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THE

SPY GLASS.

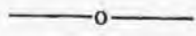
— A MAGAZINE FOR COLLECTORS. —

"Let us be Collectors for the pure love of the science, and for the friendship it fosters and we feel that we have acted wisely in thus treating the matter."

ROY F. GREENE, Editor,
Arkansas City, Kansas.
LETSON BALLIET, Associate,
Des Moines, Iowa.



SEPTEMBER 1891.



GREENE & BALLIET,
PUBLISHERS.

Arkansas City,

Kansas



Prospectus.

The world in general is a curious world. By this I mean eager to lift the mystic veil, and peer into the dim future. Although no one can question the actual worth of this issue of our paper we can hear a faint interrogatory from far off Maine, though it is possible it may be California's voice as to whether we mean to keep it up. We do! Most emphatically, I assure you!

We have secured some of the most eminent writers of the day, prominent among whom are


W. S. Kinzer,	W. C. White,
C. E. Pleas,	E. P. Newcomer,
J. H. Friar,	A. W. Lewis,
J. H. Donehoo,	Geo. J. Remsburg,
W. S. Cruzan,	Cleve Scott,
Beecher Ogden,	E. D. Melville,
L. W. Stillwell,	J. W. P. Smithwick
W. F. Greany.	

Among the good things to appear in the fall numbers are "Stamp Collecting Thirty Years Ago," by Dr. J. K. Russell. "Cacti Groves," a sketch of Mexican scenery by Thos. A. Archer. "Sword Fish," by E. P. Newcomer. "My day in a prairie dog town," by Roy F. Greene. "Sand Balls," by W. S. Cruzan, etc., etc. We will continue to furnish a dessert to our readers by means of a full page poem on the first page of each issue. Among these will be "A reprint or a collectors courtship," by R. F. Greene. "Out of the nest," by Clara Louise Burnham "Only a Coin." "The Robiu," by J. G. Whittier, (selected). etc., etc. We also have articles which will appear in two or more numbers. Among these are "Fossils," a most comprehensive article in

five numbers, by Arthur W. Lewis. "Indian grave yards," Roy F. Greene. The writer has visited five tribal burying grounds and has data from as many more. In this account, to occupy ten numbers, he compares them and makes it instructive as well entertaining. "War Envelopes," by a noted writer who has made a study of this branch of collecting, and has told in simple terms what he has learned, contrasting the ludicrous aspects of the soldier with the sympathetic he has made a readable article for three numbers of the "SPY GLASS." We have arranged for discussions on topics to be suggested, between eminent collectors. The first will be "The Star charge—is it a legitimate stamp?" W. S. Kinzer, W. C. White, E. P. Newcomer, and J. D. Donehoo will take part in the discussion. The next debate will be "The Mound Builders—how did they get here and where did they go to?" The debaters have not all been engaged as yet on the latter question, and we refrain from publishing names. A prize contest is now on between our lady collectors for the best article on "What collecting teaches me." We may expect something good. "Tom and Tim, or the Rise and Fall of the Star Stamp Co." is a humorous and touching story which will appear in the December number. On the whole our corp of contributors cannot be rivalled and we only ask a comparison with other journals. Do this and remit fifty cents for a year's subscription. Address,

THE SPY GLASS.

Arkansas City, Kansas.



LINES.

BY EDGAR J. KLOCK.

Suggested upon finding an arrow point, turned up by the flow in the spring, on the Mohawk river.

The Mohawk brave has vanished from his own beloved stream;
No longer council fires on plain and hill-top gleam;
In the vale, beside his fathers, for many moons he's lain,
'Til his bones are fast returning to the dust from whence they came.
His war whoop's long been silent, unstrung his useless bow,
For the ax has felled the forest where once roamed the buck and doe,
And his game, now driven northward in advance of progress' strides—
Vainly seeking there a shelter—in this narrowing haven hides.
Where once the blue smoke curling heavenward from his wigwam fires,
Just beyond his people's graveyard, where slept his war-famed sires,
There are raised the white man's mansion, and his mill or fact'y stands
With its turning, whirling spindles, and a thousand busy hands;
And along the then swift brooklet, where he wooed his dark-eyed bride,
Now are grazing herds of cattle, the farmer's wealth and pride.
Thus change has marked each feature of that happy hunting ground,
Once the home of nature's children, where their untilled wealth was found,
Until naught of them is left us but some legends, queer and old,
That grandsire to our sires' round the blazing back-log told,
And those rudely fashioned weapons, relics of a bygone race,
That were wasted on the war path or were scattered in the chase;
Those the plowshare oft upturning, or some ditcher's pick and spade
Lying from the tombs of chieftains, where once fell the woodland' shade,
Tells us of another billow in earth's ever changing tide,
Where so many clans and nations had their time, declined and died;
And does this same fate await us in the future? How soon?
Is our present proud possession in its morning or its noon?
Yesterday the Mohawks flourished in the valley where to-day
We are boasting of our grandeur, when their race has passed away,
And to-morrow, ay, to-morrow! when will that to-morrow be,
When our race in turn is buried 'neath oblivious debris?
Answer if you can, learned doctors, prophets, scientists and seers—
For your learning here is baffled. Only God can count the years.



Curious Lime Formations.

(*Calcite.*)

About three miles from where the writer resides, is a curious, yet common freak of nature, a limestone bed intermixed with wonderful carbonates of different forms and colors, which have in time past, issued from the limestone in a liquid state, and afterwards became hardened. This bed of stone has been converted into an immense quarry, and on being opened a spectacle of natural beauty greeted the eyes of those who were present. The molten mass had flowed down the sides of the huge stones, leaving a glossy coat (*stalagnite*); and on the edges where it dripped off, wonderful concretions (*stalactites*) were formed in the shape of icicles, some of them being nearly a foot in length. This liquid had assumed many other curious concretions, besides much of it being crystalized in a great variety of forms. Geologists attribute these concretions and incrustations to dripping water among the rock. These limestone beds afford a great amount of study for young as well as old geologists, and it would require a volume to fully describe the different fissures which characterize these deposits. They usually contain different varieties of limestone, such as *fossiliferous* limestone, or that which contains fossils; *magnesian* or *dolomitic* limestone, or that which consists of carbonate of lime and magnesia; *hydraulic* limestone, or that which is impure, etc.

The essential ingredient of limestone is carbonate of lime or calcite, and consists of *carbonic acid* and *lime*. Nearly all of the limestone rocks are probably of organic origin; they have been derived from shells, corals and other animal remains. This goes to show the vast amount of life that has lived and died through the past ages, for there are, all over the earth, immense deposits of limestone. Much more could be said of the common limestone and its peculiar composition and its many curious formations, but to do the subject justice, it would take all of Brother Greene's space and more too, and besides it requires a more experienced geologist than myself and a better writer at that.—*George J. Remsburg*

Eccentric Boys. To

"I wish I knew what to do with boy Dan," said Mr. Brown, with a worried look on his face.

"What is the matter with him?" asked his friend, Mr. Jones. "Is he a scamp?"

"Well, no," was the slow reply. "I can't say that he is disobedient, or mischievous, but he don't act like other boys, somehow."

"In what way?"

"Well, he don't take much to books, although he keeps up in his class pretty well; but he don't banker after learning. He's the greatest boy I ever saw prowling around the woods, bringing home bugs and roots and rocks. Then he has a whole lot of gimeracks in his room, and he's always peeping through microscopes, fooling with chemicals, and making experiments with one thing and another. I declare I don't know what's going to become of him, and I hate to punish him, because I know he don't mean anything wrong. It's just Dan's eccentricity, I suppose."

Mr. Jones laid his hand kindly on his neighbor's arm.

"I don't know what you will do," he said gravely, "but I know what I would do if I had such a boy. I'd buy him a fine microscope, all the chemicals he could use, and all the books on natural history he could read. I wouldn't mind if he was the tail end of his class if he was a genius."

"A genius, Mr. Jones!"

"Yes, sir. You never saw an eccentric boy in your life who didn't develop into something out of the ordinary, unless his parents crushed his boyish aspirations, and made him believe that there was nothing to be learned outside of books."

Mr. Brown was only half convinced yet Mr. Jones was right.

The mere idler of a boy may grow up a shiftless man, but the eccentric boy who studies nature and seeks for knowledge outside of the school-room, has in him the making of an inventor, naturalist, geologist or learned man.

Such boys stand in need of encouragement, rather than reproof.—*Gold*

To A Picture On A Stamp.

O, many pictures I have seen,
Of England's loved and worthy Queen;
Those of her younger days, so gay,
Oft seen on stamps of Canada,
And Victoria's stamps, so free and bold,
Show her smiling face, now growing old,
But could I select a fairer one,
A photo of her, old or young,
My favorite?—Oh, 'twould breathe of Heaven
A HÆCERITUS Two Pence '47.

—R. F. G.

Oology.

BY W. S. CRUZAN.

In order to make a success in the science of Oology, one must needs have a natural love for birds and bird's nests. We find it so in any undertaking. If there is no love for the profession, we generally see failure. "Love is the supreme gift" in anything that we may attempt to perform, providing we intend to make a success of the enterprise.

I have seen many persons start out with great enthusiasm to perform some project or work, and in a very short time meet with entire failure. They had not that deep-rooted love for their work that should have characterized them. A love for the enterprise that would have met every difficulty, every perplexity, every obstacle and trouble. That would patiently solve every problem and doubt, that would explore every dark recess, with a determination, a firm resolution to be master.

If he starts out with a settled purpose, and a strong love for their work, success is already written on their banner. You can see success beaming from their eyes; their very countenance reveals the fact.

But in this age we find many who seem to be satisfied with just a smattering knowledge of a thing, and there rest content. Not willing to delve, and explore the depths, but their desires are fully gratified to merely skim along the

top, while beneath them lies the precious gem, all to be had with a little exertion of strength and strenuous endeavor.

Distinction in any science is gained by continued efforts of the mind. It is not only an established principle of that Book of books, but it is written on the first page of every science "that a man shall be rewarded according to his works." A man is not rewarded for his works, but "according to his works," and if our work is performed with fidelity and love; and with a design to succeed, we shall be abundantly rewarded.

Nothing is more true of any science than this is of the science of Oology. If we start out in this work with a love for it and desire to succeed, we will meet with many a difficulty and some which will seem almost insurmountable. We will meet with many a scratch by thorn and brier; climb many a tree with sore hands and tired feet, and then only to find, many times an old last year's nest, filled with dead leaves. Make a misstep and fall from some bank or precipice perhaps into the stream below and "get a wetting." These trials with many more must be endured if we ever expect to reach the goal in Oological studies.

"OOLOGY:—The science of eggs; a treatise on eggs." (*Webster*.)

In order to be a good collector of eggs several things are necessary which we shall treat in another article. In our next we shall lay out the general plan of study and work, in this science; giving some practical hints in regard to collecting eggs, and points to become acquainted with in order to make it a success and pleasure to ourselves.

A flower has been discovered down in South America which only blooms when the wind blows. It ought to be in Kansas where it could bloom all the time.

An article on the "Chuck-Wills Widow" will appear next month from Mr. Smithwick.

Insects In Arkansas.

BY C. E. PLEAS.

Perhaps it would be well to state in the beginning that these lines are intended only to relate some interesting facts about the habits and general make-up of some of the untold and perhaps unnoticed members of the insect world found in this locality, (Clinton, Ark.), and no effort will be made to give only such scientific name as are necessary. It is aimed for the young as well as those advanced in knowledge to whom it may be new.

At present I wish to speak of only some of the now conspicuous Hymenoptera, or bees and wasps, found in this locality, and not known to me elsewhere or at least only in small numbers.

Who is there, who has not watched, with pleasure, the movements and gayety of the gorgeous Butterfly, or listened to the hum of the busy-bee?

They were all put here for a purpose, and though we may not perceive it, or may consider them an injury, they are doing their work according to Nature's plan; for we are all put here to overcome obstacles. We know that a goodly portion of our crops is due to the work of insects, and while some are helping us of their own accord, others are worn as ornaments, and others are kept in confinement, and made to fight to furnish sport for men. The Praying Mantis is one of this latter sort, and where two are confined together, the stronger kills and devours the weaker. In Mexico Lantern flies are much used to decorate the ladies hair at balls and night gatherings. Locusts were a delicate article of food in Bible times, and still tribes of Indians harvest them for bread material. In some places ants are used as pickles, and if you find them in masses in rotten logs during winter, you may notice a very strong, sour odor.

There are many superstitious notions,

among the more ignorant classes, concerning various insects. To the "Thumping-bug" is thought by some to cause a death in the family. To the "Death Watch" means a death in the family. The sting of a Cow-ant, thought, will kill a cow or man.

While some species of Ants form great armies, others till the soil, raise grain, and others keep slaves to do their work.

We can learn something from every insect. The idea of the art of paper making was first conceived by a man who saw a wasp gathering fibres which to build its nest. From that time the art has made rapid progress and to-day we are using paper and board made from almost every fibrous substance.

Some of the Hymenoptera possess such remarkable intelligence that they bordering on to reason. There are a few of this order that are not of benefit to man, at least in this country, though our grape crops are often injured by Wasps and Honey-bees. Raisers claim that bees cannot bite grape and have no jaws, etc., but that is a mistake. I have seen grapes badly injured when there were no other insects than Italian bees working in them. I have seen them bite sound grapes well as to enlarge openings made by others.

But I think even these injuries are many times paid for, though the person who loses the grapes is not always the one who harvests a good crop of honey and wax. Ants are great destructors of larvae, and the Ichneumon-flies make it their sole occupation to destroy the larvae of other insects by depositing their eggs in them, which hatch out in time to cause death before the insect reaches maturity. These flies (as they are called) though they are Hymenoptera, vary greatly in size. The largest I know are 7-8 inches in length.

an ovipositor 5-8 inches in length, and the smallest, about 1-8 inch long. These will be described later.

For hours, while writing, I have watched the Bald-faced or Black Hornet catch flies. They circle around the room, alighting on every nail head or spot on the wall, and when they come to a fly they would dive down on it like a hawk upon a chicken. By way of experiment, I tied a thread to a fly and laid it on white paper. Soon the Hornet seized it and made off, but suddenly dropped back when his line was stretched. He tried it several times, but finding his prey fast he deliberately cut the thread and flew to the ceiling, where he hung dangling by one hind foot 'till his game was eaten. First the wings, then the head and legs were cut off, and all but the shell of the body were eaten. By this time I had another fly ready, and it was soon found. Only one attempt was made to carry it off before the thread was again cut. The fourth thread was cut without trying to fly away first. Is this simply instinct? Other Hornets would eat the flies on the paper.

They are very numerous here and destroy a great many flies for us, though it is claimed that flies are here to do us good by eating filth from around the doors. One Hornet will eat several flies before its hunger is satisfied. They not infrequently dive at a persons eyes, especially if he has dark eyes.

A neighbor lady was so unfortunate as to close her eyelid on one and hold it fast. She could not get her own consent to open her eye, with a Hornet here, before she was stung.

These habits do not belong to the Hornets alone. Various Wasps are fond of insect food. One which I would mention is a rather slim, dark brown Wasp, with yellow spotted legs and a yellow band across the fore part of the abdomen. In size, they equal the com-

mon house wasps, and are fully as vicious, to my painful knowledge. They are very abundant here and nest in the branches of trees and bushes, the nest being suspended to a small branch. The nest is shaped like that of the common species, is occasionally two storied, is from 6 to 12 inches in diameter, and generally very white beneath. I have seen them entirely obscured by the wasps themselves, and in the cool fall mornings they will rattle down like hail when shaken. At this time of year, each cell contains a drop or two of honey, so that a large nest will weigh a pound or more.

I was desirous to ascertain if there was honey in one the other day, but my head filled with learning before I had made the discovery and I leave it for the future. As I was sitting by a spring-branch one day eating a luncheon, my attention was attracted by some light-colored object fluttering in the leaves a few yards away. On investigating I found it to be a Luna-moth struggling for its life. One of these wasps was clinging to it like a leech, and in the course of a few minutes one side was rid of wings, and the next apparent change left the wasp eating the abdomen, while the head, thorax and other wings crawled to the top of a small twig and there remained till the wasp had sucked himself full, and flew away with the rest of the abdomen. These wasps may be seen at any time searching through the bushes for insects.

BURDETTE'S DEAD LETTER.—Robert J. Burdette recently received a notification at Livingston, Mont., that a dead registered letter awaited his orders at Washington. He sent the following reply: "If the letter referred to isn't so dead that it is offensive you might send the remains to Burlington, Ia., where I will claim the mummy in about a month."

Jottings.

BY EDGAR D. MELVILLE

Dear readers: I address you not as a thoroughly active collector, but one who, when he comes in possession of relics, in the way of stamps, coins, minerals, and in fact most anything of historical value, he keeps them, and the longer they are kept, I assure you, the more I become attached to them and the more I appreciate their value.

* * *

Persons living in the vicinity in which I reside, knowing me to be interested in relic collecting, and particularly so in the collecting of stamps, have from time to time, kindly supplied me with specimens; some were very common and then again, some were very rare.

* * *

Some time ago, I received a number of specimens of entire envelopes from a friend of mine in Chester.

Three of the specimens in particular, I prize very highly, owing to their unique character and historical value.

They are merely sheets of writing paper, ruled on one side, the side on which the communication exists, with the exception of one, which is not ruled on either side.

The sheets which are ruled are folded to about the size of a No. 6 envelope of our present day. The unruled sheet is folded to a comparatively much smaller form.

The superscription is inscribed in the usual form on all three specimens; a post mark, brick red in color also appears on each specimen.

The dates of the the epistles are as follows:

Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 13th, 1845.

" " Oct. 6th, 1846.

" " Sept. 3rd, 1847.

The most remarkable feature in connection with them is the fact that they

existed during a time when post stamps were not in use.

On the specimen of 1845 the price of the cost of transit (5 cents) is marked in the right hand corner, and in the specimen of 1846, the price marked is 10 cents, which also appears in the left hand corner. The specimen of 1847 is not marked in this way. I judge however that in this case it must have been forwarded prepaid.

The mark on both the specimens noting the cost of postage was, from appearances, written with pen and ink.

* * *

Mr. Alvah Davison is a very pleasant and instructive writer. His articles are written with clear conciseness of thought and the substance of the subject under consideration being plainly discernible.

His article in the initial number of *The Jerseyman*, entitled "What constitutes a Good Collection?" is well worth perusal.

The animus of the article in question consists of a plea for specialism, and the benefits to be gained by this mode of collecting, as explained by Mr. Davison makes the subject one that in justice should receive careful consideration.

* * *

My opinion of the plan of forwarding approval sheets of stamps to philatelists without a formal request, is to say the least a very poor plan and very disagreeable and annoying to the recipient.

The better plan for dealers to follow is not to forward selections unless requested to do so. It is by far the cheapest and safest mode of business transaction.

Nau Kaw, a grandson of the Winnebago chief of the same name, has in his possession a "public document" in the shape of a piece of parchment on which is recorded that "Nau Kaw, chief of the Winnebagos, had duly smoked the pipe of peace with John Quincy Adams, president of the United States." At the bottom of the parchment is the signature it bears. The certificate is dated 1828.

Wanted—A Change.

Change is pretty good stuff to have jingling around in one's pockets, and everybody wants it; indeed, most people don't care very much what is on coins as long as their hands are on them. But, speaking seriously, there are very many people in this great land of ours, who would like to see a change in the devices impressed upon our national coins.

It seems as if very little effort had ever been made to improve the artistic work on the United States coins. In fact, although changes have sometimes been made, it seems that anything but improvement has resulted. Take for example the cent. In my opinion, the antique "Liberty cap" is far superior to that of the present time with the head of the "Big Injun." Perhaps the design of the "Fillet head" was an improvement upon the first mentioned, but thereafter, the cent degenerated until the last large coppers were less beautiful than the first. The "Eagle cent" was not pretty, but that of the "Indian head" is even less so. It is about the same with other denominations. The figure of "Liberty seated" is a fearful descent from the old "Liberty head."

Of course, modern coins are made with a view as to their durability, and we cannot expect such beautiful specimens as were produced by the ancients because they laid more importance upon the beauty of the pieces than upon their wearing qualities. Nevertheless, great improvements can, and I think should be made. Even the little Argentine Republic can show us a representation of "Liberty" that beats anything we can produce. If one of these South American pieces should be placed in a box with one of our copper cents, the latter would immediately corrode and turn green with envy.

Why I would not pattern after the Argentine Republic. Very many countries have the portraits of their rulers on the coins. The names and features of the king and queen are thus remembered. I wish that the coins, or at least some of the coins of the United States, might bear the portrait of the president. I

was not a supporter of President Cleveland; yet I should have liked to see his features, and the features of all future chief magistrates, portrayed on the nations' coins. I think that it is far better to see the head of a man who is great enough to be the foremost man of this country, than it is to look upon the face of an ugly "Liberty," totally wanting in expression.

It is not my wish that the representation of "Liberty" should be wholly abandoned; freedom is too sacred a thing to forget, even in our pieces of money. Let the gold, nickel and bronze coins bear the figure of the goddess (a better type than the present), and let the silver pieces be graced with the features of the president.

This would familiarize the people with the face of their leader, and would perpetuate the memory of former great men. Perhaps it would do something toward abating the fury of politicians, for they would hardly dare to slander a man whose portrait was in their pockets.

From a numismatist point of view, this change would be very gladly seen. If we had a set of coins from the earliest United States coinage, each piece bearing the face of the president of its time, how much more interesting it would be than a row of almost unchanging and wholly inexpressive "Liberties!" Who would not be interested in looking over the metallic pictures of Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the rest? Of course, as Mr. Whittier says, it is pretty sad to say "It might have been," but it can't be helped now. However, we intend to do business at the old stand for some time to come and, in my opinion, this change would be an improvement.

The late James Russell Lowell says that clearly enunciated words "Are like coins fresh from the mint, compared with the worn and dingy drudges of long service—I do not mean American coins, for those look less badly the more they lose their original ugliness." The latter part of this simile applies to our subject, and a great many who differ with Mr. Lowell on the question of the tariff, would agree with him concerning this.

There is certainly enough need of some change. Would that the portrait of Gen. Harrison might be the first to adorn a new series of United States' coins!—Charles T. Tatman, in "Plain Talk."

With Editors Quill.

The "Wisconsin Naturalist" is defunct with this issue.

W. S. Kinzer is busy attending the races at Fostoria. He is a veteran horse raiser and next to Philately, this is his favorite hobby.

Beecher Ogden is our New York correspondent, and he promises to keep us posted on the news of "the twin cities." He reports everything quiet this month there, but sends a batch of newsy items, worthy of perusal.

J. H. Friar, who is to contribute a series of articles on "Florida Curiosities," is postmaster at a small town on the peninsula and an enthusiastic collector. The initial article on "Florida Insects" appears in this issue.

We will present the photograph and biography of a prominent collector every other month to the readers of the "SPY GLASS." The first will appear next month, and the veteran philatelist and correspondent, E. P. Newcomer will be the first of the series.

The "Wanamaker of St. Louis," C. H. Meekeel, is a sturdy advocate of free use of printers ink, and his great success is largely due to this trait. His "ads" in the "Golden Days" and "Youth's Companion" some months ago astonished the philatelic world, costing as they did \$1,000. But besides profiting Meekeel it has undoubtedly added 5000 collectors to our study. In my limited acquaintance, no less than eight attracted by his "ad" are now collecting enthusiastically and successfully. Let's pat Charley on the back.

Many additions have been made to your albums or cabinets the past few months. While on your vacation your daily searches in Nature's wildwood have been successful and the results show off

well in your collections. My philatelic friends I trust, have derived some comfort from their albums, whether at Camp May or in the "Rockies." What a jolly time we've all had! Summer is the collector's season and we trust all our friends have taken advantage of it.

A word to our lady readers: If you go out with a feeling of pride that we welcome the ladies to our science. Nothing does the editor more good than to see a lady tumbling and rumbling, tramping and climbing after specimens for her collection, or rummaging the old garret at old stamps and other antiquities that interest us. How healthy and rosy-cheeked they always look, and how they love them! Pleasanter in their homes and happier women for their associations with nature. God bless them every one, and may their cabinets be heaped with a veritable cornucopia of good things, and their albums compare with our friend Ferrary's in size and contents.

We have just finished looking over a lot of newspapers, issued from 1850 to 1866, many of them illustrated, and teeming with war pictures and reports of conflicts. Over 100 of these have fallen under the editor's eye and several interesting articles on stamps, etc., from a newspaper point of view were noticed. We have selected some of these for publication, including an amusing "advertised letter list" of a southern city in 1862. They will appear as we have space. These papers are stirring memories of the war, and the postal affairs during these critical days are faithfully recorded. The papers are in the editor's possession and he will frequently make use of them. Look for something next month.

We would say in closing that we will occupy this space each month, and try and interest you. During five years of association with collectors, we have had a life of pleasure, and thank God our lot has been cast in so pleasant a sphere. God grant that our editor's life may be as pleasant and we'll be happy indeed.

Roy F. Green.

A Few Hints to Autograph Collectors.

BY HARRY SHERMAN.

Most young men now-a-days who devote their spare time to collecting, collect stamps and coins; but there is another field just as wide although not as fully occupied, which is autograph collecting. Now what I mean by an autograph collector, in the true sense of the term, is not the person who accidentally is the recipient of some noted person's favor, but one who goes at it in earnest and exercises good judgment while doing the same. To exercise good judgment and properly keep within the bounds of sense and propriety one must study the particular points about this person whose autograph you seek, not writing your letter in a stereotyped or formal manner, but make it a personal and perhaps complimentary letter, and the person written to in such a manner will invariably be glad to accommodate you. Always, if possible, when writing to a person enclose a card (if you want signature only) and a stamp and self-addressed envelope. If you do not succeed the first time, try again; but write an entirely different letter the second time.

The best way to begin is to take some particular field or, autograph specialty, thus, if you are of a literary turn of mind, collect autographs of literary men and women; if you are interested in history, take such men as come before you who have had their turn in shaping the destinies of nations; if you have a mania for productions on the stage, pick out the noted celebrities in this line; and last, but not least, do not forget the autographs of the noted men in this country. It is a good thing, also, to have a portrait to go with each manuscript or autograph.

Be a collector first, for before you can

be a dealer get some autographs. You are badly mistaken if you think that collecting autographs of great men is an easy thing. Your collection will never be complete, so do not think when you get a few hundred manuscripts or signatures that you have completed the work you started out to do. There is no need of always asking plainly for his scribbling, but sometimes when writing commend some particular work he or she has done. Some receive your commendation as a compliment, and some will take it but with a marked degree of coldness.

Young collectors, let autograph collecting be up to a high standard, and do not show your formality, insincerity or boorishness. Autograph collecting can now only be compared with a small shoot springing from the seed, but giving evidence of future prosperity and vigorous growth. Stamps and coins have arrived at such a stage that they are to some an exclusive business, and it is hoped that each and every individual collector of scrawling or hen-tracks will help to endow it with, and maintain a high degree of excellence. Do not be discouraged if, after writing a letter to some person, you receive a reply from his private secretary saying "that he appreciated but could not comply with the many requests that come to him of that nature." Such men are far in the minority. There are so many peculiarities and differences in the many autographs that it is quite amusing and also instructive to look them over, seeing in one perhaps a hand similar to Horace Greeley's, making a person think he had tried to show the difference between mountains and hills on paper, or take the clear and well-written hand of Blaine's, Logan's or Cleveland's suggesting that they considered their writing an essential part of their prosperity. Do not always look at a handwriting in a way indicating curiosity; but possibly after looking at it in a thoughtful manner, it may suggest to you something which might help you, after considering your own writing, to make yourself more proficient in the art. A premium, may some day be put on your autographs so it will be much better to your interests if you have a good business hand.—*Collector and Exchange.*

The Spy Glass.

A MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

ROY F. GREENE, EDITOR,
Arkansas City, Kans.
LETSON BALLIET, ASSOCIATE,
Des Moines, Iowa.

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All matters concerning Ornithology, Oology,
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addressed to the Associate Editor.

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THE SPY GLASS.

Arkansas City, Kansas.

Salutatory.

We enter, with this number, the journalistic arena, and although there are more experienced gladiators in the field, yet, by hard work and a great deal of patience we expect to cope with the others and stand our own ground. We have engaged the services of some of the best writers our science can boast of, and this issue is a fair sample of what we mean to be. Every article will be strikingly original, and while the best of the old writers will be retained, we will from time to time introduce new ones who will command your attention.

We have presented a prospectus elsewhere, and this shows many good things we have in store for our readers. Our present size will be kept up until the end of the volume, and preserved intact will make a fine book of 250 pages, replete with the most interesting sketches, freshest news, practical suggestions and

poetical effusions that our collector friends can anywhere find.

The Editor is a systematic and enthusiastic collector of several years standing, and knowing the faults and frailties of the collector's press, has sought to remedy them.

The Associate Editor needs only to be known to be appreciated, and in his own sphere, none is more highly respected for his good qualities, integrity, sterling worth, and untiring efforts towards the diffusion of knowledge through the means of the press than Mr. Balliet. It is hoped that our efforts will be appreciated and recognition given in accordance. We write as collectors and our sanctum is broad enough and large enough to contain you all. As regards greetings such as only collectors give, and success to you one and all.

The Ed.

We desire to exchange with all parties devoted to collectors. Two copies please.

Contributions respectfully solicited on all subjects of interest to collectors. Accepted manuscript liberally paid for.

Parties desiring rubber stamps do well to write for prices to the Des Moines Rubber Stamp Co., whose catalogue appears in this issue.

"Men owe it to their calling to contribute to our papers items of experience for general benefit," says the *American Rural Press*. "We think contributions unnecessary."

An article on philately by W. S. V. Zer will appear next month. Several good nusismatical articles also appear in this file, including one on "How to make a Coin Cabinet."

We would recommend to the collector reading public Mr. O. A. Traversy, the eminent collector. Parties having specimens for sale will do well to write to him. His address you will find on cover page.

The Whistling Swan.

When we undertake to describe the Whistling Swan we do not know whether to describe him on the land or in the water. As he is surely the more in his native realm in the latter, we will try and do him nature justice. He is in the water the most majestic and strikingly beautiful bird our woods and waters can show. When seen smoothly gliding on the bosom of some quiet lake, unmindful of disturbance, executing a thousand graceful motions, there is not a more beautiful figure in all nature. He as a domesticated bird on the land it is quite awkward, though kind and affectionate. The whistling swan is quite common to

America and her collectors, and late explorers have reported them as largely nesting in the Yukon river of Alaska. The nest is usually at some retired part of the bank and the male bird assists in making the nest of

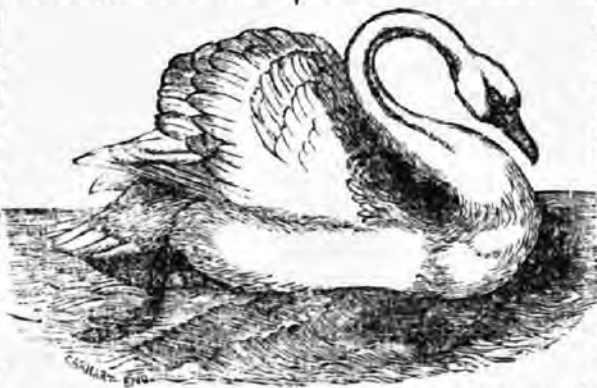
water-plants, long grass and sticks. The swan lays seven or eight eggs of a white color, one every other day, larger than those of a goose and sometimes having a tubercular shell. It sits six weeks before the young are hatched and the young for several months are of an ashy gray color. The swan is very strong and has been known to attack large animals and succeed in repulsing them in the case of its nest. Sometime ago I read of a cow-boy in California whose skill with the lasso was so great that on seeing a swan arise and urging his horse forward he rode close to the bird as it was rising but a few feet from the ground; lightly throwing the rope he lassoed the swan bird in mid-air, bringing it to the

ground. The bird in question was one belonging to General Bidwell and had escaped from his park, when it was hunted and finally captured in this unique way. I remember of one having been captured in the Indian Territory several years ago and brought to Kansas, but I think they are extremely rare visitors here.

Could you see one smoothly gliding on the placid, unrippled bosom of a quiet mountain lake you'd go home feeling that God's greatest handiwork and an master-piece had superb been held up to your vision.

Unlike most of our northern-nesting feathered friends, it is almost solely found on the Pacific coast portion of the

United States. The famous Tulare lake in California used to be a great rendezvous for them, where they could be found at almost every season of the year. They are reported to be found in almost every mountain lake of any im-



portance of the Rocky Mountain system.

Our acquaintance with them has been limited though we hope to better acquaint ourselves with their habits by a trip to their native realm in the near future. Certain it is that they are to be classed among the most graceful species of birds to be found anywhere.

When one sees their graceful actions in their native element and their awkward appearance on land we might sympathize more deeply with our neighbor who is out of his sphere and struggling along, ungainly, yet bravely enduring, not unlike the Whistling Swan.

—Roy F. Greene.

Is Botany Essential to the Study of the Other Natural Sciences?

BY LETSON BALLIET.

As a study the natural sciences are entirely too much neglected. Only of late years has Zoology and Entomology been placed in our public schools, and now, since it is placed thus, people say, "What good will studying that kind of *stuff* ever do you?" and you often hear similar remarks about Botany which has been in the schools longer than either of the former. Let me say right here that, the study of Natural History will do you worlds of good, and you will never regret that you have studied it. My motto is "Improve every chance to study nature." May I ask that you, reader, will adopt it, or a similar one. Botany was placed first in the schools because it ranked as first in the study of Natural Sciences. Other branches of Natural History would not be successful if the student did not know something about Botany. Botany is the *prime factor* of Ornithology, Oology, Entomology, Zoology, Geology, Minerology, etc.

In Ornithology you should know the kinds of material used in the nest, the kinds of trees, shrubs, or herbs the birds like best for breeding, and the kinds of vegetable food it eats. To know or find out all that, can you do without Botany?—I say no.

In Oology, which I class as the daughter of Ornithology, you must (to have complete datas) know the building site, and material used for building the nest, you must also know not to climb a tree with poison ivy or other vines on it, and (though not strictly botanical) you should be able to tell whether a tree is thorny before you try to climb it. It is best to know botanically what tree you climb before you begin the ascent.

In Entomology it is necessary to know the breeding habits and places of insects, here, if in any study, Botany is very useful. Most insects breed on plant life, therefore when you find an insect on a leaf, you should know what kind of a leaf it is, and with the names of different insects, and their breeding on two different plants at different times, you will find, my readers, that Botany is indispensable.

In Zoology what do animals eat? Most if not all live on, or eat at least some of the vegetables, thus, this calls for Botany again, and many live in trees, or in woods, and make their beds of leaves in one form or another. In Geology and Minerology many specimens are made up of plant life. Thus I could go through every branch of Natural History and the continued call would be for Botany.

Now I wish to ask you, reader, a question, Do you not find Botany indispensable?

THE PICTURES GET STUCK ON THE MAIL.—I never lost a letter, my letters come to me all over America with never a fault, but the very postal cards catch up with me. But somehow or other the "postal papers" have a way of lodging in the cracks of the mail-car that is very annoying, and to a thick-headed, obstinate, incredulous man, very mysterious. It is not so mysterious, either. In my opinion it is not so mysterious if it only happened to my own mail, or only once in a while. What I was going to suggest is that the Post-office Department should employ a scribe for these journals for every ploye of the railway mail service.

Robert J. Burdette

The German government follows us very closely in the path of the United States, in not only abolishing high value stamps but discarded stamped envelopes but discarded

Florida Curiosities.

BY J. H. FRIAR.

To the lovers of the curious Florida offers a field of investigation equaled by few and exceeded by none. One arm of the state reaching nearly to the Tropic of Cancer it is the home of fruits, flowers, trees, animals, birds, insects, fishes and reptiles that have their habitats in no other part of our Union. In addition to the other curiosities of Nature immense deposits of phosphates have recently been discovered in the southern part of the state which consists of the bony remains of ante-diluvial animals, some of which compared to them the elephant is a mere pigmy.

I do not feel able to do justice to this part of our state's attractions although I have been a resident of the peninsular portion for the past twenty years. There are things I have never met with, which to the eyes of the curiosity-seeker would prove pleasing, and others that I have seen have passed from my memory. Many of these would be interesting to lovers of nature yet I feel that these papers will not be devoid of interest to those who never rambled on sea shore and semi-tropical woods and waters. I will endeavor to classify them into different heads as "Insects," "Birds," "Reptiles" etc. yet if we get mixed as we feel we will in the short time we have had to prepare them we will make pardonable amends by inviting the readers of this journal to come and see for themselves and they will find a field rich in research to those who love Nature's God.

INSECTS.

Florida is not as rich in an Entomological stew as some of her south western sisters, for example the centipede and arachnida are not here, the screw-fly and worm and the buffalo-gnat are also unknown, but we have an insect(?) called by the local name of "Scroucher,"

the bite of which is believed to be a quick death, but which in reality is harmless. The length of a full grown specimen is about five inches exclusive of a thread-like tail some two or three inches longer, (this the natives claim is their weapon of defense) they have a savage looking pair of front arms with crab-like claws that enable them to cling to any object thrust at them. They are always ready for a fight and throwing themselves back and their arms outward they make a truly formidable appearance. They, when teased, eject a strong-smelling liquid from the extremity of the tail which is very painful when it comes in contact with the flesh. I notice that Prof. Riley classifies this gigantic insect(?) as a *termite*. This seems to me to be erroneous as I can see nothing in common with the two, yet as an authority has placed them there, there they will remain.

This insect (?) was much more common twelve or fifteen years ago; but for some unknown cause, probably colder winters, it has become very rare of late years. A large specimen in alcohol would bring from fifteen to thirty dollars while smaller ones would probably not sell for over five dollars. This is the only insect in Florida deserving a prominent place in a cabinet of curiosities.

WHO WOULD'N'T BE AN INSECT?—Insects must lead a jovial life. Think what it must be to lodge in a lily! Imagine a palace of ivy or pearl, with pillars of silver and capitals of gold—all exhaling delicious perfume. Fancy, again, the fun of tucking yourself up for the night in the folds of a rose, rocked to sleep by the gentle sighs of a summer's air and nothing to do when you wake but to wash yourself in a dew drop and then eat your bed-clothes for your breakfast! Jolly isn't it?

A Mascot.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

We all have a lucky number they say,
And Friday is known as a very bad day
To go on a nesting trip e'en o'er the way,
A fruitless excursion 'twould be.

Sixteen is my lucky number I've found;
The brightest and gayest of specimens
'round,

Is a Indian hammer which weighs several
pounds,

Which in my collection is "No. 16,"

Sixteen hundred stamps from my album
peep.

Sixteen "Bob-White" eggs in a clump of
grass, deep,

Hidden from sight, I found them asleep,
And I numbered the set "16."

Now I've told you my mascot and assure
you 'tis true;

Now why it is so is a story not new.

Lean over, I'll whisper the secret to you.

My sweetheart is just "16"

My Stamp Album.

BY J. D. DONEHOOG.

One of the greatest advantages which philately has over numismatics and other forms of collecting, is in the ease with which stamps may be preserved and attractively displayed. For coins we must have expensive cabinets and for other articles of vertu, contrivances even more elaborate and costly to secure a favorable display of our treasures but for the reductive stamps there is needed only a simple book and some taste in arrangement, to make the effect resulting from harmonious colors, rich designs and exquisite engraving, one that cannot fail to charm.

But while all are agreed that an album is the only appropriate mounting for a collection of stamps, yet the choice of one is often a matter of no small perplexity, and that not because their variety is small but rather from the very wealth of material from which we may choose. We have books entirely blank, others with an unvarying number of spaces on each page; others again providing special compartments for the

larger number of stamps, and still, ambitious enough to attempt provision of spaces for all stamps issued, and not to speak of the portable albums with removable leaves and rich contrivances. We have so many varieties under each and all of the *genera* that the collector's confusion is unbounded in view of all this rich material. What album then shall I use? The question has answered itself for the average philatelist in days gone by, the development of his collection demanded more space. First in the boy stage of stamp fever, has come the patent office report or the old blank book with its torn and grimy stamps fast-pasted in with mucilage. Then follows the spaced album, and then as his knowledge, stamps and cash increase, the collector calls for an "International" album probably no dollar and a half ever more real happiness to its owner than that which makes our budding philatelist the proud possessor of an album guaranteed to have "spaces provided for all stamps ever issued." But the time must come when the printed album with all its excellencies fails to satisfy. Months after its publication the collector finds a whole swarm of new stamps for which no spaces are provided; then he must spoil the appearance of his cherished book by sticking these in vacant places, or else adopt the expedient of pasting in new pages which can by no possibility be made to fit well. Then again those spaces left on every page which are not filled up never will be unless our collector's fortune at his disposal are a constant element; the absence of one stamp spoils the appearance of a page otherwise filled and whole leaves with only here and there a mournful solitary specimen drive the collector into philatelic frenzy. He knows, poor soul, that they may remain thus desolate. And the practical question finally comes to

collector, I think, as it did to me, how can I secure an album having the merit of permanency and so devised as to permit me to make a fair display with such stamps as I have? Now I have found what has proved to me an entirely satisfactory solution of this question in a blank album which I prepared for myself and at the risk of seeming to praise my own work I shall describe it hoping that an account of it may be helpful to others. I had a stationer order from the manufacturer a blank book heavily bound in half-russia similar to those used for county records. It contained 600 pages or 400 leaves of heavy white unruled paper. I cut out every fifth page allowing the stubs to remain, this prevented the stamps from swelling out the book, and I reserved the first twenty pages for index etc., this leaving me 300 clear pages for my collection. Then I took a census, country by country of my modest 3,500 stamps and found out the number in each of the grand divisions, America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania; it was then very easy to divide up my space in proportion to the number of stamps I had from each, making some allowance for those parts in which I was notably deficient. Then again I subdivided each general division - America into North, West Indian, and South, allotting the amount of space due each, and still again these subdivisions I classified as for instance North America into, first, the United States; second, British Colonies; third, Spanish Colonies, each with its proportion of space, by the time the division had become this minute it was easy enough to refer to the separate countries the number of pages due each, leaving at the end of each minor division at least one or two blank leaves. As the pages were 1-2 by 13-2 inches in dimension I found that each would hold eleven stamps seven in a row, making 77 on the page, or by allowing wider

spaces between them, eight rows of five each making forty in all, the latter would give my book a maximum capacity of 12,000, the former of over 23,000. I arranged each page with reference to one of these scales, for instance if of the first 77 stamps issued by a country I had only a few, I arranged them on that scale omitting every other row and every other stamp in each row I did use so that 24 stamps would form a skeleton of the 76 arrangement and others might be filled in as I got them; where I had nearly all I allowed 40 to the page and left gaps symmetrically placed for those that were wanting. The result is that with less than 4,000 stamps my pages all look full, and symmetrical although they are capable of holding more than 10,000 additional stamps and that any increase in any country can easily be provided for by a rearrangement, while any new country can easily have space found for it in its appropriate group. My album thus provides space for all stamps issued, is permanent because it allows for the growth of many years to come, and having a symmetrical arrangement of stamps on each page is unmarred by the huge gaps and unfilled pages characteristic of printed albums, whilst I secure a better general effect by carefully placing the stamps of each series so as to bring out the best contrasts in colors and also add as I think, much to the educational value of my collection by having all countries placed in their natural geographical groups. Finally I may say that I consider the effect of the contrasted stamps arranged in order on the clear, white pages is much better than that secured by any printed album, whilst my handsome book bound to withstand the ravages of centuries of time compares most favorably with the flimsy binding so generally imposed upon collectors, therefore I am more than satisfied with My Stamp Album.

New York Notes.

BY BEECHER OGDEN.

The "National Exchange" has been discontinued. It had just completed its first volume. The "American Youth" will fill the subscription list.

* * *

"The Brooklyn Philatelist" has issued its first and second numbers. It has eight pages and cover and is very neatly gotten up.

* * *

The 1890 issues of Salvador and Nicaragua have been placed on the market. They are very pretty stamps, and look well in an album. Doubtless some collectors will think that the stamps are counterfeits because of the great reduction in price. I heard that said about the 1878 issue of Honduras, and the set of Mexico 1864, when they were offered at such low prices not long ago. For anyone to say that a dealer who has a reputation to maintain, would win it by selling or advertising counterfeits is ridiculous in the extreme. These stamps of Nicaragua and Salvador, are simply the remainders, left on hand when the stamps went out of use. They are neither counterfeits, reprints or "fakes."

* * *

I recently received some peculiar labels from a dealer who sent them out as "newspaper stamps used in the U. S." They are about 3 1-4x2 1-4 inches in size, printed on colored paper. Inside a border are the words "Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, prepaid newspaper stamp. In prepayment of charges on newspapers and magazines to all points reached by this company in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico, Wyoming and Dakota. If the package contains any other matter, charge tariff rate in addition to the stamp." The stamp also bears an autographic signature of Dudley Evans, general superintendent, as well as the

value, and the number of pounds stamp prepaid. They are worth should think, their weight as old paper and anyone who has been swindled by them, would do well to communicate with the postoffice department.

* * *

P. M. Van Cott, postmaster at New York City, is talked of as a candidate for governor.

* * *

It has been proposed to construct a pneumatic railway from New York to Brooklyn across the East River Bridge to carry the mail. The postoffices at each city are very near the bridge and the railway would reduce the time between the two offices to a very few minutes. The scheme, even though practicable, cannot be carried out for some time.

A NEW POSTOFFICE.—We copy the following item from an English paper: "For some time past a decayed postoffice situate within an easy distance of London set-place (N. W.), having been abandoned as an article for the supply of wood to the neighborhood, the handle of the door taken away, the slit remaining where used to be worked.

Several inquiries have been made late at the chief district and general office with reference to letters said to have been posted in the locality, but no satisfactory answer could be given with regard to them.

A few days ago, however, the post authorities gave orders for the pump to be repaired, when, upon examining the interior, twenty letters were found beside it, the whole of which have been sent to their respective addresses.

Why cannot Kansas have a Philatelic Society. Her collectors are ambitious and we think there is enough to make a strong club. Lets hear from some one on the subject.

Terra Cotta.

BY E. F. NEWCOMER.

Terra Cotta is an earthen ware employed by the ancient Egyptians and Greeks in the manufacture of moulds, statuary, utensils, architectural ornaments and various other objects. It was used by the Assyrians and Babylonians for the preservation of records, which were stamped upon Terra Cotta cylinders and slabs. The material is clay of considerable purity, and the articles are generally slack-baked, or merely hardened by continued exposure to the sun. The color is usually a buff or red and the vases are frequently ornamented with designs of leaves, vines, etc., painted in colors.

The Romans used finer materials for their terra cottas and moulded them into lamps, urns, etc., which they ornamented with raised figures. From the 12th to the 17th century terra cotta was much used in Italy for architectural decorations, and Michel Angelo and other sculptors, it is said employed it for their models and clay sketches.

The coats of arms seen over many of the shop fronts in London are moulded and baked in this material. Of late years it has been extensively employed for elaborate architectural ornaments, such as are carved in stone and also for architectural models. It has now become an important branch of industry in France.

It takes eighty men and women to make a postage stamp. First the white paper is cut into sheets, each large enough for a hundred stamps. The stamps on each sheet are counted twenty-four times to make sure the number is correct. The printer counts and passes the sheet to the gummer; the gummer gums the back and, having counted, gives it to the perforator, who divides the stamp by rows of little holes, not forgetting to count. It is surprising how quick and accurately the hands can work. Seven hundred million postage stamps are made every year in the United States. New York City uses \$1,000,000 a month.

Apache Curiosities.

A notable addition to the Milwaukee Museum has been presented to that institution by Sergt. Gustave Krumholz, of the Third Cavalry, U. S. A., who was formerly stationed in Arizona and New Mexico, but is now a resident of Milwaukee. It is a collection of Apache articles. A very good portrait of Geronimo, the ubiquitous Apache chief is in the collection. The chief's features resemble those of an old, wrinkled woman. He is represented without war paint, kneeling on one knee, a breech-loading rifle in his hands, at an angle of about 45 degrees. His hair is represented straggling wildly about his face, and his eyes gleam with a fierce expression. Among the Apache relics is a tobacco pouch, of undressed hide, heavily ornamented with variegated beads and fringed heavily with leather; a raw-hide lariat; a pair of huge moccasins, made of white leather, ornamented with beads of many colors; an old man's skull-cap of leather, with three feathers on top; a violin made of a cactus branch, 6 inches long and hollow, with horse-hair strings and a small bow and a pappoose's doll. The crowning glory of the collection was a chief's war dance cap, which was evidently made for a chief with a remarkably large head; it is of yellow hide bound around the edge with a ribbon of red flannel, over which is sewed zig-zags of blue leather, like the teeth of a huge buzz saw. The top of the cap has a mass of feathers, resembling a partridge's tail, and the plume consists of three long wild turkey feathers. The cap is bordered with bangles of steel which are jangled against each other by motion, like the sound of tiny bells. The observer is impressed with the idea that the warrior who puts on the cap would be a ferocious object if he popped suddenly out of a hole in the ground like a jack in the box. There are several smaller objects in the collection. This donation to the library fills a long-felt want, as no Apache curiosities have ever before been received at the Museum.

Death's Post-Horn.

We have been informed of the death of H. C. Raikes, postmaster-general of Great Britain. Although a sad announcement to make and one that will deeply affect every philatelist in our broad land, America unites with England in paying this noble man tribute. It is a noticeable fact that people and newspapers praise a man's worth after Death's angel has summoned him to the mystic beyond. But in life, as in death we have recognized his efficient management of Her Majesty's postal affairs and his friendly attitude toward Philately.

Though Philately has lost a staunch friend, it is rare that Death's post-horn summons a man more fit to grace the Heavenly Kingdoms. Though dead, he still lives in the memory of the stamp collectors of America; his name shall forever be linked with Chalmers and Sir Rowland Hill. The two as the ones most implicated in the adoption of postage stamps; the latter as a student and yet an educator as to their proper uses. Long may his spirit survive in the hearts of his countrymen and may they truly realize his greatness.

Mexican Postal Affairs.

Mexico has rare charms for the average philatelist, yet with a great deal of knowledge about their stamps but few know the peculiarities of their postal service. The most noticeable oddities of her post to the average "stamp fiend" are these: When mail arrives at the postoffice, the names of people to whom letters are addressed are written on a slip of paper and posted on a bulletin board, as lists of uncallek-for-letters are in the United States. A merchant or a banker goes every morning to examine this announcement, and if he finds his name in the list, he hands his card to

the clerk at the delivery window receives what is addressed to him.

No postage stamps are sold, but who have letters to mail take them to the postoffice and pay the postage to the postmaster, who sticks on the stamps. In all the public places, and at the entrance to the postoffice, are men sitting upon the pavement, with a post-horn and a pad of paper, whose business it is to conduct the correspondence of those whose literary attainments are unequal to the task.

Such odd things are still to be seen at the capital of a nation that subsists on steamship lines and railways, and where all the modern languages and sciences are taught. It has a compulsory education law and its statute books. Queer is 'nt it?

A Queer Postoffice.

Did you know that there was a postoffice in mid-ocean? No? My philatelic friends have lots to learn yet. In the Indian Straits a postoffice has been established for several years. It is hardly in mid-ocean, but is much of that nature. It consists of a small cask, which is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape of the opposite Terra del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to pick up letters directed to the port to which that vessel is going and deposit them for different ports. The postoffice is under the protection of all nations, and up to the present time there has not been occasion to report any absconding and it is needless to say, the postoffice has never absconded.

L. W. Stillwell has written an article on "Fossils of the Bad Lands" and W. Robinette "The Crinoid-head of Virginia," both will appear next month.

Cannot someone answer Mr. Ball's article through this paper?

Effigy Mounds in Iowa.

BY S. H. LEWIS,

Near the village of North McGregor, Clayton county, Iowa, on the southwestern quarter of section 3, township 22, range 3 west, is situated probably the largest group of "effigy" or imitative mounds west of the Mississippi. These earthworks are built on a dividing ridge, and are elevated about 500 feet above the river. The surrounding country is broken and rugged, the bluff on the east side along the Mississippi river being perpendicular in many places. To the northwest lies the Yellow river, and on the southwest Bloody Run. This remarkably fine group was surveyed by me on the 25th and 26th of May, 1885, and a few details, illustrated by a topographical plan, may perhaps be acceptable to those readers of science who are interested in North American antiquities.

These mounds number fifteen in all, consisting of two long embankments, ten animals and three birds, and they occupy a terre-plein of just about 2,000 feet in length. The first embankment is 190 feet long, 18 feet wide and 1 1-2 feet high; the second 138 feet long, 18 feet wide and 1 1-2 feet high.

The animals represented vary from 70 to 100 feet in length, and are from two to three feet in height. No two are exactly alike in outline, though the difference is more in the shape of the head than in the general form. It will be noticed that they are all tailless, though of the whole number of beasts surveyed by me to the present time, fully two-thirds have tails. Considered as works of construction, they being in relief, these animals are very fine; but, taking the size and shape of the legs and head in proportion to the body, they are decidedly clumsy. Indeed, with a few exceptions, the animal-shaped mounds of Western Wisconsin, also are no excep-

tion to this rule. It is probable that each leg, as built, was intended to represent a pair of legs rather than a single one, and this may account for their clumsiness.

The birds of this group, are such different in form, and are symmetrical than the animals, which is usually the case. Though symmetrical, the wings of bird effigies are nearly always much longer than they should be in proportion to the length of the body and head as compared with natural birds.

At intervals between Guttenberg and Yellow river there are mounds and embankments, which occur either singly or in groups, but there are only two other points in that stretch where effigies occur. About one mile south and east of the group described in this article there is a single bird effigy. Near Shy Magil, about three miles above Clayton, there is a group of ninety-two mounds; two of them represent animals and two birds; the remainder are round mounds and embankments. While I was surveying this group, Mr. Frank Hodges, of Clayton, opened one of the larger tumuli, and found a number of skeletons in it.

The first coin ever issued in this country was the old-fashioned cart-wheel cent. The first issue was in 1793, and there were three dies made. With the single exception of the year 1815 there has been no break in the issue of cents from that time to the present. The labor required to secure a sample of the three varieties of cents made in 1793, is very great, and they bring from \$3 to \$5 each. The cent of 1794 is a trifle more common and can be bought for about 60 cents, while a sample of the issue of 1795 is worth \$1.25. It was in this year that the liberty cap was changed to the fillet head, and these were issued regularly for thirteen years, when the Goddess of Liberty appeared on the face of the coin, with thirteen stars surrounding it. A cent of the issue 1799, in good condition, is worth \$40 or \$50.

A Great Natural Cavern in Texas.

Thirty miles northwest of Brackett, in Kinney county, is a wonderful but comparatively unknown cave. Its entrance is a rent in the solid limestone rock that underlies this section, 20x4 feet, and is situated near the summit of one of many similar hills, perhaps 200 feet above the surrounding valley.

The main shaft of the cave begins with a sharp descent of several hundred feet, extends in nearly a direct line, at varying levels, for fully half a mile. Apparently, in the tumultuous upheavals which raised these hills from the surrounding level, a great opening was left, and from its roof immense quantities of rock fell into the center of the cave. A solid, irregularly arched roof has been left from 100 to 200 feet from the original floor. The mass of rock upon the floor is from 20 to 40 feet deep, and makes progress difficult. A few hundred feet from the entrance begins the largest chamber or amphitheater. This magnificent space is more than 300 feet in width, gradually narrowing at either end. In its center, upholding the grandly arched roof, is one of the grandest columns of stalactite; it must be fully 175 feet. Just above the fallen rocks it is 250 feet in circumference, and at the upper end perhaps 150 feet. There are several of these columns, of varying size, supporting the roof. One fallen column, broken in three pieces of six to ten feet each and nine feet in circumference, shows their solid structure and might serve as models for the broken pillars of the Acropolis. From the side of this largest gallery, and at right angles, reaches a passage from ten to twenty feet in height and varying width for a quarter of a mile. This passage is upon a level with the original floor of the main shaft and its ceiling has not fallen, but is now incrustated and bejeweled by innumerable and wonderful stalactite formations. Near the farther end of this gallery is a spring of delicious pure water oozing from the rocks, and making its way in the same mysterious manner into the rocky heart of mother earth. This side chamber is called Spring Arbor, and many exquisite speci-

mens of stalactites have been carried it. Returning to the Cathedral, as the lery of columns is called, we proceed to explore the main shaft. A beautiful cascade, perhaps twenty feet high, has formed in pure white limestone, as pure and suggestive in execution as Jackson himself with a New England waterfall. All the sides and ceiling are incrustated with the most delicate and intricate workmanship in stone. Here the work of the coral insect is emulated; there the delicate tracery is so fine and translucent that it is difficult not to ascribe it to the frost. The most delicate and varied mood,

One expansion of the passage is a chamber with a score or more of stalagmites two to ten or twelve feet in height, grouped as so many monuments of the dead. The sides and ceiling are of exquisite workmanship, a fit setting to the solemn and beautiful scene within, which irresistibly leads one to speak in low tones and softly, as if on sacred ground. Upon the walls near is suspended some drapery of stone, that would be the admiration and despair of a sculptor. Double and triple folds of stalactite, a quarter of an inch in thickness and a yard wide, hang thick with no support except from above.

Beyond this is perhaps the most extremely beautiful grotto of the many, and seem incomparable. Ceiling, walls, and even floor are covered with a fretwork of dazzling brightness, which reminds one of the finest work of the silversmith, or the window work of the frost at its best. Here and there ceiling and floor are supported by columns as clear and transparent as crystal, and nature's magic, hidden from the glare of day and the noise and distractions of man, has wrought her most intricate and beautiful workmanship. A candle placed as far within one of the groups as the arm could reach illumines a wonderful fairy bower, shining through the rich tracery of stone. Language can hardly paint to imagination the beauty of the scene, and one would love to spend hours and trace delicate outlines and exquisite details.

Senator Sherman is an enthusiastic collector of autographs, and is said to have a goodly collection.

Our Prizes.

we desire to stimulate exertion on the part of those who receive our first number to show it to others and raise a club. To this end we have concluded to offer three grand prizes for the ones making the three largest lists of yearly subscribers at 50 cents each before January 1st, 1892.

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OCTOBER 1891.

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PUBLISHER.

Arkansas City,

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POSTOFFICE BOX 421,

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*France '77 20c blue error	\$6.00	\$3.50
Belgium Post packet 7 var	28	12
Egypt 10 pia 1889	—	25
*Helegoland 19 var.....	62	32
*Nicaragua 1869 4 var.....	28	20
* " 1882 4 "	28	20
* " 1890 10 "	—	50
Argentine 1890, 50c	—	20
" 1873, 90c.....	25	18
* " 1891, 5 on 8 env. —	—	20
*Travancore env. 4 var.....	—	60
Gwallior " entire.....	—	15
*Mexico 1864, 4 var.....	29	12
New Zealand revenue as postage		
2sh. ...	15	10
2-6	50	30
5sh.	25	15
£1.....	2.00	1.00
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* " 1890 " " ...09		07
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THE SPY GLASS.

Vol. 1. Arkansas City, Ks. October, 1891. No. 2.

THE ROBIN.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.



Y old Welch neighbor over the way
Crept slowly out in the sun of spring,
Pushed from her ears the locks of gray,
And listened to hear the robin sing.

Her grandson playing at marbles, stopped,
And cruel in sport, as boys will be,
Tossed a stone at the bird who hopped
From bough to bough of the apple-tree.

"Nay!" said the grandmother, "have you not heard,
My poor, bad boy! of the fiery pit,
And how, drop by drop, this merciful bird
Carries the water that quenches it.

He brings cold dew in his little bill,
And lets it fall on the souls of sin;
You can see the mark on his red breast still,
Of fires that scorch as he drops it in.

My poor bron ruddyn; my breast-burned bird,
Singing so sweetly from limb to limb,
Very dear to the heart our of Lord
Is he who pities the lost like him!"

"Amen!" said I to the beautiful myth;
"Sing, bird of God, in my heart as well;
Each good thought is a drop wherewith
To cool and lessen the fires of hell.

Prayers of love like rain-drops fall,
Tears of pity are cooling dew,
And dear to the heart of our Lord are all
Who suffer like him in the glory they do!"
—Our Dumb Animals.



Nesting and Other Habits of the Chuck-
Will's Widow in Eastern North
Carolina.

This species arrives in this locality about the middle of April, and I think they leave in September. One can easily tell when they come, as they at once begin their "song" upon arriving. They sing for about their first ten days, and after that begin the duties of housekeeping, which are but few until the eggs are laid. They build no elaborate nest, but simply scrape the leaves away from the place selected and there deposit the two eggs. The female does most, if not all of the incubating which lasts for about sixteen or twenty days. When the nest is approached they make some kind of a clucking noise accompanied by a flapping of the wings when they make off in the thick woods. If there be young or eggs in the nest and you leave them the old ones will move them to another part of the woods, carrying them in their capacious mouths.

I have found three nests all of which contained two eggs, and of which the following is a description:

Nest No. 1. Was found in May, 1838 (I do not remember on what day) while walking through the woods thinking as much about finding a nest of the Great Auk as I was about finding a nest of the Chuck-will's Widow, when up flew a bird which I instantly recognized. I hurried to the place from whence she had just flown, and beheld a pair of eggs of a species that I had never seen before. They lay on the bare ground with not even a pretense of a nest to hold them. True, the ground was slightly hollowed to keep them from rolling down the hill, but then, that did not seem the place for such pretty eggs. Of course I took them, and on blowing found them perfectly fresh—wonder if she would not have laid another? They were creamy white, blotched with lilac, gray and brown, and measure 1.45 x 1.03; 1.42 x 1.02.

I did not find any more in '89 or '90 although the birds were quite common but in '91 I found two nests,—it seems to be a mere chance of luck that they are found anyhow,—and are described as follows:

Nest No. 1. This nest was found by my father while going through the woods to a crow's nest. It was like the other one found in '88—simply a hole in the place made by the birds in the ground. It contained two eggs which were almost identical with those found three years ago.

Nest No. 2. This was found three years later, on May 10th, by one of my brothers. It also contained two eggs which were promptly collected.

All three of these nests, which I have seen, could not be told apart, I think they were put side by side; if so, that was possible.

The Chuck-will's Widow is strictly an insectivorous bird, flying about just before dark and in the early morning in quest of its prey. Some writers give the opinion that they only search for insects at these times, but I am inclined to differ since I have heard them chattering at all times of night when the moon was shining. Now, I hardly think that they do much feeding at a real dark night when there is no moon, but certainly do think that they feed through the moon-shining nights. I would like to hear the opinion of other observers.

—J. W. P. Smith

UNUSUAL SPECIMENS.

The Black Hills and surrounding country contains minerals and fossils of peculiar interest and of local character. There are unusual and unique forms to be found here, not seen in any other portion of the globe. Near the Black Hills' Hot Springs are caves of marvellous sinuous passages extending to great length in various directions. Evidently they were once filled with hot water, the walls and ceilings here and there coated with argonite in delicate and varied forms of exquisite beauty. These must be seen to be appreciated. The form consists of white, delicate crystals like numerous Cambrian needles.

presented. Another similar to clusters of grapes. Still another, a strange "box work" of natural mechanism.

The banks of the Cheyenne, south of the hills, are strewn with great concretions of blue limestone which are geodic. Broken open the cavities present calcite crystallization, which in variety of forms and colors cannot be surpassed in the known world. They are entirely new and unique. Secondary crystals of different color from originals stand out upon the first. These crystals are sought for as a new find.

The huge animal, called the Titanotherium, by Prof. Leidy and Brontotherium by Prof. Marsh, is found only in our "bad lands." The fossilized remains of this wonderful animal, especially the head and teeth, are attracting attention of vertebrate paleontologists the world over. I am shipping a great many to Europe. No one has ever seen this mammal in any locality other than the spot where discovered in our White River terrace formation.

The minerals, both useful and for geological interest and study, are well represented in the Black Hills. This lone range or detached group of great hills and peaks stands unparalleled upon the surface of our planet. There is no better place for the student of nature to study stratigraphical geology than at the base in the Annular valley surrounding this great uplift. The speechless history of the past work of the ages is eloquent even in its silence.

—L. W. Stilwell.

The Forerunners of our Present Envelopes.

BY PH. HEINSBERGER.

The institution of payment for the carriage of letters and envelopes dates, so far as can be gathered, from the reign of Louis XIV—King of France—when a certain Sieur de Valfyer instituted a system of private post, with the royal sanction, he placed boxes at the corners of the streets for the reception of the letters. These letters were enclosed in envelopes and deposited at special offices therefore. In the reign of Louis XV, M. de Valfyer had also "notes" or "formules de billets," for the carriage of ordinary business communications for the inhabitants of the larger

towns. One of these *billets* has been preserved to our own day.

Pellisson, the friend of Mme. de Sevigne, amused himself with this method of correspondence. He once filled the blank portion of a *billet* with a letter addressed to Mle. de Scudery, in which he called her "Sapho," signing himself in the fashion of the time "Pisandre."

This is the note which has been preserved, and it is probably the oldest existing sample of a franked envelope.

Another model is represented by a letter in an envelope written by Louis XIV. himself, to a son he had by Mme. de Montespan, the Count of Toulouse, Admiral of the French fleet during the siege of Barcelona, Spain. The letter is dated Versailles, April 29, 1706, written, sealed and addressed by the king's own hand.

While the use of envelopes in France had become common, they were not used in England at all, except for official correspondence, carriage free.

Among the archives of the British Empire there is a letter addressed, May 16, 1666, to the Secretary of State, the Right Honorable Sir William Trumball, by Sir James Ogilvie. This letter is 4 1/2 x 3 inches, almost the same as our modern envelopes. There is also preserved among the papers of an ancient Yorkshire family, an envelope of fine paper, of the same squared form, which was sent from Geenes in the year 1759.

We see from a passage of Le Sage's "Gil Blas," published in 1725—"Aurora de Gusman took two *billets*, put them in an envelope," etc.—that at that epoch they commonly used envelopes for letters.

In the Egerton collection of MSS. at the British Museum, there is an envelope resembling our present envelopes, which contains a letter from Mme. de l'ompadour, addressed to the Duchesse d'Aiguillon, in the year 1760. There is also a letter addressed by King Frederick the Great of Prussia, an English general in his service. It is dated Potsdam, (Prussia) July 25, 1766, and has for cover an envelope of coarse paper similar to those in use in England at the present time. The difference between the two is, that the one is open at both ends, while at the present time they are opened at the top. Before the introduction of the penny post, envelopes were rarely used in England, because extra carriage was charged for every paper enclosed in another.

CRINOID HEADS OF VIRGINIA AND TENNESSEE.

BY J. M. ROBINETTE.

These are perhaps the most remarkable fossils of the subcarboniferous age. They are found in small quantities in Scott county, Va., and Hancock county, Tenn., and doubtless belong to the Kaskaskia group, although some claim that they are as abundant in the Keokuk, which assertion is hardly probable.

It is said that there has been 315 different species of the crinoid found, and that they have been found in the Trenton as well as later strata, but I have never been able to find a trace of them in the Trenton limestone.

The general opinion is, that the crinoid lived in the shallow, muddy subcarboniferous seas, and that they were of the lowest order of animal life except perhaps the animone or polyuption.

At any rate the crinoid had, when living, all the appearance of a beautiful sea weed with a fine array of colors with their long flowing tentacles which doubtless were used for to give sense to the body on the approach of food, which was consumed by absorption rather than digestion. I do not think the crinoid had any particular knowledge of hunger, joy or pleasure, or ever had any mode of propagation more than the sea animone but doubtless did move from place to place, either by its own volition or by the waves of the sea. It was also an inhabitant of salt water and by the nature of such elements in which it lived, it as a natural consequence, was turned to stone on being exposed to the rays of the sun's heat, when cast upon high and dry land at perhaps the time of that great earth storm which took place at the Appalachian revolution such a storm perhaps no living creature ever survived it. Will you please look at this terrible raging, upheaving storm, when mountains were framed perhaps miles high in less than five hours, only to be leveled again, then to be hurled again into many forms and shapes.

I trust you will pardon me for vehemently asserting that it is my opinion that in the age of these crinoids, man had not been created or any vertebrate.

CRINOID HEADS OF VIRGINIA

BY GEO. W. ROBINETTE.

The beautiful crinoid is found in W. Virginia, in but three counties far as I have been able to learn, it is very hard to understand that they are found over a salt stream; the salt water in some places a thousand feet below the surface and in no place less than four hundred and fifty feet. They are most abundantly where limestone and flintstone comes in contact.

The editor of the "Christian Register" in an article on the same subject says that the Gulf of Mexico extended over the west Virginia at one time and reached as far north as the Ohio in places, during that great earth-storm known as the Appalachian Revolution the land was thrown back to its present position and then it was that these beautiful crinoids were up-heaved to our mountain summits and there petrified.

I would ask why are they not scattered broadcast and why only found in the east and west, beginning say at Hill, Hunters Valley, Scott county, westward near Flag Pond, thence by water, Lee county, thence Sneedsville, Hancock county, Tenn., thence Spring Springs, Claiborne Co., Grassy Springs, Tenn., and lastly, Athenens, Limestone county, Ala." Prof. Cost, of Michigan, says that the crinoids of Virginia are the most beautiful of all species and that they were one of the first creatures that lived and lived beyond the ken of man except a species now found in the Gulf of Mexico. Some say that to say that our earth is only 6000 years old is to say Geology is false. I do not doubt but that the trilobite and crinoid are among the oldest of fossil remains. Hugh Miller, who has immortalized the old red sandstone goes over the hillsides of stoniness and shows us the older remains. In my close I will say that Prof. G. K. Greene, Prof. R. R. Rorly, and Jno. R. Waterman, besides hundreds of other men of high repute will join me in saying that the crinoids of Virginia, are worthy a place in the cabinets and should be looked upon as rare.

OUT OF THE NEST.

CLARA LOUISE BURNHAM.

Four little robins looked out of the nest
 One sunshiny morning in June,
 Their mother near by shook her head with a
 sigh,
 And sang them this grave little tune.
 "Your vests are all scarlet, your brown coats
 are trim,
 There's no longer room here for you.
 I'm sure if you try, you will find you can fly,
 And it's just the best thing you can do!"
 They ducked, and they chirped, both in fear
 and delight,
 "Good-bye," said mamma, "and beware
 Of a trap, and a cat, and a gun, and all that!"—
 Then away went the birds through the air.
 Do you think that the mother-bird missed
 them? Oh yes,
 But before they were quite out of sight,
 She had relined the nest, in the style that was
 best,
 And settling to rest, 'neath her warm little
 breast,
 Was another blue egg before night.

—*Youth's Companion.*

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL CAMP.

BY B. S. BOWDISH.

It is five o'clock of a June morning,
 and the grey of early morn is deepened
 by a fog, rising like a thick grey cloud,
 from the vast marsh stretching away in
 every direction, twenty miles long by a
 mile or more broad. Marsh and lake
 are split into by a railroad north and
 south, and within a stones throw of the
 track flows a quiet stream, an escape
 from the canal, stealing silently to the
 lake. Despite the slow waters of this
 stream, years have left a deposit on its
 east bank till now the low water of a
 "dry spell" sweeps the edge of a bank
 of solid land, varying in width from
 ten to fifty feet. At one of these wider
 parts the water has bared the roots of
 two giant elms and is playing around a
 boat moored to one of them, while back
 on the strip of firm ground, sheltered by
 the trees, stands a tent.

This is a scene in the Montezuma
 Cayuga county, N. Y., on the
 morning of June 5th, eighteen hundred

and ninety one. Let us draw back the
 flap of the closely tied tent and peep
 within. On a bed of dried rushes two
 naturalists, oblivious to all nature, are
 cosily slumbering. Two trunks, a rude
 table and several kegs for seats, are the
 furniture. Through the centre of the
 top runs a line on which hangs a goodly
 array of "extra clothes." In one corner
 stand two "double" guns, while in the
 further end is a pair of jointed rods.
 Five-fifteen and the sleepers still sleep,
 and now from up the strip of land a
 drove of cattle are coming slowly, graz-
 ing as they go, and the camp at one ex-
 cites their curiosity. They begin to in-
 vestigate, while some of the bolder ones
 find the tent ropes excellent to scratch
 their backs against.

And now there is a stir in the tent.
 The heavy breathing of cattle and the
 jar on the tent ropes awakens one of the
 sleepers and he at once takes in the sit-
 uation. With a yell which might not
 shame a Commanche Indian, he com-
 mences to hustle on his shoes. The
 second sleeper—your humble servant—
 now awakes and comprehends the sit-
 uation. As Peck rushes from the tent,
 I stretch and yawn, then smile some-
 what audibly as the breeze brings to my
 ears the sound of flying clubs, blood-
 curdling ejaculations and stampeded
 cattle, but it is time to be up, so I pull
 on my shoes and go to the river for a
 wash.

The sun is now rising and every spear
 of the dense marsh vegetation is spark-
 ling with liquid diamonds which the
 night has bestowed, while the fog rapid-
 ly lifts.

Peck has returned from the chase and
 started a fire over which the coffee-pot
 is simmering while he fries fish. Hav-
 ing finished my toilet I set the table,
 and we dispose of breakfast with an ap-
 petite born of camp life.

This over, future food is to be provid-
 ed, so taking rods and guns we enter

the boat and pull for the lake where a half hour's trolling gives several pickerel and a bass. Then we row to a shallow spot and in an hour's still-fishing, secure fifty or sixty "sun-fish." As we row back to camp we shoot a "mess" of sand-pipers. Putting away our game and salting our fish, we are ready for the real business of the camp—collecting.

Once more our guns accompany us as we row across the "escape" and wade into the marsh. The water is here from several inches to a foot deep, and here is a Rail's breeding ground. A Virginia falls to the gun of my friend as she leaves the nest, while I discover a deserted nest of the Pied-Billed Grebe, containing six mouldy eggs of the pale blue type, good specimens when washed. The nest is at least three feet above the present water surface. Turning to my friend I find him removing nine handsome eggs, which have a quite perceptible bluish tinge, from a platform of rush leaves built just over the water. Then follows a set of five drab eggs of the American Bittern, laid in a big imitation of the Rail's nest; two more sets of Rail—7 and 11—and a set of five long-billed marsh wren. Dinner next claims our attention, and the P. M. passes in preparing specimens. After supper we row to Cayuga village for our daily supply of milk and mail and to replenish the stock of sugar and butter.

Evening shadows are lengthening across the water, and evening mosquitoes are becoming quite numerous as we row back to camp.

The day has been a long and busy one so, though it is scarcely eight o'clock, we at once prepare the bed and turn in, having smudged the mosquitoes from the tent to our own partial suffocation and shut the flaps in their faces, and thus has passed a day of camp life, far more pleasant than pen can possibly picture it, and now outside in the deep-

ning twilight, the quonking of the mingles with frog the concert in full, the weird cry of the Green Heron in the chorus. This is Nature's lul and one who has never heard it in such circumstances, cannot conceive its soothing effect.

We were just dropping off when sound of oars comes to our ears a voice calls "swing out your legs." "Go to h—l," responds Peck and a hearty laugh follows. The boats of two young men, after promising to and see us and bring a deck of oars away. Gradually the sound of oars blends with the chorus of the in one confused sound and the slumbers.

P. S.—To Professor Peck and the cry of "The keg" this is respectfully dedicated.

THE SAGE THRASHER.

N. R. CHRISTIE.

I do not remember ever having any account of the Sage Thrasher in any of the oological papers, and had a very good chance to study the bird during my two year's residence in the "Desert" state, I will try and give your readers a short account of my experience with this particular member of the Thrasher family.

It is found only in the western states and only among the sage-brush country. It inhabits the open country exclusively, I never having seen it in the mountains. It arrives about April first and nests the latter part of April. Its eggs may be found as late as June. It builds its nest in low bushes, usually the greasewood brush, very often using the sage as a nesting spot. The nest is a large, bulky structure not very handsome; made of small twigs and lined with strips of bark of the sage and occasionally using horse hair to finish up with. The

is placed above the ground from one to three feet; never more than three feet. The eggs, which number from 3 to 4 in a set, very rarely 5, the average being 4, are very handsome; of a rich, bluish green in color, heavily spotted all over with reddish brown, in irregular sized spots, oval in shape and measuring 9x70 in size.

It is hard to catch the female on the nest, she stealing off very quietly on the approach of any one. They are very plentiful around this part of Nevada. They take their departure about the middle of September, but occasionally a few stay with us all winter. It is sometimes called the mountain mocking-bird but why, I do not know, as I have never heard it trying to mock any other bird or do any singing, leaving all that to its constant companion, the Mountains Song Sparrow.

NOTES FOR COIN COLLECTORS.

BY E. P. NEWCOMER.

It is said that the great ape of Siam is in great demand among the Siamese merchants as cashiers in their counting houses. Vast quantities of base coins are known to be in circulation in Siam, and, according to advices from that southern little oriental kingdom, no living human being can discriminate between the good and bad coinage with as much accuracy as these apes. These monkey cashiers possess the faculty of distinguishing the rude Siamese counterfeit in such an extraordinary degree that no trained banker can compete with them in their unique avocation. In plying his trade the ape cashier meditatively picks each coin presented to him in his mouth and tests it with grave deliberation. From two to five seconds is all this intelligent animal requires in making up his decision. If the coin is all right it is carefully deposited in the passer's receptacle; if base, it is thrown contemptuously to the floor, while the coin

tester makes known his displeasure at being presented with the counterfeit by giving vent to much angry chattering.

* * *

Unless their attention is especially directed to it, few people notice the tiny letters stamped on the larger silver coins of our currency at a point just below the junction of the arrows and olive branch held in the eagle's claws. The letters are "S," "O" and "C. C." and stand for San Francisco, New Orleans or Carson City, where the pieces were cast into the United States branch mints. Coins made in the mint at Philadelphia bear no especial mark and are indicated by its absence.

* * *

What is the "milling" on a dollar or other coin? Probably not one person in five hundred could answer this simple question correctly. There is a popular belief that the corrugations on the rim of a dollar are the milling, but this is not so. Mr. C. M. Gorham, coiner at the San Francisco branch mint was recently asked to explain what the "milling" on a coin really was. Mr. Gorham went into the counting room and picked up a "blank," a round piece of plain silver cut out of a silver bar. It had gone through one machine, which had slightly rounded the edges. The blank was dropped in a milling machine, and when it came out a second or two later the rim was flat and the edges of the rim were raised a little above the level of the sides. The verb "milling" is this raising of the rim of a blank piece of money, and the noun "milling" is this plain raised rim without reference to any corrugations anywhere. The purpose of the milling is to protect the surface of the sides from wear. The milled blank was dropped into a stamping machine from which it dropped a perfect dollar. While in the machine the piece dropped in a corrugated collar; under great pressure, the rim was forced into the corrugations and became similarly corrugated. The parallel notches or corrugations generally called milling, constitute the "reeding." The term is adopted from its architectural use to express a small convex molding, especially when such moldings are multiplied parallel to each other.

The Galveston Philatelic Association

(ORGANIZED JUNE 6, 1891.)

A. DROUET, JR., President.
L. B. HIGGINS, Vice-President.
WALLACE SMITH, Secretary.
J. B. WEILEY, Treasurer.

G. T. AUSTIN, Librarian.
W. N. WOOD, Exchange Supt. and
Chasing Agent.

Official Organ: THE "SPY GLASS."

Official Correspondence & Reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The 12th semi-monthly meeting of the "G. P. A." was held at the rooms of the association Saturday evening, October 10th, President A. Drouet, Jr., in the chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The resignation of M. C. Harris, Exchange Supt., was accepted, and W. N. Wood appointed to fill out the unexpired term.

Mr. Wallace Smith's resignation was not accepted, and as Mr. Smith can now devote more time to the association, he has accepted to fill out the term.

The report of the executive committee was read on the application of Ivy L. Lee. Upon motion it was decided not to accept his application.

A communication from Mr. Roy F. Greene, editor of the "SPY GLASS," in reference to adopting the "SPY GLASS," as the official organ of the association, was read. Upon motion it was carried by unanimous vote, and the SPY GLASS accepted as our official organ.

The treasurer begs to call attention to the fact that several members are behind in their dues and will be dropped from the membership roll if they do not pay up pretty soon.

The following names have been drop-

ped from the roll of membership on non-payment of dues: C. D. Williams, M. Rosenfield, C. F. Hayes, Frank and Geo. Mason, Jr.

The treasurer made his quarterly report, revealing a satisfactory state of our finances. It was approved and adopted upon motion.

The Librarian reports no new stamps since last meeting, and begs to state that the association is now open to receive sample copies of all philatelic papers with a view to subscribing worthy of subscription price.

On account of the inability of M. C. Harris to fulfill the office of Exchange Superintendent, the affairs of this department are a little mixed up, but W. N. Wood promises to have everything straightened out by next meeting and to give a satisfactory report on the condition of this department.

WALLACE SMITH,
Secretary

GALVESTON NOTES.

The September "Southern Philatelist" gives the Dominion Philatelist on advertising a pill doctor, and the "S. P." of this month contains a page ad. of "C. C. C." sure cure for cancer, etc., etc. Practice what you preach, friend Luhn.

I hear from good authority that a foreign firm are at work counter-

e 1870 U. S. stamps. The counterfeit very cleverly executed. Genuine stamps of 1872 are used, on which are impressed a pretty imitation of a *grill*. Dealers are informed by this party that values of 1870 can be procured and they solicit orders for any quantity. I would warn collectors in buying these stamps to "keep your eyes peeled."

.

Local dealers say that there is a great demand for one, two and three cent stamps since the opening of school.

.

The incorporated stamp firm that is operating in this city is assuming more definite shape every day. This will be the largest stamp concern in the south. Let 'em come; the more the merrier. If we can rely on rumor this same company are going to try their hand at Philatelic Journalism." Another good paper won't do any harm.

.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. J. A. Singley, of the State Geological Survey, who is an earnest philatelist. He has in his possession a copy each of 1 p. and 2 p. Mulready envelopes which were taken from the vault of an old firm in London.

.

Mr. J. B. Weiley, treasurer of the "G. P. A." who makes a specialty of U. S. envelopes added a fine one of the twenty dollar Probate of Will to his collection at a cost of \$15.00.

.

The "Texas Philatelist" was the title under which another paper was to emerge on the Philatelic sea, but I am sorry to say "it is in the soup." The trouble was they could not get correspondents cheap enough. The copy for the first number was all complete. It promised to be a first-class paper. The matter was nearly all original.

.

Collectors who are not A. P. A. members are kicking about this month's P. J. of A. One collector says: "I am a subscriber to the P. J. of A., but I am not an A. P. A. man and I don't see the

blooming good the September number of the P. J. of A. is to any but A. P. A. members, as page after page was A. P. A. matter. A couple of pages of "Mexican Catalogue" and "Our Annual Fraud List" is what constitutes the September P. J. of A." How about those hard earned laurels Charley?

.

If dealers knew what trouble they caused by sending out stamps unsolicited, they would "take a tumble." A collector here says: "If I get any more that does not contain return postage, they are going to lie until postage is sent them as in most cases they are not worth the postage."

.

In looking over a young collector's album the other day I noticed some counterfeits, among which were a set of Mex. 1872 (including the 50 cent blue error) (?) he said he had taken them from the sheets of a St. Louis dealer. They are very good imitations including the Moire pattern on the back, and will fool a novice everytime. Only they have not the town, date or number surcharged on them.

.

I notice in Beecher Ogden's notes in September SPY GLASS his comment on the Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express, prepaid newspaper stamp. They are in use here by the above express company for prepaying newspapers, and I think they are just as collectible as telegraph stamps or any of the U. S. locals.

.

I hear from a good source that the Mexican Postal authorities have on hand a fine lot of 4 and 8 rl. Mexican 1856-61 which can be obtained in wholesale lots at a bargain. When a lot is examined, it will be seen that they all bear the same post mark and date. Strange isn't it?

.

Recently the Galveston News devoted two columns to an interesting article on stamp curiosities. Most of the matter was gleaned from members of the "G. P. A." There was also several clippings from stamp papers. This shows that the public press is gradually getting more interested in our hobby, which not long ago was scoffed at by them.

—Texas Junior.

The Spy Glass.

A MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

ROY F. GREENE, Editor, and Pub.
Arkansas City, Kans.

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NEXT MONTH.

Every Day Life of a Postof- fice Clerk.

By CHAS. S. WOODIN, U.S. postal service.

TWO NIGHTS

With a Stamp Counterfeiter.

By E. P. NEWCOMER.

THE AGAZZIZ CLUB AT HOME.

By ROY F. GREENE.

CRYSTALS AND ALL ABOUT THEM.

By FRED R. STEARNS.

We have received the following ex-
changes: "Plain Talk," "Youth's
Press," "A Philatelic Visitor," "Collec-
tor's Monthly," "One Dime," "Leighton
News," "Oologist's Advertiser," "The
Nusismatist," "Stamp World," "Essex
County Philatelist," "The Monitor,"
"Bittern," "The Oologist," "Ornitholog-
ist, and Botanist," "Collectors Stamp
Journal," "Antiquarian," "Eagle Phil-
atelist," "The Collector," "Philatelic
Tribune," "The Canadian Entomolog-
ist," "Philatelic Fraud Reporter," etc.,
etc. We thank them very much and
hope to scan their pages each month.
Welcome and long life to you one and all.

THE INTERNATIONAL CL

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 13th,
delegates from ten states met at the
residence of Mr. Abe L. Beckhardt,
New York City. The delegates represent
the old state clubs of the defunct
International Golden Hours Club. They
met for the purpose of organizing
a club.

Mr. Beckhardt was chairman and
Paul F. Howard, acted as secretary.
The following temporary officers were
elected: Mr. T. J. Darling, presi-
dent; J. W. Donovan, recording secre-
tary; Geo. O. Billheimer, correspond-
ing secretary; Pierce J. Hayden, treas-
urer; Paul F. Howard, supervisor of elec-
tion.

The following committee on con-
stitution was appointed by the Club:
Pierce J. Hayden, H. W. Seckel, Jr.,
George A. L. Levy and Beecher C. C.
This committee will endeavor to pre-
pare a constitution in time to present
to the delegates at the next meeting.
They will also decide what the terms
of the temporary officers shall be. The
officers will not serve longer than the
first of next January, and the com-
mittee may decide to hold the election
at that date.

A vote of thanks was tendered
to Mr. Beckhardt for the use of his parlors
and the meeting adjourned.

The committee on constitution held a
brief meeting. They arranged for
future meetings and selected Beecher C.
as chairman.

Any communications regarding the
constitution may be addressed to
549, Lexington avenue, Brooklyn.

The Sons of Philatelia are, in our
judgment, enrolling members faster
than any society heretofore organized
and in our opinion it is to be one of the
great societies of the future.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE SPY GLASS
AT ONCE.

Prominent Philatelists.

E. P. NEWCOMER.

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."—*Shakespeare.*

All the world's a stage of action
Men and women play their parts,
Earnestly and well, or idly,
As the promptings of their hearts,—
But pray tell me, critics, judging,
To whom of the might through
In this great life's drama, acting,
Shall the palm of praise belong?"

Should we measure out the praise
from a philatelic standpoint to the one

who had been most instrumental in the distribution of philatelic knowledge, our Goddess would surely bestow the palm of praise on Edward Parson Newcomer.

He was born in Decatur, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1871. He early attended school, and graduated in 1887. Soon after he moved with his parents to Ida Grove, Iowa, and attended high school at that place. After this he took a full course of stenography in the famous Bryant

& Strattons Business College in Chicago and was employed as stenographer by Dr. E. H. Lovewell, of 6058 Wentworth avenue. While in Chicago he reported for several papers there. Mr. Newcomer is a member of several philatelic, social and literary organizations.

He caught the stamp fever in the year 1886 and has been afflicted with it ever since. He organized the Decatur Philatelic Society, and was made president. He early began to write for the philatelic press, and we believe he has written more for philatelic papers than any other philatelist of his age.

His career is an example to others to let their light shine." His writings

are earnestly sought by enterprising publishers and he has often been tendered the position of editor, but has always declined. His latest work has just appeared and is entitled "Ten Days with a Modern Stamp Dealer." In the same strain of thought and without any failing in the earnestness of writing he is now finishing an article which he assures us is one of his best, entitled, "Two Nights with a Stamp Counterfeiter," which we shall commence in the November number of the *SPY GLASS*. He owns a small collection of philatelic literature and postal curiosities.

Mr. Newcomer has a fine collection of U. S. stamps, especially rich in oddities.



He has no very great varieties, although he possesses a number of uncatalogued specimens. He owns a small collection of foreign but mostly United States stamps. He is also the possessor of a collection of coins, eggs, minerals, Indian relics, ocean curios, and a very fine lot of Chinese and California curios. He has a large correspondence, including American and foreign collectors.

Last November, while in Chicago he

became afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism. He grew rapidly worse and finally gave up his position and returned to his home at Cedar Rapids. Mr. Newcomer is still confined to his room and unable to walk but is now improving in health. All collectors will join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

—Roy Farrell Greene.

We notice that several editors are scoring E. P. Newcomer for appropriating clippings from newspapers and sending them to the stamp press under his name. For our part we like these unselfish acts, instead of reading a good article and then keeping it to yourself, never thinking that your philatelic brotheas may not see it.

HISTORY.

BY GEORGE J. REMSBURG.

All the wonderous things of nature—
Objects of the earth and sea—
Are engaged in ceaseless effort,
Writing out their history.

Monstrous planet, tiny pebble,
Grain of sand—what e'er it be—
Is a faithful, grave historian,
Writing tomes of history.

Rolling stones, when dashing downward
O'er the mountain fast and free,
Leave their marks upon the granite—
Imprints of their history.

Dried-up brooklet, ancient river,
In their journeys to the sea,
Left behind them well worn channels—
Records of their history.

Oft we see a freak of nature,
Which we call a mystery,
But a close investigation
Will unfold its history.

FLORIDA CURIOSITIES.

BY J. H. FRIER.

BIRDS.

Beginning with the Grallie family or waders, the egret is the most interesting, from the fact that the plumage from his back is a staple article at \$5.00. This is in demand by milliners and hat dressers and is causing this handsome bird to grow scarcer and shyer until it is difficult to get a shot at one of late years.

The bird is snow white, with blue legs and bill which has a very sharp point, and capable of doing much mischief if advanced upon when wounded. When erect this bird stands about twenty inches high, and appears to be much larger than it really is; its weight being scarcely more than a pound. Its food consists of small fish, crawfish and frogs. Its motion on the wing is easy and graceful in the extreme. There is a steel blue egret a little smaller than the snowy, and even scarcer. Both birds congregate at times in good feeding waters with the white cranes and curlews.

From a distance these birds are distinguished from the others. Closer the crane is distinguished by being a little larger and taller, while the curlew is nearer the size, but has a different shaped bill, which is also pointed.

The white crane and egret have common nesting ground, or rookery, which is usually as near impervious to man as it is possible for it to be. A miry marsh covered thickly with growth and usually under water is selected. They build low nests of sticks and twigs; with but little shape about it. As a sequence the eggs and young often fall out and are destroyed by snakes, alligators, etc., and usually infest such places.

Every available branch is utilized for nesting, and it is not an uncommon thing to see twenty-five nests in a small tree. The cranes lay two or three light colored eggs the size of a pullets, while the egrets lay an equal number of smaller, deeper colored ones. While nesting, which begins about the first of May, these birds live in amity, frequenting their nest being in a few inches of water from the other.

There is very few rookeries in Florida. There is a small one near where the abundance of eggs could be secured by any collector who cares to take the risk of being snake-bitten or of being head first into the yawning mouth of an alligator's cave, providing he can stand the stench of the excrement which give the shrubby the appearance of being white washed, and is well intolerable. This necessitates an immediate change of clothing upon emergence therefrom.

The curlews are migratory and have no nesting place here as I have heard. That royal bird—the Flamingo—was an inhabitant of the lower Gulf some forty years ago. One was killed by a New York sportsman ten years ago, some forty miles south of Tampa.

The bird was mounted and one hundred dollars refused for it.

The Roseate Spoonbill is another very rare bird. He is known as the "pink curlew." In habits they are like the other curlews, cranes, egrets, etc., though larger and stronger; bright pink in color, and the bill flattened out near the point from which they take their name. There is other birds here of this family, but being known elsewhere would not properly come within scope of this writing.

On the prairies here we have a small owl that digs his burrow—nest—and passes most of his life under ground. I have never met with one yet. Walter Hoxie, in July No. 1890, *Ornithologist*, gave his experience in hunting them, but gave no minute description of them. His opinion is they nest in April.

The same writer speaks of the ground dove. I presume he meant a very small dove, locally known here as the mourning dove. This specie is met with nowhere else but here that I know of. I believe it to be smallest pigeon kind on earth, being but little larger than a sparrow. There is not many of them here, and it is a hard hearted sportsman that can bring one of the little innocent things down.

The Paroquet, (pronounced *Parry*) a specie of the parrot, is a remarkably strong restless bird, being on wing constantly all the time, with the exception of the few minutes that they alight on the Mulberry trees or cockle bushes to take a hasty meal of the berries of the one or the burs of the other. There is no chance to entrap them, and they are only secured by bringing them down with a gun and securing one that is just wounded. They are very vicious when first handled as they are capable of inflicting serious wounds with their powerful quiline beak. But the intelligence of this specie soon shows itself. In our case it will eat from your hand, and

by night, if captured in the morning, he will come to you and pull himself up on your clothes and a few days is sufficient for him to learn the name of "Poll" and answer with his harsh, unmusical cry, when called. I have heard of their being learned to talk, and we may well believe it if we can swallow some stories we have heard of crows and jack-daws talking. Where they nest and rear their young I have never been able to find out, although I have sought this information from every source.

We may mention some more birds when we reach the "Sea-Shore" article. We would not have any believe this is all the birds we have, we have just mentioned those that are most interesting to strangers. We will try and tell something about our reptiles in the next.

QUARTZ.

BY YOU KNOW.

Quartz, which is the most abundant of all minerals, is found in every state in the Union, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, almost everywhere you go, you can find quartz in one or another of its many forms. In composition it is silica and when free from any foreign intermixture it appears in clear transparent crystals like glass or ice. The presence of a little oxide of manganese gives these a violet tinge, and we have what is called amethyst. Other impurities which variously affect the appearance and properties of quartz, are oxides of iron, aluminum, nickel and many other metals. Though in all of its various forms it is distinguished by the same chemical properties and degrees of hardness, it will scratch glass and give fire when struck with steel, and is represented by seven in the scale of hardness. The crystals occur in groups of great beauty of all sizes up to single crystals of several hundred pounds weight, the primary form of the crystal, which is only seen in very few, is rhomboid; the com-

mon form is a hexagonal prism terminated by hexagonal pyramids. In the museum at Naples is a group weighing about one half ton; in Milan is a crystal 3 1-4 feet long and 5 1-2 feet in circumference, weighing about 800 pounds; in the museum of natural history in Paris, France, is a crystal 3 feet in diameter and the same in length, and weighs 800 pounds. In New York state the rich deposits are at Ellenville lead mine, Ulster county. Little Falls on the Mohawk, a famous locality for the purest transparent crystal of complete forms, and all through Herkimer county you may find very fine ones, occurring in the cavities of the calciferous sand rock, which overlies the Potsdam sandstone. Trenton Falls also furnishes perfect transparent crystals, sometimes 5 inches in length, and containing drops of water; these are quite rare and are worth from one to five dollars per specimen. St. Lawrence county, also Jefferson county, are famous for the crystals found in their iron ore mines, many beautiful clusters coming from Antwerp. Clear crystalline quartz, called rock crystal, was in former times highly valued for ornamental objects, being cut into vases, cups, lusters, etc., many of which are still preserved as curiosities. In the museum of Louvre are great numbers of them, some belonging to the times of the Greeks and Romans. Very transparent specimens from Brazil are made into spectacle lenses called "Brazilian pebbles." They are superior to glass on account of their great hardness. In Switzerland quartz veins which occasionally yield rich cavities of crystals are regularly mined for this product, a ready sale being found for all that is produced. From Madagascar large, clear masses are received, which sell from one to ten dollars per pound, when cut and set by jewellers. We have the white topaz, and sometimes called California diamonds. Pure quartz is largely employed in the manufactory of glass and is commonly obtained for this purpose in the form of sand. So we see, one of our most common minerals, that we can pick up in any field, is used for many useful purposes, and that we could hardly get along without it.

WITH EDITOR'S QUILL

"A drop of ink, makes millions"

Mr. Balliet has retired from the SPY GLASS. He will probably start a paper in Des Moines.

What a pleasure it is to greet a thousand collectors all in a body, that is what we do this month. The provinces of Northern Canada, the most Southern point of Florida, West Indies, South and Central America and Mexico thrown in, while a few glowing copies go to each country of the old world. One goes to Turkey; one to the land of the mandarins; one to the land of the Nile, ere it arrives at its destination, goes up the Nile and within a few days of the pyramids and historic sphinxes, a reader. From pole to pole, from the known and soon will invade the unknown and soon will invade the African's desert home.

The average editor seems to find it a task to fill his columns with interesting matter. We have been so overwhelmed with the choicest of manuscript that we have arranged and re-arranged our contents with a view to getting all the things in, but we are obliged to cut out some of our best articles which must find a place next month. Some authors whose time is limited, have been saying they'd write up a "big lot" this winter. It really is a pleasure to read them all and they tend to shorten an editor's life.

Did our ornithologist at the end of the table know that Kansas has a book of birds? We fancy a mention of Col. Goss' name will bring to memory his labors. He was an aged man when he died last spring, though he was quite active up to the hour of his death. He had for many years occupied a suite of rooms in the Capitol building at Topeka, a privilege granted by the state, the only recompense being that he should leave his

tion of stuffed birds to the state; it also being required that these be of his own finding. He had accumulated 523 species and sub-species at the time of his death, and had just seen his work entitled "Kansas Birds" submitted to the public when he passed away. He was without a living relative but not without friends. His book is a legacy to all Nature. It is brought in a magnificent binding, with fine engravings of over 500 birds, and has over 600 pages, at the low price of \$7.50. Geo. W. Crane & Co., Topeka, Kansas, are the publishers and copies may be obtained from them at regular price.

We have received a copy of "Ten Days with a Modern Stamp Dealer" by W. P. Newcomer. We find it an interesting philatelic work and characteristic of the genius and fertile brain of its worthy author. It is brought out by Jewett, of Portland, Me., at the low price of ten cents. Your library is not complete without it.

We have received from A. B. Merrill, a copy of his "List of Philatelic Frauds." It is nicely arranged and should be in your library.

We have received a letter from Frank I. Larkin, of Albion, New York, the popular dealer in collectors supplies. He informs us that he thinks trade will be unusually heavy during the holidays. He says he has put in an extra large stock to meet it. That's nothing, Frank. Tell us something new. We don't remember of ever having ordered anything from him that did not come around. If he didn't have it, he'd send and get it. He can furnish everything from a steam engine to a toothpick, and is always polite and business-like to collectors.

Congratulations and good wishes come to us every hand from our initial number. We all rallied to our rescue and have given us every encouragement. Sug-

gestions were made and acted upon. All was praise and nothing condemned. Though we may address you each month from these pages and continue to receive the cordial support of the collecting fraternity, none will ever be so highly prized as the little words of praise and kindly encouragement given us at first. To the "Traveler" and the "Democrat," of our own city, who were ignorant of our objects and desires, yet kindly lent us aid, we especially tender our thanks. May they never lose their confidence in us. To all our contributors and well wishers we extend our right hand and murmur "WE THANK YOU."

Mr. Fred R. Stearns, of Sac City, Iowa has prepared an excellent "Mineralogists Record Book," which will be recognized by active mineralogists. He is now at work on a fine article for an early number of the SPY GLASS, which we can assure our readers will prove interesting to them one and all.

The continuation of Mr. C. E. Pleas' article on "Insects of Arkansas" was held over until next month on account of delay of the engravers. It is a fine article and will appear with illustration next month.

Next month we shall issue a Thanksgiving number, but not of extra size unless advertisers rally to our rescue. The contents will be of the best then. For December we issue a very large Christmas number. In this number will appear the photo and biography of the brilliant philatelic writer, Guy W. Green. There will also be a group of our contributors with short sketches of each. We are promised some Christmas dainties from some of our fair readers, and altogether in our Christmas role we'll maintain our reputation.

Pride in our paper prompts us to speak more fully of the banner under which we now march. On the 19th of September the Galveston Philatelic Society chose the SPY GLASS as their official organ. The society is an active one and we are proud to represent it. We are promised a group picture of them soon which will be reproduced for our readers. We feel sure they're a fine looking lot of gentlemen, and we'll give them space for their photos, and if it interests the readers as it will ye editor we'll feel repaid

— The Editor.

JOTTINGS.

BY EDGAR D. MELVILLE.

To establish a large collection of good stamps, mounted nicely in a substantial album, is in indeed a grand achievement. But one thing must be remembered, and that is, do not be in too great a hurry to advance your collection. To thoroughly know the history of one stamp is far better than to possess ten and know but little about them.

* * *

Old coins as well as stamps, are very nice to collect. Historically they are somewhat similar to stamps, that is to say they relate to the history of the government of the various nations and civilization, generally speaking, such as stamps do.

* * *

There is a friend of mine in Chester—a veteran of the late war—who is an enthusiastic collector of war relics, and it is my intention, to write up his collection for the SPY GLASS readers at some near date. The collection is a grand one, the details of which, I feel confident will prove of interest to collectors in general.

* * *

Concerning collectors of war relics, how many exist outside of the veterans themselves. Comparing this branch of collecting with others I do not think there are many, and it appears that more interest than is at present manifested should be taken in this branch as the goodly amount of valuable information gathered thereby combines to make it a very interesting and profitable branch of collecting.

* * *

The question has arisen in my mind, has the interest of stamp collecting extended its influence during the past few years? I make mention of this simply because I feel that it is a question that should be carefully considered. If you were active in '87 and have continued

to be active up to the present time, to advance the two distinct periods of the collection, and note the result.

I, myself, was actively engaged in philatelic journalism in '87. Owing to a lack of time, however, I soon discontinued, and since then until quite recently have not been very active. There has certainly been a great interest manifested in philatelic affairs in the days of the late war.

One drawback in particular has been noticed since my return to the fold, that is the publication of philatelic journals have somewhat diminished in numbers. This is a great failing, and an example I would present to you. What condition of affairs would the country be in without its representative press? And now the other question: What would become of philatelic affairs without its representative press?

Rouse ye and help keep aloft the standard of our hobbies, and may your heeding take the desired effect, in my earnest hope.

NEW YORK & BROOKLYN NOTES.

BY BEECHER OGDEN.

The third number of the *Brooklyn Philatelist* was four pages larger than the former numbers. It has secured second class postal rates and apparently has come to stay.

* * *

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* for September contains an account of the Brooklyn Philatelic Clubs' supper to the P. A., and a report of the convention of the latter association. This report, written by Mr. Corwin, makes a very interesting article.

* * *

The convention of the American Philatelic Association was held in the Times Building, New York City, during the latter part of August. The attendance was small but the meeting had a very pleasant time. The con-

tion next year will be held at Niagara Falls.

It is about certain that a philatelic society will be formed in Brooklyn this fall. A number of stamp collectors are talking it over and a constitution has been drawn up. It is thought that none of the members will be more than twenty-one years old and no dealers need apply.

**

Albert Burmeister Quigley, formerly "The Frankford Stamp Co.," Philadelphia, Pa., has been trying his swindling operations under the name of A. Burmeister, Newark, N. J., as your readers may be aware. It may be news that not long ago he came to Brooklyn and called upon one of our dealers at his office. He wanted to sell a list of foreign correspondents and some stamps. He was recognized as A. B. Quigley, but had the audacity to deny his identity although he admitted that he knew that worthy and had corresponded with him. There is no doubt that he is a smart man but the smartest rogues get caught once in a while and although the Frankford Stamp Co., A. B. Quigley manager, has retired from active business, I would not regret to learn that the manager's mail should be addressed in care of the warden at one of the numerous boarding houses which are maintained at the expense of the state for the benefit of these unfortunates who break the laws.

WHO IS HE?

There is in Brooklyn, N. Y., a stamp dealer who combines with his stamp business that of dealer in coins, medals, considerable bills, minerals and curiosities, and also repairs watches and clocks. His store is large and he keeps quite a stock of coins for sale.

He is a German and although he has been in the business for years and is

somewhat near-sighted he still attends to his trade. He is a very pleasant person to talk to and his knowledge of stamps and their value would surprise even an advanced philatelist. Many articles about grilles, watermarks, surcharges and perforations have I learned from him, and I always call at his store with pleasure.

He has numbers of fine stamps and when trade is dull, if you are so fortunate as to be one of his regular customers he will show page after page of his collections for hours while you pick out the stamps you want. He has several albums. His best collection is in a German album which contains pictures of the United States stamps. He has one of Senf Bros. large albums and a number of Internationals.

Whenever he buys a collection or a lot of stamps he adds to his album those which he did not have and the remainder are very likely to find their way to his "cent book." This "cent book" would delight many a young collector. It is an old account book and its pages are covered with hundreds of cheap stamps which he sells for one, two, three, four or five cents. The better stamps he keeps in his albums. His trade is entirely local and it would be useless to apply for stamps by mail.

—Beecher Ogden.

To all who have been interested in our paper this month we invite a year's subscription. Our contents for next month are better than this. Please send us postal note—no stamps—and try it. We furnish more philatelic news than many papers devoted to this alone.

Subscribe for the SPY GLASS at once as next month's number will be a rare treat.

—
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STAMP COLLECTING THIRTY YEARS AGO.

BY DR. J. K. RUSSELL.

In looking back over the past decade, one who was almost a pioneer in philately's march, would almost doubt his sight and with the old lady we read of question whether "this is me or somebody else." This has happily been termed the electrical age, in philatelic circles; it is well applied. Little did I think when as a boy of fourteen, I commenced saving the little bits of colored paper, which in later years were so prized by me, what a golden harvest rose before me. Some one has said,

"There is a time in the affairs of men,
Which taken at its tide,
Leads onto fortune."

I verily believe that was the tide—my first years of stamp collecting. Every-



where were Blood's City Despatch stamps of 1845; Dupuy & Schenck's penny post; Brown & McGill; Barr's

Penny Despatch; Adams & Co.'s express, etc.

In the general issues I well remember a full set of Cape of Good Hope Triangulars which I traded a sled for. I still have them in my albums and feel that 'twas a good trade. I also obtained about this time the complete perforated set of Russia 1859 (of 3). I traded a 10 centime unpaid letter stamp of France for it, though I cannot say whether it was an engraved or lithographed specimen, as at that time we paid no heed to these little peculiarities. I acquired about this time a fine unused specimen



of the *two pence* blue New South Wales, from a naval friend of my father, who had picked it up on a cruise and sent it to me after my request for what he might find for me. It still reposes in my album

and I count it one of my choicest stamps. Soon after this the civil

war agitated the country, occasionally I picked up a confounding oddity or local, and a complete set of their regular issues. One of these I will speak of and illustrate in another month. It is a stamp uncatalogued and a great rarity.

We, in those days, collected stamps in accordance with their artistic beauty and paid little heed to country or monarch. We thought the stamps of Belgium with their *postes* and envelopes were but another issue of France, the early issues of Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Roumania, Prussia's and Poland Envelopes, were not pretty, but I have since found some to be pretty—high-priced.

My foolish boy-like fancy deemed it a noble act, and that was, pronounced the first two stamps issued by Van Dieën in Holland worthy of a place in my album. I have never since regretted the acquisitions I then reached, and they now repose in a much nicer album than were then found in. My album was artistically beautiful and would compare favorably with the International of to-day but there was unalloyed pleasure in it, and it is needless to say stamps were put there to stay.

I had to have a patent crowbar to detach them when I got ready to change. Did you ever see a foreign stamp album? Well mine was one. It was a German edition and though I forget the name I remember it full well and how my boyish pride I felt that I had reached the top round of philately's ladder. Nothing only was superior to the album of the present day; that was the fine execution and fine engravings of the United States stamps. The pictures of some of the rarer kinds which I never met with in my stamp career are indelibly photographed in my memory. The album of the past was far different from the present but they please me and that was all that was necessary

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

CITY OF MEXICO.

September 19, 1891.

THE SPY GLASS.

Arkansas City, Kansas.

GENTLEMEN:—In your Vol. 1, No. 1, I have noticed under the heading of Mexican Postal Affairs, and whoever wrote the article was not well informed, and evidently got his impressions from other persons. In nearly all of the important postoffices in this Republic, the bankers and merchants have boxes or apartments, and only when a letter comes directed to any person, and the address only naming the town and not the street or lot, then the letter is advertised. Postage stamps are sold every place, and every town has good supply on hand and the postmaster does not lick the stamps as he is too busy. The people lick their own stamps. If there should be no stamps in a small postoffice, the postmaster affixes the government seal on some and it goes this way, but he always receives the money for the stamps. We are keeping up with the times and our mail facilities, since we have entered the postal union, is nearly as fine as that of the U. S. Hoping that you will print this in your newspaper next month, I remain,

Yours Truly, C. W. MEXIA.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 8, '91

DEAR EDITOR:

The American Numismatic Association that has been in the hearts of all collectors of coins during the past six months has now a permanent existence, and the first convention is now a matter of numismatic history.

Pursuant to a call of the committee on temporary organization, over thirty persons were present in person or represented by proxy, convened on the 7th of October at rooms in Commercial Hotel in this city, in the interests of numismatic science.

In the two days session just closed a constitution and by-laws were adopted

and such other business as would naturally come before such an association, transacted.

We start out on our first year's voyage with just sixty charter members, representing the United States, Canada, England and Brazil, and an efficient complement of officers for the voyage. Provision is made under proper safe guard for an exchange department, and also for an official organ and other numismatic literature, at no extra expense to the members.

The initiation fee (payable but once) has been placed at fifty cents, and the annual dues to cover all expense, at one dollar, so no one need be debarred of membership on account of expense.

All collectors of coin or persons interested in the science of numismatics are cordially invited to join with us and the secretary, president or any other member will take pleasure in imparting further information on request.

The following board of officers were to-day elected to serve one year or until the next convention: President, W. G. Jerrom, Jr., Lakeside Building, Chicago Ill.; vice-president, Jos. Hooper, Port Hope, Ontario; secretary, Chas. T. Tatum, 93 Piedmont street, Worchester, Mass.; treasurer, David Harlowe, 28 Mitchell Building, Milwaukee, Wis., librarian and curator, S. H. Chapman, Philadelphia, Pa.; Supt. of Exchange, Geo. W. Rode, Hazelwood avenue, Pittsburg, Pa.; counterfeit detector, Ed. Froseard, 787 Broadway, N. Y. City.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

W. K. Hall, Peterboro, Ont.
C. W. Statesman, Bunker Hill, Ind
J. A. Heckleman, Cullom, Ill.
J. F. Jones, Jamestown, N. Y.
H. E. Deats, Flemington, N. J.

The convention was an exceedingly pleasant and harmonious one and at 3 p. m. adjourned *sine die* to meet at Niagara Falls, N. Y. in August, 1892 same week as the American Philatelic Association.

—Dr. Geo. F. Heath.

HOWARD, KANS., Sept. 21, '91.

ROY F. GREENE.

DEAR SIR:—Seeing an editorial in the SPY GLASS in regard to a Kansas Philatelic Society, will say that I will do all that I can for its organization. I think I can get two or three members in this city.

Yours Resp^t

C. W. MESSIC.

THEIR STAMPS.

THE MAIDEN'S.

She wrote a letter, with her eyes
Well filled with words of bliss;
Then like a prudent maid, and wise
She stamped it with a kiss.

THE FAST YOUNG MAN'S.

He stamped with feet, both left and right
A missive from his "dad;"
For oh! It lacked the shekels bright;
The wicked, wicked lad!

THE YOUNG JOURNALIST'S.

The author stamped with genius rare
His message to "The News,"
But strange, the paper failed to care
For all his clever views.

CONCLUSION.

Queer stamps may come and quickly go,
And tears for them be shed,
But one will pass, both high and low,
The common two-cent red.

—*Guy W. Green.*

SOME U.S. STAMPS IN MY ALBUM.

BY J. D. DONEHO.

It is only a common album, dear reader, and as I open its leaves to let you peep in upon my treasures, no priceless rarities will meet your gaze, no unique specimens without peers in the stamp world but only plain, commonplace, ordinary varieties, such as you all have in your own collections. I forewarn you of this fact, lest any misled by the title I have chosen for my screed should enter on its perusal expecting to hear of stamps rare and curious, failing which they would brand me a deceiver of philatelic innocence. Why, then, do I call your attention to my poor specimens? It is because I would enforce the truth, that the interest of a collection consists not alone in the wealth of rare varieties it contains, but fully as much in an intelligent appreciation of the power to please and instruct possessed by its humbler stamps. It is not rarity alone which makes a specimen valuable to me; true if it is rare, I value it all the more on that account, but it may be very common and yet because it filled out some set yet incomplete; because it revealed to me some new type; because it was acquired under some peculiar cir-

cumstances; because its issue or withdrawal was in consequence of some event. These or many other circumstances which might cluster around would give in my eyes a value as worthy as mere rarity would be.

Open us then that precious book; let us look at some of my stamps. First, then what a world themselves are the issues of our country, and let me remark that I not see how it is possible that any collector, no matter what other special he has adopted; should neglect to this specialty *par excellence*. Our stamps are not only the easiest to obtain, and the most valuable as an investment, continually increasing as they in price; they are not only the numerous in variety, and in my opinion, the most beautiful in design and execution of these of all stamp countries, but they have decided the grand good qualities of perfectness and genuineness. Take up a stamp of them all the way from plain quaker-like 5 cent of 1847 to carmine 2 cent of 1890, what a store look they have; there is no discoloration; no surcharges; no stamps which confuse the collector; no unused stamps to be sold to speculative dealers who has them has real value that shall be shaken. Uncle Sam, who issues stamps does it to supply the needs, and not to confuse collectors, rich dealers, or cheat the unwary with labels costly one day and worthless next; that you can see by the very of the stamps themselves; they say, "we are worth our face value; you will never get us for less, if you live long as Methuselah." Look at the newspaper stamps, rich their designs and exquisite the engraving. Only half of them are but how do even these specimens of these wonderful high values which few collectors have and which all of, trusting that some day a kind tune may bring them to us. The department stamps are monuments of stupendous folly. What great must have been spent in engraving and printing these 93 values. What must have been required in issuing and accounting for them as they were out. What needless trouble was by the necessity which they imposed weighing all packages in order that the right amount of postage might

carried. When all this expense and trouble is at once avoided by the simple expedient now employed, of penalty labels, Philatelically we regret these stamps; they make a beautiful addition to our albums; it is a pity that no more issues of them are going to come, and yet since they were absolutely useless we view with satisfaction their withdrawal, a satisfaction which becomes almost the wish that they had never existed, as we toil and strive to fill our sets, and labor for these almost unattainable values, the dollar denominations of the state department. As I look upon my own newspaper stamps, their value is to me much enhanced by the thought that I acquired them myself. I paid no fancy prices for them, but bought them for face value of the postmaster of a large Pennsylvania town, one ignorant or regardless of the regulation forbidding their sale to the public. Often I wonder when shall I meet this fellow with still other values to dispose of at the same rate, and again I speculate as to how high up I should dare go among these values which move ever upward to the glorious sixty dollar stamp, highest postal value ever issued.

These stamps have given me greater pleasure in their acquisition than the "departments." They blazed out upon the philatelic world at a time when most of our older collectors were school boys. We found them here and there and wondered what they were, and why they were just like the ordinary stamps but with such words as "war," "treasury," etc., on them, with all values of a set printed in one color.

How do I remember when as a very small boy with a very small collection I picked up a piece of brown paper in front of the postoffice, having upon it a one cent Treasury Department; that was the beginning of my collection of these stamps. O! that I had then appreciated their value and filled up my sets of the time. I remember that about 1862 with a quarter which I had carefully saved up, I bought, after much deliberation as to how I should invest so great a treasure, a packet containing 25 varieties of departments; these are all in my collection yet, and I suppose they are worth at least \$5.00. Among them were the Navy, 24 and 30, worth now 75 cents a piece, and many other good ones. It is wonderful the rate at which these stamps have appreciated in value, and

it takes no prophet to tell that the end is not yet. The demand for them still increases while the supply is very limited, it is therefore certain that present prices are but a beginning, and high though some of them are, I advise all collectors who can to complete their sets, for they will find the investment still, as good a one as my quarter-dollar ten years ago.

The U. S. envelopes are a study in themselves. No ordinary collector can hope for a complete set of them, yet the very fact of the difficulty experienced in getting all because they are so many, assures the average collector of the certainty of getting at least a few very good ones at moderate cost. I have some fine ones especially amongst those acquired long ago. But alas, for the sins of my philatelic youth these are almost invariably cut round, spoiling their looks and market value, but not their interest for me.

The oldest stamp in my collection which I can certainly identify is a one cent medicine label. I was a small boy then and made no distinction between postal and revenue issues. With the added dignity of a few more summers and, as I supposed, a great deal more knowledge, I ignominiously rejected these latter and ruled that only the former were worthy of notice. The result is that during those very years when the revenue harvest was richest, I gleaned few of these most interesting stamps. Much the same has been the experience of many other collectors who like me, bitterly regret now their error for there is undoubtedly at the present time a re-awakening of interest in U. S. revenues. Especially is this the case with regard to the distinctively government stamps, as opposed to the private match, medicine and playing card issues. Whatever may be thought of the latter, the former at least may well compete with postal issues in interest. They form the record of the most momentous event in the history of our country; they were the direct result of the civil war and indicate by the many objects on which they raised a revenue, the greatness of the need which prompted their use. They form a set varied in design and color, beautiful in execution and large in variety. And if you add to this the fact that they were so generally used that they are still—at least many varieties of them—comparatively easy to get, who can doubt the advisability of

their collection? This at least has been my conclusion, and few pages of my album are more beautiful and interesting than those devoted to these stamps. It may also be said of them as of the envelopes, that their great variety which forms so great an obstacle in getting a complete set is the best guarantee of success in finding at least some of considerable rarity. Anyone will as I have done certainly stumble on some of the playing-card denominations, or acquire a few at least of the unperforate set and thus add to his collection, stamps of considerable value, and I may well end these reflections by some advice of which I am sure the future will show the wisdom; it is this: Despise no U. S. stamp, be it postal, revenue, local or otherwise; for as sure as the past can teach us anything with regard to these issues, it indicates that all of them will have augmented values with every year that takes its flight.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

HARRY H. DEER, Box 236, Arkansas City, Kansas.—A genuine Indian Tomahawk (iron) with guarantee of genuineness, for four cloth bound books by Alger, Optic or Castlemon.

H. W. WILLIAMSON, New Galilee, Pa.—Stone arrow and spear heads, pipes, etc. minerals, fossils and war relics for same.

NELLIE M. P. GARDNER, Baltic, Conn.—U. S. internal revenue stamps (2, 4, 5 and 10 cent) to exchange for shells, minerals, coral petrified and agatized wood, agates, etc.

MRS. C. E. NORRIS, Box 224, Epping, N. H.—Coins and cards for stamps.

Philatelic papers published from 1885 to 1891. Petrified wood and other Oregon curiosities to exchange for stamps, Indian relics, minerals or curiosities.—CLARENCE F. CASE, Salem, Oregon.

A Young America printing press, hand inker 4x6 cost \$15 and good as new, complete with one roller, pack of cards one chase, furniture and ink, and four founts of new type with a five case cabinet, for best offer in stamps or cash. Outfit well worth \$25.—RECHER OGDEN, 549 Lexington avenue, Brooklyn.

Books, maps, shells, botanical specimens, portraits, and stamps to exchange for old coins or stamps.—SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STAMP CO., Box 226, Santa Ana, Cal.

Indian relics, mound relics, war relics, all kinds in exchange for one 32-cal. revolver, Marlin. Minerals and other articles too numerous to name.—M. ROSENBERG, Meade, Kan.

A fine collection of coins for 88 cents sets or Cones Key, last edition, also plates for anything relating to Ornithology.—PAUL VAN RIVER, Niles, Mich.

Minerals, shells, Fossils and Relics. Have for exchange, same kinds of books, paper, board and bindings; or pay cash for desirable specimens.—Geo. W. DIXON, Watertown, N. Y.

Philatelic papers, to exchange for Send list of papers you wish, and eggs you have to exchange.—HENRY B. BUGBEE, Fitchburg, Mass.

Exchange.—Will exchange collection of 990 different, mostly foreign postage stamps for fossils. Send for list.—F. B. WEST, 4th St. Cincinnati, O.

To Exchange.—An International and good collection of stamps, \$7; for United States stamps or fossils.—SAMUEL H. ROBBE, Berrien county, Mich.

ROY F. GREENE, Arkansas City, Kas.—Books, mineral specimens, stamps, war relics, Indian relics, to exchange for Arrow-Heads from each state in the Union. Two wanted each state.

To Exchange.—Wood's Natural History of the Sea Shore, Almond Tree, Folk's History of France, and hand et saw, for bird's eggs.—JAMES E. LORY, Baldwin, Kan.

150 Cocoons of Attacus Cecropia to exchange for minerals and Indian relics.—E. A. LOCKE, Box 152, Whitman, Kas.

White Pelican skin and South American bird's eggs for exchange. No postage.—W. MORGAN MARTIN, M. D., 309 E Ninth street, Wellington, Kan.

Spiders—I wish to obtain American spiders, and will exchange or name to turn duplicate species.—NATHAN SEA CLIFF, Queen's county, N. Y.

Lepidoptera of Montana exchange for other desirable species.—CHAS. A. MILES, Miles City, Mont.

GEO. W. RACEY, Baker, Kan.—fine cabinet specimens, and Dana's Manual of Mineralogy and Petrography for exchange for Indian relics, shells. Send list and receive mine.

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“ Trilobites.....	
“ Ammonites.....	
“ Baculites.....	
Shell watch charms finely mounted.....	
Finest war points, each.....	

MINERALS.

Agate.....	
Agatized wood.....	
Albite.....	
Apatite.....	
Azurite.....	
Beryl.....	
Bartite.....	
Beokite.....	
Copper pyrites.....	
Cyanite.....	
Dog tooth spar.....	
Electric stone.....	
Flint balls.....	
Geodes.....	
Gold ore.....	
Idocrase.....	
Lodestone.....	
Mexican onyx.....	
Moss agate.....	
Natron.....	
Nickel ore.....	
Quartz crystals.....	
Orthodars.....	
Opal wood.....	
“ precious.....	
Garnet.....	
“ precious.....	
Nuca green.....	
Stink stone.....	
Stream tin.....	
Zinc blende.....	
Zincite.....	
Zoisite.....	
Millerite.....	
Sulphur.....	
Hemitite.....	
Every specimen is guaranteed as to and locality being correctly labeled satisfaction guaranteed in all cases.	
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W. P. & F. M. ARNOLD

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SHANNON, N.C.

THE

SPY - GLASS,

A MAGAZINE FOR COLLECTORS.

Official Organ of the

INVESTON - PHILATELIC - ASSOCIATION.

NOVEMBER 1891.

GREENE & BALL

PUBLISHERS.

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS.

A DREAM.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

AS in dreamy contemplation,
O'er my album's leaves I glance,
I at length encounter Egypt,
With her strange symbolic stamps.

And these bits of "colored paper,"
With suggestive symbols all,
Bring a train of soothing fancies
Not unpleasant to recall.

O'er my senses steals the murmur,
Of the Nile's majestic flow,
And a zephyr stirs the rushes
That upon its margins grow.

Rulers wisely reign and perish;
Cities rise and pass away;
What is now a crumbling ruin,
Was a palace yesterday.

Slaves writhe in tyrant's lash,
And I hear the battle's crash.
Souls are broken,



Pharaoh rules; nor knows Jehovah,
And I see his army fall,
Weak and helpless, crushed and broken,
Lost in death beyond recall.

But 'twas ever thus with nations.
Where the ruler grinds the serf;
God decrees that they must perish
From the face of this fair earth.

* * * * *

From the scene of desolation
I withdraw my saddened look,
When my fancies cease and leave me,
Clasping close my precious book.

STAMP COLLECTING THIRTY YEARS AGO.

BY DR. J. K. RUSSELL.

To resume my reminiscences permit me to say in opening this sketch, that to look over the past causes a smile to creep over my face, as I recall the enduring hardships of the philatelic publishers at that day. Who of us thirty years ago ever dreamed of a weekly stamp paper such as now reaches us each week? And the legends of magazines and four sheet papers put out at this day by youthful stamp collectors, (pardon me for not applying the name of philatelist to these boy editors toiling for fame and fortune) cannot be counted. Many good magazines are now published in the interest of our hobby. In my opinion philately can claim better representation than can most of the sciences, even electricity, that important science which is now absorbing the public minds.

Well do I remember a synopsis of the issues of foreign governments in the stamp line which appeared I think, in Harper's Weekly, though rather like the newspaper articles of today, crude and incorrect, yet it narrates many important facts in connection with the stamps of Prussia, Swiss cantonals, Moldavia, Sweden, Saxony, etc., which would prove of interest to stamp collectors.

Speaking of the Swiss cantonals this paper states that the pairs on original letters, of Geneva was probably the prettiest stamps then out, as they were in pretty colors, but we suspect that few of them reach the collections of our juvenile collectors as they come at the extraordinary price of \$6 to \$8 each. It seems a pity to me that I didn't lay in a supply of these at this "extraordinary price. Yet it seems at this early day that these stamps were rare.

I remember the new issues of thirty years ago such stamps as St. Vincent, (first issue) St. Lucia, (first issue) St.

Helena (first issue), Queensland (first issue), Prince Edward Island's (first issue) Nova Scotia (second issue), the Cap Good Hope (triangular), etc. etc. It most makes me tear my hair to think of all these stamps which I traded for Empire Frances (perforated) Thurn and Taxis stamps which are common now, and which I foolishly traded for, supposing them scarce, cause I did not possess them in my (2) collection which then numbered about 250 stamps, including the U. S. stamps and locals, which I then packed up the same as any other. Soon after this came the revenues of the war. Then the confederate locals and general issues and many new continentals. About this time I began to think seriously of attending college where I started to school the latter part of 1863; during the time which I spent in school, being quite busy, philately dropped from my memory, (if it can ever be said to drop) I picked up a rare confederate local which I find is as yet uncatalogued. It is a stamp which was probably used for "one day" as they say of the Battleboro. It is designed by the local postmaster from the dating stamp. It reads as follows:

"Tescumbia, Ala., 5 cents, paid."

I have it still and insignificant as it may seem to the eye, I prize it highly not only for its rarity but for its historical associations and the crude workmanship evidenced by the postmaster's hand stamp.

I must tell you in my next about the postoffices of that day and their facilities for transportation of the mails and also what I saw in the stamp line at the Centennial in 1876.

(To be continued.)

J. H. Frier, our Florida correspondent, has been lying at the post office death with congestive fever, but has sufficiently recovered to send us another article which will appear in a month.

CRYSTALS AND ALL ABOUT THEM.

BY FRED R. STEARNS.

I was not a little disconcerted when I read the announcement in the October SPY GLASS that I was expected to contribute an article on "Crystals, and all about them." Should I undertake this, I fear I would meet with but poor success. The article might be termed, "Crystals, and a little about them." It would require one much better versed in the science of crystallography than myself to undertake the task of covering the whole field of this broad subject, and even then I fear it would be a hazardous undertaking. I must content myself with giving a few points on the subject which have come under my personal observation and through the observations of others.

To the collector of minerals few things are of greater interest than a fine, clear crystal. Surely the crystal is the most favored of all the stones. For symmetry of shape, delicacy of coloring, line-ness of surface and of texture, and, in fact, for perfection in all its forms, the crystal is equalled by no other stone. And in addition to this, there is a mystery surrounding its formation, which gives to it an interest not possessed by ordinary stones. Even the one not versed in the science of mineralogy and attaching no importance to ordinary stones, will examine with interest the crystal.

Although the forms of crystals are exceedingly various, the systems of crystallization, based on their mathematical distinctions, are only six in number. (PART I). Under these six systems come all the innumerable forms and variations with which one will meet in the collection of crystals and the study of crystallography. The internal structure of a crystal is directly related to its external. The internal structure becomes apparent in the property called cleavage. Crystals by means of this property,

break or cleave in certain directions, either parallel to one or more of the axial planes, or to diagonals of them, and these directions are fixed in each species.

In order to have a perfect crystal, it is necessary that the material, temperature, evaporation, rate of cooling, etc., be all nicely adjusted to each other, but since circumstances do not always conform to this rule, imperfect crystallizations are by far the most common nature. Crystals tend to aggregate one around another, thus in quartz or calcite, and in crystals of other minerals, we find clusters and groups, or sometimes a large crystal with a number of minute ones gathered around it. In the latter case the smaller crystals were probably formed at a later period than the large one. We sometimes find examples of substances crystallizing for a time under one form, and afterwards beginning a new form around or on top of the first. Sometimes a small crystal will be found tightly enclosed in a larger, yet each preserving its distinct form. The writer has in his collection a twin crystal of quartz, each of the twins containing a drop of water, and in each drop a tiny bubble which moves to and fro as the crystal is turned. This is an interesting feature and one which will prove a profitable source for study. Gypsum crystals are often found piercing one another directly through; others with their faces covered with thousands of shining points, which, upon examination with the microscope, prove to be minute crystals, each complete in itself. I give these few wonderful peculiarities belonging to the formation of crystals simply to show the truth of the assertion made in the first part of my article—that in regard to the interest centering around the study of crystallography. It is a wonderful study, and one which will prove remunerative to the student. I remember reading a short time ago of the origin of the word cry-

stal. It was many hundreds of years before the birth of Christ that some men or boys were out in the woods somewhere in Asia. They found some clear, bright pieces of quartz with smooth faces, and they said; "What is it? It looks like ice?" said one of them. "But it doesn't melt in my hand," said the other. "Well," said the first, "it must be ice frozen very hard." And so they called it *Krystallos*, the Greek word meaning ice, and from that we get our word crystal.

From the phrase, "clear as crystal," we are not to suppose that crystals are always clear. On the contrary, they are very often entirely opaque. This is due to impurities, as naturally the crystal would indeed be clear. The beautiful sapphire when it contains magnetite becomes the homely and commonplace emery. Iron is an element that destroys the clearness in many crystals, that, but for its presence, would make handsome gems.

OOrLOGY.

BY W. S. CRUZAN.

In my first article I noted some of the difficulties we will meet in the study of oology. In this we lay a foundation for future work and study, a ground-work on which we may build our scientific structure. Some of the essentials in the study and collecting of oological specimens are these:

(A) A knowledge of the habits and nesting places of birds.

(B) Some knowledge of the nomenclature of ornithology.

(C) Set of oologist' instruments.

(D) How to use them.

One would hardly expect to succeed if he had no knowledge of the above points. Acquaintance with the above, and a little necessary patient labor, and the work is accomplished. It is our intention to devote articles to each of the above points, with this one as a general

outline. We will now appropriate a little space to a general survey of the above.

(A) A knowledge of the habits and nesting place of birds.

This point seems to me to be self-evident. We would not expect success if we had no knowledge of the habits, especially the nesting habits of birds. We wanted to collect the eggs of a certain species and did not know where the bird nested in the tops of the lofty trees, or in some shrub, or on the ground; there would be a poor chance for success, and if success did crown our efforts it would be after probably many unsuccessful attempts in climbing trees, and very likely at the root of the tree where we have scaled or at some stump nearby, the very nest and eggs for which we are looking may be found. So it comes very necessary that we study the habits of birds and have a knowledge of their nesting places.

(B) Some knowledge of the nomenclature of ornithology.

In labeling our specimens we will have to know the names of the different species, know their scientific name; therefore we will have to study nomenclature.

(C) Set of oologist' instruments.

A blacksmith would not expect to be successful at his trade if he had not the proper tools at hand to work with, though one may do very good work with his tools be limited in number. A carpenter may do very good work and have all the latest styles and make his tools, yet it is necessary for him to have his saw, hammer and square, with a few other tools to make a "stagger" his work. The oologists' instruments are not many yet they are necessary.

(D) How to use them.

The carpenter and blacksmith would accomplish no work at all if they did not know how to use their tools. So it becomes necessary that the oologist know how to use his tools; know what he needs and how to use them skillfully.

HERE AND THERE.

NOTES BY AN EASTERN PHILATELIST.

The stamp business seems better than ever this winter. The dealers notice a large increase in their sales, and the collectors are rapidly swelling with many new recruits, new societies are organizing, old ones increasing in membership, and everything considered philatelists have reason to feel proud. We are recognized by the large newspapers and magazines who formerly treated us with contempt, and all in all we are farther advanced in our science than ever before and the march is still forward.

* *

Many friends—philatelic and otherwise—will be pained to hear of the death of Mr. S. W. Skinner Jr., of the Southern Wagon Co., Toledo. Mr. Skinner has been ill for some time, and early in September, removed to Winter Park, Fla., where he died Sept. 25th. He was a member of the firm Bishop & Skinner stamp dealers, and was an enthusiastic collector, having an especially fine collection of United States stamps.

* *

A number of sets of counterfeit U. S. Postage stamps are again being offered for sale. The stamps are made in Germany and are very good imitations. Philatelists should be very careful, as there is a law making it not only an offense to manufacture or sell these stamps but even to have them in your possession.

* *

The making of Periodical stamps, reminds me that they can still be purchased—on the quiet—at many small postoffices.

The writer recently secured 200 each of the 1, 2, and 3 cent varieties at face value at a small postoffice, whose postmaster was willing to make a "V" on the outside. How he ever explained it to the Inspector was a different matter, perhaps.

* *

The first convention of the Ohio Phil-

atelic Association was held at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 16, 17 and 18, 23 members were in attendance. The following officers were elected: C. N. Bishop, Toledo, president; G. I. Bailey, Cleveland, vice-president; C. B. Duffy, Columbus, secretary; W. S. Kinzer, Wooster, exchange superintendent; E. L. French, Wellington, counterfeit detector; W. H. Schneider, Cleveland, purchasing agent; D. Sawyer, Columbus, librarian. The convention wound up with a banquet at the Neil House, on the evening of the 18th.

* *

Mr J. C. Jay, a stamp collector of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, recently lost by death a valuable thoroughbred stallion. Mr. Jay owns a number of good running horses, including the best $\frac{1}{4}$ mile mare in Iowa.

* *

It is reported that we are to have a special issue in 1893, on account of the World's Fair. Such an issue would be very appropriate, and it is to be hoped the idea will be carried out.

REV. ENUE.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

We intend to get out an extra large Christmas number of the SPY GLASS, which will be printed in red and contain nothing but good Christmas news. We want to fill up with "adds" and solicit your aid. Send in your "adds" immediately, as we go to press the 20th of December. The SPY GLASS has grown to be a high class advertising medium with such advertisers as the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Standard Stamp Co., S. B. Bradt Co., W. F. Greany and others, who only advertise in papers of the first class. We ask advertisers to ponder on this when placing their advertising.

Our December number, which will be out in about two weeks, will be printed in red, nicely illustrated, and artistically arranged. Special Christmas articles will appear from the best of writers, owing to the great expense it produces we can mail no free "Samples Copies". But will mail on receipt of 5cts in stamps, or you can order it through newsdealers.

INSECTS IN ARKANSAS.

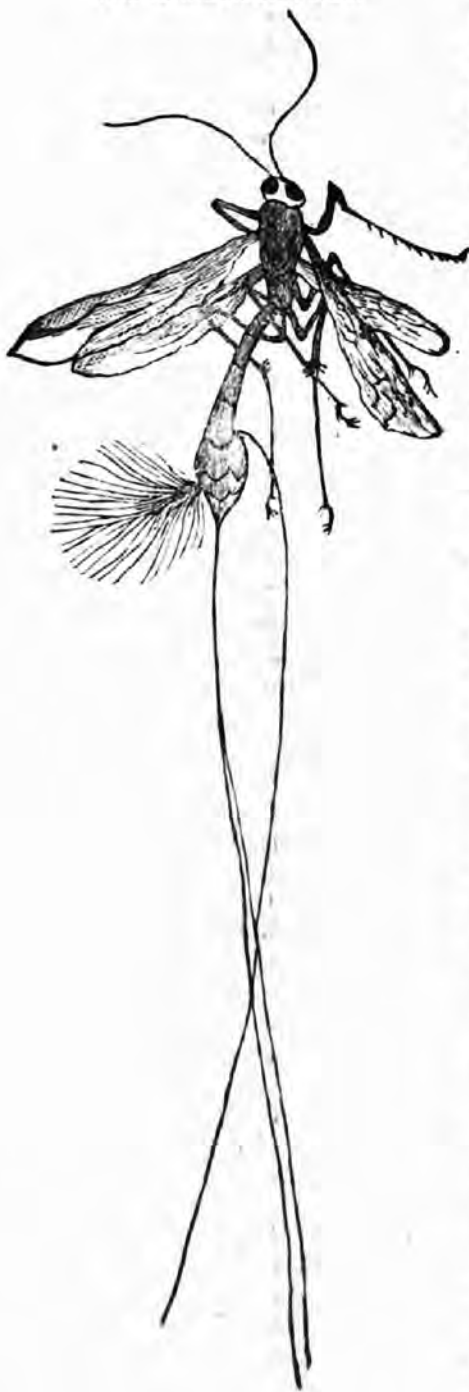
BY C. E. PLEAS.

THE ICHNEUMON FLIES.

These members of the order Hymenoptera are too numerous for more than a brief mention of a selected few. Each and every species has particularly interesting traits of its own and volumes could be written about them, but time and space forbids.

We are all more or less acquainted with some species of Ichneumon, perhaps the most common being those that work on the tomato worm, but I dare say the larger species are almost unknown to the public. They are to be found in all unsettled, wooded localities, but retreat as the axe of civilization clears the timber away, and are thus deprived of the dead timber in which to deposit their eggs. I remember seeing an occasional large one in my early days, (in eastern Indiana,) but they were smaller and quite scarce as compared to these found here.

Perhaps there is no class of insects that vary more greatly than they, in length. Within my range of knowledge, there are species no larger than a common gnat, while one in my cabinet measures nearly eight inches in length. Whether larger or



smaller species is, I cannot say, but doubtless the Tropics far exceed our northern climate both in size and numbers, as in other classes of insects.

We have a little white object sticking to the backs of some worms. These are the cocoons of Ichneumons. The eggs are deposited in the young worm and subsist on its fatty parts. Science tells us when ready to emerge into the perfect state, gnaw their way out and spin a little cocoon, fastening it to the worm by one end. They do not seem to hurt the worm while quietly fastening on his fat, but when they become active in struggling for release it is so irritable to the host worm, and becomes quite restless, lashing its head from side to side.

When ready to "hatch" again, the Ichneumon cuts round lid out of the top of the cocoon, and is ready for the destruction of the worms.

It is said that these larvae subsist on that part of the worms, which, when they are animals, store vitality, and what is wanted, is lacking, and thus the worms

is unable to perform its functions, and perishes.

Two large species of Ichneumons have come under my notice here, that in size and shape are identical, but in color and markings are quite different. The one is black with yellow head and antennae and yellow joints in its legs; while the other is olive in color with brownish stripes and spots over its entire form.

They range in size from five to eight inches in total length, two-thirds of this being that of the ovapositor alone, which in some cases, is nearly six inches.

It is a very interesting sight to watch them at their work, and when one sees the deliberation and skill exercised in piercing the hard wood to so great a depth, with so slender an instrument he is filled with wonder and amazement.

I cannot help thinking that even an Ichneumon has something more than merely brute force. It is wonderful, how they can pierce hard wood to the depth of five inches with an instrument as flexible and as slender as a horse-hair; a task that would bother and perplex a genius.

Black Hickory is the kind of wood most commonly worked in, and as there are two dead stumps near my springs, I have a splendid opportunity for observing them, as they work mainly in the morning and evening when I am mostly about the house. I frequently meet with them flying through the woods with their long legs following after them like the legs of a crane. They slowly wend their way through the undergrowth and when one comes to a suitable stump or log, it turns and circles around it, like a Buzzard around a carcass, and finally alights (if on a stump), head downward.

After a few preliminaries it goes to work. The last joint or section of the abdomen from which the ovapositor protrudes seems to be free from the rest and connected by a very thin, greenish, sack-like membrane, allowing it to move freely.

The ovapositor is caught by one of the hind legs and at the same time this latter section of the abdomen turns forward and inward to the extent of nearly a circle, thus it is encased almost entirely within the abdomen, while the ovapositor is forced back, out through the opening between the section, forming a hoop over which this membrane is stretched like a palm leaf fan above the back.

The two sheaths or coverings for the ovapositor are outside but curved up over the back like two wagon hoops, with their points inserted in the wood beside the ovapositor.

The ovapositor is capable of twisting and moving slightly, and this guided by the foot and propelled by the muscular membrane enables the insect to deposit its eggs safely out of reach of enemies, and as some authorities say, in the bodies of grub or borers, but I am inclined to doubt this being strictly true, for, even if the Ichneumon aimed straight each time, the worm would have plenty of time to get on out of reach, or retreat before the Ichneumon could drill into it.

Further, the grubs are not nearly so numerous in these stumps as one and two years ago, when the flies did not visit them at all. It may be that the direction of the instrument can be changed after insertion. Does anyone know?

In drilling the muscular membrane is only used while making the insertion, and the section turns back to its former position when the ovapositor is in, and the poor thing is at the mercy of any intruder for it can't get free in short of some minutes. I have had occasion to pin them fast to the stumps and go on about my work to wait for them to withdraw the ovapositor, for if I tried to pull them out they would break off.

Sometimes as many as six or eight, of both sexes, are seen at the same time on one stump, but the males of the black kind I have not seen, unless they are all the same, as black and yellow Butterflies, (*PAPILIA TURNIS*), are the same species.

The males are rather insignificant. I secured some eighteen females on the two stumps, but to my disgust, the ants found them while dying and only enough of them were left to mourn over.

MOUNDS AND MOUND BUILDERS.

BY C. L. WILHELM.

The particular mounds of which I propose to write of are artificial mounds made of dirt, clay, stone, etc., and are found in a great many states of the Union, principally in Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee. These mounds are usually divided into three classes, but of course, this is perfectly optional, as it is almost impossible to make the distinct classes of them.

The three divisions, which we will make for a matter of convenience, are "Temple mounds," Sepulchral mounds," and "Sacrificial mounds." An example of the Temple mounds is the one at Cahokia, Illinois. This mound is about 60 feet high, and is in the shape of a parallelogram. Near the top it was leveled off, and on this flat surface was a mound, about 16 feet in height. This was opened, and found to contain relics of a recent period. It is supposed that where this small mound was located, that is, on the leveled off space, a temple was erected. Thus the name "Temple mound."

The second mound of our division is Sepulchral mounds. These are, as the name suggests, mounds which have been used for burial purposes. The skeleton (or skeletons,) in these mounds is nearly always found disposed at full length, with its arms adjusted at its sides, but sometimes in a sitting posture. Others lie upon their sides, bent nearly double, while in a few cases, it seems that the bones, after decomposition of the flesh, have been carelessly huddled together. With the skeletons are found personal ornaments, weapons, etc. The next or last division of our three classes is "Sacrificial mounds." These mounds are invariably within, or else in the immediate vicinity of enclosures. They are regularly constructed in uniform layers of gravel, earth and sand disposed in strata, conformable to the shape of the mound. These strata form a covering for a symmetrical shaped altar of burnt clay, on which is deposited numerous relics, in all (or nearly all) cases, showing traces of having been subjected to the action of fire. The "altar" is a basin made of burnt clay, although a few of stone have been found,

They are carefully made, but vary in size and shape. Upon these are also found burnt human bones which some think, proves that Mound Builders offered human sacrifices while others think it shows that practised cremation. There are kinds of mounds which could be several classes. They are the Effigy, and Anomalous mounds.

The Effigy mounds are the most curious of all, and are made in imitation of different objects. The two most known, are the Serpent and Elephant.

The Elephant mound is found in Adams county, Wisconsin, and is described as being situated on the high sandy bottom lands of the Mississippi river, on the east side, about an eighth of a mile from the mouth of the Wisconsin. The length of this mound is about a hundred and thirty-five (135) feet across the body, thirty-six (36) feet general height above the surrounding soil, five feet. The head is large proportion of whole, is symmetrical. The Serpent-mound is situated in Adams county, Ohio. The works consist of a frog, an egg and a serpent. The length of the frog is fifty-five feet; of the egg (which is an oval mass of earth) is a hundred and thirteen feet long. The entire length of the serpent is a hundred and sixteen feet. The mounds are made of stone, either thrown together or in slabs. The Anomalous mounds, are supposed to have been used as lookouts, to signal, etc. As to the people who built these mounds very little, I might say, is known. Some claim they were of Aztec origin, others that they are an extinct race of Indians, and others again that they are a distinct race of people. The Indians themselves claim no knowledge of either the use of the mounds or their builders. That they were a race of some intelligence is shown by the geometrical accuracy, with which some of their mounds, as those at Marietta, Ohio, are constructed. I must now stop, and my hope is that this short, crude article may induce you to seek for knowledge of the "Mound Builders."

THE

Galveston Philatelic Association.

(ORGANIZED JUNE 6, 1891.)

A. DROUET, JR., Pres't. L. B. HIGGINS, Vice-Pres't. WALLACE SMITH, Sec'y.
 J. B. WEILEY, Treasurer.
 G. T. AUSTIN, Librarian. W. N. WOOD, Exchange Supt. and Purchasing Agent.

[AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION.]

Galveston, - - - Texas.

OFFICIAL ORGAN: THE "SPY GLASS."

—OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS—

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The 14th semi-monthly general meeting of the G. P. A. was held on Saturday evening Nov. 7th, 1891, at the rooms of the Association, Pres. A. Drouet Jr. occupying the chair. The roll of membership was called, only two local members being absent. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Secretary was requested by the President to read the last communication of Mr. F. Greene, relating to the first issue of the SPY GLASS as the official organ of the G. P. A.

The reading of the contents caused a roar of applause, and thanks were liberally voted its efficient editor, followed by the acknowledgement of the members on one accord, that the paper was a gem, and one of the newsiest and best magazines of its class.

On the motion of Mr. W. N. Wood, Jno. C. [unclear] of Bloomington, Ill. was elected a member of the Association, and thanks were voted him for his handsome donation to the library, also on motion of Mr. J. B. Weiley the young Udemann Brothers were admitted, followed by a motion of Wallace Smith, to elect Mr. Fred [unclear] as a member, which was unanimously; this was followed by the Association elect-

ing Mr. W. N. Grover as an honorary member. Mr. A. Drouet Jr. donated a handsome set of counterfeits, and Mr. Weiley offered to increase the library by contributing a copy of Meekel's "Stamp Collectors' Directory", followed by a donation of Mr. M. C. Harris, of a copy of Merrill's "Fraud List of Philatelists".

Thanks were then voted to the contributors, and then by vote an amount of money was appropriated for the printing of more approval sheets for the exchange department, and also an appropriation for the printing of membership credential cards.

Mr. Fred Martin was elected temporary librarian in the absence of G. T. Austin.

Several rare revenues changed hands, and business of less importance was transacted, the meeting adjourned to meet again on Saturday evening November 26th 1891.

WALLACE SMITH. Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The 15th regular semi-monthly meeting of the G. P. A. was held November 21st. at the rooms of the Association.

The meeting was called to order by President Drouet at 8.00 P. M., in attendance Messrs. J. B. Weiley, C. Dart Jr., M. C. Harris, G. T. Austin, C. F. Hayes,

A. Drouet Jr., Frederick Martini, Harry Bloomburg, Earnest Tschumy and Wallace Smith.

The call of the roll of membership revealed among those absent Mr. L. B. Higgins, vice-president. The official correspondence of the secretary was read and approved. The report of the Executive committee, Secretary and Treasurer, were then read and approved. Several applications were considered, among them Mr. R. M. Spencer of Nordhoff, Cal., who was admitted as a member. By motion of Mr. Smith, Mr. C. Dart Jr. was elected an active member, followed by motion of Mr. J. B. Weiley to admit Mr. Earnest Tschumy, which was done. M. C. Harris motioned the admittance of Mr. Harry Bloomburg, which was accepted.

By vote the executive committee was authorized to arrange for the publication of the constitution and by-laws, together with full information and history of the Association, followed by a donation for amount required to defray the expense.

By vote, the president was requested to call a special meeting on December 1st, to vote on the amendment offered by Mr. Weiley, to change the term of officers of the Association, from that of six months as provided in Art. 7th of the Constitution, to a period of one year and also for the transaction of urgent unfinished business.

Mr. C. Dart Jr. was elected a member of the executive, to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Mr. W. N. Wood.

Mr. Harris donated a lot of valuable philatelic literature to the library which was accepted with a vote of thanks.

After transactions of business of minor importance the meeting adjourned at 10. 15 P. M., to meet next; Dec. 1st 1891.

WALLACE SMITH, Secretary.

GALVESTON NOTES.

The Oleander City Stamp Co. has suspended business, but it is not on account of lack of patronage as the above mentioned company was one of the most

successful in the city.

Mr. W. E. Grover, an honorary member of the G. P. A., who makes a speciality of U. S. and confederate stamps, added to his collection a few days ago a specimen of the provisional confederate 20 cent green cut diagonally and valued as 10 cents. It is on the envelope and has a fine post mark.

The delinquents that were dropped from the roll of membership of the G. P. A. are gradually returning to the ranks, complying to the rules of the association and paying strict attention to business.

I have in my possession an entire envelope 1 cent black orange paper dated 1874. This must be an oddity as I do not see it catalogued.

The numerous communications received by the secretary requesting to know the benefits derived by joining the G. P. A. leads us to state: First—A leading society in the south. Second—First-class exchange department. Third—Large library; genuine and counterfeit album, information in regard to philately and a year's subscription to one of the best papers in the country of its kind—the SPY GLASS.

Mr. C. Dart Jr. one of Galveston's philatelic lights has returned from a tour through the west and has again taken out his dust-covered album. He is in the ranks of the G. P. A., he was elected to the executive board to fill the vacancy left by Mr. W. N. Wood.

One of our leading stationers and book stores is going to run a stamp business on a large scale. He is soon to put his idea into operation.

The stamp business in the city is

It seems that every one you meet is a collector, as it is stamp, stamp everywhere. Even the girls are collecting.

In report of the secretary in the second issue of the SPY GLASS, it was reported that owing to the inability of Mr. M. C. Harris to attend to the official duties of exchange superintendent, he resigned. The writer did not intend that the word "inability" should imply that Mr. Harris was not capable of filling the position, but that owing to other duties, he was compelled to give up that office.

Mr. W. N. Wood, our efficient exchange superintendent has left this city for Jackson, Tenn., where he will reside. Though Mr. Wood remains a member of the association, he has resigned the office of exchange superintendent and as a member of the executive committee. His absence is much to be regretted, and he will be much missed among philatelists here.

The convention of the G. P. A. will be held on the 19th of December and not the 17th as formerly reported. Members will be nominated at the convention and candidates for the different offices, and be elected at the general semi-annual meeting on January 1st, 1892. This will give members at a distance time to think who to vote for.

G. P. A. members are the deuce of fellows at cracking philatelic jokes. I met one of the fellows yesterday and was talking things over for a while he suddenly asked me if I knew "why a postage stamp will never become better acquainted with the alphabet." I thought it over for a while and at last I picked it up and asked the answer and he smiled of scorn as he answered: "because it always gets stuck on a let-

Each and every philatelist the world over is invited to join the G. P. A. Remember this is an international institution and we wish collectors, from every state in the Union to participate in the benefits derived.

Some of the G. P. A. members say that they heard that there is soon to be a philatelic association organized in Louisiana. Instead of a new society, what is the matter with joining the G. P. A.? Application blanks will be furnished upon request to request to Secretary Wallace Smith at R. G. Dun & Co., Galveston.

New York dealers do not seem to examine their stamps closely, as I saw a five cent brown 1868 on a sheet from New York for 15 cents. I have seen some other bad breaks like the above in the past two months.

May be the above "bad break" is not a bad break at all and the five cent brown 1868 is selling by New York dealers at that price. It is cheap at that.

The G. P. A. has had several applications from the "fair sex" so says our secretary. We seem to be the most favored of all philatelic societies as we are the only one that can boast of "lady philatelists."

Several handsome donations to the library have received the past week among which was one from Roy F. Greene. They will all be presented at the next meeting.

The first decent postal card that I have had a hold of since Johnny Wanamaker has been in the box came to hand this morning. They are nothing like the cards I have been writing on heretofore. They are heavily glazed and the pen glides off them easily without spluttering and sticking on the card. "Johnny must

have gotten ashamed of myself"—better cards—I can hardly realize it.

I hear that "Meekel's Weekly" is to be supplied with notes regularly from this city, by a philatelist who knows his business. Galveston philatelic matters are gradually looming up into view, and will soon be howling.

The G. P. A. auction sale is not to come off for a while yet as there has not been enough lots received to make up a catalogue. Anyone desiring to dispose of stamps can find no better way than to intrust them to the G. P. A. auctioneer W. N. Wood, as soon as enough lots are received the sale will come off.

J. B. Weiley the treasurer of the G. P. A. is daily adding to his collection of oddities in U. S. envelopes, which contains mis-strikes, double strikes, albinos etc. Yesterday while addressing some 1 cent envelopes Weiley ran across a fine specimen of albino. Mr. Weiley will not part with any of the oddities in his collection though he has many duplicates.

The constitution and by-laws of the G. P. A. will soon be ready. Mr. Wallace Smith has been hard at work on same for some time and it promises to be something out of the usual line, including general information and history of the association.

Several of Galveston's philatelists are thinking seriously of incorporating a stamp firm to deal largely in stamps. These gentlemen are philatelists of long standing and have been dealing in stamps in a small for several years. We will hear more from them soon. They are the same party who were "going to try their hand at philatelic journalism."

Mr. Ed. Chubb, an "ex-stampie" after being at several meetings of the G. P. A. has decided to again start a collec-

tion which will be a fine one as "slings the shekels."

Galveston philatelists and collectors were delighted by receiving a sample copy of the SPY GLASS, and say it is first-class paper and is worthy of subscription price to the philatelist or collector. In fact, to any collector.

In a paper of 1889 I see that the British five cent black sold for \$400, and the Brattleboro stamp for \$250. Now look at the prices of these stamps and then say that philately is not advanced when such an enormous price as \$250 is paid for one stamp, which is the price paid for a Brattleboro at auction sale in London, England, not long ago.

The writer of the above article goes on to say: "The next rarest U. S. stamp is a two cent vermilion of 1862 which commands \$10." Now when a paper wants philatelic matter why don't they get a philatelist to write up the stamps and not any Tom, Dick and Harry who is sure to jumble everything up? Philatelic hash is about as bad as any other.

TEXAS JUNIOR

TO THE G. P. A.

BY AN ADMIRER.

When Philatelia's banner

Shall reign o'er land and seas,

And all shall hold her standard

Undaunted to the breeze,

The G. P. A.'s shall number

Their members by the host,

Though in the future as in the past

'Twill be without a boast.

With Drouet in the rostrum,

And Austin with his books,

And Smith with stylus in his grasp

No matter how 'stylus' looks;

And Wood now down in Tennessee,

And Higgins cutting capers,

Talking stamps and showing them,

While Greene is printing papers,

The G. P. A. is booming,

We wish it much success,

The future of this mighty scroll,

We only can but guess,

But here's our cheer and blessing,

On the paper and the glass,

And when you meet again,

Just drink one glass for the tube.

The Spy Glass.

MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

LOCK BOX 102, Arkansas City, Kansas.

ROY F. GREENE.....Editor.
LESTER C. BALL.....Business Manager.

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One Year.....50c. | Six months....30c

ADVERTISING RATES.

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Half Column \$1.50 | One column...\$2.75

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All advertisements and subscriptions should be addressed to the Business Manager.

Send at the Arkansas City postoffice as second class mail matter.

to the standard of the philatelic press, but we wonder how its genial editor can furnish as good a paper as he does for "one dime".

The "N. H. Philatelist" is quite newsy and neat, but lacks a cover.

The "Eastern Philatelist" is the best paper on our exchange list, but we find one or two typographical errors through it. Pinkham is surely a model editor.

The "Oologist" is known as one of the best if not the best paper on birds published. It is sufficient to say it holds its reputation faithfully.

The "Leighton News" from Leighton, Ala. shows up each month with neat typographical appearance and general make-up. Although our friend Mc. is running it as a student's paper and local support is depended upon, he cannot resist running in an article on his loved hobby—Birds—each month. They are good and highly entertaining.

We note the arrival of the "Empire State Exchange" which suspended last spring, it is greatly improved and its enterprising publishers deserve success.


The "Philatelic Era" contains good matter for the average philatelist and Jewett is making a first class paper of it. It has many of the features of the "R. I. Philatelist" which it succeeded.

"Plain Talk" for December is a veritable picture gallery with portraits of Henry Clotz, Geo. F. Heath, C. H. Meekel etc. it improves with age and is a good magazine for collectors.

The December "Eagle Philatelist" is the best Christmas paper we have seen, Although many eastern states have from five to ten philatelic journals, Kansas with her two, can hold her reputation admirably. The "Eagle Philatelist" and SPY GLASS lead the van.

The "Collectors Monthly" starts in the new year with a goodly subscription list and the good will of all collectors. It is full of good readable matter and the editor is the PRINCE of editors.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

The "National Philatelist" is announced from Brooklyn with Ogden Bros. as editors and publishers. Here's our  for success.

The "Monitor" published a 20 page and cover Christmas number, with good matter contents and printed from new type, so it is too good to last long.

The "Collector" also brought out some new improvements in their Christmas number such as a winter overcoat which we hope will keep it warm. The Sons of Philatelia is booming.

The "Philatelic Fraud Reporter" holds its own appearance and contents. Bro. Green is making it a sprightly paper.

The "Ornithologist and Botanist" returns as promptly and is eagerly scanned by the editor. It is well edited and should succeed.

"Time" does not quite come up

THEY SAY SHE'LL SOON BE 12.

BY ROY F. GREENE.



A charming girl with flax-
en hair,
A winsome smile in rulers
rare,
God keep her with unceas-
ing care,
The darling's only twelve

When William laid the
scepter down,
Tore from his brow the
weighty crown,

She doaned with pride the queenly gown,
Although she was not twelve.

With features queenly; eyes so blue;
Heart so noble, beating true,
She'll kindly show what woman can do,
Although they be but twelve.

Go on bright girl and time will bring
To you the dignity of things,
A prince will stand with jewelled ring,
And claim you for his bride.

O, Wilhelmina, flaxen haired girl,
Your country'll find in you a pearl,
Whose praise will echo round the world,
Although you're now but twelve.

When looking through my album's leaves,
Where garnered are my precious sheaves
My heart so fondly, sadly grieves,
To think your yet but twelve.

But when those flaxen hairs are gray,
And sunset comes to life's bright day,
From righteous footsteps do not stray,
My little blue eyed queen.

EVERY DAY LIFE OF A POST-
OFFICE CLERK.

BY C. S. W.

The everyday life of a postoffice clerk is a very monotonous one and is considerably more laborous than one may suppose. Although nearly the same routine is gone over day after day, year in and year out he never seems to tire of his labors but is ever faithful in the discharge of his duties. Although the work is oftentimes very confining and tedious there is a sort of a fascination that seems to bind him to it. The pleasures of a postoffice clerk are quite limited, but he seems to get along very well and contrives to enjoy life as well as any other poor victim of circumstances. We will leave the postoffice clerk for awhile and will take a

look at the offices. We can see at a glance that the offices are not alike, but each is constructed according to the convenience of the postmaster and the needs of the people.

Each office throughout the postoffice system of the United States has its own peculiar method of conducting its business, though all are governed by the same regulations as laid down in the postoffice laws.

According to report of 1890 there were 62,401 post offices in the United States. These are divided in four classes, the first, 102; the second, 2,119; the third, 663; and the fourth, 57,517. It can be readily seen that the fourth class offices are greatly in the majority.

These fourth class offices with their primitive ways are a source of amusement to the higher class and much fun is indulged in at their expense. Their rude furniture and ill-planned efforts are ridiculed by these principled higher classed people who think it a capital joke to "roast" otherwise impose upon them. A fourth class post office is not paid a salary but is allowed a percentage of receipts of office. These offices are in general very paying institutions unless taken in connection with good business is not profitable. The offices generally occupy some corner of a grocery or general merchandise store.

The office furniture usually consists of a shelf or table and a small letter box. If they are not lucky enough to have a cancelling stamp, the stamps on letters are cancelled with pen and ink and the date and name of office written to one side. This process is very tedious and could be tolerated in the smaller offices, though it is almost entirely done away with in the fourth class offices which receive two mails a day while others receive only two or three a week. The

are not required to tie out the mail as in the larger offices but separate it only as to the general direction and is left thus to be properly thrown and tied out on the mailing car or first main office.

It is quite amusing sometimes to see the attempts some of these fourth class people make in trying to tie up mail, putting the letters upside down and sending end to end causing the hurried mailing clerk to say naughty things. The fourth class postoffices are furnished with postage stamps like the others but they are generally of the common denominations such as the ones and twos, they not having any particular call for the larger stamps. As it is some of the offices have the regular issues in stock they are as to be nearly called "rare" by the collecting world and it does seem such a pity to those "stamp fiends" that these offices should be suffered to perform the duty of a common every day

But the postmaster regards his stamps in a different light than the stamp collectors. He thinks them as old-fashioned and better times by the more fortunate offices and he longs for the time when he will be able to handle the more valuable article. Money orders and notes are neither issued nor received in fourth class offices but matter is registered when necessary. In these offices the relic hunter and stamp collector find a good field for following and occasionally reap a good harvest.

A third class office is some better than a fourth but that is saying little. Unlike the fourth class office the third class postmasters are paid a regular salary which varies according to the size of the office. Out of this though, they are required to furnish furniture, desks, etc., but are given an allowance for clerk hire which is sometimes quite scanty. These clerks

generally have more work and less pay than those of any other class of office. The General Delivery of these offices if run entirely by one clerk is quite a difficult task as not having a free delivery system the entire populace with the exception of those possessing boxes receive mail through his hands and the mailing and other departments are equally hard, being doubled up and so arranged as to employ as few hands as possible.

The interiors of these offices are arranged and furnished according to the pleasure of the postmaster, and if some are not patriotic enough to go down in their pockets the office is liable to fall far short of the peoples expectations.

The necessary furniture in this office is a mailing desk, general delivery case, sorting table and lock and call boxes, besides extra tables, chairs, stoves, lamps, etc. If it is a money order office a desk or table is arranged to meet the requirements. Nearly all the furniture of the third-class offices is supplied by the postmaster so he can indulge in all the luxuries which his fancy and pocket book may permit.

The second class postoffice, though not the "ultimatum" is a considerable improvement over the others. The postmaster is allowed a good salary and a fair allowance is given for clerk hire and incidental expenses. The free delivery system in these offices besides being a great convenience to the general public is a great help to the office clerks reducing the labor to quite an extent.

In some offices the carriers do all the sorting of mails which includes opening of pouches and back-stamping of letters, etc. The carriers are each supplied with a private desk into which he sorts the mail for his ward.

The mail is first sorted on the distributing table and the letters for the boxes and carriers are separated. The box mail is then thrown and the carriers distribute theirs in their desks.

(To be continued in our next.)

JOTTINGS

BY EDGAR D. MELVILLE.

Mr. Elmer Atwood Spencer has an article in the September number of the "Post Office," headed with the query, "Are we going too far?" The substance of the article in question is an argument to the effect that the upholding of philately as a science is not proper. In the third paragraph of his article, he states: "People started to collecting stamps because of the pleasure they found in it, and for the last forty years, the pursuers have steadily increased in both favor and numbers for the same reason.

Then why should we strive for the high sounding title of a science?" This question of Mr. Spencer's can be very easily answered. Webster defines science as "knowledge; collection of general principles." Sustaining my argument with the real definition of the word. I would ask Mr. Spencer the following two questions, viz:

Does not a person engaged in the collection of stamps gain considerable knowledge of a valuable character concerning the history of the different nations, and also become better acquainted in a geographical point of view?

Is there not a collection of general principles connected with philately?

There are some persons who have a fascination for the study of astronomy. They do not follow it as a profession, but it is their hobby. Now to the point. Does this fact take away the name of science from this most interesting of studies? We think not.

* * *

Quite recently I received a copy of the latest catalogue, published by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Publishing Company, of St. Louis, Mo. It is prepared in a novel and interesting style, and the "Wanamaker," of St. Louis, as Mr. C. H. Mekeel has been called, deserves much praise for the enterprise he has shown in extending the cause of philat-

ely. Such dealers, as well as enrich themselves, prove of incalculable benefit to the cause they represent.

* * *

Much interest seems to be manifested in philatelic affairs in the state of New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Philatelic Society is reported as being in a healthy condition. The Collector's Stamp Journal of Lake Village, N. H., states that so much enthusiasm is exhibited by the resident members of the club that even the newspapers are helping the subject up.

Here is where I want to strike a note. As is well understood the newspapers are a decided power in the land. When a subject is taken up by newspapers, that particular subject receives a boom. I would suggest the advisability of local, state and national associations to have items regarding the doings published in the newspapers from time to time, and thus help to extend the cause of philately.

* * *

A local organization of Chester, Pa., are at this writing holding a novel entertainment at their rooms under the title of the "Arcade." Connected with it are two interesting departments. The first floor contains booths and tables arranged in arcade fashion, and are decorated in a very pretty manner. The tables abound with salable articles of many kinds.

The second floor has been arranged in a manner that is at once pleasing to the collector's eye. Rare collections of minerals, war relics and curious specimens of this and foreign lands, are exposed to view. A collection of Indian relics is also on exhibition. Besides these interesting features the walls are decorated with elegant pictures, portraits and works of art.

This plan of exhibiting collections is certainly a good one and should be followed as closely as possible in every city.

The "Arcade" in Chester will be opened for twelve nights in all, and an evening change of programme in the amusement line will be made.

EASTERN NOTES.

OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

on the 9th edition International stamps have taken such a drop since the 7th edition has been published that you need not think you are getting one cheap at half price.

near the stamp dealers in New York do not seem to be making any exorbitant profit because of the holidays. At the Stamp & Coin Co.'s Broadway store we found a good assortment of stamps at twenty-five cents a thousand numerous new issues. On Broadway street, just off Broadway Mr. J. has his store. Here are catalogues, stamps and coins displayed in the window.

"Jerseyman," published by H. E. of Flemington, N. J., has been second-class rates by the auto-Washington and in consequence the number will be somewhat de-

company which carries on the business of delivering parcels in New York City has adopted an adhesive stamp to be used to prepay packages. The stamp is oblong in shape and has a perforated edge. Both stamp and stub are numbered and the stamp is gummed on the tender of a package buys a stamp in a store and keeping the stub he simply pastes the stamp on the envelope. He then goes to a box which is found outside the store where stamps are sold and by stepping on a lever he opens the top of the box to get the package. The boxes are made in a prominent safe manufacturer's factory safe from thieves. Collected stamps are made hourly and the service is free of charge. The charge is fifteen cents for any package not over fifteen pounds in weight. Only one value of stamp has been issued.

subject of quicker mail service between New York City and Brooklyn City is agitated very freely. A few months ago we were told that a cable was stretched across the bridge and letters were whisked over the river in a

few seconds. And then the various stations in Brooklyn were to be connected with the main office by pneumatic tubes carried under the elevated roads. The very latest is a grand central station for the railroads in New York City with an upper floor devoted to the use of the postoffice and pneumatic tubes to the stations all over the city. Well, it may come but just now things are the same as usual and it takes from five to seven hours for a letter posted in New York to be delivered in Brooklyn.

The small boy and his printing press or rubber stamp outfit is responsible for some of the queer surcharges which we sometimes meet. But in the way of "fakes" recommend to me a boy who can use water colors well. Such a youth will take some of the cuts from an album or price list and by the judicious use of a paint brush transform them into fair representatives of the greatest varieties. Of course they cannot be classed as dangerous counterfeits, but I know of some such specimens finding their way into a collection.

One of the neatest novelties in this line is the imitations made in colored inks by another artist. By the skillful use of pen and ink he is able to produce specimens which when pasted on an envelope and duly postmarked will deceive anyone but a collector.

The Record Review and Auction Advertiser is an old friend in a new cover. It is published by Mr. A. R. Rogers and will be devoted exclusively to recording auctions and the prices realized. The auction price is the best guide to the value of stamps and Mr. Rogers' paper will be invaluable.

The new society of stamp collectors in Brooklyn has not materialized. The members that were to be are still pursuing the even tenor of their way and sticking stamps in their albums.

BEECHER OGDEN.

THANKSGIVING.

Owing to a delay on the part of our engravers which has kept us back three weeks our thanksgiving number did not get out until after the turkeys had been fattened and killed; the pumpkin pies baked and stowed away in the pantry; the dainties of home life all prepared and finally the white tablecloth brought out, the table spread and the absent ones who had not gathered around the home fires for many months now seated themselves around the festive board while mother poured the steaming coffee; father at the end of the table carved the turkey with science born of practice. When all had been helped to a luscious plate full of dainties and Tommy was gorging himself on the weighty drumstick, you and your pretty cousin slyly glanced at each other as she laid the "wish-bone" at the side of her plate. All was merry, mirthful and peace reigned on this one day which we reserve for thanks to the Almighty God. Dinner over, the old folks retired for reminiscences, you lingered to pull that "wish-bone," which of course, went the wrong way. But time forbids recalling the past. You all know how we spent it, from New England's hills to Dakota's wheat fields, from Florida's oranges to Texas' plains, all the same, and how we collectors enjoyed ourselves, and did any of us forget to thank Him for the treasures which, as collectors, he has given us. May your thanksgiving ever be pleasantly spent is the wish of

Yours in Collectorship,

ROY F. GREENE.

WITH EDITOR'S QUILL.

—Our Thanksgiving number! Does it meet your expectations? Advertisers helped us out considerable and subscriptions rolled in by the legions. We will soon issue a Christmas number which will eclipse everything heretofore put out.

—It gives us great pleasure to announce that E. R. Heiberg, of La Crosse, Wis., who has been a representative philatelist of the northwest for many years, entered the competitive examination for a cadetship at the West Point Military Academy recently, and although many entered the race who apparently would better pass the test. When the geographical and historical questions were handed around, our friend, Heiberg, by the aid of Philatelic knowledge, distanced his colleagues and won the victory. He will soon enter the ranks of our army and surely philately will be proud of him on the honored scroll of the institution, his name under those of General Lee, Meade, Hooker, Sherman, Jackson, Johnston and McClellan. His name will shine forth in our Military Academy and as was said of Burns "We'll be proud o' heem."

—We have received C. H. Meyer's price list No. 17 and it does credit to this enterprising firm.

—We see several papers have fallen into line on publishing a full page on their front page. "Imitation is the sincerest flattery" you know. Its plan brother editors and one who is approved by our readers.

—We received a letter from Mr. Newcomer a few days since informing us that he had an acute attack of rheumatism, produced by a cold which reached Cedar Rapids a few days since. He was confined to his bed, his arms being affected he could not send us his promised serial. We commanded him to hire an amateur at our expense, and unless he is cured with a relapse he will furnish it within a few weeks.

—Among the leading dealers in the west may be mentioned the B. Stamp Co., of Milwaukee, Wis., who deal extensively in stamps for the younger and less advanced collector. Geo. Kaufman of Jefferson Barracks

the one who pleases the advanced collectors with his fine stock. Both companies merit your patronage and you would be glad to hear from you. Write to them.

—Charles H. Mead, the lively stamp dealer of Sayreville N. J. "bobs up" in this number. He is one of our best correspondents and a fellow. He always has something and best of all says it, and in a neat manner. When you go down Sayreville, stop off and see him and if you can't go, try Uncle Sam's mail to him.

Lester Ball, an estimable young man has taken a half interest in the SPY GLASS. He being a first-class printer is able besides printing the SPY GLASS to run a high class job office to which collectors want. Hereafter we second to none in printers work by communications regarding the SPY GLASS addressed to Mr. Ball, the business letter, will be answered promptly, and we will try by strenuous efforts to please

it seems as if all our philatelic interests are letting other than philatelic subjects absorb their attention. Among the examples are the numerous "sings" among the stamp brethren. We noticed was our friend Geo. R. Green of Greenville, Conn., then Gerit Green, and it is rumored that E. R. Green is soon to join the benedicts. We wish to you one and all. Our "eye editor" finds a more than "eye editor" who appears in his eyes, rarer than "eye editor" or Brattleboro, then we'll put our cards. While other states boast of these rare maidens, Kansas (Nebraska either) can stand up to them all, and when we see a black-and-white maiden waiting for the SPY GLASS(?) to gate on each Sunday night we'll be little of philately for the time being, as much as she loves philately too, but murmur that the two come to make an interesting pair, and

claim our sincerest regard and earnest attention. Again we wish our married brothers joy and long life.

—Among the enterprising stamp dealers of the west, one which promises more, and fulfills them too, to the collecting fraternity in its specialities is the Standard Stamp Co., of St. Louis, Mo. Rare stamps are their hobby, but they handle good approval sheets also.

—The attack made upon Mr. E. P. Newcomer, in No. 42 of the "Weekly Stamp News" by Kenelm is unjust.

Kenelm takes Mr. Newcomer to task for stating in a recent number of the "Quaker City Philatelist" that the stamp papers state Chicago has a large local stamp trade and desires the name of one paper in which that statement appeared. Kenelm is referred to the Aug. 1891 "Southern Philatelist" page 191. We are informed Mr. Newcomer did not receive any invitation to attend the C. P. S. meetings and he did not attend because his time was fully occupied evenings. If he'd have had such an easy job as Kenelm has selling banjo's, jews-harps and harmonica's he probably could have went once or twice. We trust Mr. Kenelm will look the matter up and "do as ye'd be done by" in this matter.

ROY F. GREENE

NEW JERSEY ARCHÆOLOGY.

BY CHAS. H. MEAD.



A very little, (if any), has been written on the Indian relics, mounds etc., of New Jersey, before, and I will now try to give the readers of the SPY GLASS an idea of what they are like, and as near as possible the habits of their ancient inhabitants.

Before America was discovered, New Jersey was inhabited by a tribe of Indians named Lenni Len-

ape, a part of the Algonquin nation. Their habits were similar to the other tribes; also their dress, wig-wams, etc. They buried their dead instead of putting their bodies on scaffolds like the Sarcies, Piegans and others to numerous to mention. They laid the bodies on the surface of the ground, dressed in their best and wrapped in a blanket. Their weapons were laid along side of them, and also three days rations (or at least I suppose it was; as I was not there at the time), to last them on their journey to the happy hunting grounds; then they heaped the sand or earth on them to the height of six or twelve feet and even more.

The burying ground was always separate from the village; in some cases fully three miles away. A certain burying ground in Middlesex county covers about thirty acres of ground, and at first sight it resembles an immense field of African ant hills. The largest mound in the field is fifteen feet high, forty feet long and twenty in width; it also has an immense oak tree on top of it. The others are similar but not so large. The

field is bordered on one side by a small creek while the rest is surrounded by one continuous mound of over a mile long, and varies from fifteen to twenty feet in length.

On opening the mounds I have found the remnants of the bones, but they crumble at the touch, and I found the arrow points spear heads, knives, axes, and their queer-shaped pottery. I have never been able to get but the fragments of the pottery as it was made of clay and easily broken. Their stone mortars will last forever as they are hollowed out of solid rock, flint, sand stone and slate. The pestles are made of the same material and are from six

to twelve inches in length. They resemble a police club in shape, only being more at the end. There are others shaped like a ball made of stone with places cut in them for the fingers.

(To be continued.)

Geo. J. Remsburg of Oak Mills, is one of our regular contributors is giving a series of articles on "Prehistoric Man in Kansas". He has sent out letters of inquiry to all the prominent archaeologists of our state requesting information on this subject of which little is known by collectors at large. Remsburg has taken pains to make an authentic one. This will begin in an early number of the SPY GLASS and we hope all members of the A. A. A. give it a careful perusal.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

Free to subscribers only. Limit 25 cents. It is advisable to communicate with persons before sending goods in exchange.

N. R. Christie, Rye Patch, Nev.—Send volumes of the "Family Story Paper" a number of 25 cent novels, to exchange reading matter, novels preferred (no 1 cent ones wanted).

J. B. Welley, 910, 21 St., Galveston, Tex.—Exchange, cigarette pictures for stamps. One hundred for 50 cents worth of stamps (U. S. revenues preferred).

P. A. Gannon, 70 Putnam St., Hartford, Conn.—Novels, magazines, and philatelic papers. Indian relics and stamps. J. W. Scott's standard catalogue for a 70 cent purple U. S. stamp.

Harry G. Haskell, Box 20, Green's Lake, Me.—Current U. S. stamps to exchange for stamps "Golden Days" etc. write to me.

Chas. A. White, 1713 Leavenworth St., Omaha, Neb.—Thirty five cents worth of stamps for every good bird egg sent. Any kind taken except Sparrows.

E. P. Newcomer, 347 5th Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.—Over 800 stamp papers for good stamps. Send sheets. One paper for 2 cents worth kept.

J. A. Rice Broken Bow, Neb.—Exchange desired with Canadian collectors. Current U. S. to exchange for the issue of Canada



GEO. F. GUELF,
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