



THE

SPECTATOR.

LITTLE

VOL. 1. MT. PLEASANT, IOWA. OCT. 1878. NO. 1

WRITTEN FOR THE SPECTATOR. THE WEAVER.

BY F. H. WORTH.

As I sit to night, in my lonely room,
A shade of sadness and something of gloom,
Seems over my spirits and over my loom,
To be silently, quietly, creeping.

As the shuttle flies swiftly too, and fro,
The evening shades are deepening so,
That all is dark and dreary below,
But above, the stars are shining:

And far away in the distant blue,
I seem to see those stars anew,
Like the crystal drop, of pearly dew,
With pure clear light are beaming.

And as I am weaving day by day,
The brightest colors around me play,
And unseen visitors seem to say,
"The lives of men we are weaving."

And then it seems, that unseen powers
That around me play, in these sad hours,
Are threads in the web of life and hours,
Are but straw, in the web thus weaving.

Oh! may we strive each day to find,
The thought of purest truth combined
With actions of a noble mind
Within our life web blending.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Kind Heart.

BY F. H. WORTH.

There's music in the human voice,
There's kindness in the heart;
It makes the weary ones rejoice,
And gladness doth impart.

FRANZ, the young musician, sat sobbing

by the roadside. He had not earned one penny all the long, long day; and now to crown his misfortunes, one of the strings of his violin had snapped, leaving him hopeless of success in his calling for a long time to come.

"Oh what shall I do?" he cried "The peasants will not stay their dancing, because the fiddle can not play; the children must have music to beguile them; some other person they will find to take my place and I shall die of want! woe is me!

While the words of complaint were yet on his lips, he was accosted by a withered old crone, who was bent nearly double by age and was besides, a hunchback: she was a most loathsome looking creature; and Franz would have turned away in disgust, but her pleading words and plaintive voice moved his heart to pity.

"You are wretched," she said, "but how much more miserable am I. Ah kind master open your purse, for I am starving.

"Would that I could" cried the lad "I have neither purse nor money to put in it." "Is it so indeed?" the hag answered, disparagingly, "perhaps you have a crust of bread about you that would appease hunger?"

"Alas, none!" Then the beggar fell to groaning, and wailing at such a rate that Franz could hear it no longer. "Here!" he cried, seizing his beloved violin. "It is my best and my all that I offer: take it—for I can not bear to see you suffer.

It was growing dark; but as the crone reached forth her hand a glow as of surprise came between her and Franz, and in the strange light it seemed to the lad that her form straightened and became beautiful and her wrinkled face became lovely.

"Well done my good child!" she said in a fine, musical voice; "your unselfish charity shall not go unrewarded." Franz remembered nothing more; and when he awoke the next morning, in the same place by the roadside, he was certain he had been dreaming.

He arose to look for his violin—rubbed his eyes—looked again, not it but a fine new and beautiful violin, and beside it a purse of gold, with "KIND HEART" embroidered in its silken meshes.

Franz took the money to his mother, showed her his new violin and told of his adventures. She raised her hands and eyes in grateful wonder, and said, "It was some good fairy, in disguise; pray heaven you may be worthy of her gifts!" whether this was true or not, whether she was a fairy, or some kind friend who took this disguise to help him the lad never knew; but certain it is, with the music of his new violin he made his way to "fame and fortune," and never in his most exhausted moments of success failed to deserve the name of **KIND HEARTED.**

PHILATELY.

Under this heading will be given each month, the description of all recently issued stamps as they appear. Stamp items, a piece now and then from the pen of some well known Philatelic writer and in addition to this, a great deal of general information relating to stamps. We will also answer any questions pertaining to stamps, that subscribers may wish to ask

Philately, or the loving of stamps, which in the last few years has been the rage among French, English, Canadian and American boys, is said to have originated in Paris France. This is the story.

A French Professor who finding the understanding of several of his pupils in Geography unusually obtuse, thought of this happy plan. He presented to each dull pupil a blank book containing stamps from most every country in the world, neatly arranged on separate pages. How he obtained possession of these stamps is not known. The youthful mind seized with avidity this novel plan, and before many months all Paris was crazy over it. The fever passed over to England thence to America and it is said that in the U. S. alone, there are over 250,000 collectors of stamps at the present time. [Sel.]

Collectors should note the valuable stamp prizes which we offer in our Word Hunt.

For the benefit of our Philatelic subscribers we will give a brief review of all the Philatelic papers with which we exchange.

We hope by placing a Stamp Department in our paper, to please and benefit our Philatelic friends and induce many to subscribe.

We have so much other matter to insert this issue that we cannot spare any more room for this Department but will promise a large one next month.

We do not give a list of New Issues this month on account of not having enough space. But we will probably issue a supplement next month devoted entirely to stamps in which will appear all recent issues up to date.

The U. S. of America has issued more stamps either postage or revenue, than any other country in the World.



The Little Spectator.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
STOUGH & TAYLOR.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 15 CTS. PER ANNUM,
10 CTS FOR 6 MOS.

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THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Stough and Taylor, Printers.

VOL. 1.—OCTOBER, 1878.—No. 1

SALUTATORY.

It is an almost universal custom to insert in the initial number of any publication, a long winded and proxy salutatory, or what's worse, a substitute in the form of a literary attempt; But we, not choosing to follow in the old and beaten ruts, will state our prospectus and plan, and how we shall execute them with your aid, in as few words as possible

We shall endeavor to present to our readers each month, as creditable a piece of Poetry, and as meritorious a literary sketch as Amateurs talented Authors can produce.

Our Editorials will be of an entirely different character from the majority of Amateur papers. Instead of filling our valuable space with political squabbles, personal feuds and uninteresting amateur topics, we will place before our readers interesting editori-

als, engaging stories, sketches, etc. and Amateur notes of a nature that would interest every body.

Our typographical appearance this month is not perfect, but our second number will be, without doubt, greatly improved in this respect.

We will try to have each number of our paper excel its predecessor in every respect, and will do all that is in our power to make it an honor to Amateurdome, an honor to its proprietors and a true exemplification of the "SPECTATOR" of long ago.

In short we intend to publish a first class paper, and we feel confident that you would be fully repaid, if you should see fit to subscribe.

Walter Oakley, the well known amateur of Memphis, was one of the hundreds of victims of that accursed scourge yellow fever. He was an intelligent and respected young gentleman, and one of the leading amateurs of Memphis. He was well known as the publisher of Our Herald, and printer of Leisure Moments. We hope he is the only member of the fraternity that has died.

The Amateurs of Iowa seem to be very enterprising and successful with their respective publications, there being none of the microscopic class of papers in the state. What we need now is an Association, which would add strength, dignity and new vigor to our miniature journalism.

Brick Pomeroy, in his famous Democrat pays a handsome compliment to the recent Chicago conventions, and makes the revelation that twenty four years ago he was a "poverty scarred amateur editor."

The Hawkeye Boy is now over one year old, and comes out for September enlarged and improved. It is now one of Iowa's best.

WORD HUNT.

The following prizes are offered for the largest lists of words made from the word
ANONYMOUS.

For the longest list a 1.50 book, in splendid condition, called Boarding School Days; or a Dacca 1 anna stamp 1868 cat. price .50

For 2nd longest list, 50 fine visiting cards printed in gold with address; or a Cashmere stamp 3 pies black: cat. price 25 cts.

For 3d longest 35 amateur papers, all different; or a Nicaragua 5ct stamp: cat price .15

CONDITIONS.

All lists must be in by Oct 10th.

No letter can be used unless, nor oftener than it occurs in the Prize Word.

Abbreviations, and Proper names not allowed; only words found in an English Dictionary can be used.

Subscribers only can compete; but subscriptions may be sent with lists.

These valuable prizes will be awarded fairly and impartially, and we hope to receive a large number of lists. Names of winners will appear in our next number.

ADVERTISING RATES.

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Above bargains are open until the 1st. of NOVEMBER.

—o—
Collections, Lots and Single Stamps Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

Sheets of stamps sent to responsible parties who can furnish satisfactory recommendations. We make a specialty of this department and would like to have agents in every city and town in the U. S. & Canada.

75 cts per 100 paid in exchange for Match and Medicine stamps on pink paper; 50 cts. for those on white. The highest market price paid for all other kinds of U. S. & Foreign Postage & Revenue stamps.

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MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

80 Finely printed visiting cards sent postpaid for only 15 cts. The pack consists of Snowflake, Morning Glory, Repp, Italian Stone, Oriental and various other styles.



THE SPECTATOR. LITTLE

VOL. 1.

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA, NOV. 1878.

NO. 2.

THE MADMAN.

BY UNKNOWN.

I'VE done it—my name is on the book and, hurrah, I am to be a passenger on the ship Marie, the good, strong ship, which is so new and so bright, and so able to withstand the tempest. Maybe she is, ha! ha! but she can't be saved if I'm on board, no, no! They little knew who I was when I took up the pen, and signed my name, and paid my passage money. They didn't know the truth, I pulled my hat down, and hid the triumphant—maniacal gleam which shot from my eyes, and twinkled in them and then ran over my face in a joyful smile.

How gleefully I guided my pen—THEY did not know I was signing the ships doom, they didn't know that the money they took from me was paying for the vessel's destruction, ha! ha! now cunning I am!

We are preparing to start, and soon the dark, deep blue sea will be all around us. The sea which is to swallow us up, and play with us, and torture us, and then sink our bodies deep down. But I will not die, no, no! I will go down and live with the mermaids, and pay court to the fishes. Now they are casting off the last hawser, the only thing which binds them to earth.

Touch it, ye doomed ones, touch it! because you'll never see land, nor it nor its strands again. Touch it, touch it, take your last touch of things earthly. There it is gone, it falls with a splash into the water, and is hauled ashore, and we, the men who are going with me to the bottom of the bottom

of the sea. See how quickly and cheerfully they work, hauling ropes, and unfurling sails, and drawing up the anchor; they don't know that the ship is going to her doom, and will take them with her. If they knew that I was standing here gloating over the great deed, and chuckling at my cunningness, they would tear me to pieces, with rage. But they shan't know now—no! not until we're going down, down, and THEN. I'll tell them, ha! ha! that I did it.

Now we have left the land, and only the dark, deep, sea stretches about us. Even the sea birds, with their screaming voices, have left us, and I am alone with the ship and men—the vessel and crew that I shall carry with me to the bottom of the sea.

If they only knew what I am doing down here in the hold, they would not walk the deck so lightly, nor go about their work so cheerfully, nor eat their food so heartily.

But they don't know, and they must not yet—wait 'till the waves are beating us down down, and the storm rages around us, THEN I'll tell them, ha! ha! that I did it. But I'll tell you—here, stoop down and look. See four large holes, and all nicely stopped with wood. But it's not firm, it's not firm and when the waves beat rapidly against us they'll force themselves in and go into the cabins and the hold and grasp us tighter and then carry the ship that they say is so staunch and strong and bright, down down, down, ha! ha! and I did it, I did it.

The looked and longed for moment has arrived. The storm rages fiercely about and

over us. The waves rise up like mountains, and dash down upon us; the lightning flashes brightly and constantly, showing forth plainly the pale, frightened faces which dart hither and thither over the deck. The thunder growls loudly with its mighty voice, but seems to be laughing with me at the ship going down, and carrying its crew with it, among the fishes, and corals, and shells.

I am expecting every moment to feel the deck sink under my feet—ha! the wild waves have entered into the vessel!—she sinks slowly, yet surely. Ha, ha, ho, ho, see how hard they work at their puny pumps, trying to overcome the enemy. Work, work, ye doomed men, work 'till your muscles stand out with the strain—till you fall down exhausted.

How fast the ship sinks—what frightened countenances the men carry—see how the captain hurries around and gives his orders. Too late, too late! ye doomed men! E'en now the wild waves lap my feet—the ship sinks lower and lower—higher and higher comes the sparkling water.

It is all over, ha! ha! and we are struggling in the water; struggle, struggle, ye captain—struggle, ye crew, for your ship is gone, and you must die. Struggle with the waves, wrestle with their long arms, fight for your lives. As for me, with what glee I watch the disappearing, vanquished forms. But the water is fighting me, too; the waves dash high up, and topple on me in all their force; anon they pick me up and pitch me farther from the spot where the ship went down. Back, ye assailants—away from me who would contest with the ruler—away, I say. But they heed me, not,—into my ears, my nose, my mouth they come and cry like a thousand demons. I'm sinking—ah-ah! but I'm up again battling with all my will. But again they overcome me with their strong arms. My God! must I die too? help! help! but they laugh at me with glee, and continue to force me down down. Help! help! the relentless thunder hurled back my cry with taunting sounds, and the lightning flashes down in derision. Help help I'm strangling; I'm drowning — LITERARY WORLD.

SELECT HUMOR.

—||o||—

A HARD case—-a printers case.

A MAN arrested for striking his wife, Mary, admitted that Mary had a little lam.

WHY does a balky horse resemble the capital of Turkey? Because he is constant in no pull.

Cæsar conquered the World, but he could not hit a fly on his nose three times in ten any more than the rest of us.

"I CAME off with flying colors" as the painter said when he fell from a ladder with a bucket of paint in his hand.

A SUNDAY-SCHOOL boy, upon being asked what made the Tower of Pisa lean, replied, "Because of the famine in the land."

"PETER" said a mother to her son, "are you into those sweet-meats again?" Astonished youngster, "Oh, ah, no mam; them sweet-meats is into me!

THE English language is inadequate to express the forlorn feelings of the boy who thinks he has stolen a dime novel and finds it to be a cook book.

She testified before the magistrate that "dot pilly gotes shoost vas a—a—vell, I vas vashing py some clodings of a big tub und dem gotes coome up behind und—vell shudge, I don't ken told you how dot vas. I feel me someding pehind my pack und shump over der tub und sthand me on my head up mit dot tub's bottom up, und der clodings sphilt shoost like me, und dem gotes vink at me mit von eyes und vag his tails, und vaks out py his pehind legs like a man; und I can't sit me down cood anymore already.

"Cultivate, then, sober and industrious habits; acquire the art of putting a little aside every day for future necessities; avoid all unnecessary and foolish habits."

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THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Stough and Taylor, Printers.

VOL. 1.—NOVEMBER 1878.—No. 2.

CIRCULATION 400.

Owing to circumstances over which we have no control, the Stamp Department and Prize Word Hunt were unavoidably crowded out this month: but our next number will make its appearance in the form of a six page publication, and if we receive enough support to justify our so doing, we will maintain this in the future, that signifies until our next enlargement.

We would be pleased to receive the subscriptions of all of our fellow students, thus aiding us in making our venture a success. We think every one would feel fully repaid if they should see fit to subscribe, and no one would regret investing so small an amount.

If we receive a sufficient number of subscribers, we will devote a column or more to their special entertainment.

In order to increase our circulation among philatelists, we will give each new subscriber (this month) a rare stamp worth 10 cts. And to any person sending us 3 subscribers and 45 cts., the subscription price we will present a fine rare stamp worth 25 cts.

The year 1878 seems to be the most eventful period of Amateurdome's existence. The disgraceful postal outrage by the Government, which caused the destruction of a large number of journals, but from which no first class paper had any cause for alarm. The thunder of the great political contests of the

three associations that convened at Chicago. The hotly contested elections, the remodeling of the National, the creation of special Official Organ for that association, and the formation of an Iowa association are a few of the achievements of '78.

At last an Iowa Amateur Press Association is in process of organization, and we hope it will be a power in amateur politics and an instrument of good to the fraternity. It is to convene at Cedar Rapids, Dec. 27, when a rousing good time may be expected. The SPECTATOR will be represented, as one or both of the firm will doubtless be present.

ADVERTISERS!

We intend issuing an immense edition of No. 3 of the SPECTATOR for distribution in the Public Schools and throughout the City. Advertisers should take advantage of this golden opportunity, and send in their ads. immediately, for insertion at the usual rates.

Our next No. will be our best effort. Although this is a great improvement upon No. 1, yet we will try to have our next No. excel all its predecessors, both in typography and contents. Six large pages. YOU should subscribe, that you may obtain it

KEEP every copy of the SPECTATOR, and at the end of a year you will have about fifty pages of excellent amateur literature worthy of binding.

EVERY-BODY who sees a copy of this paper is earnestly requested to SUBSCRIBE

—†††—

OUR PHONOGRAPH.

THE PHOENIX is without doubt one of the best amateur publications extant. Contents, printing, size, all agree with our editorial taste. Long may it flourish.

THE Stamp Collectors Review is the best and jolliest paper of its kind our critical optics have scrutinized for some time. Hope you will make your fortune out of it Bro. Rasmussen.

THE Fiery Comet came hissing and roaring into our sanctum the other day. No body seriously injured. Do it some more.

WE are sorry to learn that our near neighbor, the Amateur Iowan, is soon to suspend. Its contents, as a general thing, are unequalled by any paper in Iowa.

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NOTICE.

We have the following volumes of Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly for sale. First Vol. has all Nos. between 486 and 512, the second Vol. has all numbers between 512 and 538. There are 26 papers or about 40 pages in each book. Both are in good condition, the first one having a flexible cover. Price 55 cts, each.

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It contains each month, Choice Poetry, Good Stories, Editorials, Literary Review, Editorial Items, Military Matters, Amateur Topics, Puns, Humor, Our Prize Offers, Amateur Printers' Prizes, Reliable Advertisements and interesting reading matter generally. It is the BEST Amateur advertising medium in the WEST, and is a favorite with advertisers. Rates 15 cts. per inch. Subscription price, only 10 cts. for SIX Months. Those who send us three subscribers will receive the BOY free. Agents wanted everywhere at 25 per ct. commission. Speciman copies sent for 3ct. stamp.

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Iowa.



THE

SPECTATOR.

LITTLE

"INDEPENDENCE."

VOL. 1.

DECEMBER, 1878.

NO. 3.

WRITTEN FOR THE SPECTATOR.

THE VOYAGE OF LIFE.

BY F. H. WORTH.

The voyage of life, is on a beautiful stream,
Where the oars dip with a golden gleam;
When a voyager starts, full of innocent glee,
A more happy sight, you would scarce 'ere see.

Now behold him again, when a frolicsome boy.

His boat glides more swiftly, his prospects are joy;

His way to honor and fame is bright,
He is joyous and gay, and his heart is light.

Not a care in his heart, not a shade on his brow,

He is blithe and free, full of happiness now,
For he sees not the rocks, nor hears he the roar.

Of the falls he is nearing where the blue waters pour.

Behold him again as advancing in life;
Earnestly working, engaging in strife;
Carefully guiding his craft as it sails,
Holding the helm, and stemming the gails.

Rocks appear in the distance, the cataracts roar;

The tide is increasing, he pulls for the shore;
But not 'tis too late! the stream speeds away,
Where the cataracts roar, to that dense cloud of spray.

Once more behold the voyagers bark,
As we list'n for music and pleasure; but hark!
There is naught but the voice of a pleading old man,
As his shattered bark he steers for the strand

And see! above him a bright cloud rolls,
And his face lights up, for there he beholds,
The angels to bear him from care and from strife,

For lo! he has ended the Voyage of Life.

THAT SERVANT GIRL.

Mary Ann was a hired girl.

She was called hired, chiefly because she always objected to having her wages lowered.

Mary Ann was of foreign extraction, she said she was descended from a line of kings. But nobody ever saw her descend, although they admitted that there must have been a great descent from a king to Mary Ann.

And Mary Ann never had a father and mother. As far as could be ascertained she was spontaneously born in an intelligence office.

It was called an intelligence office because there was no intelligence about it, excepting an intelligent way they have of chisseling you out of two dollar bills.

The early youth of Mary Ann was passed in advertising for a place, and sitting on a hard bench, dressed in a bonnet and a speckled shawl and three ply carpeting, sucking the end of a parassol.

Her nose began well and had evidently been conceived in an artistic spirit; but there seemed not to have been stuff enough as it was left unfinished and knocked upwards at the end.

She said she would never live any where they didn't have Brussels carpet in the kitchen, and a family that would take her to the sea shore in the summer. And as she knew absolutely nothing, she said she must have five dollars a week as a slight compensation for having taken the trouble to learn.

Mary Ann was eccentric; and she would often boil her stockings in the tea kettle and wipe the dishes with her calico frock.

Her brother was a brick-layer, and he used to send her letters sealed up with a dab of mortar, and it was thus perhaps she conceived the idea that hair was a good thing to mix in to hold things together, and so she always introduced some of her own into the biscuits.

But Mary Ann was fond—yes passionately fond of work—so much did she love it that she dilly dallied with it, and seemed to hate to get it done. She was often very much absorbed in her work. In fact she was an absorbing person, and many other things were absorbed besides Mary Ann.

Butter, beef and eggs were all absorbed and nobody ever knew where they went to.

And whenever Mary Ann had to make boned turkey, she used to bone the turkey so effectually that nobody could tell what had become of it.

And if she so much as laid her little finger on a saucer, that identical saucer would immediately fall to the floor and be shattered to atoms,

But Mary Ann would merely say that if the attraction of gravitation was very powerful in that spot she was not to blame for it, for she had no control over the laws of nature.

Uncles seemed to have been one of Mary Ann's weaknesses; for she had some twenty or thirty cousins, all males who came to see her every night, and there was a mysterious and inexplicable connection with their visits and the condition of the pantry, which nobody could explain. There was something shadowy and obscure about it for whenever Mary's cousins came, there was always a fading away in the sugar box, and low tide in the flour barrel. It was strange, but true.

Mary Ann was troubled with a sense of mind, but this was not as strange as her absence of body, for her Sunday out comes twice a week, and sometimes three times a week.

But she always went to church she said and she thought it was right to neglect her work for her faith, for she believed that faith was better than work.

But if the beginning of Mary Ann was strange, how extraordinary was her ending.

She never died—Mary Ann was not one of your perishable kind. But she suddenly disappeared. One day she was full of life and spirits and hope and cooking wine, and the next day she wasn't, and the place that once knew her, knew her no more.

Where she went to, how she went, and by what means she went no one could tell; but it was regarded as a singular coincidence that eight napkins, a soup-ladle and a lot of valuable green backs melted away at the same time, and it is supposed that the person who stole Mary Ann away must have captured these also.

BOOK REVIEW.

THANKS to the kindness of J. A. Burgess for a copy of his neat Imperial Stamp Directory. It is not as large as some we have seen, but that does not lower it in our estimation, as it contains more, for its size than any other directory which we have yet examined. It is filled with the addresses of numerous dealers, collectors and stamp publications in the U. S., Canada and foreign countries. At the low price of 10 cts. it should be in the hands of every dealer and collector in the country. It can be had by addressing the pub., at 116 Parliament St., Toronto, Ont. Canada.

Book publishers will do well to send us copies of their works immediately for review in the Christmas number.

AUTHORS! Send in your best productions immediately for consideration. None but the best need be sent

PRIZE WORD HUNT.

FOR the four largest lists of words made from the word

OLDENBURG,

we will give the following valuable prizes:
1st. TWO VERY rare foreign postage stamps one worth 50 cts., and the other worth 25 cts.. Or a very interesting \$1.50 book entitled Boarding School Days.

2nd. A scarce foreign postage stamp worth 50 cts.; or 100 fine mixed visiting cards with name and address neatly printed in gold.

3d. A good foreign postage stamp worth 25 cts.; or 30 amateur papers.

4th. A foreign stamp worth 15 cts.; or 25 finely printed visiting cards, or an amateur book.

CONDITIONS.

These prizes will be awarded only to subscribers, but subscriptions may be sent with lists. All lists must be in by Dec. 27th. No letter is to be used oftener than, or unless it occurs in the prize word. Only words contained in the standard dictionaries allowed.

We make some surprisingly liberal offers in our Prize Word Hunt, and we hope that all who are so fortunate as to see a copy of the present number, will embrace this opportunity for obtaining some of these valuable prizes.

Stamp Department.

We take pleasure in assuring our readers that this Department will hereafter be a feature of the Spectator, wherein we shall excel our many, valued contemporaries.

We shall aim to give the latest information relating to Newly Issued Stamps and also any gossip that will be of interest to Stamp Collectors.

In a word, we intend to make the Department of such interest to Philatelists that the Little Spectator will be indispensable to them.

Newly Issued Stamps.

BRAZIL. The 300 reis green and yellow, prepared several years ago, has only just made its appearance.

BELGIUM. Postal cards, without border.

British Honduras. 4c, 1860, surcharged, "official".

China. has at last issued postage stamps. The set will undoubtedly be composed of eight values, of which only two have at present been issued, viz. 3 cand. red and 5 cand. yellow. No further description is necessary than to say that they are an exact fac simile of the first issue of Shanghai.

Cuba. Large quantities of the 10c green, 1877, will soon be thrown on the market.

Great Britain. It is scarcely in keeping with the present state of affairs in this country for the P. O. authorities to issue such expensive novelties as a 10 shilling and 1 pound sterling Postage Stamp. At least, they have not consulted the wishes of the poor Philatelist in doing so.

New Zealand. 2 sh. rose and 5 sh. grey.

Nicaragua. Postal Cards, 2 ct. brown on buff.

Orange States. 4 pence, blue, same design as regular issue.

Persia. A 2 shahi, blue, has been added to the set.

Switzerland. The set of unpaid letter stamps is now considered complete, consisting of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 500 centimes.

Transvaal. Surcharge 3 pence lilac.

Local Stamps.

The demand for these specimens has not decreased in the least. It certainly is not on account of their beauty, or because Philatelists wish to increase their collections with genuine stamps, that they continue to figure so largely in the dealer's sales.

The history of their birth will not dull the fame of the speculative Yankee, nor ruin his reputation for abominable taste. But why lament over what our ancestors have done, but rather spend our time discussing the wonderful progress that has been made since the b'hoys first chose stamps as a subject of midnight orgies.

We have sufficient proof that the enthusiasm of our leading and honest(?) philatelist is not a pretence nor a hypocrisy, but such an earnest effort to make a dollar, that it will even excite the admiration of a victim.

The latest thing we have heard of, is a bogus 5 ct. St. Louis local, beautifully done on steel; this can be attributed to the ingenuity of honest(?) New York dealers, of whom the best are ever ready to sell a high priced bogus local if they can only get the least hint that it is going to be "kept in".

TO BE CONTINUED.

Why EVERY Philatelist should Subscribe for the LITTLE SPECTATOR.

STAMP collectors, above all others, should subscribe to our paper, for the following reasons: 1st. Every person who subscribes for one year, before our next issue, will receive a premium of a rare stamp, the catalogue price of which is 25 cts.

(A 3 ct. stamp extra must be enclosed for return postage.)

2nd. By subscribing to our paper you will be advised of the Newly Issued Stamps as they put into circulation by their respective countries, and a brief description will be given of each.

3rd. Each number will contain one or more pieces on Stamps written by some well known author.

A Grand Prize Word Hunt will appear in each and every number, in which will be from 2.00 to 5.00 worth of stamps each mo. Why can't YOU win the largest prize? are you not as smart as the person who receives them? certainly you are, all it requires, is a little brain work, to get a stamp worth \$0.50 \$0.75 or \$1.00. Think of it!

5th. Besides the four great advantages enumerated above, you receive 4 pages of choice reading matter, such as Poetry, Stories Editorials, &c., &c..

Any one of the above inducements is, alone

worth the sub. price, (15 cents per year) and taking the entire combination, in what paper in the World do you find such another for the same price.

OUR PHONOGRAPH.

HEREAFTER we intend devoting this column to the improvement of amateur journalism. And, to successfully accomplish this purpose, we will impartially and fearlessly criticize all the important errors in the works of our contemporaries; condemn or justify all plans and schemes which may arise and demand our consideration. We will do all in our power to improve our miniature journalism and we hope our efforts will be abundantly rewarded.

The proof reader of Our Free Blade should be more careful, as several bad errors appeared in the last issue. Otherwise it is one of our best exchanges.

To the Boy of To-Day, we recommend a good dose of extract of editorial, to be taken regularly every thirty days. We think it would greatly improve this neat illustrated journal.

LATE numbers of the Hawkeye Boy contain numerous grammatical errors, which by a little thought on the part of the editor might be avoided.

THE Beacon is a typographical gem being one of the neatest we have as yet received. Its contents is also very good.

Look out! for the Christmas Number! It will be enlarged to eight pages! (":)

ALMOST every paper we receive has a good fraction of a column of its space occupied by that harrowing array of compound words; it has been copied, and recopied and numerous extravagant additions made, until the result is perfectly sickening. We should think that editors could make better use of there space than to fill it with this silly, rehashed mess.

In the first number of the STYLUS, Huss promised that it should be "published in the interests of Amateurdorm." But the policy displayed by him since in editing his paper, has not given us a very exalted opinion of his veracity.

The longest articles which have appeared in the STYLUS were nothing other than reviews of professional literary articles i. e. Gerners productions; and these onslaughts were no doubt prompted by personal malice rather

than any desire on Huss' part to improve the standard of Gerner's writings. Instead of devoting his time, thoughts, and paper to amateurdorm of the past and professional literature, Huss should apply his critical powers to that which so urgently requires criticism, the amateurdorm of to-day.

We have been informed by a representative of the N. Y. Sportsman that A. W. Dingwall, Esq., is one of the most valued correspondents of that journal. Mr. Dingwall is also the Milwaukee correspondent for several country papers. Amateurdorm will long remember him as one of its ablest and most enthusiastic workers.

Determined not to be undersold by any one. I wish to call the attention of collectors to the following packets of postage stamps:

No. 23.

100 fine varieties, including Prince Edward's Island, South American, Australian, rare German States, Confederate States, Wells, Fargo & Co., local and other rare stamps. 25 cts.

No. 24.

100 fine varieties including Newfoundland, Hamburg envelope, rare U. S. officials, Lubeck, Darkey, Swedish officials, Dutch Indies and other choice specimens. 25 cents.

No. 25.

100 fine varieties, including uncut Mecklenburg envelope, Spain (Donna Maria), Servia, Saxony, head, Danish service, Rumania, (old issue), Oldenburg and other fine stamps. 25 cents.

I put up packets containing 15 varieties, 14 inside and 1 outside of an envelope, the value of this outside stamp will average 5 cents, boys in schools and elsewhere will find these just the thing for retailing to their companions, as by purchasing a quantity at one time a good profit is allowed, and there is no cine given on the envelope by which the purchaser could order direct.

- 1 Packet; - - - - - 5 Cents.
- 4 Packets; - - - - - 15 Cents.
- 12 Packets; - - - - - 40 Cents.

Postage, 3 cents on every 12 packets.

"The Stamp Collectors Review," the most spicy and independent Stamp paper published. Send stamp for specimen copy. Address.

J. C. RASMUSSEN, BOX 34
Davenport, Iowa

The Little Spectator.

15 CENTS PER ANNUM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
STOUGH & TAYLOR.
MT. PLEASANT IOWA.**SOCIALISM.**

THE Nineteenth Century is destined to witness, among other great revolutions and grand accomplishments, the complete overthrow of the present political system of Europe.

As the years have rolled on, the darkness of ignorance and superstition, which has so long overshadowed the masses of Europe, has gradually cleared away, and it has been superseded by an enlightenment and progress, worthy of the Nineteenth Century. But their condition, politically, is unchang'd. It is to-day, as it was centuries ago. The crown, the mace and petty lines of royal blood, are still the governing powers of those unhappy countries, whose wretched inhabitants are taxed, to maintain royalty's magnificence, until subsistence itself, becomes a problem. But they have found the source of their afflictions, and they know the remedy which France has so ably taught.

The burdens of debt incurred by regal extravagance, have to be borne by the poorer classes. The wasteful pomp and splendor of the nobility must be preserved, else they forfeit their positions among their fellow oppressors; they must maintain an immense military armament, that they may successfully and honorably crush some weak enemy; but let them beware! they are provoking the people, those who have the power to destroy both crown and sceptre, and who though seemingly quiet, would willingly rise and demand their rights had they but leader in whom they could place explicit confidence.

With the disappearance of religious bigotry and superstition, one of royalty's strongest bulwarks has fallen; the absurd dogma that kings, whether they obtain their crown by crime or other means, are divine representatives of the Deity, has long since fallen to the ground, the priesthood and philosophers notwithstanding.

During the last score of years, there has been a great deal of trouble made for the royal governments, by their freedom loving subjects, who have by various means, endeavored to establish more liberal forms of government.

And in some cases their efforts have proved

successful as in the cases of France and Switzerland whose people are now enjoying the fruits of their enterprise, particularly the former.

But of late years especially great strides have been taken by this anti royalty faction, and at the present time their doctrines are firmly established in every country in Europe.

So great has become the power and influence of these malcontents, that royalty has exercised itself greatly to discover some means to retard the progress of, or annihilate the already powerful party. And with this end in view, the German government has lately made some very unjust and oppressive laws, which infringe on the peoples individual privileges. A free press, free speech and political mass meetings are all denied the subjects of king Wilhelm. But this is not the end of these outrageous persecutions: in the near future, there is to be convened a congress consisting of the royalty of Europe, for the sole purpose of devising means to suppress socialism, which threatens them with destruction.

The misery and oppression which the people of Europe have so long borne, have engendered a feeling of hatred, which frequently finds vent in the assassins dagger. These generally bloodless events are becoming alarmingly frequent, in all parts of Europe; two attempts were made on the life of the emperor of Germany, within a few days of each other, one nearly proved fatal. The Czar of Russia has escaped unharmed from three attempts. Queen Victoria about the same number, and Bismarck has also been made a target of. But the latest attempts were made upon the lives of the young kings of Spain and Italy.

These attempted assassinations are generally followed by a task for the headman the would be assassin having to suffer for the full crime of manslaughter.

Things are rapidly approaching a crisis. The people of Europe will not always tolerate this unwarrantable limitation of their rights, when they have such valuable precepts as those offered by America and France. An eminent authority predicts for Germany a period of revolution and anarchy, but out of these will spring, those most valued of mans possessions, FREEDOM AND LIBERTY.

Yes, royal blood in Europe is nearing the end of its career. And when the events of the Nineteenth Century will have been chronicled upon history's immortal pages no man will be a tyrannical monarch, nor no man a despised subject; **KINGS HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE, AND FOUND WANTING.**

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4 lines	.10	.20
1 inch	.20	.40
1/2 col.,	.50	1.00

Eight words average a line, eight lines one inch and three inches 1/2 col. Payment always in advance.

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STOUGH & TAYLOR.

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Have one of the finest assortments of genuine foreign stamps, of any dealer in the country. The cheapest price-list ever issued will be sent on application.

Persia, 1877, Set of 4 varieties,	\$0.15
Persia, old & new issues, 6 "	\$0.35
Cuba, '77 & '78, sett of 4 "	\$0.06
Turkey, unused, 8 "	\$0.50
C. of G. Hope, 4 d. triangular	\$0.05
British Honduras, '78, 1 ct.	0.04
" " " '78, 2 cts.	0.06

IT IS TRUE! HARD TIMES ARE OVER!!

WHEN YOU CAN GET 5 CENT PACKETS FOR ONLY 3 CENTS; 10 CENT PACKETS FOR 5 CENTS; 15 CENT PACKETS FOR 10 CENTS; 25 CENT PACKETS FOR 15 CENTS, AND 50 CENT PACKETS FOR 25 CENTS.

We have on hands, a large stock of foreign postage stamps that we MUST close out in the NEXT SIXTY DAYS; in order to do this we offer the following UNPARALLELED inducements.

For the small sum of 3 cents we will send to any address, 10 different kinds of Foreign Postage Stamps, including one worth 5 cts.

4 of these packets for 10 cts; or 12 for 25 cts.

For 5 cts., we give a packet of 20 varieties of foreign stamps including one worth 10 cts 4 of these packets for 15 cts., 7 for 30 cents, or 14 for 50 cents.

10 cents will buy 35 varieties including one worth from 15 to 20 cts.; 3 packets for 25cts. or 7 for 50 cents.

Our 15 cent packets contain 50 varieties including one worth 25 cents; two, 25 cents or five for 50 cents.

Our 25 cent packets contain 70 varieties including one worth 50 cents; 3 for 50 cents.

3 cts extra for postage must be sent with every order.

All these packets are warranted to be exactly as we represent them.

AGENTS wanted to sell sheet stamps; commission, from 20 to 50 per cent.

STOUGH & TAYLOR.

CHEAP POSTAGE STAMPS.

Packets, 5 cents each. List free on application. An immense assortment of genuine foreign stamps at the very lowest rates. Albums 25 cts. to \$10.00. Coats of Arms 50 cents. Flags, 25 cents. &c. &c. Send for Lists.

L. W. DURBIN,
Fifth and Library Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa.



THE SPECTATOR. LITTLE

"INDEPENDENCE."

VOL. 1.

JAN. AND FEB. 1879.

NOS. 4 & 5.

WRITTEN FOR THE SPECTATOR.

The World of Mind.

BY F. H. WORTH.

There is a world of light sublime,
That fadeth not with age or time,
Where all is joy and love combined
In union sweet, it is the WORLD OF MIND.

It's plains and skies are fairer far,
And brighter flashes every star,
Than those that please the outward eye,
The brilliant orbs that hang on high.

The star of hope is shining there,
And truth, with face divinely fair,
Illumines the surging tides that roll
The waves of thought across the soul.

And music—soul-inspiring strains,
Is floating o'er its love-lit plains;
And unseen hands attune the lyre,
And sweep the ever changing wire.

My home, my hopes, my joys I find
Within this glorious world of mind;
It will abide when empires fail,
And over sin and death prevail.

WRITTEN FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Christmas on Mid Ocean.

BY CHAS. J. FICKE

CHRISTMAS-time had once more come;
but no, in the midst of my family, in
a bright, happy home, as usual, did I
celebrate it; no, it was on board ship, sur-
rounded by the angry, tossing waves, and
among strangers.

Yet for all that we would have had a
most enjoyable time down in the cabin, as
great preparations had been made by all pas-

sengers,—the masculine population having
formed itself into a glee-club, and had learn-
ed several Christmas carols—had not a sud-
den unforeseen incident changed the day of
pleasure to a day of mourning.

Old Korn had died.

Poor old man!—he had been sick—
though not dangerously—ever since the ship
left harbor. He was going to America to join
his son, since, with the death of his wife,
the last tie that held him to the old German
Fatherland, had broken.

And now he, too, was no more. Early
in the morning of Christmas-day he had
breathed his last.

As there was no prospect of the ship's
reaching its destination for a week at least,
the body could, of course, not be preserved,
but had to be consigned to the deep.

The preparations lasted all day, and in the
evening, immediately after sundown, the
solemn ceremony took place. The ship lay
still; the ocean was calm, and a gentle though
cold breeze broke the surface of the
water into ripples.

The ocean, in the darkening twilight look-
ed so gloomy, and, O, so dreary, that I shud-
dered as I thought how terrible it was to
cast poor old Korn's body into it.

The sun had sunk down behind a large
cluster of clouds, which it lined with crimson
and gold, and the last departing rays, break-
ing through them, gave the whole western
sky the appearance, as though the gates of
Heaven had opened to receive poor old
Korn's good, innocent soul.

The glee-club sang a sad, mournful hymn
and the strains as they wafted over the still,
lonely ocean, brought such a sense of des-
olation and melancholy to our hearts, that
no eye remained dry.

The song ended and Mr. Bulow, the chap-
lain, stepped forward and delivered a brief
though pathetic address. The crimson and
gold on the clouds died out; the rays disap-
peared one after the other, and the sky as-
sumed a sterner aspect.

The waves began to rise higher and each had a white crest of foam, indicating the approach of rougher weather.

The chaplain had ended his sermon and pronounced the last benediction; a black object slid down the plank and a dull splash was heard. Instantly a bell rang; the ponderous machinery began to move, and the ship proceeded on its way. The captain gave orders, the sailors obeyed, and soon the old activity was restored. Night fell, and we passengers retired to our cabins, moody and dejected.

This happened ten years ago; yet to-day an undecipherable feeling of sadness takes possession of me, as I think of that Christmas on mid ocean.

—101—

Mr. Smith's Boy.

His Startling Statements About His Family.

A FAMILY named Smith recently moved to Mt. Pleasant, and Mr. Brown's boy, on Saturday, leaned over the fence and gave to our reporter his impressions of Mr. Smith's boy, a lad about fourteen years old.

"Yes, me and him are right well acquainted now; he knows more'n I do, and he's had more experience. Bill says his father used to be a robber, (Smith by the way is a deacon in the Methodist Church and a very excellent lawyer) and that he has ten million dollars in gold buried in his cellar along with a whole lot of human bones, people he's killed. And he says he's a conjurer, and that he makes all the earthquakes that happen anywhere in the world. The old man'll come home at night, after there's been an earthquake, all covered with sweat, and so tired he can hardly stand; Bill says it's such hard work.

"And Bill told me that once when a man came around there trying sell lightning-rods, his father got mad and et him, et him right up, and he takes a bite out of everybody he comes acrost.

That's what Bill tells me. That's all I know about it. And he told me that once he used to have a dog—one of those little kind of dogs, and he was flying his kite, and just for fun he tied the kite-string onto the his dog's tail. And then the wind struck her and his dog went a boom'n' down the street, with his hind legs in the air for

about a mile, when the kite all of a sudden began to go up, and in a minute the dog was fifteen miles high, and commanding a view of California and Egypt and Oshkosh, I think Bill said. He came down, anyhow, I know, in Peru, and Bill said he swam home all the way in the Atlantic Ocean, and when he landed his legs was all nibbl'ed off by sharks.

"I wish father'd buy me a dog so's I could send him up that way. But I never have no luck. Bill said that where he used to live he went out on the roof one day to fly his kite and he sat on chimbley to give her plenty of room, and while he was sitting there thinking about nothing, the old man put a keg of gun-powder down below in the fire-place to clean the soot out of the chimney. And when he touched her off Bill was blown over agin the Babbist church steeple, and he landed on the werther-cock with his pants torn, and they couldn't get him down for three days, so he hung there, going round and round with the wind, and he lived by eating crows that came and sat on him, because they thought he was made of sheet-iron and put up there on purpose.

"He's had more fun than enough. He was telling me the other day, about a sausage-stuffer, his brother invented. It was a kinder machine that worked with a treadle, and Bill said the way they did in the fall, was to fix it on the hog's back, and then the hog'd work the treadle and keep on running it up and down until the machine cut the hog all up fine, and shoved the meat into the skins. Bill said his brothed called it 'Every Hog His Own Stuffer,' and it worked splendid. But I do' know. 'Pears to me's if there couldn't be no machine like that. But anyway Bill said so.

"And he told me about an uncle of his out in Australia who was et by a big oyster once, and when he got inside he staid there until he et the oyster. Then he split the shells open and took half a one for a boat, and he sailed along until he met a sea-serpent, and he killed it and drewed off its skin, and when he got home he sold it to an engine company for a hose, for forty thousand dollars, to put fires out with. Bill said that was actually so, because he could show me a man who used to belong to the engine company. I wish father'd let me go out to find a sea-serpent like that; but he dont let me have no chance to distinguish myself.

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

"Bill was saying only yesterday that the Indians caught him once and drove eleven railroad spikes through his stomach, and cut off his scalp, and it never hurt him a bit. He said he got away by the chief's daughter sneaking him out of the town and lending him a horse. Bill says she was in love with him, and when I asked him to let me see the holes where they drove in them spikes, he said he daren't take off his clothes or he'd bleed to death. He said his own father didn't know anything about it, because Bill was afraid it might worry the old man.

"And Bill told me they wasn't goin to git him to go to Sunday-school. He says his father has a brass idol that he keeps in the garret, and Bill says he's made up his mind to be a Pagan, and begin to go naked, and carry a tomahawk, and a bow and arrow, when warm weather comes. And to prove it to me, he says his father has this town all underlaid with nitro-glycerine, and as soon as he gets ready he's going to blow the old thing out, and let her rip and demolish her. He told me so down to the Post Office and said for me not to tell anybody, but I thought they'd be no harm in mentioning it to you.

"And now I believe I must be going. I hear Bill whistling. Maybe he's got something else to tell me."

The Smith boy, we think, will be profitable to the youth of this community. [set.]

BOOK REVIEW.

(PLACE, the SPECTATOR sanctum. The Editor busy adjusting movable alphabets. His Satanic Majesty sitting in a far corner, deeply interested in his weeks pay, 10 cts. worth of pea nuts, which has just been received on a subscription. A knock is heard.)

"Dear me! I shall never get this type set in the world! there's another knock. You got the door, Goliath, (that is our devil; we call him Goliath so as to make people believe he is fighting editor.) and if it's a book agent, just go through the usual process.

"Take a chair Mr. Bass, take a chair. Give me your hat and gloves, Mr. Bass, and make yourself at home. I am extremely delighted, Mr. B., that you have dropped into the pleasant precincts of our—what I can't stay long? that's bad. But just sit down for a moment and read this delightful piece of verse for the next SPECTATOR. What?

hav'nt time? that's worse. Well, Mr. B. you are certainly—hey? what's that? an amateur book? i-n-d-e-e-d! can it be possible! Mr. B. pardon the insane antics of Goliath, our devil; he generally celebrates unusual events by such capers. You GOLIATH! A review of it? of course, with pleasure. Must go now? well, call again. Good day!

(The SPECTATOR sanctum. His satanic majesty, mad at his late rebuke, is scowling at the ink roller. The editor, sitting in his cushioned chair, is gazing at an amateur book, which lies before him on his desk.) The editor muses. "At last, at last! long have I waited for this moment, when my eyes would feast upon the speaking, yet mute pages of the Athen's first amateur book. Often and long have I pondered upon the imagined excellences of this volume. But they, alas, were but dim fancies. But now at last it lies before me."

His First Game. By Phoenix. Price 3 cts. W. E. Bass Publisher. Mt. Pleasant Iowa.

FROM far distant California we some time ago received a letter (with 25 cents enclosed) which was signed thus: "Yours Truly Horace Greeley" Now Horace that's a little too thin. If our memory serves us rightly you spilled the contents of your mortal bucket, several years ago.

The fact that Mr. Greeley has not been in the habit of wielding the quill during late years, explains why he signed his name incorrectly in the missive.

However, we greatly admire Mr. Greeley's taste in subscribing to the SPECTATOR; and as the ex-editor of the New York Tribune may be considered a competent judge, we consider it quite a compliment (?) Shakespeare, Bunyan, and U. S. Grant come next in order. (Come on! we're ready now; and by the way, be sure and enclose a quarter.)

WE HAVE brought to the light of the amateur world, quite a brilliant specimen of the genus poet, by none so plume F. H. Worth. He grinds out excellent verse, like that which adorns the SPECTATOR, with wonderful facility.

Editors wishing first-class poetry for publication should address us.

The Little Spectator.

15 CENTS PER ANNUM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
STOUGH & TAYLOR,
MT. PLEASANT IOWA.

THE MORMON PUZZLE.

CONFUSION REIGNS in Mormondom. That institution received a very severe shock some time since by the decease of Brigham Young, its first 'president'. But this time it is that worthy, Uncle Sam, who is the source of trouble. The U. S. Supreme Court has taken the matter into its hands, and has decided that polygamy is a crime, punishable by law. And now as polygamy is the supporting pillar of the whole Mormon fabric, we may expect either its ignominious fall, or that the faithful will make strenuous and perhaps armed resistance to the authority of the U. S.. The last, though a desperate course, would be preferred by the majority of the ignorant followers of Joseph Smith, who would enter into a bloody struggle, rather than submit to the jurisdiction of the despised 'gentiles.'

The power of the Mormon church, is a thing not to be despised by any peace loving people. During Brigham's leadership of the Mormons, and while he was acting as governor of Utah, he was in reality an absolute monarch, whose every decree was executed with a religious zeal, which showed how completely these ignorant people had been hoodwinked by an unscrupulous religious adventurer; and if these decrees were not performed with the greatest promptitude, the ignoramuses were made to believe that their naturally slim chances for eternal glory would be greatly lessened.

And right there is the secret of the wonderful success with which Brigham sustained his sway. Illustrative of this point, is that horrible Mountain Meadows Massacre. In 1857 Brigham received a "revelation" for the destruction of a rich emigrant train which was passing through his kingdom, and immediately dispatched a party of Mormons in pursuit. The luckless emigrants were overtaken, and then followed a most merciless massacre, to which 120 persons tell victims a few children only being spared.

It has been found necessary [from time

to time for the Government to send troops to Utah, to protect its officials in the discharge of their duties. And collisions between the soldiers and the Mormons have often been threatened, but were prevented only by the poor chances of ultimate Mormon success.

The Mormons, as a rule, are very ignorant and in reality, the very skum of society. They and their obnoxious religious institutions are a disgrace to our country, and an indelible blot of infamy upon fair Utah which but for this one thing would long since have been admitted to the union as a state.

There is no free school system of education in Utah, and all kinds of instruction are discouraged by the leaders of the church, as their pernicious doctrines do not agree with educated common sense. The Mormons are constantly despatching missionaries to Europe to obtain converts among the poor ignorant classes, who, deluded by promises of prosperity and plenty, willingly embrace the new religion and fall a prey to the ambition of a few religious humbugs who term themselves the Mormon church.

But Mormonism is sinking, rapidly sinking into oblivion; the prelude to this was the death of Brigham Young which was a heavy blow to his sect, and some even predicted its immediate dissolution. But it still remains, somewhat weakened, and the Government is to deal with it; and we only hope that Uncle Sam will mete out the condemnation which its crimes so richly deserve.

—SOME TIME since an eminent French astronomer predicted that the coming four years would be a period of epidemics. And from appearances at present, he seems to have hit the nail on the head. 1878 will long be remembered by the reign of the yellow demon. And of late cholera has ravaged the North African States. Dyptheria is dealing death to the little ones to an alarming extent all over North America. While thousands are dying in Brazil of a terrible epidemic, an awful plague is devastating Russia and alarming the whole of Europe.

—Among the best and cheapest stamp dealers in the U. S. may be classed J. C. Rasmussen of Davenport, Iowa. He also publishes one of the best stamp papers ever put before the public. Send for it.

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

Stamp Department.

THERE ARE MANY novelties or varieties among postage stamps that are of great interest to collectors, and so many of these novelties are not catalogued or mentioned in any way that they are often regarded with suspicion by well informed collectors. However, should they happen to be one of the fortunate number who possess these questionable rarities, they invariably attach greater importance to them because they are not catalogued. We have no doubt but what the real value of these varieties is greatly over estimated by their owners in most cases, for we know collectors who attach greater value to their Hong Kong and Bernese fiscals that have done duty as postage stamps, than to many of the choicest of obsolete stamps. And doubtless there is a greater value,—at least prospective—to these and Jamaica, Bolivia and other fiscals that have done duty as postage stamps, than most collectors will acknowledge.

Among the novelties that are of interest to collectors, may be included stamps that have been cut in half, and various other ways. We know of several Mexican 50 ct. stamps that were treated in this manner, to do duty as 25 ct. stamps. In fact, there are but few countries wherein stamps have not been mutilated and novelties created in this manner.

Newly Issued Stamps.

AZORES. Portuguese cards surcharged in black, are now in use.

AUSTRIA. War envelopes for the army have been issued. So says the N. Y. P.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. The heads on the 8, 16 and 24 c. envelope are those of Don Chiclana, Avellaneda and Vreytes, respectively. M. S. C.

BREMEN. The editor of the T. P. has seen the 5 grote with marken instead of marks in inscription at top.

BOLIVIA has issued a 5 ct. blue.

BAVARIA. There were 6000 of the cards with the numeral 5 in the corners printed, although only 3000 of them came into use.

CASHMERE. The colors of the late issues have been changed to the following: 1 a. lilac, 1 a. red and 2 a. violet.

GREAT BRITAIN. The following cards are being prepared: 1 p. to supercede the 1½ now in use, a 1½ p. for use outside of the Postal Union.

GERMAN EMPIRE. A 10 p. card, black on pink was to have appeared Jan. 1st.

FRANCE. 25 cents now appears black on scarlet.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. A small oblong hand-stamp of doubtful authenticity has been the representative of these islands, and therefore most collectors have the Falklands unrepresented, until now, the government having issued a neat pair of postals, values as follows: 1 penny claret. 6 pence green.

ITALY. 10 cent cards, brown on buff, are in use, these cards bear the engraved bust of the late king.

JAPAN. A wrapper for "Journals registered by mail" has been issued, differing only in inscription and thinness of outer line to the previous wrapper.

INDIA. The following envelopes, 5 anna black on yellow and black on blue-green, bearing a peculiar design. So says the M. S. C.

NICARAGUA. All values now appear rouletted.

NORWAY has issued five new values as follows,

35 ore green, 60 ore deep blue,
1 k., light green, 1½ k., ultra-marine,
2 k., brown on rose.

PERSIA. Stamp Journals are troubling themselves about the numerous varieties that continue to appear: the S. C.'s Review first mentioned this about three months ago; it is due to the director of Tauris, who is a stamp dealer.

SAMOA. The sales of the first pair of these stamps appear to have been sufficient to justify their concocters in getting up two more and knowing that they must soon be exposed the values have been placed high, 1 sh. orange and 2 sh. brown.—A. J. of P.

SWITZERLAND has issued an other unpaid letter stamp, value 1 franc, blue.

TOLIMA. has issued a 5 peso, Brown on white, unperforated.

WURTEMBERG. A 10 p. International card was to have appeared Oct. 1st '78.

☞ All yearly subscribers receive a rare stamp worth 25 cts. FREE.

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

OUR PHONOGRAPH.

—OF LATE, several editors have fallen into the bad habit of abbreviating the names of our Press Associations into a word, rendering it unintelligible to the non amateur reader. Here are a few specimens: Isja for Iowa Amateur Journalistic Association Napa, for the National Amateur Press Association, &c. If editors wish to abbreviate, the full name let them do so in the proper way instead of trying to manufacture a word which does not exist. This disrespectful manner of writing an association's name exhibits either the supreme laziness or ignorance of its writer.

—AMATEURDOM HAS again begun to degenerate,—that is, political campaigning has begun for '79. Nominations are being made, and soon Amateurdom will be all a-fire with political frenzy. Editors will devote a great part or all of their editorial matter to Amateurdom. They will often enumerate the virtues of their particular candidate, and as often number the imperfections of some opposing candidate or editor. And out of these political differences there naturally grows an enmity, which too often finds vent through the columns of their papers. And yet some numskull editors can not solve the problem, why amateur journals are not patronized by the general public.

—E. H. RATH is getting along finely since his debut into amateurdom. But we have a few criticisms to make upon Our Little Sport. We deem it entirely wrong for the editor to substitute an association report for an editorial. And farther, a paper as large and as neat typographically as Our Little Sport, should contain some very respectable editorials, instead of notes, etc.

The editor makes an earnest and almost tearful appeal to parents and all that is good to help him extricate those N. Y. Weeklies, and in the very next item he threatens to swear if exchanges do not send two copies

—THE ARK came sailing quietly along until it arrived within our sanctum, when Noah stuck his head out of a port-hole and yelled, "The Little Spectator should devote more time to proof reading instead of criticizing other papers. Is there anything like an f i f i f i or f i in your cases, if so, why not use them for general

looks of your paper." Now Bro. Noah we consider it a compliment upon our paper, if you can not find any worse faults than those mentioned above. They certainly are not errors. This No., however, is somewhat improved in the particular you mention. We have not as yet read your paper, but the item devoted to us contained three errors. It is not the Little Spectator that does the proof reading, but the editors. Therefore the words, "The editors of" at the beginning of the item would greatly improve the sense of it. An interrogation mark should follow the word "cases" and the word "the" before "general" would also improve and make the item correct.

—And now we may expect bloody war between the East'n Sunbeam and the Monthly Bulletin. Both papers lately published a splendid Christmas poem, by Gerner, and each claimed it was "written expressly for" itself.

—The Bohemian was better as a weekly than it is as a monthly if we may judge by the last number.

—Still they come! we hear, Iowa is to have two more amateur papers, besides the Association Official Organ. The last is to be styled the Hawkeye Amateur.

—We recommend F. E. Elder to our numerous coin collecting subscribers, and beg to call their attention to his advertisement on last page.

—Stamp Collectors should read carefully, the advertisement of G. R. Blakely.

The prizes offered in last month's Prize Word Hunt were awarded as follows;

1st. David Sanford, Jr., St. Paul, Minn. 244 words. 2nd. Jacob Rich, New York City, 197 words. 3rd. E. A. Welch, Worcester, Mass., 136 words. 4th. W. F. Mason, Muncie, Ind., 97 words.

The above mentioned gentlemen should let us know which of the prizes they desire, as the choice of two was offered to each winner. Enclose a 3 ct. for return postage on prize.

FOR SALE.

A \$30.00 Novelty and a \$10.00 Model press, both as good as new, Also a 25lb font of brier.

THE CONVENTION

OF THE

Iowa Amateur Journalistic Association.

A Grand Success.

THE AMATEURS OF Missouri can boast, those of Illinois can boast, and all others can talk about the success of their respective state Amatur Press Associations, but none have a better right to boast than those of Iowa.

The Iowa Amateur Journalistic Association was organized at Cedar Rapids, Dec. 27th 1878, with great success. There were twelve present and two others sent in their initiation fees, which were accepted.

Everything passed off as pleasantly and as harmoniously as one could wish. There were no jealousies, no ill-feelings between any of the boys, which, surely, is rare; but there is no use of its being otherwise. In all the business transacted there was an interest manifest which is seldom evident; generally their whole attention is extended to the election of officers, but here it was not.

The election of officers was the last in order, and it was carried on as quietly, and with as much complaisance as you can well imagine.

At 3 o'clock the convention was called to order by Ralph Van Vechten. Charles G. Wilson, of Washington, Ia. was elected President pro tem and R. Van Vechten, Secy. The constitution, which was drafted by Misner, Jenkins and Van Vechten of Cedar Rapids, was read, and after a few changes, adopted. The alterations are important and wise. They are these: No fossil can be elected to office. The election of officers takes place after all other business has been transacted.

The following are those who were present: F. L. Misner, C. N. Jenkins, R. Van Vechten, L. Boone, H. Reeder, J. Richmond, G. Greene, W. D. Douglas, Louis Schliep, E. M. Shaw, W. Moore and C. G. Wilson. Several very prominent amateurs of various places were made honorary members, among whom were Art. J. Huss, W. T. Hall, Nathan Cole and C. E. Elgutter.

The Association expressed its deepest

regrets at the retirement from the ranks of S. W. Lawrence, J. C. Worthington and Deleven W. Gee.

Letters of regret from Chase and Beau-lien were read; also a greeting from E. A. Oldham, President of the N. C. A. P. A.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the proprietors of the North Western for the free use of their parlors, in which our convention was held; to F. L. Misner, for providing passes over the B. & C. R. R., on our return home; to Walter Douglas, for taking the trouble and time to show us thro' the large oat-meal mill owned by Stewart & Douglas; and to F. M. Sinclair for having us shown through his immense pork packing house.

The following resolutions were adopted with wonderful enthusiasm:

WHEREAS; certain members of the National Amateur Press Association have incited the E. A. P. A. to refuse, in "outrageous violation of Truth, Justice, and Common Sense, to recognize the legality of the elections at Chicago, and more especially the election of W. T. Hall to the office of President; and

WHEREAS; the action of the aforesaid E. A. P. A. is calculated to excite sectional strife, and to open old sores between the East and West;

THEREFORE; be it declared, in the cause of the amateurs of Iowa in convention assembled, that the aforesaid action of the E. A. P. A., incited by the aforesaid members of N. A. P. A., is a matter of regret to every lover of Peace and fraternal feeling, as well as a subject of contempt to every one acquainted with the facts.

The election of officers ensued, resulting as follows: President, F. L. Misner; 1st vice President, Louis Schliep; 2nd, E. M. Shaw; Secretary, J. A. Cook; Treasurer, C. N. Jenkins; Official Editor, R. Van Vechten.

The Official Organ will be printed quarterly by the association, and will appear as soon as possible, the lowest bidder receiving the job.

Washington, Iowa, was decided upon as the next place of meeting.

The convention then adjourned but the next day, Saturday, Dec. 28, an extra session was held, and the association's great admiration of G. W. Hancock's burnside and Mr. W. T. Hall's Mustache was expressed with considerable zeal,

C. G. W.

Prize Word Hunt.

For the largest list of words made from the word

SWITZERLAND,

we will give the following prizes.

First: Two rare foreign stamps worth 50 cents each.

Second: Six stamps worth 10 cents each.

Third: Four stamps worth 10 " "

Fourth: One stamp worth 25 " "

CONDITIONS.

Open only to subscribers, but subscriptions may be sent with list. All lists must be in by February 25th. No letter is to be used often-er, or unless it occurs in prize word. Only words found in the standard dictionaries can be used.

We received a kind and pressing invitation to attend the I. A. J. A. Convention, held at Cedar Rapids, Friday Dec. 27th. But on account of an unexpected rush of business, we were deprived of the pleasure of attending what we since have heard was one of the most successful conventions ever held. Although we were absent, yet we were greatly interested in the success of this, the associations first convention.

If earnest effort and spirit can make a permanent organization, the I. A. J. A. will certainly prove a success.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

STAMPS.

3000 stamps for sale or exchange. Agents wanted. Send stamp with order. W. F. Mason, Muncie, Ind. Box 253.

THE PAPER SWIMMER.

The cheapest and most wonderful aquatic invention ever brought out. Send a 3ct stamp for sample. A dozen for 10 cts. post free. Jas. Cropp care of C. T. Oxx, 827 6th Ave., New York City.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIST.

HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317 New York, dealer in Postage stamps and publisher of the New York Philatelist, a monthly journal devoted to the interests of Philately.

Subscription price per annum 25 cts. Abroad, 50 cts per annum. Specimen copies free.

EVENT OF 1879.

HIS FIRST GAMK.

BY PHENIX. PRICE 3CTS.

HAVING issued but a small edition, send immediately or you will be too late. W. E. Bass, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

J. C. RASMUSSEN.
DAVENPORT,

BOX 34. IOWA.

Determined not to be undersold by any one, I wish to call the attention of collectors to the following packets of postage stamps.

No. 23.

100 fine varieties, including Prince Edwards Island, South American, Australian, rare German States, Confederate States, Wells, Fargo, & Co., local and other rare stamps. 25 cents.

No. 24.

100 fine varieties, including Newfoundland, Hamburg envelope, rare U. S. officials, Lubeck, Turkey, Swedish officials, Dutch Indies, and other choice specimens. 25 cents.

No. 25.

100 fine varieties, including uncut Mecklenburg envelope, Spain, (Donna Maria,) Servia, Saxon, (head,) Danish service, Romania, (old issue,) Oldenburg, and other fine stamps. 25 cents.

I put up packets containing 15 varieties, 14 inside, and 1 outside of an envelope, the value of this outside stamp will average 5 cents, boys in school and elsewhere, will find these just the thing for retailing to their companions, as by purchasing a quantity at one time a good profit is allowed, and there is no clue given on the envelope by which the purchaser could order direct.

1 Packet, 5 Cents.

4 Packets, 15 Cents.

12 Packets, 40 Cents.

Postage, 3 cents on every 12 packets.

"The Stamp Collectors Review," the most spicy and independent Stamp paper published. Send stamp for copy. Address,

J. C. RASMUSSEN, BOX 34, Davenport, Iowa.

Stough & Taylor,
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

IMPORTING DEALERS IN
Foreign Postage Stamps

Stamps on Approval.

Having made a specialty of this Department, we are enabled to offer better terms and greater advantages than any other dealer in the World.

AGENTS wanted in every city and town in the U. S., Canada, and all other civilized countries. We give a commission, of from 25 to 50 per cent, to all of our agents, and mark our stamps from 20 to 50 per cent below catalogue price.

Correspondence solicited from Dealers and Collectors in all parts of the Globe.

Look! Look!

Persons wishing to complete their sets would do well to send us a list of their wants as we carry a very large stock and can furnish almost any stamp desired, very cheap.

Here are a few of our prices;

Argentine, 5 cts.,.....	\$0.02
" 10 cts.,.....	0.06
" 15 cts.,.....	0.08
*Alsace & Lorraine, 5 or 10 c.....	0.03
*Azores, 5 reis,.....	0.03
Bermuda, 3 pence, yellow,.....	0.05
Chili, 1877, 5 c.,.....	0.03
Canada, 3c. envelope,.....	0.02
*Heligoland, 1-4 sch. or 2p.....	0.03
Peru, 1878, 5c., blue,.....	0.05
" " 10c., green,.....	0.03
*Shanghai, 20 cash,.....	0.05

And thousands of others at equally low rates

New Year Packet.

Price 25 Cents.

Contains 150 varieties including many rare and obsolete such as Persia, Japan, Turkey, Greece, Hong Kong, Spain, Portugal, Finland, Bavaria (figure) Norway, Prussia, Roman States, New Zealand, New Foundland, Hungary, India, Jamaica, and other rare stamps, 25 cts.

ESTABLISHED 1874.

Geo. R. Blakely.

P. O. BOX 94. BUFFALO, N. Y.

IMPORTER OF AND DEALER IN

U. S. & Foreign Postage,
REVENUE, AND MATCH STAMPS,
ALBUMS &c. &c.

HAVING correspondents in nearly all of the stamp issuing countries of the world, and buying my stamps for cash, I am enabled to offer them at a very small price. All stamps warranted.

Below will be found a few stamp prices, so as to give collectors an idea of the small prices I ask for my stamps.

Danube Steam Navigation Co., set of 4 unused at 25 c.	
PRUSSIA, set of 5.....	15c unused.
SARDINIA, " 10.....	10c "
ARGENTINE " 3.....	10c "
BAVARIA 1863, " 2.....	7c "
PERSIA, " 6.....	45c used.
TURKEY, " 7.....	15c "
CHILI, " 3.....	10c "

and lots other stamps just as cheap.

My new Price-List will be published about Jan. 15th. Collectors wishing to purchase stamps at reduced prices should send in their names and receive the new list as soon as printed. Circulars and 10 stamps sent free on receipt of name and address.

Geo. R. Blakely

P. O. Box 94. Buffalo, N. Y.

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

COOO OOO II NN SSSS
 OOO OOO II NN SSSS
 OOO OOO II NN SSSS
 OOO OOO II NN SSSS
 OOO OOO II NN SSSS

FRED. E. ELDER,

Dealer In

FOREIGN COINS.

Best of References.

Send Stamp for Price List.

ADDRESS,

FRED. E. ELDER,

Sheffield, Iowa.

ADVERTISING RATES.

SPACE.	1 MO.	3 MO.
Per line	.03	.06
4 lines	.10	.20
1 inch	.20	.40
1/2 col.	.50	1.00
Eight words average a line, eight lines one inch and three inches 1/2 col. Payment always in advance.		

Foreign Stamps

Very cheap. 100 var. 25 cts, 50 var. 10 cts. 20 var. 3 cts. Circulars sent free. Address, **CANADIAN STAMP CO.** Montreal, Canada.

Geo. B. De Bevere, Jr.

FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTER.

PLAINFIELD, N. J.

Sheets of stamps sent on approval to parties sending good references. Those wishing to improve their collections will do well by sending for some sheets.

STAMPS! STAMPS!!
CHEAPER THAN EVER!!!

Varieties, all UNUSED including Persia, Shanghai, Hamburg, Egypt Japan, &c. &c. sent postpaid for 30c. **STOUGH & TAYLOR.**

J. M. Dawson,

DEALER IN

French and Spanish Mails, Savings, &c.

The very best which the market affords will always be found at his stand.

EXCELSIOR

PRINTING

PRESSES.

Best and cheapest of all for amateurs. From 3 dollars to 115. Send two 3-cent stamps for new catalogue of Presses, Type Fancy cards, Paper, etc., to the manufacturer **KELSEY & CO., Meriden, Conn.**

ADVERTISING Is the secret of success.



THE SPECTATOR. LITTLE

"INDEPENDENCE."

VOL. 1.

MARCH 1879.

NO. 6.

CLOUDS. BY FLORENCE.

Clouds we can well to life compare
Their darkness and their light,
For do we not in life all share
The dreary and the bright?
When storms of folly, vice and sin
Gather in all their fury,
Our stony hearts will not let in
Visions of light and glory.

Why make your life so dark and sad?
Why keep your light from shining?
Do what you can, make others glad,
Your cloud has silver lining.
Brood not o'er this world's doubtz and tears,
The sun of life's declining.
Waste not your time in foolish tears;
Show your cloud's silver lining.

JIM O'CONNEL'S CAMERA.

CHAS. J. FICKE.

"A YOUNG MAN, if ever you should happen to have lots of cash about you, don't boast about it, or show it to the crowd in a liquor saloon or any other place. Charles Richards did so, and was murdered in consequence. I'll tell you how it happened."

And good old Jim O'Connell, having filled and lit his pipe, drew several long preparatory whiffs and proceeded to entertain us with the following story, in which he figured conspicuously.

"It was about twenty two years ago. I kept the Camera Obscura at the Park at that time. Charles Richards was a gay, handsome and—as it seemed to me—very good natured young man. He came to see my camera one day, and admired the thing very much. While looking at it, he remarked that he was a stranger in these parts; that he had just graduated from college, and was now

travelling around the country for pleasure.

"He must have been pretty flush, for when he left he tipped me a half of a dollar, although my charge was only ten cents.

"Some time after I found out that Richards went from my Camera to Tom Bly's tavern, on the Eastern outskirts of the Park; took a few drinks, treated the whole crowd that generally made that place its headquarters slung his money around freely, and showed every one that he was green through and through. And I tell you young men, that Riley's inn is about the worst place for a man to display his dollars in, for there are some mighty desperate characters to be found there. Well, I was inside my hat waiting for customers; but none came, and I stood leisurely gazing upon the white canvass, upon which the whole park was pictured, watching the clouds pass along, birds fly about, boats being rowed over the lake carriages roll along the drives and people walking through the park.

"It was in November—a rather cold day—and only a very few people were to be seen.

"Suddenly I saw a man in a light gray overcoat come walking along. I recognized him—it was Charles Richards. I watched him as his figure glided over the white surface, until it had disappeared, and thought no more of it 'till I saw another figure sneaking along in the same path that Richards had taken, and to all appearances following him.

"Although I couldn't distinguish his features, I knew him by his clothes, black face and tall stature to be a negro named Dan Rockford, who was well-known in the neighborhood as a burglar and general desperado. In his hand and half hidden under his coat he carried a bludgeon.

"He too soon passed out of sight but I turned the board and again saw both of them.

Rockford was most probably following Richards to kill and rob him. They were going farther and farther away and were now more than a mile from where I stood.

It was a terrible thing for me to see the whole thing right before my eyes, and as it were, in my very hut, without being able to assist Richards and prevent the murder, and I gazed in horror on the two forms, while a cold sweat oozed out of every pore of my face.

Richards was now walking through a remote part of the park, where trees and shrubs grew wild, little or no care being taken of them, and where hardly any people passed.

Now Dan Rockford's time had come. Good heavens! how I trembled and gasped for breath when I saw him raise the bludgeon over poor, unsuspecting Richard's head and strike the fatal blow.

Richards fell, and Dan rifled his pockets and hastily left the spot. I marked the direction he took, and rushed out to the nearest police-station and reported what had occurred.

Officers were sent out at once, I accompanying them as guide, and after half an hour we overtook Dan Rockford who was walking quickly along the road leading to Tom Riley's inn, no doubt for the purpose of getting drunk with his ill-gotten riches.

When informed that he was a prisoner he grew very indignant and wanted to know "what he was bein' 'rested for?" but detective Ramsey said

No use Dan; you've just murdered a man—and we know it—and you must come along!"

Then I tell you he was terribly frightened. Black as it was his face turned ashy pale his teeth chattered, he trembled violently, and he tottered rather than walked to the station. Yet he denied his guilt in the strongest terms, but my camera, young man was the witness that brought him to justice.

○ FRACTIONS. ○

Though the mills of God grind slowly,
yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience he stands waiting,
with exactness grinds he all.

GRANT SHOULD be our next president. A strong government is necessary for the prosperity of the nation. We have tried

rotten southern policies, and they have proven complete failures. We have humored the people of the South, but they have thrown aside all honor and restraint, and have disgraced themselves and the nation. We have dealt with the South long enough as a wayward child, when, in reality, it should be punished as a criminal for its offences. A strong and impartial government we *must* have.

Manlike it is to fall into sin,
Fiendlike it is to dwell therein.
Christ-like is it for sin to grieve,
God-like is it all sin to leave.

AT LAST we have merged into the full misery of an editorial life. Some time since we received several exchanges addressed to the Small Spectator, Little Speculator, Petit Spectator &c. When we arrived at our office we shoved the alandorous addresses under the fighting editor's nose; he tore his hair, and ran, howling, out the door. As we write this we hear him out in the back yard, sharpening his tools of retribution, and muttering dire vengeance upon the offenders.

Joy and Temperance and Repose
Slam the door on the doctor's nose.

WHY do the girls persist in disfiguring their otherwise _____ faces by those frivolous humbugs, bangs. Is it to conceal your deficiency of forehead, (which is the first thought that occurs to the agonized observers) or is merely to make yourselves scarecrows, to frighten the boys? If these are your objects, you have succeeded admirably, in our estimation.

Duty, though set about by thorns, may still be made a staff, supporting even while it tortures. Cast it away, and, like the prophet's wand it changes to a snake.

A NUMBER of the best ministers of the present day have greatly deviated from the old mode of preaching, and we believe it a serious mistake. The sensational doctrines which of late have been given from the pulpit by Talmage and Beecher can not possibly produce the effect desired from the preaching of the Gospel. Instead of doing their work as ministers, they often utterly disregard and contradict the Bible, from the pulpit.

Newly Issued Stamps.

Argentina. The postals of this country very much resemble those now used in this country, according to the Collectors World.

Bavaria. The colors of the 5 and 50 p. are now violet and brown respectively. The stamp on the double postal card is now mauve.

Belgium. The cards will henceforth read cartes postales instead of cartes de correspondance.

Bhopal. We have a stamp similar to the rect. $\frac{1}{2}$ a. red, printed in dark green. S. C.

Cyprus. This island now has stamps of the following denominations and colors: 10 p. rose, 20 p. yellow and 50 p. blue.

Cuba. A 1 p. brown has been added to the 1879 set.

Cashmere. 1-2 anna blue has been added to the set. C. W.

Deccan. Service stamps are said to exist, made by surcharging Indian characters on the regular series. C. W.

Collectors had better not tamper with the numerous Indian monstrosities which are constantly appearing; and in buying such should patronize only those dealers whose reputations are good.

Denmark. The inscription on the 4 s blue card has been changed to Brev Kort. Size reduced. M. S. C.

Egypt. As we understand it, this country is to have a new issue the 15th of this month as follows: 5 para brown, 10 p. mauve, 20 p. blue, 1 piastre red, 2 p. orange, add 6 p. green.

Falklands. 1 shilling has been added to the set of this country.

Figi Isles. The stamps of this country are now printed on laid paper.

Guadalupe. An unstamped card is now in use. It is printed on black on yellowish grey card. M. S. C.

Italy. White cards are now the style.

Mexico. Descriptions of the Port de Mar stamps are now going the rounds of the Philatelic press as 2c brown, 5c yellow, 10c red, 25c blue, 50c green and 100c violet.

Portugal. Has issued the following envelopes viz: 5 c red, 10 c brown, 15 c blue, 50 c green,

Romania. 50 bani rose now appears on laid paper. 30 bani vermilion, same type as other values.

Servia the word "answer" on double card is now reduced in length.

Samoa. Has issued a 5 sh. green, same style as other values.

Perak. The Straits Settlements stamp surcharged P., 2 c brown.

Wenden. The 2 sk. stamp has been slightly changed. New Type has value in full at bottom.

Local Stamps.

Continued.

In the face of this it is somewhat surprising that Locals continue to be sought after by so many amateur collectors.

We do not wish to believe that in this enlightened age, collectors are ignorant of the fact that there are but very few Locals that can be guaranteed as genuine; in fact our best dealers and collectors look with suspicion on the majority of these stamps as the most experienced have been badly "taken in," however collectors can purchase The Metropolitan Express & P. O., Brooklyn City Post, Union Square P. O., Clark & Co., Hourly Ex. Post and a few others that are equally common, and need not fear that they have been "Casey-dosed." Of the above named stamps, most of the original plates are in hands of gentlemen, who feel grateful for an opportunity to supply collectors with any desired quantity.

We cannot at present inform our readers who are the owners of all existing plates, but as they have kindly flooded the market, it is really unnecessary to know where those gentlemen can be found, but for the benefit who have been 'Casey dosed' to such an extent that they hesitate about trusting dealers, we shall give a short list of plates known to us. The Boyds, Hussey (now Eason) Princes & Westervelt dies still belong to the parties for whom they were made, the Pomroy plate is in the hands of the engraver, Mr. Tavit. The Chever & Towle plate at present belongs to J. W. Scott & Co who purchased it of S. Allen Taylor in 1870, and are also the owners of the following dies, Swartz-Head of Washington, Burton's head of Taylor and Crosby's city Ex. Post. Messrs Scott & Co. also purchased one of the old Boyd

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

plates of S. Allen Taylor Esq Mr. W. P. Brown is the owner of the lithographic stone of the Jenkins, Camden dispatch.

James M. Chute Esq. is the owner of the Stamford Soldiers plate. The plate of the Providence P. O. is preserved in the state library at Providence, R. I., but cannot be obtained for printing purposes.

We shall conclude this article by giving the opinion of a leading philatelist who says "The main question with dealers is not whether a local is genuine one or not but whether it can be sold or not, therefore take care and give no special price.

rare ones of unquestioned authenticity are a very scarce commodity.

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Editors SPECTATOR.

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3000 stamps for sale or exchange. Agents wanted. Send stamp with order. W. F. Mason, Muncie Ind. Box 253.

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My packets are very good and cheap. No. 1 contains 10 var unused stamps such as Swiss unpaid, Uruguay, Azores, San Marino Spain, Heligoland and others post paid, 15c No. 2 contains 15 var unused stamps including Cape Verde, Port. Indies, Curacua, Surinam, Angola, Brazil '78, Houduras etc. post paid 28 cts.

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The Little Spectator

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
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ANNEXATION!

DATRICK HENRY never uttered a greater truth than when he poured into the ears of the Virginian Assembly the words "people form the strength and constitute the wealth of a nation." And under this great principle of increasing our population and extent of territory, our country has become a power among the nations. We have offered almost unlimited inducements to the oppressed of Europe, and numbers of industrious pilgrims have flocked to our shores. We have increased our territory, and therefore our wealth and resources, by several extensive landed purchases, which are to-day the most prosperous parts of the nation.

The time has come when some thing should be done to renew business and revive the almost dormant industries of our nation to activity. The annexation of Mexico, would, we think, accomplish at least a part of the desired objects. But we will not stop with Mexico, but would also annex Cuba and San Domingo. The addition of these countries to our republic would give an impetus to business, open up fields for colonization and enterprise, besides being a good thing for themselves.

Some time since, San Domingo formally requested to be annexed. But for some reason the magnificent offer was refused. And poor, downtrodden Cuba, a prey of the most tyrannical courts of Europe, has also appealed for annexation. The great abundance of staple articles which these islands produce, would make them very valuable accessions to our national wealth, as we are the greatest consumers of their produce. And instead of going to Liberia a great many of our southern negroes would find a productive soil and an agreeable climate on these isles, where labor is greatly needed. Thus we would retain our population instead of adding it to Africa's, institute an extensive Gulf trade, and open up a new highway for commerce with South America.

And as for Mexico, it also would make quite an addition to Uncle Sam's plantation! Mexico is naturally an extremely rich country, having untold mineral wealth and a productive soil. But its inhabitants are a drunken, indolent and Arabic set, whose highest aspiration is to have enough to eat. Its government is unsteady and impotent, sometimes a monarchy and sometimes a republic, the executive officers of which generally obtain their positions by "revolutions." It is a disgrace to the republican form of government.

Mexico is a crying nuisance. A government that is not able to check the thieving propensities of its people or build a railroad or a canal is greatly in need of external assistance. Let us have a few more slices of the Spanish Conquest!

AND now that the time for nominating candidates for National offices, is drawing near, all the very enterprising fossils, that were demoralized last July, have dragged themselves from their ancient shells, and demand honor at the hands of the Association—for keeping themselves in obscurity. If you desire the destruction of Amateurdom—as far as it is represented by its associations—the election of these overgrown humbugs will certainly accomplish it. Should any of these ambitious personages be so fortunate as to become a candidate, they will receive a well merited rebuke from the amateur fraternity, in the form of ignominious defeat.

We have received the first number of the Hawkeye Amateur, and are pleased with the contents and general make up.

TO PHILATELISTS!!

Having bought Mr. Stough's share in the Stamp business, and an unusually large stock besides, I am now prepared to furnish collectors with all kinds foreign postage stamps as cheap, if not cheaper, than any other dealer.

I shall publish a monthly Philatelic journal entitled "The National Philatelist," the first number of which will appear about the 25th. of April, and be mailed free, to any address. All Philatelic subscribers will to "The Spectator" will receive my paper until their subscriptions have expired. ADDRESS.

W. B. TAYLOR,
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THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.

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German Empire, 11 ".....	.20
With env. and cards, 26 ".....	.60
U. S. Executive dept, marked specimen, 5 ".....	.50
Agriculture " 9 ".....	1.35
Mexico, 1879 7 ".....	2.50

SINGLE STAMPS.

Montevideo 1878, 1 c. brown.....	\$0.03
Montserrat 1 d. red.....	.05
St Thomas 1 c. green & violet.....	.03
Swiss [unp. id] 5 c. blue.....	.03
Azores 5 reis black.....	.03
Brazil 10 reis red.....	.03
" 20 " violet.....	.05
Bopaul 1/2 anna red.....	.10
Confederate States 10 c. blue.....	.02
" " 20 c. green.....	.03
Caracooa 3 bistre.....	.05
" 2 1/2 green.....	.04
Cuba 1878 5 c. blue.....	.04
" " 10 c. black.....	.08
Chili " 5 c. orange.....	.04
Cape Good Hope 1/2 d. black.....	.03
Grigoland 1/2 d. surcharged.....	.04
Hawaii 2 violet.....	.03
Italy 2 c surcharged.....	.02
Maderanathal, blue.....	.04
Mexico (1879) 1 centavo.....	.03
" " 3 ".....	.05
" " 5 ".....	.08
" " 10 ".....	.14
" " 25 ".....	.35
" " 50 ".....	.60
" " 1 peso.....	1.25
New Zealand 2 1/2 d.....	.03
Porto Rico (1878) 5 c. brown.....	.05

and many others. Don't forget the 24 ea.
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