrap of paper; but there it was, clearly denoting the little imperfection which had so deceived me, and without doubt has found its way into the album of many a collector who would spurn the idea of admitting into his collection anything but really genuine stamps. As I read the article every doubt was cleared in my mind, as with clearness each fault was laid bare with an accuracy that can only be superseded by seeing the real stamp itself.

Seeing no way of escape, I seized my hat, and followed by my companion, hastened to vent my anger on the dealer, who I felt sure was the tool of some person who was manufacturing these spurious stamps.

To be continued.

STATUE OF SIR ROWLAND HILL.

Mr. Peter Hollins has just completed for the sum of 950 guineas a statue of the late Sir Rowland Hill. The statue has been cut out of a block (three tons weight) of Carrara marble. The figure is represented in a standing posture, the left foot being slightly advanced, and the left hand resting on a low pedestal. In the right hand Sir Rowland holds a roll of penny postage stamps, suggesting the work on which his fame chiefly rests. The figure is six feet eight inches in height. The statue is to be sent to the Royal Academy's exhibition previous to being fixed in its site at Birmingham.

NOTICE !



*All Purchasers of the succeeding Numbers
of the*

"STAMP RECORDER"

*Will be entitled to receive **GRATIS**, with
every Copy, a Genuine*

RARE FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMP.

Annual Subscription—2s., Post Free.

A. TOLSON & CO.,

WELLINGTON ROAD,

DEWSBURY.

A. TOLSON & CO.'S
6d. Packet of Unused FOREIGN STAMPS,
CONTAINS SIXTEEN VARIETIES.

Try it---Sure to please.

The Annual Subscription to
the *Stamp Recorder*, is 2s.
post free; published on the
1st of each month.



Every Stamp and Curiosity
Collector should send for
A. Tolson & Co.'s List of
Packets, gratis on applica-
tion.

FOR
A. TOLSON & Co.'s
STAMP & CREST ANNOUNCEMENTS,

SEE LAST PAGE OF THE

STAMP RECORDER.

Prizes ! Prizes ! Prizes !

With each number of the *Stamp Recorder* will be issued a Prize ticket entitling the holder to a chance in the drawing for all the articles enumerated on page 8.

THE
'STAMP RECORDER' PRIZE DRAWING,
1868

Duplicate Prize Cheque, No. **1229**

A. TOLSON & Co.,

Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

* * *This duplicate to be retained by the holder.*

THE
'STAMP RECORDER' PRIZE DRAWING,
1868

Prize Cheque, No. **1229**

A. TOLSON & Co.,

Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

This Cheque must be cut out and forwarded along with the tickets accompanying each number, at the conclusion of the volume, to entitle the holder to a chance in the drawing.

SEND FOR A
SHEET OF STAMPS ON INSPECTION,
TO
A. TOLSON & Co.,
DEWSBURY.

NOTICE.

A. T. & Co. will present gratis, a Set of Unused Foreign Stamps to any person who will circulate amongst their school-fellows and friends, a few prospectuses for the *Stamp Recorder*, a supply of which will be sent post free to any address, on application.

A. TOLSON & Co., Dewsbury.

THE POST-OFFICE AS IT WAS.

Previous to 1784, the mail-bags of the post-office were carried by postboys on horseback, at an average rate, including stoppages, of from three to four miles an hour. Of these postboys and their doings we have some curious accounts. Mr. Palmer, of Bath, who originated some considerable reforms in this department, says of them in his report, when introducing his schemes to Mr. Pitt: 'The mails are generally intrusted to some idle boy without character, mounted on a worn-out hack, and who, so far from being able to defend himself, or escape from a robber, is more likely to be in league with him.' This testimony, though it might not be unbiassed, seems in the main to have been true. Anybody might rob a postboy, and that by the simplest contrivance. Letters of any great value were so seldom sent by these means that the booty was often found worthless. The French mail on its outward-bound passage *via* Dover was more than once stopped and rifled before it had got clear of London. A string stretched across a street in the borough through which the mail would pass, has been known to throw the postboy from his horse, who, without more ado, would coolly retrace his steps, empty-handed, to the chief office, and report the loss of his bags. About this time, it was a frequent complaint of the officers of the post office that the runners did a considerable business for themselves, to the great detriment to the public revenue. Post-letters were frequently found upon them, when they would urge in extenuation of the fraud that they had no wages from their masters—the proprietors who farmed the mails. One high official complains grievously that the gentry

'doe give much money to the riders [for services rendered no doubt], whereby they be subject to get in liquor, which *stopes* the *males*.' We have seen upon what a slender thread the arrival or non-arrival of the mail really hung, and that to 'stope the males' was by no means a difficult task. Nor did the speed at which they travelled form any obstacle. From old records, we learn that when Mr. Harley (afterwards Lord Oxford) complained that an express to him had been delayed, the postmasters-general (two were required in those days) replied, 'that it had travelled one hundred and thirty-six miles in thirty-six hours, which,' added they, 'is the usual rate of expresses.'

In Scotland, about the same time, this work was done even slower, and accomplished with greater hardships. The postboys walked all distances under twenty miles; longer distances required that the person should be mounted, though no relays of horses were allowed, however long and tedious the journey might be. Many years later, the English order of 'post' and 'express' would appear to have been reversed, 'expresses' travelling the slowest. Campbell, the poet, relates a story which shows how things were managed in his younger days in the Highlands. 'Near Inverary, we regained a spot of comparative civilization, and came up with the postboy, whose horse was quietly grazing at some distance, whilst Red Jacket himself was immersed in play with other lads. "You rascal," I said to him, "are you the postboy, and thus spending your time?" "Nae, nae, sir," he answered, "I'm no the post;" and then, as if ashamed of his connection with it, added, "I'm *only* an *express*!"'

Thirty years before Mr. Palmer submitted his plans for appropriating some of the coaches to post office

uses, we learn that 'flying' coaches were started. The first was established by a number of Manchester merchants, to run between that place and the metropolis. These coaches earned their appellation by an increase of speed of about a mile an hour above the ordinary rate. They were remarkable, however, for the improvements that continued to be made in them, both as to construction and in the matter of speed.

To be continued.

HALF-PENNY POSTAGE FOR ENGLAND.

ALTHOUGH England can boast of being the originator of the postal-scheme, and notwithstanding the greater facilities it possesses over any other country for the transit of letters, yet she is being far distanced in postal arrangements by several of the continental countries, amongst which may be named France, Belgium, Italy, and several of the Danubian Principalities; in all which places the postage is considerably below half that of Great Britain.

Surely if the letters can be carried at such reduced rates in those places, it is not unreasonable to petition the British authorities to make a similar reduction in the present exorbitant postal rates.

Considering the immense number of accounts circulars and miscellaneous papers delivered daily in the larger towns throughout the kingdom, by clerks and *employes*, to save the present charge of one penny, we have no hesitation in stating that were the postage reduced to one half-penny, the number of letters would be increased at least four-fold.

As another argument in favour of the scheme, may be mentioned a company which some time ago commenced business in London, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and several other

large towns throughout the kingdom, under the style of "The National Circular Delivery Company," offering to carry letters at one farthing each. A series of stamps were obtained by them in very beautiful designs, before they could get their project completely on foot they were prosecuted by the postal authorities, and compelled to abandon their scheme. If a private company can make it pay, beyond a doubt, the Post-office, who also carry the country letters, would derive a large revenue from it. It cannot be denied that such a course would be a great boon to the public, and all that is required is the press to boldly take the matter up, when on its becoming more popular another Rowland Hill will step upon the scene and there will quickly be a reform in the British Postal arrangements.

DOWN STAIRS IN SOMERSET HOUSE.

—:o:—

THERE are curiosities enough all around us, if we choose to look out for them. Even the penny receipt stamp which John Jones gives to William Smith, in acknowledgment of the payment for 'Mending tiles on the top of house,' is a curiosity, in respect both to the mechanical and fiscal arrangements connected with it. It is of these penny receipt stamps, and of stamps of various other kinds, that we wish to gossip a little: and the reader will probably find the gossip not wholly without interest or novelty.

In the principal thoroughfare of London stands a large quadrangular building, of Grecian style and beautiful proportions, known far and wide as Somerset House, and containing many public office, besides apartments for the accommodation of learned societies. The Govern-

ment Offices, generally so called, are those more immediately under consideration. In walking round the interior quadrangle, and through various passages which present themselves, sundry inscriptions over sundry doors meet the view, denoting that here is the 'Duchy of Cornwall office,' there the 'Audit office,' at another place the 'Registrar-general's Office,' and so on. But the most busy of all is the Office of the 'Board of Inland Revenue,' more familiarly known as the 'Stamp Office.' Men and boys, broadcloth and fustian, are incessantly pouring in and out of the door leading to these offices. And well they may, for no inconsiderable portion of the national revenue is here managed. The probate-duty and the legacy-duty, land-tax and the assessed taxes, the income-tax and other taxes, the newspaper-stamps and the postage-stamps, the receipt-stamps and the bill-stamps, the licenses and the stage-coach duty—these, and many other matters, are superintended by the Board of Inland Revenue; and a notable portion of the south side of Somerset House is devoted to the business of the Board.

Down stairs—our business is down stairs, to one, and even two stories below the level of Somerset House quadrangle; and here a scene of utter bewilderment is presented. How anybody can find anybody else is a perfect marvel. Passages lead in every direction, and doors are thickly congregated together on both sides of every passage; and if we penetrate to the end of any one passage, we find ourselves only at 'the beginning of the end;' for there is another labyrinth beyond. Young lawyers' clerks are popping in and out of two of the rooms, with lawyer-like looking papers in their hands; law-stationers' boys are elbowing them; errand-boys and porters from mercantile firms have their budgets

of papers; and Somerset House officials are passing to and from the almost numberless rooms. Penetrating to the remoter depths, we come to an unmistakable workshop, with unmistakable workmen employed in it by scores. Presses of very curious kind; inking rollers of diverse sizes; inks of varied colours; stamping-dies of different sizes and devices; perforating machines of exquisite construction—all are here; and a rare clatter they produce: though, like factory clatter generally it is perfectly conformable with strict order and system.

This down stairs region is devoted to the Stamp Office, as one department of the inland revenue. Its machinery, material as well as official, is really gigantic, considering

To be continued.

REVIEW OF PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS.

The Stamp and Curiosity Circular and Collector's Vaude-Mecum.—Dewsbury; H. O. Porritt and Co., Westgate.

We have just received a small 4-page publication bearing the above title.

It contains a detailed list of crests, sets of stamps, etc., also a Catalogue of French Publications, which will be hailed with delight by the learners of that language, as they will, without the trouble heretofore experienced, be able to obtain books of the best French Authors.

We further notice an article on Stamp Collecting, also replying to an attack on the Timbrophilic community which appeared in the *Tomahawk* some time since.

With the exception of a few mistakes in the spelling, the circular is upon the whole passable, and contains severeral useful hints for the guidance of stamp collectors.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

RIDDLE FOR THE POST OFFICE.—The following is an exact copy of the direction of a letter mailed a few years ago by a German living in Lancaster;—"Tis is fur old Mr. Willy wot brinds de Baber in Lang Kaster ware ti gal is gist rede him assume as it cums to ti Pushtufons."—meaning, This is for old Mr. Willy what prints the paper in Lancaster where the jail is. Just read him as soon it comes to the post office. Enclosed was an essay against public schools.

LETTER POSTING EXTRAORDINARY.—It appears that for some time past a decayed pump, situate within an easy distance of Dorset-place (N.W.), having been abandoned as an article for the supply of water to the neighbourhood, the handle was taken away, the slit remaining where it used to work. Several inquiries have been made of late at the chief district and general offices with reference to letters said to have been posted in the locality, but no satisfactory answer could be given with regard to them. A few days ago, however, the parish authorities gave orders for the pump to be repaired, when, upon examining the interior, no fewer than 20 letters were found inside it, the whole of which, we are informed, have been sent to their respective addresses. Of course, as they bore no date stamp, the authorities have not been able to tell how long they may have remained in this strange receptacle.

THE POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.—The postmen are preparing a petition to the House for a parliamentary inquiry into their grievances. The petition calls attention to the insufficiency of the pay of the sorters, stampers, and rural messengers, the slowness of their promotion, and the necessity for the entire abolition of Sunday work. It has already received more than 50,000 signatures.

A short time ago, a letter, addressed as follows, passed through the Manchester and other post offices, and was safely delivered to the person for whom it was intended.—

"The letter carrier can
Deliver this to Dan,
The Muffin Man,
If he liveth;
If not, Quagmire,
An aged Sire,
May throw i' th' fire
The letter,
And trouble no more
The Tarporley Postman.

THE FATAL LETTER.—A tradesman's daughter, who had been for some time engaged to a prosperous young draper in a neighbouring town, heard from one whom she and her parents considered a creditable authority, that he was on the verge of

bankruptcy. Not a day was to be lost in breaking the bond by which she and her small fortune were linked to penury. A letter, strong and conclusive in its language, was at once written and posted, when the same informant called upon the young friends to contradict and explain his previous statement, which had arisen out of some misunderstanding. They rushed at once to the post-office, and no words can describe the scene; the reiterated appeals, the tears, the wringing of hands, the united entreaties of father, mother, and daughters for the restoration of the fatal letter. But the rule admitted of no exception, and the young lady had to repeat at leisure of her inordinate haste.

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

With each number of the "Stamp Recorder" will be given a Prize Ticket, entitling the holder to a chance in the drawing for all the following prizes:—

1st Prize.—The Bijou Telescope and Microscope combined, value £1 5s.

2nd Prize.—A Working Model Steam Engine, value £1 1s.

3rd Prize.—A splendid Collection of 250 rare varieties of Foreign Stamps, neatly arranged in an Open's Album, value 18s.

4th Prize.—A Chest of best Sheffield Tools, value 10s. 6d.

5th Prize.—The Brighton Telescope, value 7s. 6d.

6th Prize.—The Youth's Microscope, value 5s. 6d.

Also, 12 other Prizes, consisting of 6 pocket Compasses and 6 packets of rare Foreign Stamps containing 100 varieties each.

* * * *The Prize Tickets must be preserved, and forwarded on the completion of the volume.*

All the Prizes are on view at the office of this Magazine, and may be seen by any of our subscribers.

H. O. PORRITT & CO.,

818, WESTGATE, DEWSBURY,

MANUFACTURERS OF, AND DEALERS IN,

Model Steam Engines, Magic Lanterns and Apparatus, Microscopes, Telescopes; Opera, Field, and Marine Glasses; Spectacles; Eye and Reading Glasses; Barometers, Thermometers, Mathematical Instruments, Globes, Stereoscopes, Tool Chests, Fishing Tackle, Entomological Apparatuses, Water Colour and Oil Paints, Artists' Materials, Croquet, Games, etc., etc.

SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.

A very powerful and highly-finished Telescope, will tell the time by a church clock five miles off, etc. This powerful instrument is of the best make and possesses Achromatic Lenses. Packed in case, free to any part of the kingdom .. 6s. 6d.

"The Favourite," a very powerful and highly-finished Telescope, four draws, length when closed 5 inches, when drawn 14 inches. Packed for rail free .. 8s. 6d.

Ditto. ditto. more powerful glass 10s. 6d.

Ditto. ditto. " and better finished 15s. 6d.

(Every sea-side visitor should obtain one of these valuable companions.)

The New Microscope, will show Animalculæ in water, Eels in paste, &c., magnifies several hundred times, mounted on brass stand, three powers, Achromatic Lenses, test objects, the whole complete in highly-polished case, price 7/6, or carriage free 8/6.

A Superior Microscope, greater magnifying powers, including three object glasses, spare object glasses, &c., complete in mahogany box. Carriage free .. 10s. 6d.

Larger size Microscope, magnifying about 3,000 times 15s. 0d.

Micro-Photographs 1/6 each, a large assortment of objects on hand.

PACKETS OF STAMPS.

The Connoisseur Packet No. 1, contains 100 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Stamps, including many rare and obsolete; post free, 1s. 7d.

The Connoisseur Packet No. 2, contains 120 varieties, several unused and obsolete; post free, 2s. 2d.

The Sixpenny Packet of used Colonial stamps contains 12 varieties, including Nova Scotia, Canada, Vandiemans Land, South Australia, etc.; post free, 7d.

The Sixpenny Packet of unused stamps contains 12 varieties, including British Guiana, Egypt, Russia, Italian, Belgian, etc.; post free, 7d.

The Sixpenny Packet of Hamburgh local postage stamps contains 12 varieties; post free, 7d.

The Sixpenny Packet of American local postage stamps contains 10 varieties.

The Shilling Packet of mixed foreign stamps contains 100, all in good condition; post free, 1s. 2d.

H. O. Porritt and Co.'s Stamp and Curiosity Circular will be sent free on application.

(Ici on parle français).

Agents wanted. Collections Bought or Exchanged.

Post Office Orders payable to H. O. Porritt & Co. No Orders attended to without a remittance.

H. O. Porritt & Co., 818, Westgate, Dewsbury.

YOUNG & STOCKALL,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

Foreign and Colonial POSTAGE STAMPS

The Largest Dealers in the World—Established Six Years.

CENTRAL CHAMBERS, 17, SOUTH CASTLE STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Their New Price List (22 pages with cover) of about 2500 varieties of Stamps, giving full particulars of form, value, color, date of issue, price **Singly** and **per Doz. Used and Unused.** Contents, &c., of about **50 different Packets**, consisting of **Unused and Used Stamps, Obsolete and present issues** including **Colonials, Local American, Local Hamburg, &c., &c.** These Packets will be found the **Cheapest and Best** yet offered to the public; also prices, &c., of **Moen's, Oppen's, and Stafford Smith's New Albums**, from **4s. to 21s.** This List is carefully revised each month, and alterations made accordingly as there may be a rise or fall in the prices of different stamps; all New Issues are included if they reach the publishers before the 28th of each, and this List, taken altogether, will be found the **LARGEST, CHEAPEST, and BEST** Price Catalogue of **Postage Stamps** yet issued, and it will be sent, on application, **Post Free** to address in the **United Kingdom**; or abroad on receipt of four stamps for postage.

These Lists cost Y. & S. about Sixpence each, but they have determined to make **No Charge** for them, as they do not intend to advertise the prices of their stamps, &c., in the Magazines for the future, but confine them solely to their Price List, and they hope all their friends or intending purchasers of Postage Stamps or Albums, will send for their List before making their selections.

YOUNG & STOCKALL warrant all Stamps sold by them to be **Genuine**; they **Buy and Exchange Rare** and all kinds of Colonial Stamps.

CENTRAL CHAMBERS, 17, SOUTH CASTLE ST., LIVERPOOL.

Published Monthly, price 3d.; Yearly Subscription, 3s, post free,

The PHILATELIST;

An Illustrated Magazine for Stamp Collectors.

STAFFORD SMITH & Co., COLONNADE, NORTH STREET, BRIGHTON.

STAFFORD SMITH & CO.'S

STAMP & CREST ANNOUNCEMENTS

The New Series of Foreign Stamp Packets.

The MULREADY Packets

Of Foreign Postage Stamps,

1s. each, post free Thirteen stamps.

No. 1.—50 varieties, including rare Turks Islands, Nevis, Egypt (with pyramid), Heligoland, Venezuela, Bergedorf, rare Prussian Official, old Sicilian, and other good stamps.

No. 2.—50 varieties, including rare St. Lucia, Modena, Parma, Austrian Mercury Turkey, Spain (new issue), Roman States (new issue), Servia (head of prince), Prussia (Thurn and Taxis), Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Bavaria (arms), and other good stamps.

All stamps sold by S. S. & Co. are warranted genuine

S. SMITH & Co., Colonnade, Brighton.

The New Series of Crest Packets.

The BRIGHTON PACKETS

Of Arms, Crests, & Monograms,

1s. 6d. each, post free 20 stamps.

No. 1.—100 varieties, including Arms of the Bishops—never before published—the Archbishops, Oxford and Cambridge Colleges, &c.

No. 2.—100 varieties, including Arms of the Royal Family, Crests of the Regiments of the Line, Ships of the Royal Navy, &c.

All well executed in coloured relief.

The above packets do not contain two crests alike. Collectors purchasing Nos. 1, 2, & 3, will at once possess a collection of 300 varieties.

S. SMITH & Co., Colonnade, Brighton.

TO ANGLERS—Charles Farlow, 191, Strand, Manufacturer of good Fishing Rods and Tackle, at moderate prices. Prize Medal Catalogues forwarded gratis.

SILKWORMS' EGGS FOR SALE.
Threepence per 150. Post Free. J. CLAYTON, jun., High Street, Highgate, Middlesex.

R. JAMES and Co.'s 6d. packet for April, contains 40 different good and rare Continental and Colonial Stamps, including Argentine Confederation, Russia, Newfoundland, Oldenburgh, Brunswick, Papal States, Spain, Sweden, St. Lucia, Helvetia, Thurn and Taxis, Italian, Peru, etc. R. JAMES and Co., Milton Road, Gravesend.

MICE!—F. C. has always in stock a splendid collection of white and fancy Mice, also Dormice. Send stamp for price list. F. C.'s interesting book on mice, price 6d., post free 7d. 31, Finchley Road, London, N.W.

SEND 2 Stamps for Illustrated Catalogue of Tricks from 4d. each to

A. TOLSON & Co.'s

NO. 1.—THE SIXPENNY PACKET OF USED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 50 varieties, including old Baden, Wurtemberg, Danish, Saxony, old Prussian, Austrian, Sweden, Bavarian (new and old issues). All different. Post free, 7d.

NO. 2.—THE SIXPENNY PACKET OF USED COLONIAL STAMPS contains 12 varieties—Swan River, Hong Kong, New Brunswick, Barbadoes, Victoria, Nova Scotia, New South Wales, and others rare. All Different. Post free, 7d.

NO. 3.—THE SHILLING PACKET OF USED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 30 varieties, including Virgin Isles, Venezuela, Tuscany (lion and cross), Spain (first issues), United States envelopes (first and present issue), set of old Lubek, Sweden, Rome, Russia, Venetia, Saxony and Wurtemberg (first issues), Danish, New Brunswick, Holland Old Baden (*figure in centre*), Nova Scotia, Italy, &c. All different, and warranted genuine. Post free, 1s. 1d.

NO. 4.—THE EIGHTEEN- PENNY PACKET OF USED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 100 varieties, including Hamburg, United States envelopes, Russian, Old Baden, Roumania, newly issued Bavaria, Greece, Wurtemberg, Papal States, Austrian Italy, Holland Old Saxony, Hanover, South Australia, Old Swiss, Belgium, Sweden, Oldenburgh, Nova Scotia,

15 Guinea, to W. J. Judd and Co., Illusionists, Ventriloquists, and conjuring Trick Makers, 5 Brownlow Street, Drury Lane, W. C.

COLLECTORS should send list of wants to A. Tolson and Co., Dewsbury, who always have on hand a quantity of rare Foreign Stamps.

THE NEW POCKET COM- PASS.—In polished boxwood case, dial plate and metallic fittings complete. In whatever way the hand is placed, it will instantly turn towards the north. Every person should have one. Sent Carriage free on receipt of 16 stamps. A. Tolson and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

F. B. SMITH, Stamp Dealer, Church Street, Dewsbury, offers 100 mixed stamps post free for 7d. Agents wanted, 25 per cent. commission allowed.

A COLLECTOR'S DUPLI- CATES for Sale, cheap. Send for a sheet on inspection to J. CLARKE, care of R. Fletcher, Grocer, Dewsbury.

May Announcements.

Canada. All different, and warranted genuine. Post free, 1s. 7d.

NO. 5.—THE TWO-SHILLING PACKET OF USED FOREIGN STAMPS contains 100 varieties, including Nicaragua, Servia, Papal States, Queensland, Tuscany, Lombardy, Oldenburgh, Greece, Italy, Belgium (second and present issues), rare Spanish, Wurtemberg, and Baden (first and second issues), American envelopes, Swiss, Rayons, rare Hanover, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, German envelopes, Saxony (first issue). All different. Post free, 2s. 1d.

Packets of Unused Stamps.

NO. 10.—THE SIXPENNY Packet of unused Stamps contains 12 varieties, including Egypt (newest issue, with sphynx), Servian (new issue), Bavaria, Russian, Italian, Moldo-Wal'achian, Mecklenburg, Strelitz, Belgium (arms), &c., &c. Post free, 7d.

NO. 11.—THE SHILLING Packet of unused Stamps contains 20 varieties, including Turk's Islands, British Honduras, Granada, Confederation, Turkey, Brazil, newest Egypt, Roumania, new Belgium (2c blue), Prussia (3 pf. lilac), New Brunswick, Greece, &c. Post free 1/1

THE HALF-CROWN CREST ALBUM. Bound in whole morocco relief, and ruled to contain upwards of 1400 Crests. Post free, 2s. 8d.

A. TOLSON AND Co.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

British, Foreign, and Colonial Postage Stamps,
WELLINGTON ROAD, DEWSBURY.

Will be ready shortly, a new Illustrated Price Catalogue of upwards of 2,500 varieties, giving full description of colour, values, date of issue, etc., etc.; post free 6d. A specimen number of the "Stamp Recorder," and a rare Foreign Stamp given away with every copy.

A. TOLSON & CO.'S

CHEAP SETS OF POSTAGE STAMPS

Holland, new issue. The set of three stamps--20 c. dark green, 25 c. dark violet, 50 c. gold—all unobliterated, price 3s.

Argentine Republic, new issue. The set of three stamps--5 c. (Rivadavia) red; 10 c. Belgrano, green; 15 c. San Martino, blue—all unobliterated, price 3s.

Egypt, new issue (with Sphinx and Pyramid). The set of six stamps--5 paras yellow, 10 paras lilac, 20 paras green, 1 piastre vermilion, 2 piastres blue, 5 piastres light brown—all unobliterated, price 3s. 6d.

Turks Island. The set of three stamps--penny red, sixpence black, one shilling blue—all unobliterated, price 2s. 9d.

Brazil, Envelopes. The set of three envelope stamps (uncut)--100 reis green, 200 reis black, 300 reis red—all unobliterated, price 3s.

Austria, new issue. The set of thirteen envelope and adhesive stamps--1 kr. lavender, 2 kr. yellow, 3 kr. green, 5 kr. rose, 10 kr. blue, 15 kr. brown, 25 kr. violet, 50 kr. salmon, and 3, 5, 10, 15, and 25 kr. envelopes, same colours—all unobliterated, price 6s. 6d.

Austrian Italy, new issue. The set of twelve envelopes and adhesive stamps--2 soldi yellow, 3 soldi green, 5 soldi rose, 10 soldi blue, 15 soldi brown, twenty-five soldi violet, fifty soldi salmon; and three, five, ten, fifteen, and twenty-five soldi envelopes, same colours—all unobliterated, price 6s. 6d.

Prussia, new issue (for South Germany). The set of five adhesives and five (uncut) envelopes, each of the following values and colours:--one kreuzer green, two kr. orange, three kr. rose, six kr. blue, nine kr. bistre—all unobliterated, price 2s. 3d.

Heligoland. The set of four stamps-- $\frac{1}{2}$ schg., 1 schg., 2 schg., and 6 schg., all printed in rose and green, and unobliterated, price 1s. 4d.

Nevis, new issue. The set of three stamps--penny red, fourpenny orange, shilling sea-green—all unobliterated, price 2s. 8d.

Virgin Islands. The set of four stamps--penny green, sixpenny deep-rose, four pence red-brown, one shilling rose and black—all unobliterated, price 3s. 6d.

Bavaria, new issue (arms.) The set of six stamps--1 kr. green, 3 kr. rose, six kr. blue, nine kr. stone, twelve kr. lilac, eighteen kr. red—all unobliterated, price 2s. 6d.

Servia, head, 1866. The set of five stamps (with head of Prince Michael Obrenovitch III.)--one paras green, two paras brown, ten paras orange, twenty paras rose, forty paras blue. Price 1s. 3d.

East India, envelopes. The set of two--half anna blue, one anna brown,--unobliterated and uncut, price 8d.

Roumania, new issue. The set of three stamps--two paras yellow, five paras blue, and twenty paras rose—all unobliterated, price 1s.

Argentine Confederation, large figure. The set of three stamps--5 centavos red, 10 centavos green, 15 centavos blue—all unobliterated, price 10s. 6d.

A. TOLSON & Co.'s
STAMP & CREST CIRCULAR

Sent gratis, on application.

Printed by Hiram France, Dewsbury Road, Batley; and published by A. Tolson and Co., Wellington Road, Dewsbury, to whose care all communications for the Editor are to be addressed.