

vol. 21.

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Miscellaneous
Stamp Journals. American III. 21

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CURIOSITY SHOP.

76.59

VOL. 1.

JULY, 1865.

NO. 1

PROSPECTUS.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP will be issued on the 15th of every month. The design of the paper is indicated, by its name. Great care will be taken in the selection of suitable matter to fill its pages. A specimen copy will be sent to persons desiring it, on the receipt of five cents. Terms for one volume, or six months, 25 cts. Ten per cent. allowed to persons sending us two or more subscriptions. Terms payable in advance. Advertising rates: first insertion, 10 cts. per line, every additional insertion, 5 cents per line.

All communications addressed to W. S. HAINES, Box 3952, Chicago.

The civil war has terminated, and our soldiers, flushed with victory, are returning to their homes. The nefarious leaders are attempting to save their necks by seeking pardon from the man whom they would willingly have destroyed. The sunny South is now a desolate tract; its once flourishing cities are in ruins; its plantations are deserted, and in almost every house there are vacant chairs. Yet the blame is with them. May their example be a warning to future generations. Amid such times as these, most humiliating to the South, but most glorious for the North, the first number of our paper is brought forth. Though small, it may contain many things of interest. Do not judge, therefore, until you have examined it; for "many of the most valuable things are done up in small packages." If you would help us, and see us prosper, give us your patronage.

Stamps and Coins.

For suddenness of appearance and its wide-spread popularity, the mania for the collecting of stamps and coins is without a parallel in history. But, unlike all other manias, it has had a beneficial and not an injurious effect upon the public. Spreading, as it has, all over the civilized world, it has furnished an innocent amusement to hundreds and thousands of persons, who have been enticed by its fascinations into the ever-filling ranks of stamp and coin collectors. To many it seems singular, that a person can find enjoyment in collecting "useless pieces of paper," as stamps are termed by them; but they are unaware of the fact that a great deal of valuable information may be obtained by carefully studying those "pieces." In many cases, a person with a moderate amount of imagination, may obtain quite a history of a country from its stamps. Thus we can easily trace the changes of government which France has undergone during the last fifteen years, by means, simply, of her stamps; and the same can be said of Portugal and Saxony.

The school-boy learns his geography more willingly and reads his history with more interest, for he is anxious to learn something of the countries from which his stamps come; and he will learn, thus, more in one day from his own inclination, than teachers can force into him, with rule and ferule, in a much longer time. We hope, therefore, that the mania for collecting stamps and coins will be encouraged by the people of this country.

CHICAGO, JULY, 1865.

We would advise those of our patrons who are engaged in the collection of curiosities to be extremely cautious about the purchase of them. There is, in the city of New York, a manufactory for the counterfeiting of old and valuable coins, which, probably, sends forth, yearly, many thousands of spurious specimens, which are eagerly seized by the unsuspecting collector, who obtains them at a "bargain," as he says.

In England, a certain gentleman owns a very valuable collection of paintings, done by the old Dutch masters. He employs a large number of inferior artists, who copy the paintings, and these, after having undergone a process not unlike the smoking of hams, are sold at auction for the originals.

The greatest number of deceptions are, however, practiced in the selling of relics. It is said that there have been enough pieces of wood sold, as portions of the cross on which our Savior was crucified, to make a good-sized ship.

To avoid being cheated, we would advise our readers to buy curiosities only from established dealers, or from persons whose honesty can not be doubted.

The largest collection of coins in the world are owned by the British and Paris Museums. The collection of the former comprises 120,000 specimens, and that of the latter is somewhat larger. Between 3,000 and 4,000 new coins are added to each, yearly.

Why is an author the most peculiar of animals? Because, his tale comes out of his head.

A wide field of pleasure is always open to that class of persons known as Numismatists. They are numbered by thousands and are of all ranks, noble and plebeian, "high and low degree." They are open to no one, and all are welcome to labor therein.

The United States contains many noble collections, but perhaps the best of all was the cabinet (now scattered abroad by the auctioneer's hammer,) of the late John Allen, the father of Antiquaries. He accumulated the immense number of coins which he possessed by no less than thirty years' labor, and he well merited the title which has been bestowed upon him—the Father of Antiquaries.

America presents a fine field for the coin-seeker. The early colonial issues are of great value, and enormous prices have been paid for even the late issues of the United States mint; for instance, at a sale in New York, about two years ago, a quarter-dollar of 1827 brought \$225; one of 1823, \$50. A half-cent of 1842 sold for \$108, and one of 1847 for \$105. \$39 has been paid for a cent of 1793, and the same price for one of 1796. The copper cent of 1793 is the first of the United States series. The style and metal of this series have been often changed, and sometimes there have been two kinds struck within a year. Thus, in 1796 cents were issued with and without liberty caps. The former is the most valuable. There is a large and small date on the cents of 1814, and also on those of 1856.—1812, 1840 and 1842 have large and small dates: 1814 has a crooked date. There are three varieties of the cent of 1793; two of the cent of 1794, and two of the cent of 1795. The cent of 1808 was struck with twelve and thirteen stars; the former is the rarer. 1817 was struck with fifteen and seventeen stars. The cent of 1834 was struck with large and small stars, and that of 1843 with large and small letters. There are some specimens extant of the cent of 1827 in brass, which are quite valuable; and the style of the nickel cents has varied greatly, there being no less than five different dies.

The rarest United States cents are

those of 1793, 1799, 1804 and 1808. 1799 is the rarest of all, and is not often found in good condition; no one of the 300 should be bought unless it is almost perfect, as other coppers have often been changed to it by filing the date. 1808 is so rarely found in good condition that it has been doubted whether such a coin ever existed; but, nevertheless, some very good specimens are preserved in coin cabinets. No cent was issued in 1815, and that date is not considered as forming part of the series. The nickel cent of 1856 is quite rare. The American silver, prior to 1857, is mostly rare, but after that date, it sells for the premium. The following prices have been paid for United States coins:

A dollar of 1794, \$45; one 1838, \$5; 1839, \$8.50; same date, \$40; 1851, \$47.50; half-dollar of 1796, \$25.50; 1797, \$19; 1807, \$10.50; 1808, same; 1809, \$6; quarter-dollar of 1796, \$18; 1804, \$10; 1813, \$50; 1827, \$225; a dime of 1797 brought \$8.50; half-dime of 1801, \$7; 1803, the same; 1805, \$13.50; 1838, \$7; cent of 1793, \$31; 1796, \$39; 1799, \$15 and \$40; 1823, \$15; 1829, \$20; half-cent of 1793, \$8; 1796, \$41; 1842, \$108; 1843, \$12; 1844, \$10; 1847, \$105.

The Doctor and his Patient.

Dr. D. had long been the attending physician of a lady far past her teens, affected with certain disorders incident to a want of occupation and care of a family. She sends for the doctor in season and out of season; he rushes at a 2:46 pace and finds his patient physically perfectly well, but sad and lonely, and of course afflicted with the blues. All he can do is to administer a "tincture," with a few drops of peppermint, and the patient is well for a day.

On one occasion, a cold, blustering night, the doctor had just turned in, wrapping himself snugly in his blankets, with the hope of a quiet sleep, when a loud rap aroused him.

"Who is sick?" inquired the doctor, murmuring.

"Miss Sally Strickland, sir—she's most dead—expect she'll die before you get there."

"I'll be along," says the doctor, and exclaiming to himself, "I'll try to cure her this time."

The doctor plods along through mud and mire, cold and rain, studying his application. When he arrived at the dwelling of Miss Sally, he found her as usual, in a rather depressed state of mind.

"Doctor," she said, feebly, "I expect to die every moment. I am very low. Can you do anything for me?"

The doctor felt her pulse; nothing the matter, merely wanted company.

The doctor becomes communicative.

"Miss Sally, I was having a terrible dream when your servant awoke me. I dreamed I was dead," continued the doctor, "and descended into the lower regions, where I met the Old Scratch, who invited me to view his dominions. The inmates were engaged in various occupations—some playing cards, others swindling their neighbors—in fine, all the pursuits they followed during life, they continued there. When he got through he proclaimed to the four quarters of his dominions that all should go to bed, 'for,' said he, 'Miss Sally Strickland will be here directly, and there'll be no sleep in hell for a month.'"

The doctor's speedy departure was increased to flight by the sight of a broomstick flourishing actively in his rear, but the remedy was effectual.

Lady Herbert, a great-granddaughter of Lord Clive, of whose gallantry in India we have such a brilliant account by Macaulay, has a postage stamp album which is a great curiosity. It contains undelivered specimens of every postage stamp in the world, and is illustrated with maps of the countries, and portraits and autographs of the respective rulers. It is richly bound and is the most complete thing of the sort ever got up.

A shrewd little fellow, who had just begun to read latin, astonished the master by the following translations: "Vir, a man; gin, a trap—Virgin, a man-trap."

We have in our possession several copies of Richmond papers, issued before its evacuation. From the Daily Examiner of April 1, 1865, we make the following selection: "The prudence that dictated the removal of the arsenal and ordinance works from Richmond, must not be mistaken for any evidence of intended evacuation." Scarcely had these words appeared in press before the last "Johnny" had decamped, leaving the city to its fate. The editors undoubtedly thought they were telling the truth.

NOTICE.—For sale, a fine collection of 275 stamps, in a five dollar album. Price, for both, \$12. For information in regard to them, address the editors.

PERSONS TROUBLED WITH BEDBUGS, TAKE NOTICE.—The well known firm of M— & N—, of New York City, are the manufacturers of a powerful poison for bedbugs. The directions for using are as follows: With a straw tickle the insect under the seventh left rib—the only one that answers the purpose. When he opens his mouth to laugh—as is invariably the case—place some poison on his tongue. A speedy death is guaranteed if directions are followed.

It will be observed that the following sentence reads the same, both backwards and forwards: *Able was I ere I saw Elba.*

A young lady, whose name was Mayden, having married a gentleman called Mudd, some way wrote the following upon the wedding night:

Lot's wife, 'tis said, in days of old,
For one rebellious halt,
Was turned, as we are plainly told,
Into a lump of salt.
The same propensity to change
Still runs in woman's blood.
For here we see a case as strange,
A Mayden turned to Mudd!

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DEALER IN
U. S. REVENUE STAMPS.
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R. McLACHLAN,
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R. McLACHLAN,
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For the collection of American and Foreign Postage Stamps, Coins, Medals, Minerals, Shells, and Curiosities of all kinds. Purchasers will find it to their advantage to call, and those having articles to dispose of will find a ready sale.
Now Ready, a New Edition of the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MANUAL, price 50 cts. Just issued, my New Price List, price 5 cts.

CURIOSITY SHOP.

75.69
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VOL. 1.

AUGUST, 1865.

NO. 2.

The Beginning of the Russian Navy.

At the village of Ismailoosky, Peter the First was one day examining a variety of articles that had belonged to his ancestors, Nicolas Romanoff. He perceived suddenly a boat that had been long thrown aside, but which, differing in form considerably from any at that time in use in Russia, the inquisitive Czar questioned his tutor, Francis Timorman, who happened to be with him at the time, as to the properties of this boat, and heard with surprise that it was an English boat, employed about ships, and that it could be made to sail with, or by tacking, even against the wind. This was an unheard-of novelty for Peter. What a fund of occupation it afforded him! The Czar was eager to have the boat immediately launched upon the neighboring river Yaoose, but from long neglect it had become almost a wreck. It was ordered to be repaired, and a carpenter was sent for. By good fortune the Dutchman, Brandt was found, who had constructed the very boat for the Czar Alexy.

Brandt repaired the vessel, rigged it, and launched it into the river, where he navigated it before the Czar, who stood watching him from the bank. Having observed the manoeuvres of Brandt sufficiently, Peter himself entered the boat and took his first lesson in navigation. His essays from the first were so successful, that sailing in that boat became his most favorite amusement. After a short time the rivers Yaoose and Moskoa appeared too confined a space for the ambition of the young Czar, and short voyages, as far as Rolomensky, did not satisfy his growing passion.

In 1691 he obtained some shipwrights from Holland, and a ship-building yard was erected on the Periaslao lake. Here Peter himself

became a workman, and the first yacht that was launched was built entirely by his own hands, under the supervision of the Dutch shipwright Arrienna.

On the 1st of May, 1692, the Czar, delighted with his production, began to navigate the lake, and his excursions were continued till he possessed a fleet of five vessels, when the establishment became a school of navigation, and frequently exhibited examples of naval combats.

The lake of Periaslav being only eight versts in length by seven in breadth, did not long suffice for the desires of Peter.

In May, 1694, he undertook a voyage to the Solovetsky monastery, which is built on the island of Solovetka, in the White Sea. On this occasion, the boldness of Peter had nearly cost him his life. As he was drawing near to the monastery, a storm suddenly rose of such violence that his attendants gave themselves up for lost, and he himself prepared for death. He partook of the holy sacrament, and then without fear awaited the moment of destruction. But the Almighty spared his chosen one. A common Russian peasant, by name Antipo Panoff, preserved his presence of mind, and acting as pilot, steered the yacht clear of sunken rocks and other dangers, and brought it safely to shore. Peter the First, as a mark of gratitude for his preservation, erected on the spot where he landed a wooden cross, made by his own hands, bearing the inscription: "This cross was made by Captain Peter in the year 1694." The next year Peter established a ship yard at Voronetz, and after that he constructed a fleet on the Baltic sea.

The little boat which Peter found at the village of Ismailoosky is preserved to this day, as a sacred relic, at St. Petersburg. It is called the Little Grandfather of the Russian fleet.

The Curiosity Shop.

CHICAGO, AUGUST, 1865.

STAMP COLLECTING.

One of the most interesting and entertaining of curiosity manias is the collection of those "useless pieces of paper" called stamps.

The title of stamp collector does not alone belong to "idle boys;" the acquisition of them being sought for by many distinguished persons on the European continent, and by cultivated Americans who are engaged in this interesting and beneficial amusement. The collection of stamps in Europe is perhaps more general than in this country; the largest and most complete collections being held by adults, while here stamp collecting is mostly confined to juveniles, though many of our own notabilities are engaged in the pursuit of these little treasures.

The facilities for the acquisition of rare stamps are much greater with some than others. One collector may have friends in some distant country who can procure for him the rarest specimens procurable in that locality; another with difficulty obtaining the same.

But this very serious obstacle in the way of stamp collectors has been almost entirely overcome by the establishment of offices where almost every variety of foreign and domestic postage stamps may be purchased at very reasonable prices. The rarity of different varieties of stamps varies in different countries. In the United States the stamps of some of the islands of Australia are claimed among the "rare stamps," while in Europe those very varieties are not by any means difficult to obtain. It is not, as some may think, the distance between one country and another which increases the rarity of the stamps, but it lies in the amount of correspondence carried on between the countries. For instance, the distance between the United States and

East India is far greater than between the United States and Mexico, but the stamps of the latter country are much rarer in America than those of India.

The most beautiful and finely executed stamps are those of Nova Scotia and Costa Rica, while those most celebrated for their ugliness and poorness of execution are those of Mexico and Spain.

Beauty, however, is not by any means the only desideratum sought for by the stamp collector; if it were, most every one could get an album filled by the printer or engraver for a great deal less money and trouble than he could fill his album with genuine specimens.

A postage stamp album is very valuable to a young person not only for the amusement which it affords him, but for the geographical knowledge which it teaches.

The postage stamps of the provinces and dependencies of Great Britain show the vast and numerous possessions of that country, and thus put knowledge into the brains of some who might be too indolent to acquire information otherwise. A stamp album is also valuable as an ornament to a drawing room, it being always a source of amusement to those fond of curiosities. The pleasure of examining a collection of stamps is greatly enhanced by their tasteful arrangement in a handsome album, as a picture is improved by an ornamental frame, or a precious stone by a fine setting.

As we have been sufficiently prolix upon this subject, we will conclude by saying we hope no one at present engaged in stamp-collecting, will cease his efforts until he becomes the possessor of as valuable a collection as it is possible to procure.

NOTICES.—We acknowledge the receipt of Mr. A. J. McIntosh's New Descriptive Price List. Collectors will do well to secure one. They will find it a great help. See advertisement.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mr. A. J. McIntosh in our advertising column.

We are indebted to J. A. Nutter, Esq., of Montreal for the first and second numbers of the "Stamp Collectors' Monthly Gazette," published in St. Johns, New Brunswick. It is a very interesting and well written periodical, and bids fair for a good patronage. The article in the first number, with regard to the history of the "Connell Stamp," published in an Albany stamp paper, was very similar to the sarcastic articles which appeared in the columns of two daily newspapers of antagonistic political principles during the late rebellion.

It also mentioned that a new set of United States postage stamps was in contemplation. In this respect our New Brunswick friends are ahead of us, for we have heard of no expected change in our postage stamps, but we modestly advance our opinion, (though not called for,) that there might be considerable improvement in our two-cent stamps. But we will not meddle with these affairs, but will leave all to the wise and judicious members of our government, who, having now finished the great work of putting down the rebellion, will turn their attention to civil affairs, and perhaps, though not very probable, will alter the postage stamps to suit the fancies of collectors.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—
R. McL., of Montreal.—You will find the desired change in your advertisement.

C. T., of St. Louis.—The two-cent Canada stamp is issued and used only in Lower Canada.

G. L., of Chicago.—With the exception of 1815, each year from 1793 to the present time, has had its regularly coined cent. The years 1856-7 have both a nickle and copper cent.

We will answer to the best of our ability inquiries concerning stamps,

coins, &c. Short articles on stamps, coins, autographs, &c., will be received, and if considered worthy will be inserted in the columns of our paper.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPHY.

The great practical puzzle of the present day—submarine telegraphy—endeavors to find its solution in dozens of different specimens of electric cables. When it is remembered that the problem to be solved is to produce some envelope which shall perfectly isolate and protect a conducting wire, running for thousands of miles, as the atlantic cable, for instance, does; when it is further remembered that a fault in the covering material of the wire only as big as a pin hole speedily becomes enlarged to the size of a sixpence by the burning action of the electric fluid passing out into the water; when again we find the gutta percha, with which cables are covered, is liable to the attacks of insects, to be abraded by rubbing on sharp rocks; and when we find that in shallow water cables are always liable to be dragged up by ship's anchors, the difficulties of making them electrically secure are indeed immense. Hence hundreds of patents have been taken out to accomplish the desired end, and thousands of miles of ruined cable, representing some two millions of money, now lie at the bottom of the ocean, subjects of great curiosity, no doubt, to the fishes.

☞ About ten thousand pieces of Roman money, principally of the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, and Nero, have just been discovered in the bed of the Mayenne, at St. Leonard. Their presence is explained by the fact of a dangerous ford having formerly existed at this spot, and the custom of travelers to throw in the river a piece of money *ex voto*.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP,

Issued the 15th of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—Twenty-five cents for one volume, or six successive numbers.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Ten cents per line for first insertion—five cents per line each additional insertion.

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used and unused, which he will sell at the lowest prices. All stamps warranted genuine. *His \$1 Packet contains 50 varieties; also, his 50 cent Packet contains 25 varieties.* Send 10 cents, Canada currency, for his Descriptive Price List, (16 pages,) Post free. All prices are enfold.

Wanted to Purchase (state price) or Exchange, rare American and Es-says. All communications to be prepaid, and will be answered per return of mail, certain. Address

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CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. 1.

SEPTEMBER, 1865.

NO. 2.

THE UNKNOWN PAINTER.

Murillo, the celebrated artist of Seville, often found upon the canvass of some one of his pupils sketches or specimens of drawings imperfect and unfinished, but yet bearing the rich impress of genius. They were executed during the night, and he was utterly unable to conjecture the author. One morning the pupils arrived at the studio before him, and were grouped before an easel uttering exclamations of delighted surprise when Murillo entered. His astonishment was quite equal to their own on finding an unfinished head of the virgin, of exquisite outline, with many touches of surpassing beauty. He appealed first to one and then to another of the young gentlemen, to see if they could lay claim to the choice but mysterious production, but they returned a sorrowful negative.

"He who left this tracery will one day be master of us all." Sebastian, said he—a youthful slave stood trembling before him—"who occupies this studio at night?"

"No one but myself, senor."

"Well, take your station here to-night, and if you do not inform me of the mysterious visitant to this room, thirty lashes shall be your reward."

He bowed in quiet submission, and retired. That night he threw his mattress before the easel and slept soundly till the clock struck three. He then sprang from his couch and exclaimed: "Three hours are my own, the rest are my master's!" He then seized a palette and took his seat at the frame, to erase the work of the preceding night. With brush in hand to make the oblivious stroke, he paused: "Oh, those eyes," said he, "they pierce me through! that blood will run from those purple veins; I cannot, Oh, I cannot erase it! rather let me finish it."

He went to work; and soon the slave, the darkened brow, the child of toil and suffering, are merged into a youthful spirit, rising from the im-

petus of his own deathless energies into a sphere of liberty and bright beauty.

"A little coloring here, a touch there, a soft shade here;" and thus three hours rolled unheeded by. "Oh those beaming eyes! those lips will speak and bless me! my beautiful! Oh, my beautiful!" A slight noise caused him to look up. Murillo with his pupils stood around; the sunshine was peering brightly through the casement, while yet the unextinguished taper burned. Again he was a slave, and the spirit's folded wing scarce seemed to flutter. His eye fell beneath their eager gaze.

"Who is your master, Sebastian?"

"You, Senor."

"Your drawing-master, I mean?"

"You, Senor."

"I have never given you lessons?"

"No; but you have given them to these young gentlemen, and I heard them."

"Yes, you have done better—you have profited by them. Does this boy deserve punishment or reward, my dear pupils?"

"Reward, Senor," was the quick response.

"What shall it be?"

One suggested a suit of clothes, another a sum of money; but no chord was touched in the captive's bosom. Another said:

"The master feels kindly to day; ask your freedom, Sebastian."

He sunk on his knees, and a groan of anguish burst from him; he lifted his burning eyes to his master's face: "The freedom of my father."

The death chill had passed from his heart, and he breathed. Murillo folded him to his bosom. "Your pencil shows that you have talent, your request, that you have a heart; you are no longer my slave, but my soul! Happy Murillo! I have not painted, but made a painter!"

There are still to be seen in classic Italy many beautiful specimens from the pencils of Murillo and Sebastian.

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NOTICE.

Hereafter this paper will be issued under the direction of Messrs. Haines & Olcott. All communications must be addressed to

HAINES & OLCOTT,
Box 6212, Chicago, Ill.

Postal Chat Chat.

NEW POSTAL ENVELOPES.—Two new varieties of the stamped envelopes are about being issued by the postoffice department, which are well calculated to meet the wants of the business public. They are the ordinary letter size, with the double rate six cent stamp, and the official size, bearing a single rate three cent stamp. Heretofore in sending a letter weighing a half an ounce or more in the latter size government envelope, it has been necessary to use an adhesive stamp to pay the excess of postage, thus disfiguring the appearance of the envelope, and causing an increase of labor in the work of cancellation. So in regard to the official size of stamped envelopes, with an enclosure of less weight than half an ounce; the use of the stamped envelope necessitated the loss of one rate of postage. Both of these conveniences are obviated by the issue of these new envelopes, which will soon be for sale at all the principal postoffices throughout the country. The envelopes are of a neat appearance, having the embossed stamps in the usual form, the color of the letter size being purple, and that of the official size chocolate.

A Western editor must be in a bad fix. Having dunned a subscriber for his subscription, he not only refused to pay, but threatened to flog the editor if he stopped the paper.

Relics of Byron.

It is said that the widow of Col. Willman, the late owner of Newstead Abbey, has signified her intention of securing that estate in perpetuity, by deed of gift, two well known treasures whose associations are inseparably connected with the name of Lord Byron, the monk's skull cap and the ancient communion service of the abbey.

The former is the *well known skull cap*, made out of the cranium of a monk, whose remains were discovered by Lord Byron, soon after coming into possession; the stone coffin which contained them is still to be seen in the cloisters at Newstead.

The poet composed some Bacchanalian verses, which were engraved on the silver stem in which the cup is mounted; the lines are to be found in any edition of his works. The communion service is of gold, and the workmanship in excellent taste. It is a fine specimen of antique art, and is held in high veneration by the good people of Newstead and its neighborhood.

We are indebted to Messrs. G. W. Winterburn & Co., for their kindness in sending us their Price List. It is very neatly gotten up and doubtless before long Messrs. G. W. Winterburn & Co., will receive a great benefit from it, not only pecuniarily, but by consoling themselves that they have furnished the public with a very valuable and interesting work. For further particulars see advertisement in THIS NUMBER.

At a church in Scotland, two candidates offered to preach whose names were Adam and Low. The latter preached in the morning, and took for his text, "Adam, where art thou?" He made an excellent discourse. In the afternoon Mr. Adam preached upon the words, "Lo! I am here." The impromptu gained the appointment.

C. S., of Chicago.—We have heard that the Government has issued a thousand dollar revenue stamp. We can hardly give it credit.

We will answer to the best of our ability inquiries concerning stamps, coins, &c. Short articles on stamps, coins, autographs, &c., will be received, and if considered worthy will be inserted in the columns of our paper.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Hereafter, payment for advertisements will be collected after SECOND INSERTION if inserted more than once. All advertisements will be continued until notice to discontinue the same is given, and payment required.

The "Numismatic and Archaeological Society" of New York propose issuing a Lincoln Medal. A committee have reported a design for it which is, however, not yet finally accepted. It is proposed that the medal shall have a diameter of some three and a quarter inches, bearing a profile bust of the late President on the obverse, surmounted by the motto, "Savior Patriæ." On the reverse, the inscription "In Memory of the Life, Acts, and Death of Abraham Lincoln. Born Feb. 12, 1809; Died April 15, 1865," encircled by a laurel wreath, with the words "By the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, New York, 1865."

ANATOMICAL DISCOVERY.—For a long time it has baffled the medical authorities to account for the force with which the waves beat against the shore, and it has recently come to light that it arises from the fact of there being "muscles" in the sea.

This is one of Saxe's latest epigrams:

"Saratoga and Newport,—you've seen 'em,"
 Said Charley, one morning to Joe,
 "Pray tell me the difference between 'em,
 For bother my wig if I know."
 "Joseph Joe," 'Tis the easiest matter
 At once to distinguish the two:
 At one, you go into the water,
 At t'other it goes into you."

A REMARKABLE COIN

Mr. C. R. Brown, a jeweler at Saratoga Springs, has a very remarkable gold coin, about the size of a half eagle for which he has been offered \$1,200. He values it at the modest sum of \$2,000. It is a remarkably fresh-looking coin, but is no doubt a genuine one of the time stated by the Rev. W. W. Eddy, missionary in Assyria, who thus describes how he became possessed of it. Mr. Brown informs us that persons interested in numismatics often come great distances to see his wonderful coin.

A coin of Phillip II. of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, who reigned about 340 years before Christ, and consequently is 2,200 years old, found in the garden adjoining Sidon, Syria, among the ruins of the ancient city. Two jars containing coins of Phillip and Alexander were found in the ground by workmen digging, and the contents divided among them. The Turkish Government claim all such treasures, and, hearing of the discovery, imprisoned the workmen until they gave up nearly all the coins. These they immediately melted up for new coinage. A Mohammedan woman who was with the workmen obtained some of the coins, and wended out the Government by her endurance of imprisonment, while denying the possession of any of the treasures. After her release, I obtained this coin with much difficulty from her, through her fear of another arrest.

W. W. EDDY,
 Missionary in Assyria."

Thirty-five tons of mail matter are daily received at the post-office in New York, and an equal amount is sent away, making 70 tons handled every 24 hours. The receipts in six months of 1865 amount to \$855,929.52.

—A package of three letters recently arrived at the Woodstock, Vermont, post-office, from Irisburg, having been over twenty-one years in traveling the one hundred miles between the two places.

Why is a loaf of bread like a chrysalis? Because, it's the grub that makes the butter fly.

The Great Western
FOREIGN STAMP DEPOT.

The cheapest and best place to buy stamps. An immense stock of UNUSED and USED Foreign Stamps at low rates.

FACILITIES UNEQUALED!

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MONTREAL, C. E.

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used and unused, which he will sell at the lowest prices. All stamps warranted genuine. His \$1 Pocket contains 50 varieties; also, his 50 cent Pocket contains 25 varieties. Send 10 cents, Canada currency, for his Descriptive Price List, (16 pages,) Post free. All prices are enfold. *Wanted to Purchase (state price) or Exchange, rare American and Es-says.* All communications to be prepaid, and will be answered per return of mail, certain. Address

AUGUS J. McINTOSH,
 Box 133½, P. O., Montreal, C. E.

A. C. KLINE'S EMPORIUM

824 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

For the collection of American and Foreign Postage Stamps, Coins, Medals, Minerals, Shells, and Curiosities of all kinds. Purchasers will find it to their advantage to call, and those having articles to dispose of will find a ready sale.

Now Ready, a New Edition of the **STAMP COLLECTOR'S MANUAL**, price 50 cts. Just issued, my **New Price List**, price 5 cts.

STATE SAVINGS INSTITUTION,

OF CHICAGO.

Incorporated in 1861.

104 and 106, Washington Street.

Deposits of 5 cents and upwards, received. Drafts on all the principal Eastern cities bought and sold. Exchange on England, Ireland, France and Germany, sold.

J. C. HAINES, Pres.

G. SCHNEIDER, Vice Pres.

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R. Mc LACHLAN,

DEALER IN

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS. Send for my Descriptive Price List, 10 cts. gold or equivalent, foreign stamp given away with each. **WANTED**, for a collection, some of the rarer American cents, and colonial and other coins. Address,

R. McLACHLAN,
 P. O. Box 86½, Montreal, Canada.

Insure with your Home Companies.

GARDEN CITY

Fire Insurance Comp'y,

OF CHICAGO.

OFFICE, 12 La Salle Street.

Considering the short time this Company has been in operation, it does as fine a business as any other in the city. Its stockholders comprise some of the finest business men of Chicago. **H. H. BROWN, Sec'y.**

J. A. NUTTER,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS

New Price List sent on receipt of stamp for postage.

J. A. NUTTER,
 Box 519, Montreal.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP,

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TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Ten cents per line for first insertion—five cents per line each additional insertion.

Ten per cent. allowed to persons sending two or more subscriptions.

All communications addressed to
HAINES & OLCOTT,
 Box 6212, Chicago.

CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. 1.

OCTOBER, 1865.

NO. 4.

NEW STAMPS.

As we know many of our readers are interested in any new stamps that may be issued, or changes made in old stamps, we take pleasure in being able to chronicle the following new issues. It is our purpose to publish hereafter, as large a list of newly issued stamps as is possible for us to obtain. We mention the following, which we believe have not been included in the columns of any of our contemporaries.

Wurtemberg has added to its present set of not very attractive stamps, a new envelope. It differs only from its predecessors in color, being of a pale green on violet-blue paper. Its value is one kreuzer, about that of the envelope on which it is printed.

The beauty of the English 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1s., as works of art (if they ever were such), has been lessened; large letter blocks having been substituted for the smaller ones before in use.

The Poland Stamp are now obsolete, and we advise all collectors who have not already procured a set of these stamps, to do so at once, for they will gradually become very rare, the mother-country, Russia, having authorized the use of its own stamps and those only, in the above named country.

There has also been issued, a very rare stamp, by Paraguay. It is printed in three colors, red, blue and green, the former color being the only one in use at present, and that only by the government. Its value is 2 reals.

The last new Essays are of Hanover, the design being the head of the King, value 2 groschen, and printed on blue, brown, green and red paper.

FROG STORY.

A short time ago, as two colliers were working coal in a pit in the neighborhood of Bach-gate, Lidlithgowshire, they were astonished, on breaking a large piece of coal, to see a living frog skip nimbly from it. The niche in which it had lived was perfectly smooth, and of the exact shape of the frog. The hind legs of the animal were at least twice as long as those of an ordinary frog, the fore legs almost gone. It is of a beautiful bronze color. It leaped briskly about the moment it was liberated from its dark abode. How many generations it may have been shut from light and air it is impossible to say: certain it is, that although diminutive in form, and with great brilliancy of eye, it is a very antediluvian-looking customer. It inspires us with a kind of fear to be brought into contact with a living being that has, in all probability, breathed the same air as Noah, or disported in the same limpid stream in which Adam bathed his sturdy limbs.—*Curiosities of Natural History.*

FIT FOR COLLEGE.

"There's where the boys fit for college," said the Professor to Mrs. Partington, pointing to a school in Bedford street. "Did they?" said the old lady, with animation; "and if they fit for college before they went, they don't fight afterwards?" "Yes," said he, smiling and favoring the deceit; "the fight was with head and not with the hands." "Ah! they butted, did they?"

☞ A toast at an Irish Society's dinner at Cincinnati: "Here's to the President of the Society, Patrick O'Raferty, and may he live to ate the hen that scratches over his grave."

An editor says the only reason his house was not blown away during the late gale was, because there was a heavy mortgage on it.

The Curiosity Shop.

CHICAGO, OCTOBER, 1865.

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS.

Several counterfeit stamps have fallen under our notice since the last issue of this paper. If we judge rightly, the circulation of these stamps is on the increase. There was a time, when counterfeit stamps were seldom, if ever, met with. Now, however, the collector is obliged to be on his guard against these intruders.

As a general thing, the stamps counterfeited are those bringing the largest price in the market.

The following points of difference have been noticed between the genuine and counterfeit stamps of Costa Rica and Liberia.

COSTA RICA.

Genuine.	Counterfeit.
1. Finely executed.	1. Poorly executed.
2. Lines in the background of centre, fine and blending.	2. Lines in the background of centre coarse and distinct.
3. All of the five stars have five projections, which are regularly executed.	3. Stars irregular. Centre star has six projections.
	4. A trifle larger than the genuine.

LIBERIA.

Genuine.	Counterfeit.
1. The lines in the background of the 6c. and 24c. stamps run parallel with the sides of the stamp, and are very fine and indistinct.	1. The lines in the background of the 6c. and 24c. stamps verge towards the centre, in which the Goddess of Liberty is represented; and the lines are very coarse and distinct.
2. The stamps are usually cancelled with blue ink and the words <i>Monrovia Liberia.</i>	2. The stamps are cancelled with black ink and the words <i>Monrovia Liberia.</i>

Postal Chit Chat.

Essays are getting so thick in England that collectors threaten to cease troubling themselves with them. The greater part of them are made to practice upon the credulity and the pockets of collectors. *Real Philatelists*, by refusing to purchase them,

show that stamp collecting is not a mere hobby, but an intelligent pursuit.

The letter F on the Cuban stamps is the contraction of a Spanish word, meaning "strong," when applied to money, as in this instance, it signifies "sterling coin."

Stamp collecting is now raging violently at Panama. A 16-page paper has been started, at the tempting price of 25 cents a number, or \$3.00 yearly.

TABLE

Showing the comparative rarity of United States cents. (N. C., none coined. Greatest rarity, 6.)

DATES.		DATES.	
1793.....	5	1830.....	2
1794.....	2	1831.....	1
1795.....	2	1832.....	1
1796.....	2	1833.....	2
1797.....	3	1834.....	1
1798.....	2	1835.....	1
1799.....	6	1836.....	1
1800.....	3	1837.....	1
1801.....	3	1838.....	1
1802.....	2	1839.....	1
1803.....	1	1840.....	2
1804.....	5	1841.....	2
1805.....	2	1842.....	2
1806.....	2	1843.....	2
1807.....	2	1844.....	1
1808.....	3	1845.....	1
1809.....	3	1846.....	1
1810.....	3	1847.....	1
1811.....	3	1847.....	2
1812.....	3	1848.....	1
1813.....	3	1849.....	1
1814.....	2	1850.....	1
1815.....	N. C.	1851.....	1
1816.....	2	1852.....	1
1817.....	1	1853.....	1
1818.....	1	1854.....	1
1819.....	1	1855.....	1
1820.....	2	1856.....	15
1821.....	2	1857.....	13
1822.....	2	1858.....	1
1823.....	3	1859.....	1
1824.....	2	1860.....	1
1825.....	2	1861.....	1
1826.....	2	1862.....	2
1827.....	1	1863.....	1
1828.....	1	1864.....	1
1829.....	1	1865.....	1

† In 1856 the nickel cent was introduced. The nickel cent of 1856 and the copper cent of 1857 are indicated respectively as 5 and 3. The copper cent of 1856, and the nickel cent of 1856 are common.—*Harper's Monthly*.

Why is a four quart measure like a side-saddle? Because, it holds a gill-on.

NOTICES.

We notice that the "Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette" has been enlarged. It has now eight pages instead of four, as formerly.

Mr. S. Allen Taylor (formerly of Albany), dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps, has removed to No. 3 Cornhill Court, Boston, Mass. Letters may be addressed to him either at his office, or to post office box, 137.

The department of coins and medals in the British Museum has acquired 2,567 samples during the past year. Of these 1,350 were Greek, including 5 specimens made of glass; 512 Roman; 474 modern of mediæval. 295 of the Roman coins are Imperial, gold, valued at £3,200. The mint of the United States has presented a two-cent piece of 1884.—*Scientific American.*

A SINGULAR LAKE.

Gold and silver mines, big trees and hot springs, are not the only wonderful things in California. We read of a singular sheet of water, called Mono Lake, which has no visible outlet, the water apparently flowing from the border to the centre, where it seems to pass down a subterranean passage. The surface is covered, as thick as glue, with a species of fly that breeds in the water, called nymphae. The Indians gather these nymphae in great abundance, and use them as an article of food in winter. But the great peculiarity of the water of the lake is, that a person suffering with corns, by wading into it, would have them loosened and eradicated! It also has the effect of removing the dirt from clothing without soap. A store-house of food, a corn extractor, and a mine of soap! Why don't they bottle up the water and send it to the Atlantic States for the benefit of suffering humanity?

GEORGE STEWART, Jr.

Has on hand an immense quantity of

Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps,

Which he is willing to dispose of at cheap prices. All orders over \$10, twenty per cent. for cash. Terms Cash. Address, post paid.

G. STEWART, Jr.

St. John, New Brunswick.

P. O. Box 87.

ANDREW D. ROBERTSON,

BOX 28 P. O.

St. John, N. B.

GENERAL DEALERS IN

BRITISH, AMERICAN, FOREIGN & COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS,

Has now on hand the following stamps, at the following prices:

Antigua 1d.—5c.; Austria, 1, 2 and 5c.; Baden, 5c.; Bahamas, 1d., carmine, 5c.; 1.1 Greece, 7c.; Barbadoes, blue, 2c.; Greece, 5c.; Bavaria, from 1 to 5c.; Belgium, old, 10c.; brown, 12c.; 2c. blue, 7c.; Belgium, present issue, 1c. green, 5c., 10c. brown, 2c.; 20c. blue, 8c.; 40c. red, 10c.; Brazil, Italian figures, 10c., 20c.; 80c. 20c., 60c. 20c.; 90c. 20c.; Large figures, 80c. 50c.; 60c. 20c.; 90c. 40c.; Buenos Ayres, 1 peso, blue, 20c.; 2 pesos, blue, 20c. Costa Rica, 1 real, blue, 20c., 1 real, red, 15c.; 2 reales, scarlet, 25c.; Ceylon, 1d., blue 7c.; 2d., green, 8c.; Denmark, 2 R. B. 8, blue, 40c.; Finland, 5 kop. 15c.; 10 kop. 15c.; 20 kop. 15c.; Grenada, 1d. green, unused, 5c. Hanover, envelope, 1 groschen, red, 5c.; Holland, 5c. blue, 2c.; 10c. red, 4c.; 15c. orange, 5c.; Indian, old, 4 annas, 20c.; Liberia, 6c. pink, 15c.; 12c. blue, 20c.; 24c. green, Luxemburg, unused, 1c., 4; 2c., 4; 4c., 4c.; Malta, 4d. buff, 2c.; Mecklenburg, each, 5c.; Modena, 9c. violet, 8c.; Natal, 1d. red, 4c.; 2d. blue, 4c.; 5d. gray, 7c.; Pacific Steamship Navigation Co., set of 9, \$4.00; Poland, envelope, 24c.; Russia, 5 kopees, violet, 5c.; 10 kopees, brown, 7c.; Spain, official, unused, one onza, 5c.; 5 onza, 6c.; 4 onza 7c.; Victoria, old, 2d, 20c.; Wurtemberg, old, (3kr., yellow, in diamond,) 5c., and a large stock of envelopes of the above countries.

His \$1.00 Packet contains 50 varieties FOREIGN and COLONIAL used and unused. His 50 cent Packet contains 25 varieties FOREIGN and COLONIAL. They contain many rare and obsolete stamps. 25 cent Packet contains 20 varieties.

A few of the OLD NEW BRUNSWICK 8d., 6d., 1s.; NOVA SCOTIA 1s., 3d., 6d., 1s.; CANADA 1d., 2., 6d., still remaining.

Does not nostro R. D. A wen ecirP, tall touj, deussai and will be mailed to any address on receipt of 5 cents and Stamps for Postage.

His stock of Stamps is very large, and he will sell cheaper than any in the trade.

Collectors and Dealers supplied on liberal terms. All orders under one dollar to be paid in unused stamps of the correspondent's country. Anything over had better be accompanied by Post Office Order, made payable to A. D. Robertson, St. John, N. B.

Dealers are requested to send their Price Lists.

Just received, a splendid lot of Poland, Finland, Russia and Moldavia, which will be sold cheap. Also,—A few Denmark and Poland Envelopes.

All Stamps sold by him are warranted genuine. The highest prices paid for the obsolete and present issues of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island Stamps.

The following stamps I am enabled to sell at a considerable less price than any other Dealer in the trade. I will warrant every one of them to be truly genuine. 15,000 mixed 1c., 2c. and 5c., New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada, used, but in good condition. 500 10c. Canada, 500 10c. Nova Scotia, 1,000 10c. New Brunswick, all used, 500 1d., 2d. and 8d., Prince Edward Island, mixed, used.

GENUINE CONFEDERATE STATES STAMP.—50 doz. 1c., 10c., blue, Davis head; 20 doz. 2c., and 12 doz. 20c. all unused. The whole lot must be sold to make room for fresh importations.

FOR SALE—One Collection of Postage Stamps, mounted in a Lallier Album, and containing 1,000 stamps, including the full sets, old issues, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Price \$80.00 in N. B. Currency.

A very good assortment of his stamps may be seen at the Bookstore of Mr. George N. Beek, King Street.

General Agent at Fredericton, Mr. H. P. Vavasour, Bookseller and Stationer, Agent at Woodstock, Mr. Stephen Smith. Agent in Chicago, Mr. William Olcott, Box 6219, P. O.

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CURIOSITY SHOP.

VOL. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1865.

NO. 5.

EARLIEST COIN.

From a reliable source we take the following:

"It was 850 years before Christ that the first money was actually coined. There is much doubt in the minds of antiquarians as to the precise spot where the custom had its origin. Herodotus ascribes it to the Lydians, but his authority is not conclusive.

"The oldest coins extant, and probably the first coins ever made, are from Ionia, in Asia Minor. Miletus, a city south of Ephesus, on the shore of the Icarian Sea, probably produced the first coined money. It was the gold stater.

"The coin was stamped on one side with a deep indentation. On the other side it has a rude picture of a lion's head. This form is characteristic of coinage for a long period. A die was evidently used, and the lump of metal placed in it, and a punch, struck with a hammer, drove the metal into the die, and left the rude work of the punch on the reverse of the coin. What induced the adoption of the lion's head as a design is left to conjecture. It is supposed by some to refer to the regal power represented by the lion, while others think that it had some connection with the worship of Cybel, the gold goddess of the Ionians."

— We clip the following from an English Stamp paper. It is too good an article to let pass:

"The collection of stamps is not so vain and puerile as it is sometimes represented. It belongs essentially

to our times, and deserves to stand beside the labors of the collector of foreign coins. With young people especially the collection of postage stamps should be encouraged, as it naturally leads to the study of geography, and the currency of foreign nations. To all who are interested in the progress of civilization the subject is of importance. It is one of the novelties of the nineteenth century, and a novelty that promises well for the future of mankind. Free communication, these postage stamps its symbol, seems to break up the isolation of nations, serves to make us accept the terms of common brotherhood, and hasten the day when the ploughshare and sickle shall supercede spear and sword. Art is not uninterested in the collection of foreign stamps. Typography, engraving, lithographing, are engaged in their design and execution. The postage stamps of a nation also throw light on the progress and condition of its people, commercially, industrially and artistically. It is therefore no idle or useless labor to collect these interesting memorials of the world's advancement."

— Some person, name unknown, with more than the common amount of genius, has given to the world a new proposition. He proposes that hereafter the coins of small denominations, as the one, two, three, four and five cent pieces, be made the same shape as the nominal they indicate. By this means they can be readily distinguished in the dark. The only objection is that they would punch holes in the pocket.

— Our friend Brown complains of the revenue law. He says he can't even put on his boots in the morning without a stamp.

The Curiosity Shop.

CHICAGO, NOVEMBER, 1865.

NEW STAMPS.

We are sorry to say that one of our cotemporaries, published earlier in the month than the *CURIOSITY SHOP*, chronicled most of the following new issues, but as many of our readers do not see that paper, we think that perhaps the following would be interesting to them.

The new issues that have fallen under our notice this month are quite wondrous and varied. Great Britain has very generously bestowed upon several of her colonies and possessions, some new, and, we should judge from the description, very pretty stamps.

Bermuda.—Bermuda has been the recipient of a new set of stamps. The design of these new stamps is the head of the Queen to the left, and the word Bermuda above and the value below in words. The shape is rectangular, and the color of the paper on which this issue is printed is white. There are three different stamps in this issue, 1d., red, 6d., black, and 1s., green.

Cape of Good Hope.—It has been the intention of the British Government; during the last year, to issue a new rectangular series of stamps for the above Colony. A few months ago one of this series made its appearance, and we hear that during the last month the other three of this set have also been issued. The first one issued was of the denomination of one shilling, and as it is by no means a common stamp with us, although it may be with our Canada and New Brunswick friends, we take the liberty of venturing to say that a description of it would not be unacceptable to all of our readers. The

respective colors and values of this series are the same as the triangular series. The name "Cape of Good Hope" is printed horizontally across the top of the stamps, and the word "Postage" with value in same sized letters at bottom. In the centre is the Goddess of Liberty seated, and a sheep feeding from her lap. Upon the left on the ground are strewed some flowers, and on her right upon the ground lays an anchor. The stamps all have the same designs, and although not as handsome as some, they form a very neat set of stamps.

Persia.—It is said that the Persian Government has issued a stamp. The design is as follows: In a circle in the centre of the stamp is a lion holding a scimeter. Just appearing over his back is the sun with rays describing a semi-circle, from a lion's ears to his tail, much resembling a jaw. In the four angles is the value in Persian characters. The rest of the stamp outside the circle is filled in with scroll work. As a whole it is very neat, and it is to be hoped that the report of its adoption is true.

Germany.—The German Diet is discussing the feasibility of adopting a uniform system of weights, measures, &c. If such a revision be made, new stamps will be necessitated in the different States.

Belgium.—By an official decree the following new stamps are to be issued in Belgium, the old stamps going out of use: One centime, gray; two centimes, blue; five centimes, brown; ten centimes, gray; twenty centimes, blue; thirty centimes, brown; forty centimes, carmine; and one franc, lilac. The date of emission for the one franc and thirty centimes was Nov. 1, 1865. The principal character on the 1, 2 and 3 centime stamps will be the Belgium arms. They will have the word "Pictes" above and the value below. Telegraph and tax stamps will also be issued.

POSTAL CHIT CHAT.

It has been stated that the first collections of postage stamps were made in the school room of a Paris tutor, who suggested that his scholars should obtain the stamps of foreign countries and place them on the blank pages of their atlases, where they would serve to assist them in their geographical studies.

— All the English colonial stamps which are sent to the colonies through the Crown Agents, are printed on paper expressly made for the purpose, and are water-marked "C. C.," (Crown Colonies.)

— We notice the following change has been made in the place of publication of the *Stamp Collector's Record*. It has until lately been published in Albany, but now since its editor, Mr. S. Allen Taylor, has changed his place of residence, the *Record* also hails from a new place.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT SEA.

Some interesting experiments have just been made at L'Orient, on board the Coligny, the object of which is to utilize the electric light at sea. By means of a submarine reflector, the water was illuminated to a great depth, so that it was possible to look down from the deck and see the fish, attracted by the light, swimming around the lamp, as if an aquarium. A kind of diving-bell, with a large glass eye in one side, and arranged to supply air to a diver, was also let down to a depth of thirty-eight fathoms. By means of this apparatus it will be easy to inspect submarine constructions, fish, coral, &c., and recover wrecked property. Signals were likewise exchanged by means of the electric light, between the Coligny and the Semaphore of Belle Isle. These different applications of the electric light were made in the presence of a military commission, by the inventor, M. Bazin, civil engineer of Angers, and were found to give satisfactory results.

ANDREW D. ROBERTSON,

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Antigua 1d.,—5c.; Austria, 1, 2 and 5c.; Baden, 5c.; Bahamas, 1d., carmine, 5c.; 1.1 Greece, 7c.; Barbadoes, blue, 2c.; Greece, 5c.; Bavaria, from 1 to 5c.; Belgium, old, 10c.; brown, 12c.; 2c. blue, 7c.; Belgium, present issue, 1c. green, 5c.; 10c. brown, 8c.; 20c. blue, 8c.; 40c. red, 10c.; Brazil, Italian figures, 10r., 20c.; 20r. 20c. 60r. 20c.; 90r. 20c.; Large figures, 80r. 60c.; 60r. 80c.; 90r. 40c.; Buenos Ayres, 1 peso, blue, 20c.; 2 pesos, blue, 20c. Costa Rica, 4 real, blue, 20c., 1 real, red, 15c.; 2 reals, scarlet, 25c.; Ceylon, 1d., blue 7c.; 2d., green, 8c.; Denmark, 2 R B 8, blue, 40c.; Finland, 5 kop. 15c.; 10 kop. 15c.; 20 kop. 15c.; Grenada, 1d. green, unused, 5c. Hanover, envelope, 1 groschen, rose, 5c.; Holland, 5c. blue, 8c.; 10c. red, 4c.; 15c. orange, 5c.; Indian, old, 4 annas, 20c.; Liberia, 6c. pink, 15c.; 12c. blue, 20c.; 24c. green, Luxemburg, unused, 1c., 2c., 4c., 4c., Malta, 1d. buff, 2c.; Mecklenburg, jach. 5c.; Modena, 9c. violet, 8c.; Natal, 1d. red, 4c.; 3d. blue, 4c.; 6d. gray, 7c.; Pacific Steamship Navigation Co., set of 2, \$4.00; Poland, envelope, 24s.; Russia, 5 kopees, violet, 5c.; 10 kopees, brown, 7c.; Spala, official, unused, one onza, 5s.; 2 onza, 6c.; 4 onza 7c.; Victoria, old, 2d., 20c.; Wurtemberg, old, (Skr., yellow, in diamond,) 5c.; and a large stock of envelopes of the above countries.

His \$1.00 Packet contains 60 varieties FOREIGN and COLONIAL used and unused. His 50 cent Packet contains 25 varieties FOREIGN and COLONIAL. They contain many rare and obsolete stamps. 25 cent Packet contains 20 varieties.

A few of the OLD NEW BRUNSWICK 8d., 6d., 1s.; NOVA SCOTIA 1d., 8d., 6d., 1s.; CANADA 1d., 2c., 5c., still remaining.

His stock of Stamps is very large, and he will sell cheaper than any in the trade.

COLLECTORS AND DEALERS supplied on liberal terms. All orders under one dollar to be paid in unused stamps of the correspondent's country. Anything over had better be accompanied by Post Office Order, made payable to A. D. Robertson, St. John, N. B.

Dealers are requested to send their Price Lists.

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All Stamps sold by him are warranted genuine. The highest prices paid for the obsolete and present issues of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island Stamps.

The following Stamps I am enabled to sell at a considerable less price than any other Dealer in the trade. I will warrant every one of them to be truly genuine. 15,000 mixed 1c., 2c. and 5c., New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada, used, but in good condition. 500 10c. Canada, 500 10c. Nova Scotia, 1,000 10c. New Brunswick, all used, 500 1d., 2d. and 3d., Prince Edward Island, mixed, used.

GENUINE CONFEDERATE STATES STAMP.—50 doz. 1c., 10c., blue, 1 1/2 doz. head; 20 doz. 2c., and 12 doz. 20c. all unused. The whole lot must be sold to make room for fresh importations.

FOR SALE—One Collection of Postage Stamps, mounted in a Lallier Album, and containing 1,000 stamps, including the full sets, old issue, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Price \$80.00 in N. B. Currency.

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 Box 519, Montreal.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP,

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—Twenty-five cents for one volume, or six successive numbers.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Ten cents per line for first insertion—five cents per line each additional insertion.

Ten per cent. allowed to persons sending two or more subscriptions.

All communications addressed to
HAINES & OLCOTT,
 Box 6212, Chicago.

CURIOSITY SHOP. No. 6

VOL. 1.

DECEMBER, 1865.

NO. 6.

DREADFUL.

We regret to say that a very serious calamity has befallen one of our brother editors. He has so totally lost all command of his thoughts and his visionary powers, that he is unable at present to see or in any way discover, for what object the Curiosity Shop is published. In the last number of the Stamp Collector's Record appeared the following attempt at wit and sarcasm:

"THE CURIOSITY SHOP.—The original object of this delectable production has always been to us rather vague and indefinite. The trouble appeared to be the besetting sin of its paternal ancestor the *Gazette*, that is to say, it undertook to deal with subjects whereof its knowledge was delightfully little and withal was addicted to piracy and grammatical metamorphosis, 'Like master, like man.'"

After having been terribly beaten in a controversy with the *Gazette*, the *Record*, which like an ill-natured dog, who could not live without a quarrel, now attempts to draw us into a battle on paper, by a short growl in its last number, but we do not intend to lower ourselves by getting into a quarrel with one who does nothing but fill his columns with attacks on other papers, but just to answer or deny what was said in the last number of the *Record*. Mr. Allen asks "the object of this delectable production." Our answer is, the support of the beneficial and interesting occupation of stamp, coin and curiosity collecting. Next, he says "the trouble appeared to be the besetting sins of its paternal ancestor the *Gazette*." We know of but one "sin" in which we have followed the example of the *Gazette*, and that is "having anything to do with the *Record*," which although not strictly a "sin" is one of the poorest things with which we could fill our columns. Next, he says, "it undertook to deal with a subject whereof its knowledge was delightfully little." As he speaks of our knowledge of a certain subject being so "delightfully little," we suppose that we are at liberty to think that he was pleased with it. Our paper was never intended to be strictly a stamp

paper and therefore we have never had much to say upon this subject, but had we enlarged upon this subject, we doubt but what our knowledge would have been too vast for Mr. Allen's comprehension, as a subject must be "delightfully little" to be fully understood by his contracted mind. As he seems to think our Timbrophilic knowledge very small, perhaps he can enlighten us upon this subject, as yet we have never seen anything so remarkably brilliant in any of his short "quotations." He next accuses us of being "addicted to piracy and grammatical metamorphosis." We acknowledge that we may have in some instances quoted facts regarding stamps or other curiosities, which would not have been likely to have fallen under the eyes of many of our readers had we not done so, but we hope Mr. Allen is not alarmed lest we should plunder from him some of his very interesting and valuable matter, but he need not be at all troubled for we look to higher sources for information when we need it.

In return for the delightful and highly instructive Timbrophilic information, we expect before long, we would gently remind him that in future attacks it would be at least well for him to be positive his orthography was correct.

— BENEVOLENT.—Down East there resides a certain M. D. One very cold night, he was roused from his slumbers by a very loud knocking at the door. After some hesitation, he went to the window and asked,

"Who's there?"

"A friend."

"What do you want?"

"To stay here all night."

"Well, stay there, then," was the benevolent reply.

— VALUABLE.—Common sense (cents).

The Curiosity Shop.

CHICAGO, DECEMBER, 1865.

TO OUR READERS.

With this number the first volume of the *CURIOSITY SHOP* is completed. Six months ago it made its appearance, a perfect stranger to all the world. Through the aid of kind friends it gradually found its way among the curiosity seekers until its fame passed the expectation of its editors.

The object of this paper has been to aid and encourage the collection of stamps and coins. The editors have attempted to fill its columns with such matter as would be of interest to its readers. They may not have always succeeded, but hope that if such has been the case they will be excused; for, as those that have had experience can testify, suitable matter can not always be obtained.

When this paper was first designed there were but few stamp periodicals issued on this side of the Atlantic. Since that time, however, others have sprung up, until now America can boast of no small number of stamp periodicals.

Among all of them it has been found hard to keep the paper in the place it was designed to occupy, (for at the time of its publication nothing had presented itself better than the "*Coin and Stamp Journal*," now defunct). Moreover, stamps and coins have little charm for western people.

With these considerations in view the editors have concluded to close the "*SHOP*." They will, however, still have an interest in the collection of stamps and coins. Before closing let them express their thanks to its many friends for their patronage, also, to those publications who have noticed it so kindly.

NEW STAMPS.

The new issues for this month are neither very numerous nor important. We mention those which we consider worthy of notice, and omit all others.

Brunswick.—We hear that one of the new issue of stamps for this Duchy, has appeared in England. It is rectangular in shape, and its value is $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen. The design is very similar to that of the former issue, being a horse prancing under a crown within an upright oval, above the oval is the word "Braunschweig," below the word "Groschen" and at side the figure indicating the value.

French Colonies.—According to a late French magazine, we are soon to expect two new stamps for the French Colonies. They are of the same design as the former issue, and their values are 20 and 30 centimes. The colors are the same as those of the Mother country, the 20 centimes being blue, and the 30 centimes, carmine.

France.—We hear that two new stamps are to be issued by this country. Their values are 20 and 40 francs, and are to be used for *heavy* letters. We should think it would require a very heavy letter as 40 francs is equal to about eight dollars in gold.

We hear that the 6d stamp of the new rectangular series for Cape of Good Hope has reached England, and we hope soon to see them in America. There is also a rumor that there is to be an entire new issue of stamps for Thurn and Taxis.

Stamps. Stamps. Stamps.

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GENUINE CONFEDERATE STATES STAMP.—20 doz. 1c., 10c., blue, D. A. W. head; 20 doz. 2c., and 12 doz. 20c. all unused. The whole lot must be sold to make room for fresh importations.

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The \$1.00 packet of rare, used and unused stamps, contains 40 different varieties, including, new Turkish, Cape of Good Hope, old dated Spanish, Hong Kong, Tasoany, Russia, (new issue,) Greece, Hanburgh, South Australia, Hanover, (envelope,) old Prussian envelope, Sweden, Victoria, and many other rare and obsolete stamps.

The \$2.00 packet contains 60 used and unused varieties, as above, together with Modena, New Zealand, old Sweden, and other rare and obsolete stamps.

Either of above packets forwarded on receipt of the amount.

My new list, embracing the price and description, of many hundred varieties, and PRICED IN AMERICAN CURRENCY, sent free on application. LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO THE TRADE.

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