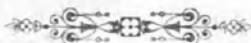


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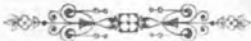
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Vol. I. \* DECEMBER, 1885. \* No. 1.



THE  
COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY.

Devoted to all Branches of the Collecting Trade.



PUBLISHED BY

J. M. FAUNCE,

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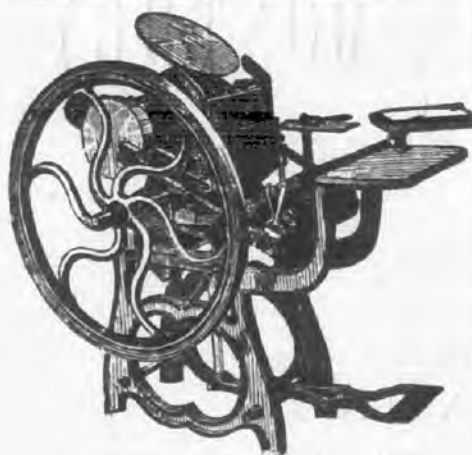
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# The Collector's Monthly.

VOL. I.

PHILADELPHIA, PENN., DECEMBER, 1885.

No. 1.

## THE FLYING SQUIRRELS.

The Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys*) is placed by naturalists in a different genus from that of the common gray, black and other squirrels (*Sciurus*); they are called *Pteromys*, which means "winged rat." These have a loose skin between the fore and hind feet, which may be stretched, and forms a parachute, to aid the animal in its descent through the air from an elevated position. There are also anatomical differences in the bones of the skull, etc., to justify their separation from the genus *Sciurus*, or common squirrels. There are two species of the flying squirrels, one is found in North America, and the other in the forests of Poland and Russia. The common flying squirrel, *Pteromys Volucella*, is found from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It measures about five inches in length from the nose to the base of the tail, and the tail is as long as the head and body together. The tail is flattened in a very singular manner, the hairs standing out on both sides similar to the plume of a feather. There are said to be three varieties of this species in North America, one from the Hudson Bay country, one from Oregon and the third from the Rocky Mountains. These animals are incapable of anything like a proper flight (so that the name flying squirrel is rather a misnomer), and they cannot rise to a higher from a lower level. The expansion of the skin, however, enables them to sail or float in a downward course a great distance, and they can travel with great rapidity by ascending tall trees and sailing downwards. This squirrel is of a brownish color above, with the lower parts white, with an admixture of lead-color. They are easily tamed, and form interesting pets. Being nocturnal in their habits, however, they are lively only at dusk. The animal will breed readily in captivity.

## A CURIOUS PHENOMENON.

About midnight on the 29th of July a remarkable phenomenon was seen at Jonkoping, Sweden, over Lake Wetmorn. A strong luminosity was suddenly seen in the north, where some very peculiar clouds, looking like icebergs, were observed almost to touch the water. From these clouds electrical discharges continually proceeded, imparting to them a blueish phosphorescent light, somewhat ruddy near the water, and intensely yellow at the sides. It seemed like a constant discharge of fireworks from the lake. It was remarkable that the light, as is generally the case with an electric discharge in the atmosphere, did not assume the form of bunches of streamers, but at one time flared up intensely, and at others formed narrow bands across the clouds. Above the latter there was a faint bluish reflection. The lake lay as calm as a mirror, and though an optical illusion is very rare in these parts, the western shore seemed close to the town, while the eastern disappeared in the clouds. Except the electricity laden clouds in the north the sky was clear, and the stars shone. The full moon was bright. Below the latter the sky seemed slightly red compared with the intense red light. At Katrineholm the same phenomenon occurred in the northeast. Here an intense glare was seen above a cloud assuming the appearance of two gigantic lustrous trees, which remained thus for half an hour, when it changed into a variety of forms. There was no noise accompanying the phenomenon, which lasted in both places for about one hour. It is not probable that the phenomenon could have been of an auroral nature on account of the brightness under a full moon.—*From Public Opinion, London.*

## TAXIDERMY.

## PART FIRST—QUADRUPEDS.

The first process to be performed is the skinning of the subject. We will suppose the animal to be stuffed is a dog or fox. First lay the animal on its back and plug up its mouth, nostrils, and any wounds it may have received, with tow or cotton; this prevents the blood from disfiguring the skin. Having stuffed the mouth with tow and tied it up, measure the neck and body with the calipers and rule, and note them carefully. Proceed by making a cut from the last rib nearly to the vent, but not quite up to it, raise the skin all around it up to the thighs, first skinning one side and then the other, the flat end of the knife will be found preferable to the blade for this purpose. Having reached the hind legs separate them at the femur or thigh bone, close to the back-bone, leaving the legs attached to the skin. Now skin the hind-quarters close up to the tail, and separate it from the body at the last vertebra, taking care, however, not to injure the skin. Pull the skin over the heads of the hip-joints, and now the carcass may be suspended by the hind-quarters, while the skin is stripped by pulling it gently and cutting towards the fore-quarters. The fore legs are separated from the body, as the hind ones have been, close to the shoulder bone, and the skin fairly pulled over the head and close to the nose, when the head is separated from the body by cutting through the last vertebra of the neck. The subject is now skinned, the head, tail and legs being all attached to the skin, from which the carcass is removed.

The flesh is now entirely cut away from the cheek-bones, and the eyes removed, the brains taken out by enlarging the occipital opening behind the cranium, the whole cleaned and supplied with a coating of arsenical paste and stuffed with tow or cotton to the natural size. The legs are now successively skinned by pushing out the bones and

inverting the skin over them until the foot joint is visible, every portion of flesh and tendons must be cut away, and the bone cleaned thoroughly, and a coating of arsenical soap laid over it, as well as the skin. Wrap tow, cotton, or any suitable material round the bone, bringing it to its proper size and shape, and draw the skin over it again. Do this to each leg in succession, and the body itself is ready for mounting and stuffing.

The greatest possible care will not entirely prevent accidents. The fur or plumage, as the case may be, will get sullied; and before stuffing it is well to examine the skin, for stains and spots will deteriorate its appearance. Grease or blood spots may be removed by brushing over with oil of turpentine, which is afterwards absorbed by dusting plaster of paris over.

It is best to give all skins (whether intended to be stuffed or put away in a cabinet) a washing of spirits of turpentine, sprinkled on and gently brushed in the direction of the feathers or fur. It is always advisable to measure the proportions of the animal before skinning. First, take the measure from the muzzle to the tail, then from the junction of the tail to the tip; secondly, from the middle of the shoulder-blade to the thigh-bone; thirdly, place the animal on its side and measure the distance from the shoulder-blade to the sternum, that is the place where the two sides meet above, and finally from the socket of the thigh-bone to the socket of the shoulder-blade. In addition to these, note by measurement the size of the head, the neck, the tail, and the other points which affect the shape of the animal. These measurements will serve as a guide in stuffing, and also, for the size of the mounting wires and the case designed to hold the animal. In skinning be careful to avoid penetrating the intestines, or separating any of the muscles of the abdomen. Any such accident would be very disagreeable, as well as injurious to the skin.

## STUFFING QUADRUPEDS.

Let us suppose the animal we desire to stuff to be a cat. Wire of such thickness is to be chosen as will support the animal by being introduced under the soles of the feet, and running it through each of the four legs. A piece of smaller dimensions is then taken, measuring about two feet, for the purpose of forming what is called by taxidermists "a tail-bearer." This piece of wire is bent nearly one-third of its length, into an oval of about six inches in length, the two ends are twisted together so as to leave one of them a little longer than the other, the tail is then correctly measured, and the wire is cut to the length of it, besides the oval. The wire is then wrapped around with flax in spiral form, which must be increased in thickness as it approaches the oval, so as to be equal to the largest vertebra, or root of the tail. When finished it should be rubbed thinly over with flour paste to preserve its smooth form, which must be left to dry thoroughly, and then the surface should receive a coating of preservative. The sheath of the tail should now be rubbed with preservative on the inside with a piece of lint attached to a piece of wire long enough to reach to the end of the tail sheath, the tail bearer is then inserted into the sheath, and the oval part of the wire placed in the skin of the body, and attached to the wire which is substituted for the back-bone. Four pieces of wire about one eighth of an inch in diameter are then cut off to the length of the legs, and another piece a foot or fifteen inches longer than the body. One end of each of these is to be sharpened with a file in a triangular shape, so that it may more easily penetrate the parts. At the blunt end of the longest piece a ring is formed about one half-inch in diameter, this is done by bending the wire back on itself about a turn and a half, by the assistance of the pincers. On the same wire another ring is to be formed in a similar manner, and placed so as to reach a point just between the animal's shoulders. The remaining portion of

the wire should be left perfectly straight and pointed at the end. All the wires being adjusted, the operation of stuffing is commenced. The skin of the animal is now extended on a table, and the end of the noose seized with the left-hand, and pushed again into the skin till it reaches the neck, when we receive the bones of the head in the right hand. The skull is now well rubbed with arsenical soap, and all the cavities which were formerly occupied by the muscles are to be filled with chopped tow, flax or cotton, well mixed with preserving powder. The long piece of wire is now inserted into the middle of the skull, and after it is well rubbed with preservative it is again pushed into the skin. The inner surface of the neck-skin is now to be anointed, and stuffed with chopped tow, cotton or flax, taking care not to distend the skin. Nothing like force should be used, as the fresh skin is very susceptible to expansion. Observe that *the arsenical soap should be applied to the inner surface of the skin only.*

Be careful to observe that the first ring on the wire, which passes into the head, is in the direction of the shoulders, and the second corresponding with the pelvis, or somewhat toward the posterior part. One of the fore-leg wires is then inserted along the back of the bone and the point passed out under the highest ball of the paw. When this is accomplished, the bones of the leg are to be drawn up within the skin of the body, and the wire fastened to the bones of the arm and fore-arm with thread or small twine; fine iron, brass or copper wire, similar to that used for artificial flower making, answers the purpose much better, as it is not liable to decay. These are to be well anointed and flax or tow *slivers* to be wrapped around them, so as to supply the place of the muscles which have been removed. To give the natural rise to the larger muscles a piece of sliver should be cut off the length of required protuberance, and placed in the part, and the sliver wrapped over it. This gives it a very natural appearance.

The mode of fixing the legs is by passing one of these pieces of wire into the small ring of the horizontal wire. Pursue the same plan with the other leg, and then twist the two ends firmly together by the aid of a pair of flat pincers. For an animal as large as a cat the pieces left for twisting must be from five to six inches in length. After being twisted they are bound on the under side of the body, with strong thread or wire; the two legs are then replaced and put in the way we intend to fix them. The skin of the belly and top of the shoulders is then to be anointed, and a thick layer of flax placed under the middle wire. The shape is now given to the fore-quarters of the animal and all the muscles of the shoulders imitated. These will be elevated or depressed according to the action intended to be expressed. The anterior part of the work is now sewed up so as to retain the stuffing and enable us to complete the formation of the shoulders and junction of the neck. This part of the animal is of great importance, as regards the perfection of the form; and much of its beauty will depend upon this being well executed. If the animal has been recently skinned the best plan is to imitate, as nearly as possible, the muscles of the carcass, by which many parts will be noticed which would otherwise be neglected. As a rule *copy nature as nearly as possible*. It must be always borne in mind that the wires for the hind legs should be longer than those for the fore legs. The next thing is to form the hind legs and thighs, which must be done as above described for the fore legs, but with this difference, that they must be wound round with thread, drawn through the stuffing at intervals, to prevent it from slipping up, when returned into the skin of the leg. They are then fixed, by passing the leg wires into a second ring of the centre body wire, which is situated at or near the pelvis; the two ends are then bent, twisting them to the right and left, around the ring, and to make them still more secure, they

should be wound around with fine wire or thread. The tail-bearer is then attached in the manner formerly described. Having completed this part of the iron work, the skin of the thighs is coated with the preservative, and the stuffing completed with tow, flax or cotton. The whole inner portions of the skin which can be reached are now to be again anointed with the preservative, and the body stuffing to be completed with chopped flax. Care must be taken not to stuff the body too much, as the skin easily dilates. The incision in the belly is now to be sewed tightly together, care being taken not to take in any hairs with the stitches, but should any get accidentally fixed they can be again picked out with a point. When this is completed the hair will resume its natural order, and completely conceal the seam. The seam should be well primed with a solution of corrosive sublimate on both sides to prevent the entrance of moths. The articulations of the legs are then bent, and the animal placed on its feet, and pressure used at the naturally flat places, so as to make the other parts rise where the muscles are visible. A board is now prepared on which to place the animal. But before fixing it permanently, the animal should be set in the attitude in which it is intended to be preserved, and the operator, having satisfied himself, then pierces four holes for the admission of the feet wires, which must be drawn through the holes with a pair of pincers until the paws rest firmly on the board. Small grooves are then to be made for the pieces of wire that have been drawn through, so that they may be folded back and pressed down in them, and beyond the level of the back of the board; wire nails are now driven half way in, and their heads bent down upon the wires, to prevent them from getting loose, or becoming movable. The stuffer next directs his attention to the head and neck; the muscles of the face must be imitated as closely as possible, by stuffing cotton in at the openings of the eyes, and also at the mouth and ears and



nostrils. To aid in this, also, the inner material may be drawn forward with instruments, and also by small pieces of wood shaped like knitting needles.

Our next care is the insertion of the eyes, which must be done while the eyelids are still fresh. Some dexterity and skill are required in this operation, and on it will depend most of the beauty and character of the head. The seats of the eyes are supplied with a little cement, the eyes put into place, and the eyelids properly drawn over the eye-balls, but if rage or fear are to be expressed, a considerable portion of the eye-balls must be left exposed. The lips are afterwards disposed in their natural state, and securely fastened with pins. If the mouth is intended to be left open it will be necessary to support the lips with cotton, which can be removed when the animal is dry. Two small balls of cotton, firmly pressed together and well tintured with arsenical soap, must be thrust into the nostrils, so as to completely plug them up, to prevent the air from penetrating, and also prevent the intrusion of moths, and besides it has the effect of preserving the natural shape of the nose after it has dried. The same precaution should be taken with the ears, which in a cat require but little setting. We must again recommend the operator to see that he has sufficiently applied the preservative soap; the nose, lips, eyes and paws being very liable to decay, must be well imbued with spirits of turpentine. This is to be applied with a brush, and must be repeated six or eight times, at intervals of some days, until he is certain of the parts being well primed with it, and, after all, it will be advisable to give them a single coating of the solution of corrosive sublimate.

The methods of stuffing here given are applicable to all animals, from a lion to the smallest mouse. Animals of a large size, however, require a framework suited to their dimensions; these we point out in their order. There are some animals whose peculiarity of structure require treatment slightly different from

the foregoing.

#### HEDGEHOGS.

When it is wished to preserve hedgehogs, rolled in a ball, which is a very common position for them to assume in a state of nature, there should be much less stuffing put into the body than is usual with quadrupeds, so that they may more easily bend. No wires are required in this case. The head and feet are drawn close together under the belly, then place the animal on its back in the middle of a large cloth, and tie the four corners firmly together; suspend it in the air till thoroughly dry, which finishes the operation.

#### BATS.

The wing membrane of this varied and numerous tribe do not require either wire or parchment to set them. They are very easily dried by distension. They are laid on a board of soft wood, the wings extended, and pinned equally at the articulations, and, when dry, they may be removed from the board.

#### APES AND MONKEYS.

One of the chief difficulties to contend with in preserving monkeys and apes is the preservation of their hands and feet, because we must not attempt to deprive these limbs of their flesh, as we could never again supply its place as in nature. The hands must therefore be dried, and then well imbued with turpentine and corrosive sublimate in solution, repeated six or eight times, at least, at intervals of four days. The other part of the stuffing should be exactly similar to that recommended for quadrupeds generally. The paws of several species require to be colored with different varnishes, and when dry slightly polished with sand-paper to remove the gloss. The callosities on the hinder parts of many of them will also require to be colored, and treated in the same manner as the feet.

#### BEAVER, ETC.,

The beaver, musk rat, common rat, and all other animals having a strong odor, will require to be plentifully supplied with the preservative. The tail of the beaver should be cut underneath, and

all the flesh removed, then stuffed with tow or chopped flax, and afterwards thoroughly dried and well primed with preservative, to prevent putrefaction, to which it is very liable. It should also have frequent washings with oil of turpentine. The back should be round and short.

#### HARES AND RABBITS.

A very pretty attitude for the hare or rabbit is to have it seated in its form in an upright position, as if alarmed at the noise of dogs, etc. An oval is formed of wire and attached to the interior framework, after having passed one end of it through the anus, which must be passed through a hole in the board on which the animal is fixed. The wires of the hind legs must be forced through the posterior part of them, and also fixed into holes formed for their reception in the board.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### ANOTHER SWINDLER.

Professor Orton has been in communication with a number of eminent geologists, and calls attention to a swindler who has been preying upon scientific men, by representing himself to be a member of State and Government Geological Surveys. Among the numerous names under which he travels is Leo Lesquereux, Jr., and this is a great annoyance to Dr. Leo Lesquereux, the eminent fossil botanist of Columbus, Ohio, who is receiving complaints from geologists in many states. Among the swindler's victims are Prof. John Callit of Indiana, N. H. Winchell of Minnesota, and Prof. Leslie of Pennsylvania. For the last six months he has been operating in the Northwestern States.

About the safest way to send money in small amounts to foreign countries is to paste the silver between two pieces of card board and then place them in the letter, which should be registered. This prevents dishonest post-office officials from detecting the money, which they can when sent in any other way.

On the 29th of September, between 8 and 9 P. M., a mirage was observed by many persons at Valla in Sweden. The entire lower part of the northwestern horizon shone with a lurid glare, above which was a cloud-bank assuming the most remarkable forms. From time to time animals, trees, and shrubs were seen. Later a group of dancers were seen, the men being distinguished from the women. Further north the cloud formed an oak forest, in front of which was a valley, and nearer still a park with sanded paths, and at about 9.30 the cloud sank into a mass and the phenomenon disappeared.—*Nature*.

In the garden of the town residence of the late Sir Moses Montefiore, in Park Lane, London, is a small pillar of stones which were brought by Sir Moses from the Holy Land, having been collected by him in the Valley of Jehosophat. By his will the stones are constituted an heirloom, and will doubtless always be regarded with especial veneration.

Electro-plating has gone so far as to cover a basket of natural ferns in all their delicate form with gold, silver and bronze. The Messrs. Elkinton, well remembered at the Centennial, have achieved this beautiful success.—*Public Ledger*.

We want agents to receive subscriptions to this paper. Those attending schools or academies are especially desired. It will pay you to send a two-cent stamp for sample copies and terms.

We call attention to our offer to those who subscribe now. A two-line advertisement in the January number, free, as a premium.

We will soon commence to publish in this journal brief biographies of distinguished scientists. Perhaps we shall illustrate them.

Eugene Hale has given a set of scientific instruments to the academy at Hebron, Maine.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A pair of hairy-nosed wombats from Australia, and lots of new monkeys and birds have recently been added to the Zoological Gardens, Philadelphia.

A white chipmunk (also known as the striped squirrel) has been caught recently by a gentleman residing in Greene County, New York, in the Chenango Valley.

The meteor which recently fell near Owatonna, Minn., has been blasted with dynamite, and the fragments are being sent to various parts of the country.—*Chicago Journal*.

A bird as big as a robin, with black body and brown head, now keeps company with the English sparrow in Augusta, Me., and is puzzling naturalists there as to its identity.

A mammoth's remains have been discovered near Yreka, Cal., by miners. They were found 45 feet below the surface. The horn is five and a half feet long, in the shape of a cow's horn, and is eight inches in diameter at the base. The teeth and other bones are of mammoth size. An animal built in proportion to them would weigh at least ten tons when alive. The teeth, horn, etc., give evidence that the animal was of the bovine species.

Shell mounds, a Portland *Oregonian* correspondent thinks, may be nothing more than ancient eating grounds laid bare by the recession of the ocean. He says: It is a fact known to many that there are certain fish fond of oysters and clams. A codfish will take a clam or oyster in its mouth, crack it and eat the meat. The crab and lobster will crack them or put a stone between the shells when partly open, scoop out the meat and leave the shells. There are large banks of shells at the bottom of the ocean, placed there by vast schools of carnivorous animals. Might not the shell mounds now here have been the eating houses of fish now extinct in these waters?

Central Park has just received a new tigress that cost \$800.

A stamped envelope for letters and packages was used in Paris by a private company as early as 1758.

A wild aquatic plant, called the *Elodea Canadensis*, first discovered in the rivers of Canada at the beginning of the present century, has recently been discovered on the banks of the Oka river, near Moscow. In Germany the plant is called the "Wasserpest" (water plague), its vegetation being so rapid that, under favorable conditions as to soil and climate, it soon forms such a dense tangle of leaves and stems as to make navigation impossible.

AN OLD PERSIAN RELIC.—There is at present on view in the Vienna Museum a small bronze statue which is supposed to be a relic from old Persian times. It represents a man astride on a kneeling bull, both fore and hind legs of the bull being quite under the body. This attitude recalls the horse and bull capitals of columns of Persepolis, and in other respects the entire group seems to belong quite to the same district and time. The figure of the man is similar to what is seen in many of the reliefs of the ruined city; there is the same kind of cap, and the abundant hair falling around the neck. The front of the head has been broken off. The arms, too, which seem to have been attached in a particular way to the figure, are gone. Both man and bull are deeply carved. The style of ornament and the stiff drapery present a striking likeness to the extant memorials of Assyrian art. Usually, in old Asiatic metal work, we find unmistakable signs that gold plates were hammered on to the bronze or other metallic core. But in the present instance the evidences point out that a malachite-green patina was employed as the covering, instead of gold. What the group was intended to represent cannot be even conjectured; but it seems to be in any case a monument from the time of the Achæmenide kings.—*London Times*.

## Philatelic and Numismatic Notes.

### RECENT ISSUES.

**HAYTI.**—The 7c., perforated, has been issued at last.

**JAPAN.**—The 1 and 2 sen cards are now printed in carmine.

**BRAZIL.**—*Der Philatelist* states that the 300 reis, orange and green, has been found rouletted.

**ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.**—The 40 centimes, unperforated, has appeared surcharged "05," with "S. P. M." below.

**ANTIOQUIA.**—Six stamps have been recently issued, as follows: 1c., blue-green on white; 1c., black on pale green; 2 1-2c., black on buff; 5c., green on white; 10c., lilac on white; 20c., blue on white.

The 1883 five cent U. S. nickels of the old shield style are getting rather scarce.

Stamp, coin and curiosity dealers will confer a favor by sending us a copy of their price-list. Address, J. M. Faunce, 2820 Gaul St., Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A.

During the first twenty days of her experience with the special delivery system Boston averaged about two hundred special letters per day, giving about sixteen dollars for twenty-five messengers to divide among themselves.

About six hundred copies of this journal will be sent regularly to dealers and collectors in foreign countries. Advertisers desiring to reach these parties would no doubt find an advertisement in this paper a good investment.

The United States coin of the highest value is the twenty dollar (double-eagle) gold piece, the coinage of which was commenced in 1849, of which date but one specimen is known to exist, and that is in the Cabinet of Coins in the United States Mint at Philadelphia. The eagle or ten dollar piece, however, was the first gold coin struck. It was issued in 1795. This coin did not bear on its face any value, whatever. None were struck

in 1802, nor from 1804 to 1838. The half-eagle or five dollar piece was issued in 1795. None were coined, however, in 1816, nor 1817. Of the quarter-eagles or two-and-one-half dollar pieces the coinage was commenced in 1796, none being issued in 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1828. The coinage of the three dollar piece began in 1854, while the one dollar gold piece was first struck in 1849. In 1882 only six hundred and thirty twenty dollar gold pieces were struck, and that date will soon be very scarce.

### LOOKING FOR NESTS.

"The best way to learn the habits of birds is in making a collection of their eggs," said an old taxidermist in a downtown street as he wound a ball of tow around a small but stiff wire, and then inserted the same into the skin of a meadow lark that lay before him on the table. The shop was filled with mounted birds in every position. Big cranes stood up in corners and peered with life-like naturalness out at the cases in which flocks of smaller birds hovered in and about artificial trees. These little groups were tastefully arranged, and the birds well-chosen. A hawk and a kingbird, sworn enemies, did not rest together on the same bough, nor was a water bird holding a *tete-a-tete* with a land bird.

"Some will tell you," said the old man, "that shooting birds to make bird skins of them is a better way, but I believe in egg collecting, for then you do not kill the bird but simply watch its habits and learn a little of bird life. Then in making a collection of bird skins you cannot mount them all and must pack them away in boxes, where they are no use to your friends. Now, take this meadow lark for instance. How many times you have seen one of this bird's brothers—for it is a male, the brighter plumage shows that—as he walks rapidly through the lately-mown meadow, or perhaps resting on the top of one of the hay cocks, yet how few have ever discovered the

nest tunneled under a tuft of grass in the old field. The little hollow is lined with soft grasses and a cozier little home can not be found, for the old bird is there to protect the eggs from the meadow mole that runs over the fields, and other enemies.

"Now, mind you, I do not advocate wholesale robbery of nests, as the small boys do who, fired with zeal to make a collection, not from a love of observing birds and studying bird nature, but because the eggs are pretty and some other boy has a collection, rob every robin's nest within reach. They all ought to be whipped for every egg they steal. But for a true lover of natural history there is no more pleasing occupation. The danger of depopulation of the rarer birds is not great, for in the first place their nests are very hard to find, and the true bird lover will not take the eggs of the same species but once. Besides, most birds will immediately lay another set of eggs if robbed."

"Are there many collectors of birds' eggs?" asked the young man as he watched the old man dress down the feathers of the meadow lark he had brought in.

"Oh, yes there are a good many scattered throughout the country, and many have pretty collections, too. Quite a traffic is carried on in birds' eggs, though, I am sorry to say, it is mostly young fellows who do not care so much for the knowledge of bird life as for the eggs themselves. The eggs have a market value. Of course, the rarer the bird or the greater the difficulty of finding the nest, the more valuable the egg. This meadow lark's eggs are worth 50 cents apiece. It is a common bird and the experienced collector will find the nest without much difficulty, though the beginner will travel through a meadow for a week without coming across it. That owl's egg in my window is valued at \$2.50. A great many kinds are worth from 40 cents to \$1.50, and some of the rarer eggs are retailed as high as \$50, or more. If I owned a great auk's egg, a

species now extinct, though it is not so long ago the bird could be found in the northern region, a fabulous price it would bring.

"Then, too, a good deal of exchanging is done, especially among the young fellows. The young naturalists in Santa Cruz, Cal., will be very glad to send on to you some of the birds' egg to be found in that section for eggs that you can get in New York or New Jersey without much trouble, crows' eggs for example. A price-list of a reputable dealer in birds' eggs will be taken as a basis of exchange."

"Don't you sometimes get cheated in buying or exchanging eggs at a distance?"

"Yes, quite often, but you must look out for that. I once got a letter from a collector in Michigan that he had a set of velvet ducks' eggs. Now, the velvet duck is an exceedingly rare species of the wild duck family. They nest in Labrador and the British America regions, and few of their nests are found. In dimensions they are about the size of hens' eggs. I sent for some, and on receiving them found they were altogether too much like hens' eggs. On breaking one open I found a bit of the yelk which was yet soft, showing that the eggs had been blown only a few days before. As this was in the middle of winter, it was evident that they came from the barnyard. Sometimes the eggs of different species are alike in size and color, and, of course, then deceptions will be practiced sometimes, and spurious eggs get in a fine collection. Perhaps, though, if one thinks that his egg is authentic he enjoys it just as much."

"It is astonishing," continued the taxidermist. "how soon one gets the knack of finding out the hidden nests of birds, and how quickly one notes by the bird's movements that a nest is near. Sometimes a rare species will come and nest in your own yard, and sometimes some not so rare. For instance, one day I left the door of a closet open in which my collection was kept and a hen walked in and quietly dropped an egg on the cotton that was stored away to be used in the collection box."—N. Y. *Sun*.

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J. M. FAUNCE, - - Publisher.

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IN THE INTERESTS OF  
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## Exchange Notices

This column will be open to subscribers who desire to exchange any articles they may possess, free of charge. Right reserved to reject any exchange notice.

Having no exchanges for this issue, we have inserted the following of our own.

A six months' subscription to the COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY will be given in exchange for *any* of the following match or medicine stamps: R. V. Pierce, 1 cent, black on pink paper; Ring's Veg. Ambrosia, 2 cents, blue; Seabury and Johnson, 1 cent, black; Weeks and Potter, 2 cents, vermilion on pink; J. H. Jeilir & Co., 2 cent, green on pink; J. W. Swett, 4 cents, green; or either the 2 cents, blue, 4 cents, green, or 6 cents, black, Hembold; Hostetter & Smith, 4 cents, black on pink; or either of the following match stamps: Allen & Power, 1 cent, blue on pink paper; Alexander's Matches, 1 cent, orange; American Fuse Co., 1 cent, black on pink; Barber Match Co., 3 cents, black; American Match Co., 3 cents, black; Union Match Co., 1 cent, black; or 50 common U. S. or foreign revenue stamps.

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Vol. I.    ❁    JANUARY, 1886.    ❁    No. 1.

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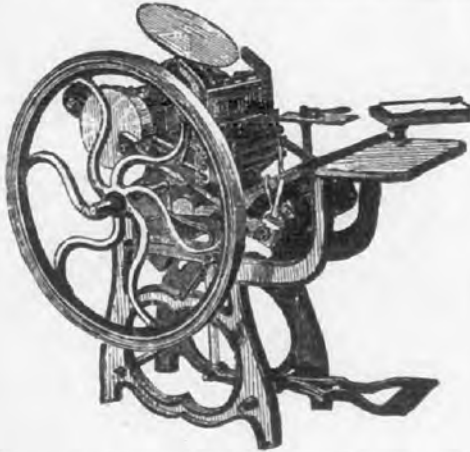
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### More Money Needed.

The Committee in charge of the construction of the pedestal and the erection of the Statue, in order to raise funds for its completion, have prepared, from model furnished by the artist, a *perfect fac-simile* Miniature Statuette, which they are delivering to subscribers throughout the United States at the following prices:

No. 1 Statuette, *six inches in height*,—the Statue bronzed; Pedestal, nickel-silvered,—at **One Dollar each**, delivered.

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No. 3 Statuette, *twelve inches high*, finely chased, Statue bronzed, Pedestal, **Heavily Silver-Plated**, with **PLUSH STAND**, at **Ten Dollars each**, delivered.

Much time and money have been spent in perfecting the Statuettes, and they are much improved over the first sent out. The Committee have received from subscribers many letters of commendation.

The *New York World Fund* of \$100,000 completes the Pedestal, but it is estimated that \$40,000 is yet needed to pay for the iron fastenings and the erection of the Statue.

Liberal subscriptions for the Miniature Statuettes will produce the desired amount.

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**RICHARD BUTLER, Secretary,**  
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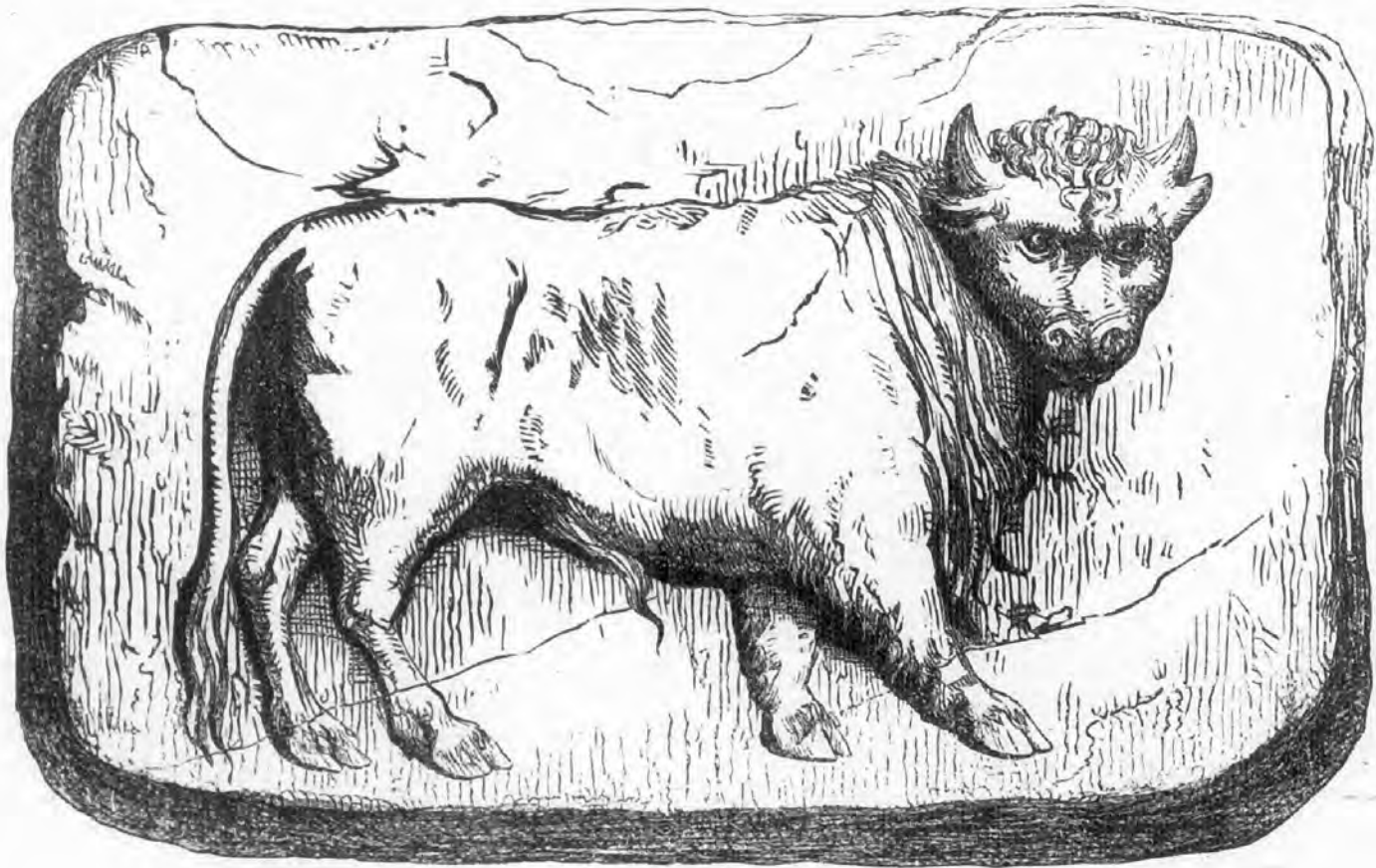
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EARLIEST ROMAN COIN (EXACT SIZE.)

## THE ROMAN ÆS (AS.)



FIGURE 2. ROMAN ÆS—OBVERSE.



FIGURE 2. ÆS—REVERSE.

The first coin issued by the Romans was the large piece illustrated by the engraving on the opposite page (Figure 1), which represents the coin in its exact size. The coin, which was of copper, was nearly five pounds in weight, and was probably a *quincussis*, or five pound copper.

According to Pliny coins were first struck by the Romans during the time of Servius Tullius; this would bring the commencement of coinage back to about 578 B. C. For a long time, perhaps more than a century, copper was the only metal coined by the Romans, as it was not until after the time of Alexander the Great that gold and silver were coined by them.

The coin which followed the piece described was the Æs or As (Figure 2), at first square and afterwards round. The As, however, was for many years a weight and not a coin. It was a pound of copper or brass. These pieces were struck in large sizes (from one to one hundred pounds weight), and, when occasion required it to be paid out in large amounts, was paid by weighing it out in quantity.

Next in order of coinage comes the Denarius (*Den Æris*) ten Æses. This coin was first coined at the time when the value of an Æs was about equal

to one and one-half cents American money, for although the weight of the Roman Æs was originally very great, from time to time its weight (and consequently its value) was reduced, so that about the beginning of the Christian Era its value was

probably no more than an American cent is now. At that time the Denarius (which originally was worth ten *ases*) was worth sixteen *ases*. The *Æs* bore upon its obverse the head of the deity Janus, and on the reverse the prow of a ship. This coin was introduced into Britain by the Romans after their invasion, and afterwards became the silver penny of England. From this source the D. used to denote pence in the notation of British coinage probably sprung.

The *Semis* (*semi æs*) one-half; the *triens*, one-third; the *quadrans*, one-fourth; the *sextans*, one-sixth; and the *uncia* (*ounce*), or one-twelfth, were the divisions of the *Æs*. The *semi-uncia* (half *uncia*) is claimed by many to be the *widows' mite* referred to in the Scriptures. This coin was worth about one twenty-fourth of a cent.

The dates at which the coins of the United States were first struck were as follows:

- The first half-cent in 1793.
- The first cent in 1793.
- The first two-cent piece in 1864.
- The first three-cent piece in 1851.
- The first five-cent piece (half dime) in 1794.
- The first dime in 1796.
- The first twenty-cent piece in 1875.
- The first quarter dollar in 1796.
- The first half dollar in 1794.
- The first dollar (silver) in 1794.
- The first dollar (gold) in 1849.
- The first two and one-half dollar gold piece in 1796.
- The first three dollar gold piece 1854.
- The first half-eagle (5 dollar piece) in 1795.
- The first eagle (10 dollar piece) in 1795.
- The first double-eagle (20 dollar piece) in 1849.

We have received from Mr. Lyman H. Low of New York his price-list of United States fractional currency (paper), and also his list of the paper money of the Confederate States and catalogue of numismatic works sold by him.

An impression prevails with some, that the majority of ancient coins offered in America are counterfeit. This is absurd. The proportion of counterfeit antiques to the genuine, is less than that of greenbacks. The only coins counterfeited are the rare and costly gold and silver specimens, which do not cross the sea. Do not be alarmed as to this, the handling of a counterfeit is a chance less than that of a thunder stroke.—*Exchange*.

If the Secretaries or other officers of Numismatic or Antiquarian Societies (American or foreign) will send monthly reports of their transactions and meetings, along with any other matter they would like published concerning their societies, it will be inserted free of charge. This may prove beneficial to them in many ways.

The weight of your \$20 gold piece should be 51.6 grains, but the law permits a variation of 1-2 grain from this; \$10 pieces weigh 25.8 grains. A grain of gold is worth 4 cents, nearly.

There are a half dozen or more varieties of the 1793 copper cent known to collectors. These coins, if in good condition, are worth from three to fifteen dollars.

It has been estimated that the loss upon the paper currency of our country, by wear and damage, is one and a half per cent of the entire issue, equal to \$6,500,000.

The safest way to send coins or medals through the mails is to fasten them with gum between two pieces of card-board, and then enclose them in the envelope.

A gentleman at Bryon, Ohio, Q. H. Grasser, M. D., claims to have more than 17,000 coins, ancient and modern, in his collection.

The publisher of this paper would like to receive price-lists and catalogues of American and foreign dealers in coins, medals, etc.

A stamped envelope for letters and packages was used in Paris by a private company as early as 1758.



## THE LITTLE STAMP COLLECTOR.

BY MARY L. B. BRANCH.

Three months ago he did not know  
His lessons in geography,  
Tho' he could spell and read quite well,  
And cipher too, he could not tell  
The least thing in topography.

But what a change! How passing strange!  
This stamp collecting passion  
Has roused his zeal, for woe or weal  
And lists of names he now can reel  
Off, in amazing fashion.

I hear him speak of Mozambique,  
Heligoland, Bavaria,  
Cashmere, Japan, Thibet, Soudan,  
Sumatra, Spain, Waldeck, Kokan,  
Khaloon, Siam, Bulgaria.

Schleswig Holstien. (oh boy of mine,  
Genius without a teacher!)  
Wales, Panama, Bolivar,  
Jelalabad and Kandahar,  
Cabul, Deccan, Helvetia.

And now he longs for more Hong Kongs,  
A Rampour, a Mauritius,  
Greece, Borneo, Fernando Po.,—  
And how much else, no one can know,  
But be kind fates propitious!

—*St. Nicholas.*

## RECENT ISSUES.

**BRAZIL.**—The new 100 reis stamp of this country is described as follows: Stamp rectangular, perforated, color lilac, a circular band with word "Brazil" on the left, "Correio" on the right, "Reis" at the bottom. In the centre a square with the numeral 100 within.

**CONGO STATE.**—Stamps for this new state are reported, to be issued after Jan. 1st, 1886. They are said to bear the bust of Leopold, king of Belgium, who is prominently indentified with the movement to establish this republic. They bear the inscription "Etat Independent du Congo." The values reported are as follows: 5 centimes, green; 10 centimes, carmine; 25 centimes, blue; 50 centimes, lilac.

**MALTA.**—A 1-2 penny news-wrapper is said to be in use; color green.

**LABUAN.**—A new provisional has been issued by surcharging 2 cents on the 8 cents, red. The colors of the 2 and 8 cent stamps are said to have been changed as follows: 2 cents, red; 8 cents, violet.

**REUNION.**—Another surcharge is reported for this island. 5 centimes on 4 centimes, violet, French Colonies stamp.

**TONGA.**—Stamps for this island are reported to have been ordered of the New Zealand Government.

The following postal cards are announced:

**CHILI.**—3x3 centavos card, blue on red.

**SHANGHAI.**—20 cash, yellowish brown on white.

**SWEDEN.**—Both the single and double 6 ore cards have been surcharged 5 ore.

**VICTORIA.**—A new card, 1 penny, carmine on white.

The *Philatelic Monthly* chronicles the following:

**DENMARK.**—The 4 and 8 ore official cards issued in the large size.

**ARGENTINE.**—The engraved 12 centavos has made its appearance.

**AZORES.**—The 500 and 1000 reis Portugal stamps have been surcharged for use in the Azores.

**ST. LUCIA.**—The 1 shilling, orange, head in octagon, has been issued.

**SURINAME.**—A series of unpaid letter stamps have been issued, similar to those of Holland, but printed in brown. The set is as follows: 2 1-2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40 cents.

The annual report of Chief Post Office Inspector West, shows that 539 arrests were made by inspectors during the year. Of this number 203 were tried and convicted, and 222 await trial. During the year 459 post offices were robbed, 256 burned, and 33 postal cars burned. Inspectors recovered and turned into the treasury from delinquent ex-postmasters the sum of \$28,352.

## PHILATELIC NOTES.

Stamp collectors, read carefully our list of prizes in the word contest.

According to the *California Philatelist* there are nearly 2000 stamp collectors in San Francisco.

Correspondents in all countries wanted. We would like to correspond with parties on this subject. Send address.

This paper will have a circulation of 2000 copies or over every month. About one-fourth will be sent to foreign countries.

We would like to exchange with all Philatelic journals. If publishers will send two copies each month we will send two copies in exchange.

For the next three months this paper will be sent to from 400 to 500 collectors and dealers *abroad*. Advertisers will do well to bear this in mind if they contemplate advertising.

The number of collectors of postage stamps throughout the world will probably reach three quarters of a million (750,000). Of these the United States leads the list in number, having about 200,000.

If the secretaries of American and foreign Philatelic Societies will send accounts of the monthly proceedings of their respective societies, with any other matter concerning the same, we will insert them free of charge.

Stamp collectors will find the exchange column in this paper a good medium through which to exchange their duplicate stamps. It is free to *subscribers*. Having no exchange notices this month the space has been otherwise occupied.

Some rogue in New York has been advertising through circulars for gifts of postage stamps for charitable purposes, the stamps to be sold for the benefit of mission work in that city. The circulars have been extensively circulated in the South and no doubt some good things in the way of Confederate stamps have been sent to the "Rev. Joab Cushing Merritt."—*Philatelic Monthly*.

## PUBLICATIONS.

We will exchange with all.

We would like to have every stamp, coin and curiosity paper published sent to us regularly.

The *West American Scientist* is a neat little monthly, published by C. R. Orcutt, San Diego, California.

The *Tidings from Nature* has the neatest appearance of any natural history journal received by us.

The *Philatelic Monthly*, published by Mr. L. W. Durbin of this city, enters into its twelfth volume this month.

The *Arizona Pride of Philately* is another new one. Edited by Eugene A. Brown of Tucson. It contains eight pages.

Messrs. L. D. and J. K. Ferguson and Co. have favored us with a copy of their wholesale price-list. The prices appear very reasonable.

Publishers receiving a copy of this paper, with this paragraph marked, may consider it a personal request to send their papers regularly in exchange for this. Please send two copies.

We have received from Mr. Lyman H. Low a copy of his catalogue of Colonial and United States Coins. Price 15 cents. This catalogue, which appears very complete, contains 44 neatly printed pages, bound in paper cover. Can be had of the publisher, Lyman H. Low, 838 Broadway, New York City.

The publishers of the following journals have sent copies of their papers. We would like to receive them regularly. *Philatelic Monthly, Empire State Philatelist, Michigan Philatelist, Capital City Philatelist, Well-Post, Der Philatelist, Illustrierte Briefmarken Journal, Der Hermes, Berliner Munzblätter, Jackson's Monthly Sale and Ed. List, Exchangers' Monthly, West American Scientist, Arizona Pride of Philately, Naturalists' Companion, Tidings from Nature, New York Collector, Memphis Philatelist, Southern Geologist, Philatelic Journal of America*, and many others.

## WORD CONTEST.

## NO. ONE.

For the benefit of those desirous of entering into competition for the prizes offered in this number, we give the following explanations and also the rules to be observed.

## THE CONTEST.

We offer the list of ten prizes, described elsewhere, to the persons sending to us, before March 1st, 1886, the largest number of words composed from the letters forming the title of this paper—*The Collector's Monthly*, to be distributed as follows: To the party sending the largest number of words, the first prize will be given; to party sending the second largest list of words, the second prize, and so until the list of prizes is exhausted.

The manner of forming the words is as follows: We take the word or words chosen, in this instance *The Collector's Monthly*, and find how many words can be made from the letters contained therein. For instance, we can make from the above the words, *the, they, them*, and many others by changing the letters; however, words containing a larger number of certain letters than are contained in the prize word chosen cannot be used. For instance a word containing three e's will not be accepted, as there are but two in the title chosen.

## RULES TO BE OBSERVED.

1.—All competitors must be subscribers to this paper.

2.—The words must be plainly numbered.

3.—They must reach us within the specified time.

4.—Only such words as are to be found in Webster's Dictionary will be accepted.

5.—The sheet on which the words are written must contain the full name and address of the sender.

6.—The persons competing must be subscribers before sending in their list. (*Money for subscriptions sent with the list will not be accepted.*)

## PRIZES.

The prizes are as follows:

- 1.—Waterbury Watch.
- 2.—Imperial Postage Stamp Album, bound in cloth and gilt.
- 3.—Buffon's Natural History.
- 4.—50 Stamps, each from a different country.
- 5.—Coats of Arms of all Nations.
- 6.—Photographs of Rulers of all countries.
- 7.—Merchant Flags of all Nations.
- 8.—100 Finely assorted Foreign Stamps.
- 9.—*The Empire State Philatelist* for one year.
- 10.—*The Philatelic Monthly* for one year.

It is the intention of the publisher to issue prizes every two months; this will allow subscribers abroad a chance, which, if the competitions were monthly, would be impossible.

If after a time the paper receives a number of subscribers sufficient to warrant it, the list will not only be increased, but the value of the prizes will be increased also.

The postage stamp in the United States is over 40 years old, and although the third to adopt the system, it now leads the number issued by almost four times as many as the next highest stamp-using country, which is England. This latter country was the first to adopt the stamp, in 1840. Brazil followed close in her footsteps in 1843, and the United States in 1847. The Governments of 211 countries now issue postage stamps. All these are out-ranked by America, whose annual out-put of letter stamps is 2,500,000,000. The cancelled postage stamps of many countries are worth quite as much as unused specimens, and many are issued solely for collections, the revenue being an important item. Monaco is the latest to issue stamps; but St. Helena, with its "fifty houses and three stores," is probably the most insignificant, even more so than Heligoland or the Virgin Islands. Bhopal has the oldest stamp, Nicaragua the finest, Siberia the largest, Zealand the smallest, Guatemala the most striking and Sarawak and Great Britain divide the honor of having the cheapest and meanest.—*Detroit Evening News*.

# The Collector's Monthly.

J. M. FAUNCE, - - Publisher.

PUBLISHED THE LATTER PART OF EACH MONTH  
IN THE INTERESTS OF  
CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.

Circulation for this Month, 2,000 Copies.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Single copies, post-paid, . . . . .	3 cents
One year, post-paid, . . . . .	25 cents
One year, post-paid, to foreign countries, 35 cents	

## ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line, . . . . .	\$0.10
Per inch, 12 lines, . . . . .	1.00
Per column, . . . . .	5.00

A liberal discount will be allowed on continued advertisements.

## TERMS OF PAYMENT.

Cash in advance.

Annual and semi-annual contracts payable quarterly in advance.

Remit by postal note, registered letter or post-office money order. United States or foreign postage stamps of low denominations received in all amounts under one dollar. The publisher will be responsible for all money or goods sent to him by registered letter.

Correspondents in foreign countries will confer a favor, if, when they send stamps in payment for advertisements or subscriptions, they will send the rarer varieties in use at the time of sending, (such as provisionals, etc.)

Address all communications to

J. M. FAUNCE,

2820 Gaul St., Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A.

Phil. Heinsberger, No. 151 Franklin St., New York City, is authorized to receive orders of subscriptions or advertisements. Parties desiring to do so can order of him.

The attention of all who have received a sample copy of this number is called to our prizes on the outside of the back cover. Full directions concerning the competition will be found on page 7 of this issue. It is our intention to issue prizes for five or six similar competitions during the year. It will pay you to subscribe now.

The publisher of this paper desires to extend its circulation in foreign countries. Liberal commission will be allowed to those willing to act as agents.

## EDITORIAL.

Beginning with this, the January number, natural history topics will be dropped from the columns of this paper, which will, hereafter, be devoted principally to stamp, coin and autograph collecting. From time to time articles will appear of interest to collectors of relics of historical importance, and it is the intention of the publisher to try and make the columns of this journal interesting to all. With this end in view contributions are solicited bearing upon the subjects above enumerated. As a number of the subscribers to this paper have sent in their subscriptions after inspecting copies containing departments devoted to natural history, we make the following offer. To those who have sent in their subscriptions prior to January 20th, 1886, we will send in addition to this journal either of the following natural history papers, for one year, without extra charge. This as will be seen applies *only* to those who have already sent in their subscriptions; to those we will send either *The Naturalists' Companion*, *The Young Naturalists' Journal* or *The Hawkeye Observer*.

We don't want the earth, but we want about four thousand (4000) subscribers' names on our books before June next.

The publisher would like to receive price-lists of stamp dealers and philatelic publishers.

## Exchange Notices

This column will be open to subscribers who desire to exchange any articles they may possess, free of charge. Right reserved to reject any exchange notice.

Collectors, send in your exchange notices. They will be inserted free of charge. This paper will be sent to foreign countries in large numbers; if you have stamps, coins, shells, minerals, birds' eggs, or any other articles you desire to exchange with foreign collectors, let us hear from you.

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Full particulars on Page 7.

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