

The American Boys.

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

SAMPLE COPY.

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Price, 5 Cents.

LUCKY LARRY, THE BOY COLLECTOR. — OR — THE STORY OF A STAMP.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE.

CHAPTER I

Which introduces some facts about the Vanes.

Larry Vane was in his last year at the High School. As soon as the term should expire he would be obliged to go forth into the world to earn his own living, with nothing but his rugged constitution, his wit and his two strong arms to rely upon.

No legacy or even influential friend stood ready as a strong staff to assist him up the first steep hill to success. His mother, somewhat of an invalid, was the only relative he knew.

But Larry was a brave lad and never missed his regular meals or lost sleep at night worrying over the exigencies of the future. As all strong spirited American boys are bound to do, he faced the future with courage and confidence.

He was very much devoted to his mother; a good trait by the way. He was never happier than when seated by the little hearth in their cottage home at night; he would chat with her upon various subjects. He never tired of listening to her glowing accounts of the life and deeds of his father who had been a man of brilliant talents but roving habits. He had been in turn Merchant, Ship-Owner, Sea-Captain and Colonel in the U. S. Army.

While upon the high seas he had visited every country on the face of the globe and his thrilling adventures would have filled a large volume. He was faithful and regular in his correspondence, and wrote thousands of letters. These Mrs. Vane had religiously preserved and they were kept in a cedar chest in the attic of the cottage.

Of late these had become of deep interest to Larry, for, like thousands of other boys, he had become deeply interested in stamp collecting. Among his father's letters he found many gems for his collection.

He possessed an album, not of the latest or best issue, for his means would not admit of that. But it was sufficiently complete to give him much pleasure and enjoyment.

In this he arranged his dainty treasures and by exchanging with his boy friends he soon had

a few thousand beautiful stamps. He even invested some of his pocket money with the dealers in stamps whenever he went into New York, for Larry lived a few miles out of the metropolis in the beautiful town of Mt. Vernon.

Mrs. Vane did not discourage his efforts for she realized that it is an essential part of every boy's make up to have a hobby, and surely he could not have a more elevating or instructive one.

But the widow had of late been much worried over certain impending events of the future. A great calamity seemed to be hovering over the little home.

A few years previous her resources had grown slender. Being anxious to further Larry's schooling as far as possible she had been constrained to put a light mortgage upon the cottage.

It was but a thousand dollars, yet, with occurring interest, it had follow due a few weeks since. Mr. Crab, the crusty old banker, had not signify his willingness to extend it for another term of years and had even threatened to foreclose at once.

Therefore upon the evening which opens our story, Mrs. Vane was in a very much depressed state of mind as she sat by the fire with Larry who had brought down the cedar chest and was again looking over the old letters. Suddenly Larry looked up into his mother's face and asked:

"Mother, did you tell me that the last word you received from my father was twelve years ago?"

"Yes my boy, in December, 1878."

"Where was he then?"

"In a mining camp, in faraway British Guiana. The letter I received was begun by him and finished by a friend, John Moore. That letter I have never shown you my boy. It is in my cabinet in the front room. Open the lower drawer and bring it to me and I will read it to you."

Larry needed no second bidding. He had soon found the drawer and took from it a bulky yellow envelope which showed marks of rough usage.

Somewhat curiously he did not look to see if it bore a stamp on the surface. He recognized his father's hand in the subscription. Mrs. Vane however drew from the envelope a soiled sheet of paper and Larry read it as follows:

"Gold Bar, Essequibo River County,
British Guiana, Dec. 5, 1878.

"My dear, dear wife:

"As I write you these few lines I lie upon my couch stricken with a deadly fever. I hope however to conquer it and return to you safely, never to roam again. I have made a great discovery of gold, and we have cached more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of the yellow metal. We shall yet have happy days. Fearing that you might be in need, a few weeks since I deposited with bankers in Georgetown, ten thousand pounds in gold. I shall enclose in this letter a draft upon London bankers for that amount. I want you to buy a neat little home and send Larry through college and—oh my poor head aches so I shall have to beg your indulgence and finish this later on.

Post Script, Dec. 6, 1878.

Dear Madam:

It pains me as your husband's friend, to be compelled to finish this epistle for him in a sad vein indeed. At eventide yesterday his spirit departed. I can only offer you my heartfelt sympathy. His grave is in a pleasant spot and kindly marked; we could do no more. The draft mentioned I enclose and trust that it may be of service to you in your hour of affliction though in no wise mitigating its weight the keenness whereof only you can know.

Your husband's friend and your sympathizer:

John Moore."

Larry drew a long breath and a great sob welled up from his bosom.

"And this was the last you heard from father?" he asked.

"Yes!" replied Mrs. Vane drearily.

"And he is buried in that far off land. Some day I am going to visit his grave. But the draft, mother—"

Mrs. Vane turned her tear wet eyes upon her son. She stroked his brown hair affectionately and said:—

"That we never heard from my boy. It was not in the letter."

Larry's eyes flashed.

"Why was it not in the letter?" he asked.

"I cannot tell you my boy. It may have been destroyed or lost!"

But Larry was incredulous.

"That is hardly likely," he cried. "It is mentioned by Mr. Moore. Oh, do you suppose it was with-held or stolen!"

The boy's eyes flashed and he sprang to his feet. The possible injustice stirred the dominant lion in his nature. But Mrs. Vane said sadly:

"I fear my boy that may have been the case. In any event we are powerless to recover the money now. I employed able counsel but nothing could be done. You see we could not tell who the bankers in London were!"

Larry was for a time much stirred up. But

he finally calmed down as his mother's calm logic prevailed.

"It is too bad!" he said doggedly. "There is no doubt but that my father left a large fortune and you ought to have it mother for your old age. Only think; we could pay old Crab his money and be very happy all the rest of our days."

"That reminds me," said Mrs. Vane. "I fear that unless Squire Banks will kindly purchase the mortgage and extend it for me we may have to move, Larry, within a month."

"Then I shall not graduate," said Larry with flashing eyes. "I will leave school today and go to work. As long as I have two strong arms my little mother shall not come to want."

And Larry embraced her effusively. Oh what a flood of light and joy broke in upon her tried soul as she kissed her boy, who was now to be her mainstay and comfort, as he had been her idol and pride.

Presently Larry picked up the yellow envelope to replace his father's last letter in it. As he turned it over now for the first time he instinctively glanced at the stamp.

For a moment he was startled. He rubbed his eyes and looked again. There in one corner next a row of 1860 four cent blue stamps was a quaint irregular circle of black with "British Guiana, 2 cents" on pink paper. At a glance Larry saw that it was a Guiana rarity, though he did not then know its real value.

Instinctively he dived into his pocket for his catalogue. He turned the pages to British Guiana and read the entry:

1850. Type 966. Black on coated paper, unperforated.

2 cents, black on pink paper, value \$1010.00

CHAPTER II.

Larry's luck goes back on him.

For a moment everything swam before Larry Vane's vision. He felt faint and giddy.

He examined the stamp mechanically and then made sure that it was the identical type 966. Then the re-action came and a wild, joyful whoop escaped his lips.

"Mother! Mother!" he cried "luck is ours. See! here is money enough right here to clear up the mortgage and make us free and happy once more!"

Mrs. Vane looked bewildered.

"Why Larry," she said, "I see no money."

"Well, I'll very soon show it to you," cried the delighted young stamp collector, "do you see this stamp? Note it well. It is a British Guiana rarity. You see the stamps beside it are of a date ten years later. Perhaps the person who mailed this letter had the issue of 1850 in his possession, or the post master may have sold it to him from a lot of remainders. However it was used and cancelled, in British Guiana and the lowest estimate of its value is given at \$1000. It might sell at auction for very much more!"

"What! a stamp worth \$1000? Exclaimed Mrs. Vane in surprise. "Are you quite sure of that Larry?"

"Sure of it? Why of course I am!" cried the young collector enthusiastically. "I will very

soon prove it to you. When I take this stamp to New York and show it to my dealer, I have no doubt he will very quickly find me a purchaser at the catalogue price."

Mrs. Vane seemed hardly able to realize this great stroke of luck. But eventually Larry made it all plain to her.

"But how will you get the stamp off the envelope, Larry?" she asked.

"I don't want to take it off" replied the young collector. "It will be worth more on the original cover, which in itself is absolute proof of its genuineness!"

"I must say this is all very wonderful" exclaimed Mrs. Vane fulsomely, "to think that such a trivial thing as a postage stamp should be the means of lifting the mortgage from our home. I can see only the hand of God in this."

Larry was too much excited to sleep at all that night. He was careful to get excused from school the next day and then with the air of a man of business, took the train for the city.

He rode down town in the elevated train and got off at Warren Street, thence he made his way across Broadway to the office occupied by the stamp dealer and Lucky Larry, as we may well call him, entered.

The great stamp dealer whose name is known the world over, stood behind the counter and greeted pleasantly the manly little fellow who saluted him.

"Mr. Scott," said Larry briskly, "I wish to see you upon very important business; it is of a private nature!"

"Very good sir," replied the great stamp dealer. "Please step this way."

Larry followed him into his private office. A chair was tendered him and then the interview began.

First Larry told the story of his father's career in Guiana. Then he exhibited the yellow envelope and its precious treasure.

The expression upon the great stamp collector's face was interesting to note. He took the envelope and studied the stamp carefully.

He looked at it through a magnifying glass and examined the paper, then he said slowly:

"Pon honor my boy, this is a genuine specimen. You are a lucky little man. It will bring you catalogue price at any time. I know a dozen wealthy collectors who will pay that for this stamp."

Larry's voice trembled as he said: "Well—I—that is—I will sell it for that Mr. Scott, for I wish the money to lift that mortgage."

The stamp dealer smiled. "Well my boy the sale is as good as made," he declared. "It is now twelve o'clock. I will send word to Mr. Prentiss, a wealthy collector, and he will be here at three o'clock. If you will come here at that hour I think that he will quickly pay you the money."

Larry arose like one in a dream. It seemed all too good to be true. A full thousand dollars seemed a tremendous price to pay for this insignificant bit of paper.

"I will be on hand at three o'clock Mr. Scott" he said. "And I shall be glad to pay you a liberal commission."

Story continued on page 6.

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159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., January 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

The publication of THE AMERICAN BOYS is ventured with the hope that many new recruits will swell the ranks of the already large army of stamp collectors. It is not our intention to publish deep, scientific articles on Philately that can be understood only by the expert. THE AMERICAN BOYS will be a youth's paper devoting its space to the study of postage stamps, the publishing of short stories with a view to interesting new collectors and encouraging them to enter the fields of philately, not only for their amusement but also for their profit and instruction.

Articles on History Biography, Cycle News, Social Notes and National Questions will be given due space and consideration.

The future issues of this paper will contain from sixteen to sixty-four pages each issue, as the occasion may demand. Two editions of each issue will be printed until further notice, one, the regular edition, on book paper, the other, on news paper for advertising purposes. 10,000 sample copies will be issued in January while about 15,000 will be distributed in February.

As an advertising medium, THE AMERICAN BOYS will surpass and be more valuable than all other stamp journals combined, and for the general advertiser who wishes to enter the home, we believe a trial advertisement with us will make him a regular patron.

Several departments will be opened in our next issue.

Owing to lack of space in this number we were compelled to leave out several interesting

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notes and not a few advertisements. We thank our many friends for their patronage of our paper. We recommend the advertisers to our readers and can assure them of satisfaction in dealing with any of them.

Read our offer to subscribers and those getting up subscription clubs.

During March, we shall hold our first auction sale of stamps, bills, etc. If you wish to receive a catalogue write us. We shall issue about 8000 catalogues, our commission for selling your stamps will be very small.

MSS wanted for this paper, for which good prices will be paid.

Stamp collecting in Lowell is on the increase. There are at the present time nearly three hundred stamp collectors and more entering the field daily. If we had a society that would admit ladies and beginners, what great times we would have!

"Stamp Collecting" by Alderman E. T. Goward, a paper read before the Lowell Philatelic Association, will appear in our next issue.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

The New Zealand Government will soon issue a new set of stamps, a unique feature of which will be a landscape scenery or other feature of the island on each stamp. Among the designs selected are sketches of a variety of lakes, mountain peaks, geysers, hot pools, strange birds and trees.

The American Bank Note Company is again printing the Canadian postage stamps.

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CYCLE NOTES.

The Elgin Cycle Co., of Elgin, Ill., has an elaborate show of their wares in the Chicago Cycle Show. The special feature of their exhibit is a diamond-inlaid and gold-ornamented Tandem, which cost \$10,000. Every connection is covered with gold bands, carved in the most artistic manner, inlaid with diamonds and other precious stones. On the front drop bar the name "Elgin King" is raised with large, solid gold Old English letters. These serve as settings for solid rows of the most brilliant gems. The top bar represents in raised gold, a Bicycle Track with several racing men finishing a race in front of the grand stand. The centre upright bar shows a full nine of solid gold Base Ball Players, playing the National Game. Other conspicuous places and emblems are also represented, a blaze with many beautiful gems. The fork side designs are marvelous creations of the goldsmith's art, consisting of heavy wreaths, finished with massive gold bands, holding large diamonds, rubies and emeralds on each side.

A cycle show is being held in Chicago. It opened January 23 and closes January 30.

The cyclists of Maine are preparing to make a big fight before the State Legislature for better roads throughout the state.

A convention for good roads was recently held in Seattle, at which a movement for the betterment of the Washington highways was inaugurated.

LUCKY LARRY.

"You need not do that my lad," replied the great stamp dealer. "Mr. Prentiss offered me one hundred dollars to find the stamp for him. That will satisfy me. I will ask you nothing!"

A few moments later Larry was again upon the street. The yellow envelope was safe in his inner coat-pocket. As he walked along the street it seemed as if he was walking upon air, his excitement was so great.

He turned his footsteps toward the river front. He knew that the time until three o'clock would seem an eternity.

He was fond of looking about the wharves, so he went in that direction. But passing through a side street an incident occurred which made a material change in his entire career, and completely reversed the tenor of his life.

As Larry came suddenly into the narrow dingy street, he saw a number of street boys engaged in what he considered a dastardly act.

Four ragged young rascals were drubbing a slender urchin whose bundle of papers were scattered over the pavings. In a moment Larry was among them and so lustily did he deal blows right and left that he quickly released the unfortunate newsboy.

"Watcher tryin' ter do country!" snarled the biggest of the young ruffians who rushed up to Larry with clenched fists. "Meddlin' with that what don't consarn ye, eh! D'yer know

who I am? I'm ther Chatham Square terre'r, an' I kin lick the daylight out of you!"

Now Larry was always averse to a fight, but the manner of the young brute was so aggressive and so agravating that his blood boiled. He hated a bully.

Several rough looking men who had seen the affair now came up. The other boys crowded around to see the "Terrier" whip the meddlesome country lad.

"That's the stuff my lad!" cried one of the men who showed an ugly scar over the eye which Larry happily afterward remembered. "Give 'em a bit of yer grit. You can thrash that big blowhard with your hands tied."

"No he can't!" blustered the Terrier. "I kin eat him!"

Larry's face flushed. His blood was up and anger, coupled with a desire to punish the bully overruled his own better judgement. In a moment off came his coat, forgetful of everything

"I'll hold it for ye" said the man with the scar "there's no cop around here. Go in and finish him!"

Larry handed the man his coat and squared off. In a moment he was giving the "Terrier" such a thrashing as he had never before received.

The crowd cheered lustily and Larry made a hero of himself. The "Terrier" soon beat a retreat.

Flushed with victory Larry again donned his coat and acknowledging modestly the plaudits of the crowd he strode away. He felt quite well satisfied with himself for he knew that the bully deserved even more than he had received.

Before an hour had passed the incident was out of his mind. He was so busy inspecting the fine vessels at the wharves that it soon occurred to him that he had but twenty minutes in which to keep his engagement with the stamp dealer.

He was soon again in the great stamp-dealer's store. Mr. Scott ushered him into his private office where an intellectual looking and finely dressed gentleman sat.

"Mr. Prentiss, allow me to present Mr. Larry Vane," said the stamp dealer, "he is the young gentleman who is so lucky as to possess the British Guiana rarity."

"I am indeed in great fortune. How did you secure possession of the rarity my boy?"

Larry told his story to Mr. Prentiss. The wealthy collector listened with interest. Then he said:

"I have a check all ready for the stamp. Will you kindly let me see it? If it is what you say, the thousand dollars is yours!"

Larry placed his hand in his inner pocket to take out the envelope. He felt in vain, it was not there. In one instant he turned frightfully pale. He went through all his pockets.

The envelope was gone.

For a moment the room and its two occupants swam about Larry. He staggered to a chair groaning:

"Oh Heaven! I—I have lost it. I have been robbed!"

The continuation of Lucky Larry will appear in No. 2 of The American Boys, Stamp and Story Paper. Papers sent to any address in the United States, Canada and Mexico for 50 cents a year.

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Dose For Adult. For Cough and Sore Throat, take one teaspoonful every hour. If the case is severe, the Syrup may be taken two or three times an hour. For enlargement of the Tonsils, use the same as for sore throat, and also as a gargle. For hacking cough and tickling in the throat, use as often as once in fifteen minutes. One teaspoonful at a time is usually sufficient for a dose.

Dose For Children ten years of age, one-half teaspoonful every hour. For younger children vary the dose according to age.

Keep a bottle of Harvard Bronchial Syrup in the chamber convenient to taste of during the night, if wakeful and restless, it will have a soothing effect, and induce refreshing sleep.

It is delicious to the taste of children, and commends itself to the judgement of mothers whose greatest care is for the health and comfort of their little ones.

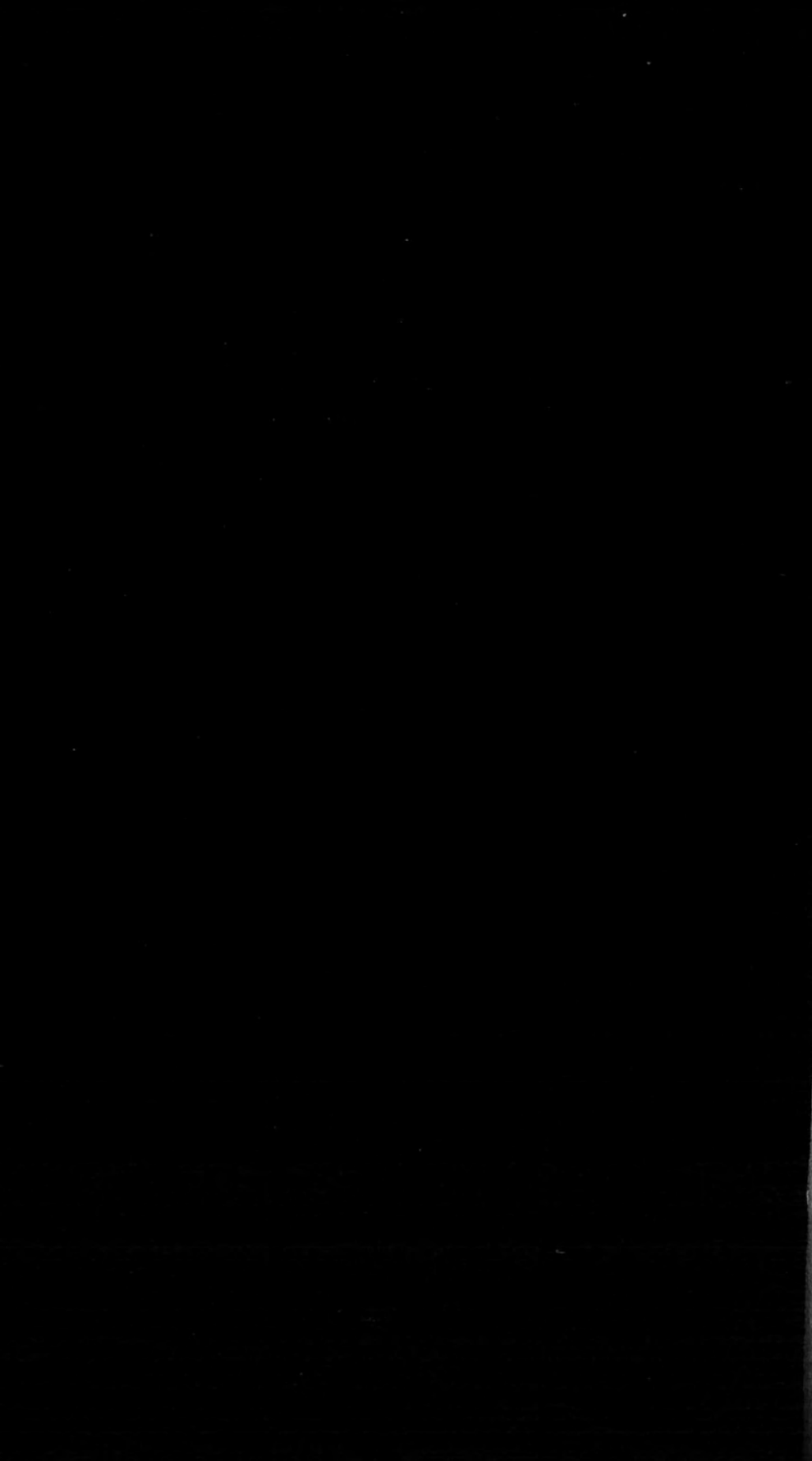
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The American Boys.

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

Volume 2. No. 1. Lowell, Mass., February, 1897.

Price, 5 Cents.

LUCKY LARRY, THE BOY COLLECTOR. —OR— THE STORY OF A STAMP.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE.

CHAPTER III

Larry Finds a Friend.

(CONTINUED FROM NO. 1.)

The effect of Larry's declaration upon Mr. Scott and Mr. Prentiss can hardly be described. In that instant Larry had recalled the fight in the side street, the removing of his coat and the man with the scar who held it for him.

Of course that man was a thief and had the envelope. It seemed to Larry as if the light of his life had utterly gone out.

All his bright hopes dashed, all his dreams shattered, he lay back limp and lifeless in his chair.

"Why, my soul! the lad has fainted!" cried Mr. Prentiss in alarm. "What did he say, Mr. Scott?"

"He said that he had been robbed" declared the stamp dealer, "but we must do something to revive him. I have a flask of brandy in that cabinet; please hand it to me."

Mr. Prentiss lost no time in complying with this request. A few drops of the stimulant revived Larry. Though weak and depressed, he sat up again and stared in an agonized despairing way at the two men beside him.

"Do you feel better?" asked Mr. Prentiss in a kindly way.

"Yes sir, thank you!" replied Larry essaying to rise to his feet, "I am very sorry I have lost the stamp sir. It was stolen from me I think by the man who held my coat in the fight!"

"Fight?" exclaimed the stamp collector with surprise and curiosity, "what fight my lad?"

"I—I will tell you," said Larry dismally, "I was passing through a small street down near

the wharves, when I came upon a crowd of rough boys who had a little newsboy on his back in the gutter and were pummelling him. I could not bear the sight, and I sprang among them and beat them back. Then one of them who called himself the Chatham Square Terrier offered to fight me. A man with a scar on his face offered to hold my coat. I think he must have taken the envelope from it."

Mr. Prentiss and Mr. Scott both exchanged glances. They were much interested and deeply sympathetic.

"Well, well!" exclaimed Mr. Prentiss, "that puts you in the light of a young hero, eh Scott?"

"Indeed I should say so," replied the stamp dealer, "but cheer up my boy. If the fellow attempts to dispose of the stamp he will be easily caught, for we will put every stamp dealer in New York on his guard. Don't loose courage! Your stamp may yet come safely back to you!"

"Indeed there is a good prospect of it," said Mr. Prentiss cheerily, "so don't loose heart my boy. The thousand dollars shall be paid you as soon as the stamp is found. What is more, I will go with you to detective headquarters and give you all the assistance in my power to catch the rogue and recover the property."

"Good!" cried Mr. Scott, "you may be sure Larry that Mr. Prentiss means what he says and that he will be a good friend to you."

"You are very kind," stammered Larry, "I thank you."

Much encouraged Larry now left the stamp dealer's office with Mr. Prentiss. On the way

to headquarters the wealthy stamp collector plied Larry with many questions as to his life, and his circumstances. He seemed to have taken a sudden and powerful interest in our young hero.

At the time of which we write, Inspector Byrnes was chief of the New York Detective force. Mr. Prentiss was very well acquainted with him and had no trouble in securing an immediate audience.

The great Chief of Detectives listened acutely to the story as told by Larry. Then he turned over the leaves of a large blank book and said:—

"That fellow with the scarred face is, no doubt, the notorious crook, Dick Jenkins. I fear you will never see your stamp again my boy."

Larry gave a little gasp and Mr. Prentiss exclaimed:—

"Don't you think he will try to dispose of it Mr. Byrnes?"

"It is doubtful if he knew the value of it, or even knew if there was a stamp on the envelope. I think his purpose in taking the envelope was to secure any possible paper of value inside it. Not finding any such a thing, he would no doubt throw it away."

Larry drew a deep breath and Mr. Prentiss groaned.

"I never thought of that," he said, "It is of course quite logical. Being an ignorant fellow it might never occur to him that the stamp would be of any value."

"However," said Inspector Byrnes "I will put men on the case at once and arrest Dick Jenkins at sight. He may have kept the envelope. Of course there is a chance."

Then promising to do all in his power, he bowed his visitors out. Once upon the street, Mr. Prentiss took Larry's hand and said:—

I will do all I can to help you in this matter Larry. There are two things we can do now. Go back to Mr. Scott's and wait with the small hope that the rascal may come in with the stamp or we can go down into the street where you lost the envelope and where, if he threw it away, it may be yet kicking about in the gutter somewhere. What say you?

These suggestions seemed like straws to Larry, but any thing was welcome to him so he said:—

"I think I will go down into the street and search for the stamp."

"Very well," agreed Mr. Prentiss, "I will go with you."

Larry gave him a grateful glance.

"You are very kind to take so much interest

in this matter," he said, "I can never repay you."

Together they returned to the street where Larry had encountered his stroke of disaster. It was searched thoroughly as were several cross streets, but no trace of the lost treasure was found. After a long and assiduous quest, the matter was abandoned and then Larry said:

"I fear I shall have to go home now, I promised mother that I would be home at seven o'clock. I have just time to keep my promise."

"I would not have you break it" said Mr. Prentiss, "but by the way, Larry, now that you will not be able to raise the money to lift the mortgage, what will Mr. Crab, the banker, do?"

"He will foreclose and take the place," said Larry with a frown, "mother and I will be turned out."

"Then what will you do?"

The boy elevated his shoulders.

"I will leave school and go to work," he said "in fact, I shall do so anyway. I am young and strong and even if I do not have a college education I can make my way and take care of mother."

"Bravo," said the wealthy stamp collector with a laugh, "that is good pluck, but I have a great desire to see your mother and have a talk with her, I think she must have all the qualities of a good woman to have reared so worthy a son."

Larry's eyes glistened.

"Mother will be glad to meet you sir, I am sure. I shall tell her about your great kindness to me."

Mr. Prentiss cleared his throat and then consulted his watch.

"Let me see" he said, "it is now half-past five, we can get a train from the Grand Central at six and get out to Mt. Vernon before seven. I can return at nine. I am very anxious to see your mother and talk with her about your father's experiences in the Essequibo Country. Perhaps I can get some clew in regard to a friend of mine who went out there and never has been heard of since. What do you say, Larry?"

"Oh, that would be jolly!" cried Larry eagerly. "I think mother can tell you much about Guiana from my father's correspondence."

They took an elevated train to the Grand Central Depot. A short while later they were speeding out to Mt. Vernon.

Larry led the way to the little cottage home, of which he and his mother stood in such imminent danger of being dispossessed. Larry opened the front door and went boldly in.

"Mother!" he cried, "I have brought a good

friend to see you, my mother, Mr. Prentiss."

Prentiss stood upon the threshold of the cosy little sitting room ready to meet Mrs. Vane with his most affable and kindly smile. Mrs. Vane had been sitting by her work table with her back to the door. As she turned now, her gaze met that of the visitor full and fair.

For a moment each stood spellbound. The smile faded from Prentiss' lips and he stared almost in a startled way at the widow. As for Mrs. Vane, her face turned from pale to scarlet and she stammered:—

"Sam Prentiss! after all these years!"

CHAPTER IV.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Mr. Prentiss, the wealthy stamp collector, took a step forward involuntarily, and held out both his hands:—

"Eunice! he exclaimed, "what a strange meeting for us!"

Then they stood for a moment silently looking at each other; as for Larry, his astonishment was unbounded.

"Why mother," he exclaimed, "do you know Mr. Prentiss?"

Then Mrs. Vane recovered herself, she smiled sweetly and answered:

"Yes Larry, Mr. Prentiss and I were school-mates. We have not met for some years—"

"Seventeen" put in Mr. Prentiss, "not since you were married."

"That is quite right" agreed the widow, "pray be seated Mr. Prentiss. You are quite welcome. It recalls old times to me—"

"And happy days of yore to me!" said Prentiss as he sank into a cosy arm-chair, "after all the Elysian days of life are only met in youth. But you have had deep sorrow since I saw you last."

"Yes!" replied Mrs. Vane, "Lawrence died far away from home and friends. It was a sad shock but I have borne up under it with the comfort of Larry, who has been my one star of hope."

Prentiss averted his gaze and seemed to labor for a moment under powerful emotion. Finally he said:

"Lawrence Vane was a brilliant man. I suppose he left a good competence?"

The widow shook her head sadly.

"The fortune which should have come to his family, was by some strange fate perverted" she said, and then began to tell the story of the last draft, but Mr. Prentiss interrupted her.

"I have the whole story from Larry," he said. Then he told her of the meeting with the boy in Mr. Scott's office and all incidents pertaining

thereto. The widow was shocked when she learned of the loss of the stamp.

"That was our last hope!" she cried, "but I am thankful that no harm came to Larry."

Larry had gone to his room and they were now left alone. Mr. Prentiss lowered his voice and said:

"Eunice, for the sake of old school days. I beg to allow you to allow me to assist you. I am a very wealthy man. I will loan you enough to tide over your affairs, to be paid at such time and in such amounts as you may choose."

The wealthy stamp collector approached the subject delicately. There was need of this. The widow's face flushed, but what reply she might have made was never known.

For at this moment there came the tramp of heavy feet on the plank walk outside and a sharp ring at the door bell. Larry was just descending the stairs and opened the street door.

Three men stood on the threshold, one was aged and decrepit and bent, the others wore badges of officers of the law. Larry could hardly answer as the tottering old man said sharply:

"Is your mother in, you young cub?"

"My mother is engaged," replied Larry stiffly "Engaged," sneered the old fellow, "well well, we'll see. Come in men. Wait for my orders right here."

With which he pushed his way rudely into the sitting room. He stared at Prentiss a moment and then looked at Mrs. Vane.

"Mr. Crab!" exclaimed the widow in a startled voice.

"At your service marm" replied the old usurer as he bowed and chuckled in a sardonic way, "not very glad to see me, I recon. I suppose you received my letter the other day?"

"I did" replied the widow with trembling manner, "and I had hoped to have the money for the mortgage tonight, but my son was robbed—"

"Robbed?" ejaculated Crab, "not of a thousand dollars?"

"Of its equivalent, a valuable stamp" with which she detailed Larry's luck and consequent misfortune. Crab listened impatiently.

"That is a thin story," he declared angrily, "the idea that a bit of soiled paper, a useless postage stamp could be worth one thousand dollars. That is too absurd. Lying won't help you madam and—"

"Hold!"

Prentiss towered above the aged skinflint. His eyes shown like stars.

"Don't forget sir, that you are talking to a

lady; or, old gray beard as you are, I'll fling you out of that window."

Crab fixed his cold, gray eyes upon the wealthy stamp collector. Then he turned and made a signal to the officers:

"Take notice what the fellow says," he said, "note if there is anything actionable in it. A man can be locked up for threatening language."

"You have not sufficient money to browbeat me, you old scoundrel," said Prentiss angrily.

"Oh, I suppose you are a millionaire" said the banker tauntingly, "all of Mrs. Vane's friends are."

For a moment Prentiss trembled with anger. Then a sudden thought struck him and he stepped back and sat down in the easy chair.

"Go ahead sir," he said, "I want to see how far you will dare to persecute this lady."

"I will persecute her only as far as the law defends me!" said Crab biting. "I have come to dispossess this tenant, I hold the mortgage on this place and I propose to foreclose."

"Now why not extend it," said Prentiss calmly, "and give the lady a chance."

"No sir," said Crab decisively, "but I can give her a way out of the difficulty. Now there is Squire Banks, as nice a man as lives in this town. He will help her if—"

Before Crab could say any more a coarse laugh sounded in the hall, and a voice was heard:

"I saw the door open and officers in here and thought I would not be intruding if I should come in and offer my services to the fairest lady in Westchester County."

And there upon the threshold, bowing, smiling to Mrs. Vane was a coarse visaged, bloated old fellow, with a broad shirt-front and large diamond in the centre of it. Squire Banks was reputed to be a very wealthy man and a great crony of old Crab's.

He had taken a strong fancy to Mrs. Vane, and for a year past had persecuted her with offers of marriage. Indeed it certainly looked very much as if his appearance on the scene at this critical moment was wholly preconcerted. He and Crab were capable of just such an underhand game.

"Heigho!" chuckled Crab, "quite gallant Squire Banks. If you want to help the fairest lady in Westchester County now is your chance. Unless this mortgage is lifted, I will serve process of law to dispossess the tenant."

Squire Banks affected rage.

"How dare you do such a thing," he blustered, "madam I am your slave. I will send this man about his business in just ten seconds. If you will but grant me the request I made you a

month ago. Do not believe that I am seeking an unfair advantage."

Mrs. Vane rose until her slender figure seemed to tower above them all. Her eyes flashed grandly as she replied:

"Squire Banks you have had my answer. You asked me to marry you and I refused. Mr. Crab, so long as you hold the mortgage on this house, I must admit that the property is practically yours. Give me until tomorrow noon and I will be out of it and trouble you no more. Though I and my boy Larry come to starvation I will never accept a favor or an obligation of you!"

The two old reprobates almost seemed to cower before Mrs. Vane's forcible words and manner. Then they shrugged their shoulders and exchanged glances.

"Really Mrs. Vane, are you not a bit headstrong" began Banks, but Prentiss had stood it as long as he could.

He walked coolly up to Crab with clenched hands and said in a steely voice:

"What is the amount of your claim?"

"Mortgage and interest, one thousand dollars," replied Crab sharply, "do you want to settle it?"

"Yes."

The old usurer gave a start and ran his eyes over Prentiss. For the first time he began to realize that here was a man who might have the necessary funds after all. Prentiss drew a check book from his pocket.

"Transfer that mortgage to me" he said sternly, "I will pay you one hundred advance on it, will you take my check now, or will you wait until tomorrow and have the transaction legally made?"

"Who—who are you?" stammered Crab.

"I am a director of the Great National Bank of New York sir, which owns you body and soul. My influence is such that you will hardly dare refuse me, when I demand you cease persecuting this defenceless lady. If you wish my name, I am plain Sam Prentiss."

The effect upon the aged usurer was startling, his eyes rolled and he bowed and rubbed his hands.

"Why certainly, Mr. Prentiss," he whimpered, "I am glad to favor you, never mind the mortgage, suit your own convenience. I congratulate you Mrs. Vane."

And he would have advanced to shake Mrs. Vane's hand. But Prentiss pointed to the door with a frown. All slunk out.

What Larry and his mother would have said or done to express their gratitude to their bene-

factor was never known, for at that moment the door bell rang, and a messenger boy appeared in the hall.

"A message for Larry Vane," he said.

Surprised, the boy collector opened the envelope and read with tingling veins:

Larry Vane, Mt. Vernon, New York:

"We have your man with the scarred face. Come to headquarters as soon as possible.

Signed: Inspector Byrnes."

The incidents of the day had been many, but this was as exciting as any.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

STAMP COLLECTING.

BY E. I. GOWARD.

[Extract from paper prepared and read by Alderman E. Goward before the Lowell Philatelic Assn., Aug., 1896.]

The collecting of postage stamps has very properly been called a craze, and it is a craze in every sense of the word.

It is not necessary for me to define of what a stamp collection consists, for that is known to all of you and I shall, therefore, confine myself to considering the peculiarities of that craze as it appears in different persons, and I trust that none of my listeners will take offence at what I may say, as I do not intend to have reference to any personal peculiarities.

When I first began to collect postage stamps a complete collection could be placed in a book a little larger than the present U. S. Album and if a person had plenty of time and money he could soon have a collection nearly complete.

Just before I left off collecting I purchased a new stamp album, the finest in the market. It was in two volumes, interleaved, and printed on one side of the paper.

The album was about eight inches square, and the two volumes, placed one on top of the other, made a pile about two and three-quarters inches high. As I write, I look at my present album, ten by twelve inches, five inches high, and marvel at the growth of the fever.

At the present time the collector is confronted not only with postage stamps as issued but also with the varieties of different shades, perforations, water-marks, kinds of paper, kinds of surcharges, size of grills on same paper, etc.

It is not surprising then to have a collector say that he or she can never hope to have a complete, or anywhere nearly complete, collection of the postage stamps of the world, with all their varieties. As a natural consequence the "fiend" says "I will make a speciality of some country, and perhaps can come near completing

it." This form of stamp collecting not being limited to any particular country, has led the dealers to furnish stamps and albums to suit every kind of a collector and as a result, we have the stamp album of today containing spaces for all the stamps ever issued.

The country which a collector selects to specialize with depends in a great measure upon his nationality; for a collector naturally feels patriotic enough to select his own country first, and we have, therefore, United States, Canadian, Mexican, South American and English specialists.

I shall first consider the varieties that confront the general collector. At the head of the list we have the watermark. Where I had a set of stamps in my first collection, I now find that my complete set is composed of parts of several sets, if I consider watermarks.

Varieties of color in the same stamp come next, and then the kind of paper the stamp is printed on, together with the surcharge placed upon stamps by some obscure postmasters.

Is it to be wondered at that I am dismayed when after nearly fifteen years rest from stamp collecting I find what once was considered a good collection now consists only of fragments, and that I have to pay high prices for stamps to fill in blank spaces in the new album.

What is the cause of all this change? It can be truthfully said that a stamp is a stamp, and what possible difference can it make if a government got out of paper of a certain quality and watermark, and printed the same stamp on a little different paper than the former issue? Here is where the specialist comes in and he at once makes a great outcry about a new variety of the same stamp.

One of the oddities of stamp collecting is the idea that because a stamp has been perforated with a given number of holes in a certain length of measure that it is a different stamp printed on the same kind of paper, same kind of watermark, from the same plate, of the same color, but having a greater or less number of holes in the same given length.

Yet we find "collectors" who make all these distinctions, and not only make them but glory in them.

The specialist presents the best opportunity for criticism for he does the variety business up fine.

There are 222 different stamps to collect in the United States, divided as follows: 1102 postage stamps, envelopes and P. O. cards, 303 telegraphic, 300 locals, 227 revenues, and 103 Confederate stamps. As these do not offer enough

possibilities for the specialist, he is constantly on the lookout for new varieties not included in the above enumeration, so you can see what a large field the specialist has for exploration.

To collect the postage stamps of the United States as they were issued would not offer sufficient work to pay for one's trouble as you would soon complete your collection, if you had money enough, and then the fun would end, so with a microscope, you proceed to examine each stamp to see if you can find any variation in the same die and lo and behold, owing to the crudeness of the machinery used during the infancy of stamp-making, the work being done mostly by hand, it offers a most inviting field for you and as a consequence we now have in our conservative albums, spaces for outer lines, broken circles, two and three styes of little balls, projections cut off, wavy lines, light lines, wove, laid and ribbed paper, embossing of different sizes, pictures inverted, pictures framed, re-issued stamps, stamps printed by different Bank Note Companies, with secret marks that cannot be found, found by the expert with the aid of the microscope, shades of ink, and we do not know what will come next.

But such is the nature of the disease that it attacks different persons differently, some have it mild, others go in all over.

The United States specialist is not in it with the English specialist. The points of difference he finds in the stamps of his country are perfectly marvelous. Double letters, double-lined letters, inverted letters, hair-lines caused by a hair getting on the plate while the stamps were being printed, and many others of a like nature.

The question which is now on your lips although you do not ask it is "to what do you consider that a collector give his attentions?" and I can only answer by saying that he must decide for himself. I have decided that I shall confine myself to collect nothing but postage stamps.

If a collector cares to bother with watermarks he may do so, but he will find when he attempts to determine the difference between 1894 and 1895 U. S. stamps he has a hard job on his hands, for the marks are many times not to be seen at all on some specimens.

When I can easily determine the watermark and have the stamp in my collection or receive it in a packet, I place it in its proper place in the album, otherwise I do not bother with it.

If you make a specialty of a particular country, I have nothing to say.

What has been said about watermarks applies to perforations and kinds of paper. They

should not be considered by any collector unless he specializes or has a collection of over eight thousand stamps.

In closing I wish to call the attention of the members of this society to a danger which it is liable to fall into.

No body of men ever did hold together for any great length of time, with the same men it had when it first started, and any body that does not add to its membership will soon die.

I notice in this body a certain spirit of exclusiveness, not intentional I am pleased to say, but never-the-less it will tend to decrease the interest. That exclusiveness consists in the tendency of members to speak lightly of small collections and stamps of low value. There are many collectors in this city who are limited in their expenditures for stamps and cannot secure the high priced varieties. As these collectors soon exhaust the U. S. stamps of the cheap grade, they turn to other countries and find as much interest in them as they do in their own country.

It is for this class of collectors I ask your consideration: from a number of whom I have interviewed, I get the same report: "I should like to join the society, but as I cannot show anything equal to what is shown at your meetings, and as I cannot buy or trade stamps of the grade shown there I don't care to go in and be laughed at, or have my collection made fun of."

This is illustrated in the fact that outside of a few persons no one brought his collection to show or his duplicates to exchange because he had as duplicates only common stamps.

To me there is as much pleasure in obtaining a stamp to complete a set, even if its value by catalogue is only one cent, as there is in obtaining a stamp that is worth ten dollars. I collect stamps for the pleasure there is in it and not because they may be more valuable in a year hence.

Every collector likes to have complete set of stamps and with me, if I am in need of a certain stamp to complete a set, I get that stamp if I can.

Let us, therefore, consider the young as well as the advanced collectors, for many of the owners of small collections are better informed on the subject than the owners of large collections.

Mr. E. B. Hora's name was introduced to the members of the B. P. S. at last meeting, we hope soon to have a life sized portrait of his likeness, in some philatelic publication. "The Midget" perhaps.

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Just the thing for a pretty present. This album has a space for all new stamps issued up to January 1, 1897, leaving out the varieties of watermarks and perforations.

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THE AMERICAN BOYS,

159 Middlesex Street,

Lowell, Mass.

THE AMERICAN BOYS.

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

A monthly Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting, Short Stories, History, Cycling News, Biography, etc.

Subscriptions, 50 cents per year.

Single copies, 5 cents.

ADVERTISING RATES QUOTED ON APPLICATION.

For club rates, see page 15; for cash rates, write us.

Entered at Post Office at Lowell, Mass.,
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Published on the 20th of each month by

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., February 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

It has been very gratifying to us to receive the many flattering compliments on our first issue, especially when the congratulations were accompanied by a year's subscription for the American Boys. There is still chance for improvement, and it will be our aim to make each succeeding issue more interesting than its predecessor.

Our first auction sale of stamps will be held in this city March 18. While there are not many expensive stamps in the sale, all, with very few exceptions, are fine specimens and desirable stamps. If you need any stamps in this lot send in your bid.

See our special offer to subscribers and clubs page 15. If you are not interested, kindly hand your copy to some young collector.

The present condition of the stamp trade is very unsatisfactory to the dealers. Sales have fallen off to such an extent as to almost cause a panic among small dealers. Several dealers are already retiring, offering their stock below cost to close out.

The outlook for the coming month is more encouraging, and with a revival of business, prices will be firmer and discounts not so large.

The cause of the decline in prices is very apparent. The general business depression, together with the unwarrantable increase in prices in the new catalogue, have combined to unsettle the stamp trade. The placing of fictitious prices on stamps by the cataloguer, is, and should be, resented by collectors. Stamps

should be listed at their value in the open market and not in accord with the supply of any one stamp dealer.

The arrest of H. F. Colman of Washington, for having in his possession a large supply of periodical stamps was a surprise to many philatelists. The defense of Colman was a novel one, but revealed the fraud that had been planned to be fostered upon philatelists by a dealer hitherto considered reliable. This Washington dealer, however, is not the only one who has been offering bogus stamps for sale.

A few days ago we were shown several copies of the periodical stamps offered to a Lowell collector as genuine stamps. On inspection they proved to be German counterfeits from which the German "falsch" had been removed.

The selling of these stamps is a dangerous occupation, and collectors are warned to be careful with whom they deal.

It is fitting that the United States Government should in some way celebrate this year as it is just half a century since the first stamps were issued by this Government. Postage Stamps were first issued in 1840 by Great Britain, and the following year, 1841, stamps were introduced into the states by an Express Co.

During the the next few years various private stamps were issued but it was not until the year 1847 that this Government issued its first stamp, in five and ten cent values. These values were used until 1851 when a set of eight stamps from one to ninety cents were issued. While the rates of postage were much larger in 1851 than in 1897, we now have stamps with a face value to \$5.00. These high values, we regret to admit, are not used for postage locally, as a package with a maximum cost of \$1.36 is the largest that can be mailed: it is, therefore, very evident that the high values were issued to satisfy the tastes of philatelists.

The collecting of stamps became popular about 30 years ago. Its growth has been marvelous and it is estimated that there are over 100,000 active collectors in the United States alone. The collecting of stamps can now really be called a science, and is well known by the name of philately. A large amount of money is invested in the business and there are several philatelists whose collection is valued from \$5,000 to \$100,000 each.

That the advertising space in the American Boys pays, was clearly demonstrated by us last month. The calls for approval sheets was great.

er than our expectation and up to this date we have been unable to fill all orders received but shall do so in the near future. The orders for confederate and broken-bank bills, although offered at very low prices were promptly filled and a larger list presented this month. If you have any bargains to offer try an "add" in the American Boys. It will pay you. Although only in our second issue our circulation is larger than the combined edition of any four Philatelic papers published. Write us for terms

PHILATELIC SOCIETY NOTES.

The monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Philatelic Society met in the Boston Block, Minneapolis, Jan. 15, there being a fair sized audience present

Each member present read a short paper on his particular hobby in stamp collecting, and the reasons that led him to take up that particular line. President Young read a carefully prepared paper on the educational value of stamp collecting. The topic for the next meeting will be "The Future of Collecting."

A committee consisting of W. Clifford Whitall, George Achard and E. T. Martin was delegated to investigate with regard to the advisability of illustrating stamps by the means of stereoptican views for the purpose of detecting minor varieties and forgeries. Such an entertainment will be given in the near future.

The annual meeting and banquet of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society was held Feb. 10, in McKenzie's Parlors, Providence, R. I., there being more than fifty collectors present.

After the cigars had been produced, the members gave a vote of thanks to the committee who had arranged for the repast. The members who were thus honored are Messrs. A. Dawson, F. C. Ferrin and W. Blake. In view of the fact that there were 130 sets of stamps to be sold during the evening, the annual business meeting with the election of officers, was postponed until Wednesday.

Ex-Mayor Olney assumed the position of auctioneer. The prices were not high, but at times the bidding was spirited. As a rule, however, some very valuable stamps went comparatively cheap.

The monthly meeting of the Lowell Philatelic Association met Feb. 1, in its room, Lowell. W. H. Colburn was present with his collection and book of duplicates which contained many desirable stamps. Although the association has a list of more than thirty members, only

nine were present. Mr. M. C. Wright, president of the association, is about to leave the city: in his removal the association loses its most valuable officer and member. The next meeting of the association will be held at the residence of Mr. Wright, March 2nd.

ABSENT MINDEDNESS.

The other day a gentleman of my acquaintance, who is, by the way, a noted stamp collector, hurriedly put on his outside wraps and started for the train on which he was accustomed to go every day. When he had arrived almost at the station he found that he had but one rubber on and that he must have lost the other on the way. So, thinking that he would go on the next train rather than lose a rubber, he carefully traced his steps home but the missing rubber was not to be seen. But at the first step he took within his house, what was his surprise to see the missing rubber on the floor near the door. In his haste he had put on only one and had not noticed it until near his destination.

Mrs. Finnegan: Did ye fall down stairs Mrs. Murphy?

Mrs. Murphy: I was.

Mrs. F.: and was yer much hurted?

Mrs. M.: I did. Bad luck to the stairs and the landlord what owns thim. The doctor says me sphine is inged and me back is that black and blue entoirely. O'il have a month's rint out of the old buck for it.

Mrs. F.: Did ye beze takin a drop Mrs. Murphy?

Mrs. M.: Niver a sip, only fer me old man bringin a pint o' whiskey and a pail o' beer.

Mrs. F.: Ye will niver git a cint of the rint on it: if ye do, I'll fall down me own stairs mesilf.

Mrs. M.: Thin if I don't be gettin' it, me and Dennis will be moovin of a Saturday nioght. That now.

BOSTON NOTES.

Business in general is flourishing, dealers having the same general demand for Revenues. Periodicals are not so plentiful in Boston as in New York and Washington, although we could show a fine lot. Plate numbers are not handled much, dealers not seeing any value in a piece of numbered paper attached to a stamp.

The crank that grinds the auction department seems to be gathering varieties for another auction. You may be favored with a catalogue soon.



Cycle Notes.



In Tokio, Japan, the streets are paved with wood. Fires are frequent and destructive, and whole streets are sometimes destroyed.

During 1896 there were several firms dealing in bicycles in Lowell. It is now reported that several of the firms will not push wheels the coming season. Mr. Geo. Batchelder, however, at Post Office Avenue, will be at his former quarters and will carry a larger line of bicycles and bicycle supplies during 1897.

The bicycle season will open about March 1.

The coming season promises to be a good one for the bicycle dealers.

A Bicycle show, under the direction of the bicycle makers, was held in New York Feb. 6-13 and was a grand success.

During the week of Feb. 20-27 similar shows will be held in Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Denver and Cincinnati, under the same management. The main object of these shows or exhibitions is to introduce new styles and goods, and to open the season in the different sections of the country.

THE BOSTON SHOW.

The Boston Cycle Exhibition was opened Feb. 20, with a fair audience. About three hundred manufacturers are represented, and in many ways excels the recent exhibition in New York. The attendance on Washington's Birthday was an unusually large and many features were exhibited that called for special praise. If the interest taken in this exhibition is any criterion of what the business for the coming season will be, nearly everybody will ride bicycles.

Representative Lambert, who will introduce into the Kansas Legislature a bill to prohibit the wearing of bloomers and make the riding of bicycles astride by women a misdemeanor, has consulted with wisecracks of the medical profession in the populist state who declare that if the

women persist in the riding of bicycles "the extinction of the race must necessarily follow." What more desirable result could the populists want in these times of over-production and insufficiency of work than a diminution in the rate of increase? Who shall say that this may not be another of the great attributes of the wheel.

Bearings.

The best bicycle to buy is the American. Call and see Geo. Batchelder and have him explain its good points.

A West Virginia Senator has introduced a bill to compel bicyclers, on meeting a horse that appears to be frightened, to dismount or else pay a fine of ten dollars and be liable to further civil action. The father of the bill says the farmers in his district have been much annoyed by having their fractious colts scared. It may become necessary for cyclers to make a careful study of the horse and learn what he looks like when he appears to be frightened. Or the trouble may be overcome by keeping fractious horses off the highways by fining every farmer who endangers the peace and welfare of a community whenever he drives one in public.

L. A. W. Bulletin.

"SMASH IT!"

Judge Fioletter, of the Court of Common Pleas, No. 3, Philadelphia, which court is said to enjoy the distinction of having about sixty per cent. of the cases, when carried up, reversed by the Supreme Court, recently asked a husband, who dated the origin of his troubles to the time when his wife bought a bicycle and wore bloomers, "Why did you not smash the bicycle?"

It is said that the Judge exclaimed this with the partial assurance that the husband had the right to do so, and with the intimation that he was a fool if he did not.

In that one remark is implied a cure for all the evils that may befall society. If any one does wrong in cycling, smash the bicycle. If they utilize the railways in any manner, smash the railways. If they "make eyes" or do anything they should not do in church, smash the churches. Smash any and every old thing, that wrong may be banished from the face of the earth.

Bully for you Judge! Your head is as clear as though there wasn't a thing in it.

L. A. W. Bulletin.

FURNITURE ANTIQUE

Ye Older Days of Washington.
Ye Days Colonial.

Gardner Bros. are masters of the situation. By bringing the old and worn relics of by gone days into their former beauty and finish. Both in plain ornamentation and upholstery, no matter how dilapidated and defaced by time's wearing touch. We can restore by our up-to-date methods.

Gardner Bros.

75 Pine Street.

Telephone Connection.

Agents Wanted to secure subscribers for our paper and to sell stamps from our sheets.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

150 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Where Are We?

Only think we are selling a good

Canned Corn for 6c per Can.

65 cents per doz. Warranted.

3 cakes Toilet Soap for 5c.

Call and see us before you buy your groceries and get our prices.

BOSTON BRANCH GROCERY,

455 Middlesex Street, - Lowell, Mass.

Caleb L. Smith, Prop.

Opposite Northern Station.

Please mention THE AMERICAN BOYS when answering advertisements.

When you see this Name Plate on a Bicycle, you want to look at it.



For it stands for the STRONGEST WHEEL ON EARTH.

GEO. H. BACHELDER,

Near New Post Office,

23 POST OFFICE AVENUE,
LOWELL, MASS.

MIDDLESEX RESTAURANT

54 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL.

25 Cent Dinners a Specialty.

All delicacies in their season.

Rear Entrance, Back of New Post Office.

J. C. LEITH,

DEALER IN

Boots, Shoes and Rubbers,

First Class Repairing.

521 Lawrence Street, Lowell, Mass.

Fitzgerald's School for Dancing,

41 Hildreth Building.

Reception at Highland Hall,
Tuesday and Saturday Evenings.



MIDDLESEX PLATING WORKS,



Gold, Silver, Copper Nickel Plating
Bicycles and Harness Mountings a
specialty. Swords, Accoutrements,
Regalia, Clock & Electro Plating.

FORMERLY 41 1/2 MIDDLE ST. 27 BAKETUCK ST.
S. J. SMITH, PROP. LOWELL, MASS.



Harvard Bronchial Syrup

FOR

Sore Throat, Hacking Cough,

Tickling Sensation in the Bronchial
Tubes, Croup, Enlargement of the
Tonşils, and All Affections of
the Throat Arising from Sud-
den Colds.

S. G. Lyford, the Proprietor of the **Harvard Bronchial Syrup**, would respectfully call the attention of those who are suffering with throat troubles to this never-failing remedy.

It acts directly upon the Throat and Bronchial Tubes, allays the inflammation, heals the soreness, and imparts a healthful and pleasing sensation to the diseased organs. It never produces Stomach Sickness or Constipation of the Bowels. It is the most effective remedy that Science and Experience has been able to devise. It is delicious to the taste of children and commends itself to the judgement of mothers whose greatest care is for the health and comfort of her little ones.

In many cases of Asthma, it has proved the only thing that would give any relief. Also, in cases of Consumption nothing has been found that would so relieve the distressing cough as the **Harvard Bronchial Syrup**.

A bottle of this syrup should be kept in the chamber, convenient to taste of during the night. If wakeful and restless, it will have a soothing effect and induce refreshing sleep.

Hundreds of letters and unsolicited testimonials relative to its excellence have been received which have never been published.

The following letter is one of the latest and a fair sample of the many.

Newmarket, N. H., February 12, 1897.

TO THE PROPRIETOR OF THE HARVARD BRONCHIAL SYRUP:

DEAR SIR:

I thank you for filling my order so promptly, also for the one dollar rebate money. Now you will please send one dozen bottles of the large size Harvard Bronchial Syrup. Our druggists do not keep the large size, so I told my husband I would order direct from you. I first heard of the Harvard Bronchial Syrup in Fichburg, and as my husband had a cough, I bought two bottles and brought home and it helps him so much that we would not be without it in the house.

Please send as before, C. O. D.

Yours Respectfully,

Mrs. J. B. Edgerly,

Newmarket, N. H.

The Harvard Bronchial Syrup is put in one quarter pound bottles at **twenty-five cents** and in three-quarter pound bottles at fifty cents

If your dealers do not have it in stock you can order direct from the Proprietor.

S. G. LYFORD,

LOWELL, MASS.

CUBA LIBRE!**\$1.00 worth of Cuban Stamps FREE!!**

We want to renew the interest of the young people in stamp collecting, and at the same time increase the circulation of our magazine, so for a limited time we propose to give away

ABSOLUTELY FREE

Sixteen varieties of unused Cuban stamps, 1877 to 1887 in sizes only, catalogued by Scott's 50th Edition at \$1.00. How to get them. Send 25c for a year's subscription to

THE EASTERN PHILATELIST

and enclose a STAMPED self-directed envelope, and the stamps will be sent you by return mail. **THE EASTERN PHILATELIST** is the oldest stamp magazine in America, 12 to 21 large pages monthly, contributed to by the leading philatelic writers, and no collector can afford to do without it. It alone is worth 50 cents per year, but you get it and \$1.00 worth of stamps for 25 cents if you subscribe now. Some may ask how we can make this liberal offer? Well, we don't make anything the first year, but hope for many renewals.

RE- Present subscribers can obtain the premium by sending a new subscriber, or by having their own subscription extended one year.

DON'T FORGET THE STAMPED ENVELOPE. Address—

F. H. PINKHAM, Publisher, Newmarket, N. H.

The market value of the 12c purple, 1872 3/4 United States is 75 cents, but in order to increase the circulation of my priced-list of stamps, I will send one of these stamps and a copy of my list to any one sending 30 cents and the names and addresses of five or more stamp collectors.

E. T. PARKER, BETHLEHEM, PA.

Is there anything in the line of dues that you want? Have a good stock of '94 and '95 dues.

These dues are in strips and blocks, and a few plate numbers but no single ones. All are o. g. but pen cancelled and well centered. Prices quoted to right parties. Also a good selection of stamps on approval sheets for beginners.

WM. E. PRATT,

24 Claremont Park. Boston, Mass.

CONFEDERATE AND BROKEN-BANK BILLS

We have a large assortment of bills for sale at low prices. Following are a few prices:

\$2.55	\$10	\$50	\$100	Confederate Bills, set.	.30
4	Broken Bank Bills, (\$35.00)				.20
\$50.00	Mississippi R. R. Co.,				.12
\$2.00	Bay Mining Co.,				.12
\$1.00	City of Omaha, (Neb.) new.				.15
\$100.00	Confederate Note, 1862				.15
\$100.00	Confederate note, 1862, fine.				.15
\$5.00	State bank of North Carolina.				.10
250	Bond, Grand Republic Gold and Silver Mining Co.,				.25
\$5.00	State of North Carolina,				.10
\$1.00	Virginia Treasury Note.				.10
\$1.00	Bank of Hudson,				.15
\$1.00	Adrian Insurance Co., (Mich) fine,				.15
\$10.00	Bay State Mining Company.				.15
\$5.00	Allegheny County Bank, (Md)				.15
\$1.00	Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo.,				.15
50c	Confederate Script.				.10
\$5.00	Bank of Hudson, N. Y.,				.15
\$5.00	State Bank, South Carolina,				.08
\$10.00	" " " "				.08
\$10.00	Commercial Bank of Columbus.				.06
\$5.00	Bank of Georgetown, South Carolina.				.08
\$10.00	" " " "				.10

On orders of \$1.00 or over we allow 25 per cent. discount, except on Confederate.

Other bills cheap.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

LOOK Old collection of 1000 varieties in album, complete \$5.50. Also 500 varieties in \$1.50.

THESE Scott's best album for \$5.00 cash. Write soon. Only one of each.

H. O. Woodward, Box 275, So. Framingham, Mass.

Approval Sheets.

Sent to responsible parties on good references. Agents wanted. Stamps at all prices, and allow any discount you desire.

We want to buy Old Postage and Revenue Stamps, also Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Foundland, British Colonies, etc., for which we will pay prompt cash.

Look over your old letters from 1842 to 1884 and send us the envelopes and stamps. Do not take the stamp off the envelope. Also look over your old documents for Revenue stamps. We buy all kinds. There are thousands of dollars' worth of stamps packed away in old trunks and bags and this is just the season when you have time to look them up. It will pay you to look up your old stamps. We are headquarters for buying all such stamps. Common trash not wanted. In all cases send us the amount you want for your stamps.

Address all communications to

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

Lowell, Mass., 159 Middlesex Street.

Bargains! Bargains!

While they last, we offer a few stamps at bargain prices.

Money returned if stamps are sold. Order at once.

IN MINT STATE

Cape of Good Hope, 1895, 5 sh.	\$1.70
Ceylon, 1886, 25c, 28c,	.28
Gibraltar, 1895, 1p.	.28
" " 1896, 2p.	.60
Grenada, 1883, 6d.	.45
New Zealand, Newspaper, 1895,	.03
Tasmania, 1864, 6p.	.45
Barbados, 1874, 6d.	1.00
New South Wales, 1 2 p. due,	.25
New South Wales, 3p, 1882.	.15

SETS.

We offer for a short time the following bargains: All stamps unused:

Barbados, 1892, 9 varieties,	1.80
Gold Coast, 1891, (set)	1.60
Malta, 1885, 6 var.,	.60
Tasmania, 1892, 5 var.,	.75
Sarawak, 4 var.,	.30
St. Lucus, 6 var.,	.80
Salvador, (\$2 \$5 \$10) 3 var.,	.40
Lagas, 8 var.,	1.25
Costa Rica, 8 var.,	.12
Venezuela, 6 var.,	.15
Mexico, 5 var.,	.20
Salvador, 1892, 10 var.,	.45

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

Please mention **THE AMERICAN BOYS** when answering advertisements.

Auction Sale,

Thursday Evening, March 18, 1897,

159 Middlesex Street,

Room 4, Lowell, Mass.

Composed of United States, Postage and Revenue and Foreign Stamps.

Contains many choice specimens.

Stamps may be seen at our office, Lowell, Mass. Sale begins promptly at 7.30 p. m.

TERMS OF SALE.

The condition of stamps in this sale is excellent.

The highest bidder to be the purchaser. All bids are for lot.

Should any stamp in this sale turn out to be a forgery or not properly described, the buyer may return the lot, provided such lot is returned within five days after receipt of stamp, after which time no claim will be entertained under any circumstances.

Orders will be executed by the cataloguers, solely in the interest of the buyer. No commission is charged for buying, but cost of carriage must be borne by the buyer.

All stamps are used unless marked with an *, which are unused.

1	1851	3c unused,	\$2.00
2	1857	1c die 3, strip of 3	
3	1857	5c brown, fine copy,	4.00
4	1862	5c red brown, corners gone, not well centered.	20.00
5	1868	5c embossed, 13 x 16m	8.00
6	1868	3c rose, embossed, 12 x 14m, pair,	5.00
7	1869	24c perf, clipped 2 sides,	20.00
8	1875	1c [1869] unused,	2.50
9	1871	24c purple, fine,	2.00
10	1871	30c black, strip of 4, fine.	3.00
11	1872	7c fine,	1.00
12	1882	6c pink, * o. g. light shade,	1.50
13	1882	another	1.50
14	1882	6c pink, * [pair]	3.00
15		10c brown, pair,*	1.00
16	1888	5c pair, unused,	1.00
17	1889	Due 3c, fine,	1.50
18		" 3c fine,	1.00
19		50c unused, o. g.	3.00
20		another,	3.00
21		50c unused, strip of 7, plate 333,	21.00
22	1891	5c [dark shade] strip of 6, with plate no. 218,*	
23	1893	30c and 50c *	1.30
24		2 00 * unused,	4.00
25	1894	Due 30c unused,	1.25
26		" another,	1.25
27		" 30c unused, strip of 3	3.75

28	"	30c unused, o. g. block of 8	
29		Agriculture, 1c specimen,	
30		Int.rior, 90c,	3.50
31		Justice, 1c specimen	
32		6c	1.00
33		12c	2.50
34		Executive, 1c specimen,	
35		1c specimen, pair,	
36		Navy, 30c, unused,	3.00
37		State, 1c, unused, fine,	3.50
38		Another, one corner cracked,	3.50
39		2c, unused, cracked on 1 side fin.	7.00
40		6c "	1.00
41		7c "	3.50
42		12c "	5.00
43		15c "	5.00
44		Treasury, 7c and 90c, fine.	2.50
45		War, 7c, fine,	2.50
46		90c, pair, fine,	2.50

UNPERFORATED REVENUES.

47	15c	Inland Exchange.	1.25
48	20c	For Exchange,	1.25
49	25c	Prot. st.	1.25
50	25c	Warehouse Receipt,	2.00
51		Another,	2.00
52	30c	For. Exchange,	1.00
53	50c	Lease,	1.50
54	1 00	"	2.00
55	1 00	Manifest,	2.50
56	1 00	Mortgage,	1.25
57	1 00	Power of Atty.	1.25
58	3 00	Charter Party,	2.00
59	3 00	Manifest,	2.00
60	5 00	Mortgage,	3.50
61	10 00	Conveyance,	4.00
62		Another,	4.00

PERFORATED REVENUES.

63	2c	Playing Card, (3)	1.20
64	3c	" " fair,	8.00
65		Another, slightly defaced,	8.00
66		Another, " "	8.00
67	5c	Proprietary,	1.50
68	25c	Warehouse Receipt, (2)	2.00
69	1 00	Probate of Will,	1.35
70	2 00	" " " fine,	1.50
71	5 00	Manifest,	2.50
72	10 00	Mortgage,	1.50
73	20 00	Conveyance,	2.50
74		Another,	2.50
75	25 00	Mortgage,	5.00
76		Another,	5.00
77	50 00	Internal Revenue, fine,	4.00
78		Another,	4.00
REVENUES			
79	10 00	Second Issue, fine,	3.50
80	25 00	" " "	15.00
81	25 00	" " "	
82	40c	Third Issue, fine, no pen marks,	1.00
83	6c	Proprietary, black and green,	1.50
84	5c	" " black silk paper,	4.00
85	6c	" " violet,	1.50
86	2c	Bank check, upper, orange rare	
87	2c	Proprietary, blue, unperforated on sides	
88	2c	Proprietary, upper on top,	2.00
89	1c	" " " "	1.50
90	2c	" " Ultramarine,	10.00
91	2c	" " black and blue,	

		verticle strip of 5	148	same block of 6.	3.00
92		2c Proprietary, blue, and U. S. Revenue, thick paper.	148a 1860	Nova Scotia, 10c.	2.00
		25c Bond, part perf.,	149	Nevis, 1p (surch. St. Christopher, rev.)	
93		25c Power of Atty, part perf.,	150 1882	Queensland, 2sh, unused.	2.50
94		50c Surety Bond, " " 1.00	151 1886	2sh, 6p, fine	.50
95		50c Conveyance, " " (pair) 1.00	152	5sh, fine.	1.25
96		50c Lease, unperforated, (pair) 3.00	153 1882	St. Christopher, 4p, blue.	4.00
97		50c Mortgage, strip of 3	154 1870	6p, green.	.75
98		20.00 Conveyance, (pair) fine, 5.00	155 1884	4p, gray.	.60
99		50.00 Int. Rev. fine, heavy paper,	156 1864	St. Helena, 2p, yellow, [No. 32]	1.00
100		Another,	157 1863	6p, gray blue.	5.00
101		25.00 Conv. silk paper, 6.00	158 1864	1s, green, two.	1.20
102		2.50 Ind. Ex., silk paper, 1.00	159 1871	1s, green, crooked on side.	2.50
103	1869	1 2 of 2c, used on Rev. on o. Doc.	160 1885	4p, pair.	.70
104	1869	1 2 of 3c, " " " " org. Doc.	161 1883	St. Lucia, 1-2 p, fine.	.50
105	1869	1-2 of 2c, " " " " " " diagonal.	162 1885	St. Vincent & 1-2p on 1p, milky blue.*	.50
106	1869	1-2 of 2c, " " " " " " diagonal.	163 1867	South Australia, 4p purple, fine.	.60
ENVELOPES AND COVERS.					
107	1853	3c red on buff, die 2, cut square fine,	164 1873	Spain, 4p (pen cal.)	2.00
			165 1892	Strait Settlement, 1 c on 12c.	
108	1857	1c blue on buff, No. 1028, cover fine,	166 1890	Pahung, a	1.25
			167 1890b	Pahung.	
109	1893	3c Columbian envel. and 1-2 of 6c call, fine	168 1891	Johor, 2c on 24c, No. 15 unused	5.00
110	1876	Newfoundland, 5c, fine,	169	Johor, 2c, rose	.85
111	1891	Hawaii, 10c red, brown, black sur charge, strip of three, fine (rare)	170	Sungej, 2c, rose	
112	1883	Uruguay, 1c and 2c, [8] fine,	171 1882	Seiangor, No. 11, 2c rose	
113	1872	Canada, 1-2 of 6c, brown	172 1850	Switzerland, 5p (No. 25)	1.50
114		Ship letters, due 2c, rare	173 1864	Tasmania, 6p red, lilac, watermarked o.	
115	1863	Antigua, 1p ver*	174	another,	
116	1882	Bahamas, 4p fine.	175	another block of 4.	
117	1872	Barbadoes, 6p orange*	176 1887	Turks Island, 1sh brown,	.50
118	1890	2sh 6p fine,	177 1882	2 1-2p, red, brown,	1.00
119		Brazil, Du. s. 300, 500, carm. [2]	178 1867	6p, black,	5.00
120		700, 1000, carm.	179 1882	4p, gray,	1.00
121	1866	Bremen, 7, [No. 17]*	180 1867	Victoria, 1sh (No. wk.)	3.00
122	1860	British Guiana, 12c (No. 32)	181 1866	Virgin Island, 1p unused,	2.00
123	1853	Cape of Good Hope, 4p, four 1p, red	182 1882	Western Australia, 6p (No. 55)	1.00
124		another,	183 1864	6p.	1.00
125		6p, gray,	184 1863	Brunswick, 1-2 gr. (No. 11) fine.	1.00
126		6p, lilac,	185 1886*	Madagascar, 1p.	5.00
127		Cuba, 10c rare,* [soiled]	186 1883	Uruguay, 2c.	1.00
128	1879	Dominica, 1p, lilac.			
129	1883	4p, state.			
130		Granada, 1p (No. 3)*			
131	1872	Great Britain, 3p, rose,*			
132		another*			
133	1889	Gibraltar, 75c.			
134	1875	Gold Coast, 1p.			
135	1853	Hawaii, 5c and 13c 1862: 2c (reprints) rare			
136		15c.			
137	1882	Helligoland, 1sch, fine			
138	1869	Leeward Island, 1sh, olive green.			
139	1890	Lubeck, 1-2s.			
140	1863	Malta, 1-2p buff*			
141	1876	Montserrat, 1p (No. 1)*			
142	1885	Natal, 3p blue, block of 4*			
143	1866	Newfoundland, 24c, pair, fine.			
144	1851	New South Wales 3p [Emerald green]			
145	1882	3p strip of 3 *			
146	1892	due, 1-2p			

Address all communications to

T. E. Adams,**Lowell, Mass.**



CREDIT.



The credit system, while extended extensively by professional and business men, when loosely managed, has ruined more business men than anything else. Prompt, reliable collections are the life of all such business and professions. To secure good results at the least possible expense requires business tact and skill in management.

The Merchants' Collecting Agency

was established in Lowell during 1896 for the purpose of extending aid to such business firms and professional men who have accounts out and desire to have them collected. On the many bills placed in our hands for collection, the very best results have been obtained.

OUR METHODS for the securing of settlements are practical and up to date, and invariably brings about the desired result.

No Membership Fee is charged by us for handling your accounts. We take your bills, make all collections without any expense to you, charging only a small commission on moneys collected. Should we be unable to secure any payment or settlement on your bills, there is no expense whatever to you.

WE GUARANTEE two things, viz: prompt and honest returns for all moneys collected. We make returns in all cases monthly, and when desired, every one or two weeks.

OUR ATTORNEY who has charge of all legal proceedings is one of the best legal advisers in this city, and all cases requiring legal services will receive the very closest attention.

OUR TERMS are low, ranging from 10 to 25 per cent for amounts collected, according to size of bill and difficulty in collecting it.

A DETECTIVE has been attached to our agency, and his services are at the disposal of our patrons and friends. All cases in this department will be strictly confidential. The reliability of this service can be depended upon.

A BLACK LIST, or a list of persons who refuse to pay their honest bills is always of great service to those extending credit, and if carefully compiled and followed, will save hundreds of dollars to our patrons.

A Name on Black List, issued by us remains on list until a settlement has been affected.

We Want Your Bills to collect. We have secured settlements where others have failed and we can do so again. Send us a lot of bills on trial. If collectable, we will collect them.

OUR FIELD for collecting is not confined to Lowell alone, but to every city and town in the United States and Canada.

We shall be pleased to call and give any information regarding our agency you may desire.

ACCOUNTS FOR SALE.

Until further notice, we offer the following accounts for sale:

G. Cutting,	- - -	\$19.25.
J. L. Nudd,	- - -	3.30
B. Brouette,	- - -	3.75.
George Delano,	- - -	7.00.
Geo. Moore,	- - -	3.50.
L. Bengeron,	- - -	1.50
Mrs. D. O'Brine,	- - -	2.11.

Merchants' Collecting Agency,

T. E. ADAMS, Manager,

159 Middlesex Street, Marston Building,

LOWELL, MASS.

The American Boys,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

Volume 1. No. 3.

Lowell, Mass., March, 1897.

Price, 5 Cents.

LUCKY LARRY, THE BOY COLLECTOR. — OR — THE STORY OF A STAMP.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE.

CHAPTER V.

The Scent.

(CONTINUED FROM NO. 2.)

Mr. Prentiss was as surprised and delighted as Larry to know that Dick Jenkins was in limbo. There was nothing said in the message about the stamp, but there was a possibility that the villain might tell where it could be found, even if it was not yet in his possession.

However, Larry decided not to go down to New York until the next morning, which on the whole was best, as it would be doubtful if the Inspector would be found in his office at that hour.

So it was arranged that Larry and Mr. Prentiss were to meet the next morning at head quarters. The latter now started to leave.

But Mrs. Vane with tears in her eyes cried:—
"Sam, how am I going to repay you for your kindness? Do you really mean to lift the mortgage for us?"

"Eunice," said Mr. Prentiss in a deep voice, "do not ever think of it again. We were school mates. I had once hoped to be more to you than any other man could. But we will not speak of that. It gives me more happiness than I can express to help you. I have a large fortune. A thousand dollars is nothing to me. It shall lie without interest until you can pay it back with ease!"

Mrs. Vane could not answer.

"Now take a brighter look at the future," said Mr. Prentiss cheerily. "You have a great blessing in this boy. I understand you want to go to work, Larry. I can get you a position in a large stamp house in New York if you desire."

"Oh, Mr. Prentiss!" cried Larry wildly, "that is the dream of my life. Some day perhaps I can have a stamp business of my own!"

"We will see," said Mr. Prentiss with sparkling eyes, "and now, good night to both of you."

A moment later he was gone. The night train took him back to New York.

Larry Vane's dreams that night were of the

most extravagant kind. When he awoke to find the sun already up and peeping into his chamber, he chided himself for having overslept.

Mrs. Vane was up and had breakfast ready. Larry thought he had not seen his mother look so free from care and happy for years. Indeed it seemed as if a great gloom had been lifted from the lives of both.

During the meal Larry could talk of nothing else but the kindness of the good friend they had found, and his own prospects for the future.

"Only think, mother," he cried, "I am going to work and earn lots of money and pay off the mortgage, so that this will be our own home. I shall buy a commutation ticket of course, and go into New York in the morning and out again at night. I hope you will not be lonesome?"

Mrs. Vane's eyes were moist. She kissed Larry with a mother's kind affection and said:

"I think not Larry. Certainly we may see the hand of Providence in all this. The future will be brighter for us both."

A few moments later Larry was running for his train, and soon was being whirled away cityward. He felt quite manly and resolute as he realized the responsibilities of a new life were really upon him.

He had arranged to meet Mr. Prentiss at Police Headquarters, and he proceeded thither at once. The wealthy stamp collector was there before him and stood on the steps as Larry came up. They exchanged a few words of greeting and Mr. Prentiss said:

"We will go in and see Mr. Byrnes. Perhaps he has recovered your stamp Larry. I hope so for your sake as well as mine!"

They soon gained admittance to the Inspector's office, which was no easy task, as he was always a busy man. The great chief of detectives greeted them warmly.

"I have got your man," he said, "one of our detectives brought him in, thirty minutes after you left. He is a very wily fellow and de-

nies all knowledge of the yellow envelope and the stamp."

Larry's face fell, but Mr. Prentiss said:

"He probably needs to have his memory sharpened eh?"

"Yes, yes," chuckled the inspector, "it would not be a bad idea to put him in the sweat box." At present he is in cell 10, at the Tombs. If you wish, I will send a man down and bring him up here and we will see what we can get out of him."

"I think it the best plan," said Mr. Prentiss. With which, the Inspector touched an electric bell and gave the sergeant who answered it his instructions. Then he went back to his desk, while Mr. Prentiss scanned the morning paper, and Larry fell to curiously examining the cabinet of burglar kits and plates that adorned the walls.

It was some little while ere the door opened and three men entered. Two of them were policemen, and between them stood Dick Jenkins, the man with the scarred face, whom Larry recognized at once.

The Inspector turned brusquely and said:

"Now Jenkins, here is the young man whose coat you held in that little squabble yesterday between himself and some street gamins. You identify him, Mr. Vane?"

"Yes sir!" replied Larry.

Jenkins looked at Larry and growled:

"That's a stumper, I never seen ther kid afore in my life."

"Oh yes you have!" cried Larry eagerly, "You held my coat for me while I fought with that young ruffian. I don't say you stole anything sir, but did you not see a yellow envelope in the coat pocket? It might have dropped out. Did you see it?"

It was upon Inspector Byrnes' lips to check Larry, but he did not. This outburst so spontaneous and sincere astonished even Dick Jenkins himself. He stared at Larry and blinked his evil eyes.

"Eh, the ye aint makin' any charge agin me?" he exclaimed.

"N—No!" stammered Larry, "that is—if you'll only tell the truth about the envelope!"

"I am afraid you're getting ahead too fast Larry," interposed Mr. Prentiss.

"You can see, Jenkins," said the inspector shrewdly, "that the young man has no feelings against you, nor does he care to prosecute. Now the envelope is of value to him, but of none to you, so far as you know. He is very anxious to recover it."

The shifting gaze of the criminal went from face to face.

"I don't admit taking the envelope," he said craftily.

"All right," said Mr. Byrnes quickly, "we will allow that. Where is it?"

"I remember now something about seein' an envelope on ther sidewalk. See? It might hev fell out of ther coat pocket. Probably it's down there now, in ther gutter. That's all I know about it. Ye can't hold me fer anything now."

And the beady eyes of the rascal had a keen glint of triumph in them. The truth was at once apparent to his listeners. He had really

thrown the envelope away after discovering that there was nothing in it. There was a moment of silence. Then Byrnes said:—

"Look here Jenkins, it won't go any worse with you if you tell the truth. Admit that you took that envelope and then threw it away. Tell where you threw it and then assist this young man to find it, and he will not prosecute you."

Jenkins looked questioningly at Larry. The latter nodded and then the criminal said:—

"Well, I'll cave. I did pinch the envelope becase I thought there might be something in it. But when I seen thar warn't, I just tossed it into an ash barrell. Likely that's carried up on the North River dump afore this time."

Mr. Prentiss groaned and Larry was quite pale. Inspector Byrnes turned in his chair.

"I am very sorry my boy," he said, "but I fear that your stamp is past redemption. You might as well give it up."

"Yes," said Mr. Prentiss rising. "Come Larry, we are due in Nassua Street at ten o'clock. Don't feel bad my boy, we'll make up the loss some other way."

Larry could not deny his bitter disappointment. There was a great lump in his throat; but he was a youth of pluck and, swallowed it bravely.

He thanked the inspector and turned to go. Jenkins who had been watching him keenly, started forward and said:—

"Look here lad, I ain't all bad; In course I'm a tough, an' I think ther world owes me a livin'; but I'll own I'm sorry fer what I did, an' I'll try an' find that envelope if I can. Mebbe some old Mell up on ther dump has grabbed it fer junk afore this. I'll do ther best I can."

"Will you?" cried Larry eagerly, "You shall be well rewarded."

"Hang the reward," cried the cracksman, with something like a quiver in his voice. "I like yer style. I had a brother once sumwat like you. He's dead, but I don't fergit him, an' I won't fergit you. How is it Inspector? Do ye want me any longer?"

"You can go," said Inspector Byrnes with a motion to the other officers. The handcuffs slipped down and Dick Jenkins made a cringing bow and glided out of the room.

Mr. Prentiss and Larry followed a few moments later. Larry had been doing some deep thinking. Jenkin's words had impressed him.

"Perhaps that fellow really will try to find the envelope, Mr. Prentiss," he ventured, "he seemed to be sincere."

But the stamp collector shrugged his shoulders.

"It is doubtful," he replied, "those kind of fellows seldom hang to a good resolution. He will soon forget it."

A short while later they were in Nassua St. They paused before the entrance to a respectable establishment, over the door of which hung the sign:

"MEREDITH AND MARKS."

"Dealer in Stamps and Coins."

"Here is the place," said Mr. Prentiss. "Mr. Meredith is a very warm friend of mine and I think you will like him Larry."

They entered the place and passing the long counters and the polite clerks applied at the

office door of the firm. A gentleman of elderly appearance with a pleasant cast of features sprang up from his desk.

"How do you do Mr. Prentiss," he said cheerily, "glad to see you."

"The same to you," cried Prentiss. "Mr. Meredith this is my protegee, Larry Vane of whom I told you."

"Ah!" exclaimed the stamp dealer, looking Larry over favorably. "I am glad to make your acquaintance Larry. Mr. Prentiss recommends you for a position here."

"I would very much like such a chance," replied Larry modestly.

Well, well, we will see what we can do for you. Be seated. Mr. Prentiss just a moment with you. You remember leaving a commission here some months ago to find you a certain British Guiana stamp, type, 966, two cents, black on pink paper."

The stamp dealer spoke brusquely. He must have been astonished at the effect of his words.

Mr. Prentiss gave a gasping cry and Larry started from his seat white as a sheet. Mr. Meredith was astonished.

"Why, why?" he exclaimed, "what is wrong?"

"When and where did you get that stamp?" asked Prentiss recovering himself. "Yes, I left a commission with every dealer in New York to find me that stamp. Let me see it quickly."

"Certainly," replied Meredith turning to his safe. "I procured it in a singular manner, one of these street scavengers, a miserable old hag found it in an ash heap and I paid her a price for it that made her half insane. It was a beautiful specimen on a yellow cover, and—"

"My stamp," cried Larry wildly, "found at last Mr. Prentiss."

"The same" cried the stamp collector.

"What is that?" exclaimed Meredith in utter amazement.

"It is the very treasure lost by Larry," explained Mr. Prentiss. And then he recounted to Meredith the whole story of the British Guiana rarity. The stamp dealer was stupefied.

"Well, that beats all," he ejaculated, "You are in luck Larry Vane. If it is your stamp you shall surely have it. It is right here in the safe."

He drew a small drawer from the safe and opened it. There were a number of time stained envelopes in it. Mr. Meredith looked them over again and again.

"Why," he exclaimed finally. "What witchcraft is this. The stamp is not here, it is gone."

CHAPTER V.

A Daring Robbery.

All the while Larry and Mr. Prentiss had been eagerly waiting to see the yellow envelope produced. When Mr. Meredith made the startling announcement that it was not to be found, words could hardly explain the situation.

"Not there?" exclaimed Mr. Prentiss, "don't say that, look again!"

"I will," replied the stamp dealer.

And he thoroughly overhauled the safe, but in vain. His astonishment was hardly greater than the dismay of Larry and Mr. Prentiss.

"Are you sure you put the stamp in here?"

A DINNER OF STAMPS.

Tommy Snow was sitting in the middle of a large play-room. His stamp album was open on the table before him, and he was putting in some new stamps his Aunt Fannie had sent him that morning. The closet door behind him was open a little way and out peeped a very small mouse. Now this mouse was hungry, and when she saw Tommy take up something and put it to his mouth, she felt quite envious because she thought he had something good to eat. Once when Tommy was very still she ran out a little way into the room, but he moved and she scampered back. When she ventured to look out again, Tommy was just putting another hinge to his mouth and she groaned to think that big boy had so much to eat and she had nothing.

Just then Tommy heard a great shout out of doors and he jumped up to look out of the window. He saw some of his friends in the street, and he immediately ran out of the room.

His mother had always told him never to leave his stamp book open on a table when he was not using it, and always to put it away when he left the room. But Tommy was a careless boy and thought because nothing ever had happened to it, nothing ever would.

No sooner had Tommy left the room than the little mouse looked out again, and when she saw he was not there she ran to the table. "I will see if that big boy has left anything I can eat" she said to herself. She soon found a way to get up on the table, but was rather disappointed to see nothing but little bright pieces of paper laid on the book. However, she thought what was good for a boy to eat would make a good dinner for a mouse, so she began to nibble a stamp. She didn't like the taste of it very well, but she chewed up three and was just going to try another when the door opened and in rushed Tommy. He had just remembered his book and had come back to put it away. He saw the little mouse jump down and scamper away and he tried to catch her, but she was too spry for him, and was soon safe in her hole which was so small he couldn't even find it.

Then he went to put his book away, but when he saw the remnants of three good stamps and another torn, and a hole in his book, he felt very angry and said some disagreeable things about mice. He went to his mother for sympathy, but she told him that although she was sorry he had lost his stamps, she did not think the mouse was to blame, but thought Tommy Snow was. Tommy said nothing more, but no mouse ever again had a chance to eat any of his stamps.

THE AMERICAN BOYS,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

A monthly Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting, Short Stories, History, Cycling News, Biography, etc.

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Single copies, 5 cents.

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Published on the 20th of each month by

T. E. ADAMS,

159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., March 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

On another page we make a special offer to new subscribers that ought to bring in the necessary number of subscribers. The American Boys already has a larger circulation than any other stamp paper published and we intend to keep it in the foremost rank. The growth of the American Boys has been phenomenal, thanks to our many friends.

Send in your subscription.

The April issue of the American Boys will be sent to many hundred foreign collectors and dealers and will therefore be a valuable medium to advertise for foreign exchanges or correspondence.

Write for advertising rates.

The Merchants Collecting Agency as advertised on page 32 of this paper is thoroughly reliable and one of the most successful agencies in the United States. A large number of stamp dealers have sent them bills to collect and the agency reports success in nearly every case:

Give them a trial.

Our first Auction Sale, March 18, was well attended. The prices obtained averaged fair, but many stamps went at very low prices. The American Boys brought in a great many bids from all parts of the country. It was the first instance in which a sale of any size was advertised through the columns of a reliable journal and demonstrated the value of an add in the American Boys.

The prices of stamps remain about the same as last month. The prices for good foreign stamps are firmer but United States Revenue are begging for buyers. While we have had a fair sale, many dealers complain that they are selling very few. It is doubtful if there will be any noticeable improvement for some months. If you have any blank spaces to fill, this is a good time to fill them cheap.

We have received many requests for old coin; to accommodate our many friends, we shall soon put in a supply. Send us your want list.

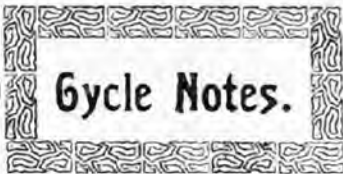
Some dealers seem to think that their add. in a Stamp paper must bring in business; and that a paper with a small circulation is as good as one with a large edition. The average dealer knows better, yet may fail to carry their knowledge to practical use. The advertising rates of the AMERICAN BOYS, while not as high as many other stamp-journals, is as low as it is possible to make them and put up our edition. If you want to reach a large list of collectors, advertise in the AMERICAN BOYS. Rates given on application.

At an auction sale held in New York, March 16, a 90c stamp of 1851 was sold for \$117; a 12c 1861, for \$130.25; a 30c 1867, for \$210; a 15c 1869 error, for \$192; a 30c 1869 error, for \$440; and a 5c New Haven 1845, for \$325.

The Editor of the Lowell Morning Citizen discredits the story that B. S. Ross of Chicago has exchanged stamps to the value of \$23.00 as part payment for a \$30,000 hotel in Hurley, Wis., or that old stamps have any market value. If the editor of the Citizen will send us a Brattleboro stamp we will pay him \$100.00 for it; or if he will send us a lot of the \$1.00 Columbian stamps, as used only three years ago, we will pay him \$1.50 each for them, used or unused. At our last auction sale, we sold about 150 stamps receiving in bids over \$176 for the lot.

Send in your subscription for the American Boys at once.

George W. Scott, an American, residing in Havana, was arrested not long ago for having a set of the new Cuban stamps in his possession, and was placed incommunicado for 338 hours. He was finally released by order of the Supreme Court.



Cycle Notes.

Several bills relating to bicycling have been introduced into the Maine Legislature, but all have been killed in committee. A bill to charge a registration fee of \$1.00 on all bicycles, the proceeds to be used by the board of Agriculture for the improvement of roads has many opponents and may not pass. The Maine roads are in need of improvement, and the Legislature should make a generous appropriation for their improvement.

Bicyclists are getting their wheels out and preparing for the Summer's sport.

During two days of the present week there have been over 700 renewals to the L. A. W.

If you are intending to purchase a bicycle, call on or write Geo. H. Bachelder, 23 Post Office Avenue, in this city. He has a large line of the best wheels. He also has a repair shop in connection.

If you want to improve your health and increase your strength, ride a bicycle. It will also be a good investment. You can save many a dollar in car-fare and go on many errands that would otherwise be impossible.

Prejudice is a poor excuse for the subjection of ladies to wheels requiring much more power than those used by their stronger companions. I believe a dress could be devised which would be generally accepted as suitable if ladies themselves could be more generally convinced of the great advantage of the diamond over drop-frame wheels.

L. A. W. No. 62,139 in L. A. W. Bulletin.

WHERE ARE WE?

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Canned Corn for 6 cents per Can,

65 cents per dozen. Warranted.

3 Cakes Toilet Soap for 5 cents.

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Tuesday and Saturday Evenings.

Lucky Larry.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27.

"Certainly," replied Mr. Meredith "and my partner, Mr. Marks can verify it. Oh, I have a thought. Perhaps he can tell me what has become of it, Mr. Bell?"

He called to one of the clerks who at once appeared.

"Can you tell anything about a British Guiana stamp which was placed here in the safe?"

"Yes sir," replied the clerk promptly.

"Ah, what has become of it?"

The clerk looked surprised.

"Do you not know, sir?"

"I would not ask you if I did."

Bell stepped up to the desk and consulted a file of letters there. From it, he took a bit of note paper. Mr. Meredith glanced at it and turned white. Thus it read:

Dear Marks:

Send by the bearer the British Guiana Rarity on yellow cover which I bought from the street scavenger. I have a customer here at the Astor House.

Yours,

John Meredith.

The stamp dealer for a moment sat like one stunned. Then he held up the bit of paper.

"Who brought this to Mr. Marks?" he asked.

"A tall man dressed in black."

"And Mr. Marks gave him the stamp?"

"Yes sir."

Mr. Meredith arose from his seat.

"Send to headquarters for a detective," he said sternly, "this note is a rank forgery and the whole game one of clever robbery. Who could have conceived such a trick I cannot imagine."

The clerk vanished. Then Mr. Meredith turned, and for a few moments, the three occupants stared at each other in the blankest fashion. Mr. Prentiss was the first to speak.

"Well," he ejaculated, "I have heard of the will-o'-the-wisp, but it never had the elusive faculties of that stamp."

"But I can't understand it," exclaimed the stamp dealer, "who could have conceived such an adroit plan of robbery? We are out two hundred which I paid the old woman for the stamp."

"And Larry is again baffled in the recovery of his stamp," said Mr. Prentiss.

"That is too bad! But here comes Mr. Marks now."

The junior partner, a short jocund man, now came into the office. It did not take Mr. Meredith long to tell the story. Mr. Marks' surprise and dismay was great.

"Well," he ejaculated, "I thought the chirography was not exactly as good as yours, but I never dreamed of robbery."

Theory and hypothesis followed until the detectives came. They advanced the theory that some person who had overheard Mr. Meredith tell of his lucky find had concocted the feat. It was someone familiar with stamps and their value, and not unfamiliar with the ways of the firm.

"We will find the bird," they declared con-

fidentially and began to lay their wires.

Mr. Prentiss had his doubts and so had Larry. They went out to lunch together and then Mr. Prentiss went home, while Larry began his duties in his new position.

He was at first placed at work sorting stamps and classifying them. He took hold of his duties so quickly and handily that Mr. Meredith at once took a great shine to him.

Larry followed his work up thus for a week, going up on the New York Central at night and coming down in the morning. Mr. Prentiss had lifted the mortgage and advanced a few hundreds on a second mortgage so that Mrs. Vane felt easy and free once more.

The weeks passed and yet the detectives had got no clew as to the whereabouts of the stamp thieves. Every auction and every stamp house was watched for the rarity to appear. But it did not.

Larry was enthusiastic in his new duties. He speedily mastered the rudiments of the stamp business and within a month was promoted with an increase of pay. This pleased Mr. Prentiss who frequently dropped in to see him.

Thus matters were when one day Larry hit upon what proved a startling clew to the missing Guiana stamp.

Mr. Meredith had purchased a valuable collection from the widow of a deceased collector in Brooklyn and sent Larry over to get it. The lad had boarded a Fulton Ferry boat and sat down unperceived by two men who had their backs to him.

It was against Larry's principles to play the part of a listener but a word dropped by one of them caused his nerves to tingle and his senses to become alert.

"There'd be no trouble in getting a thousand out of the Guiana stamp if it wasn't for the confounded detectives. As for the draft, we ought to hear from that soon."

Silent and swift as a shadow Larry rose and peered over the speaker's shoulder. In a long pocket-book he saw a pile of banknotes, some papers and a yellow envelope, Larry recognized the latter instantly. For a moment his heart stood still, his nerves were on fire, then he did upon impulse what was a foolish thing. He sprang forward to grasp the yellow envelope crying: Thief! that is mine.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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" " " 1	.03
" " " 2	.06
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Sarawak, 4 var.,	.28
St. Lucus, 6 var.,	.80
Salvador, (\$2 \$5 \$10) 3 var.	.40
Lagas, 8 var.	1.20
Costa Rica, 6 var.,	.10
Venezuela, 5 var.,	.15
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 Geo. Bristol, 39 Church St.
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 Mrs. D. Harris, 9 Watson Avenue.
 William Hanson, Gold St.
 John R. Mellen, 42 Summer Street.
 John Quimby, 54 King Street.
 Ernest Hunt, 45 Boot Corporation.
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Volume 1.
Number 4.

APRIL,

1897.

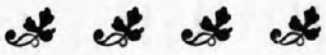
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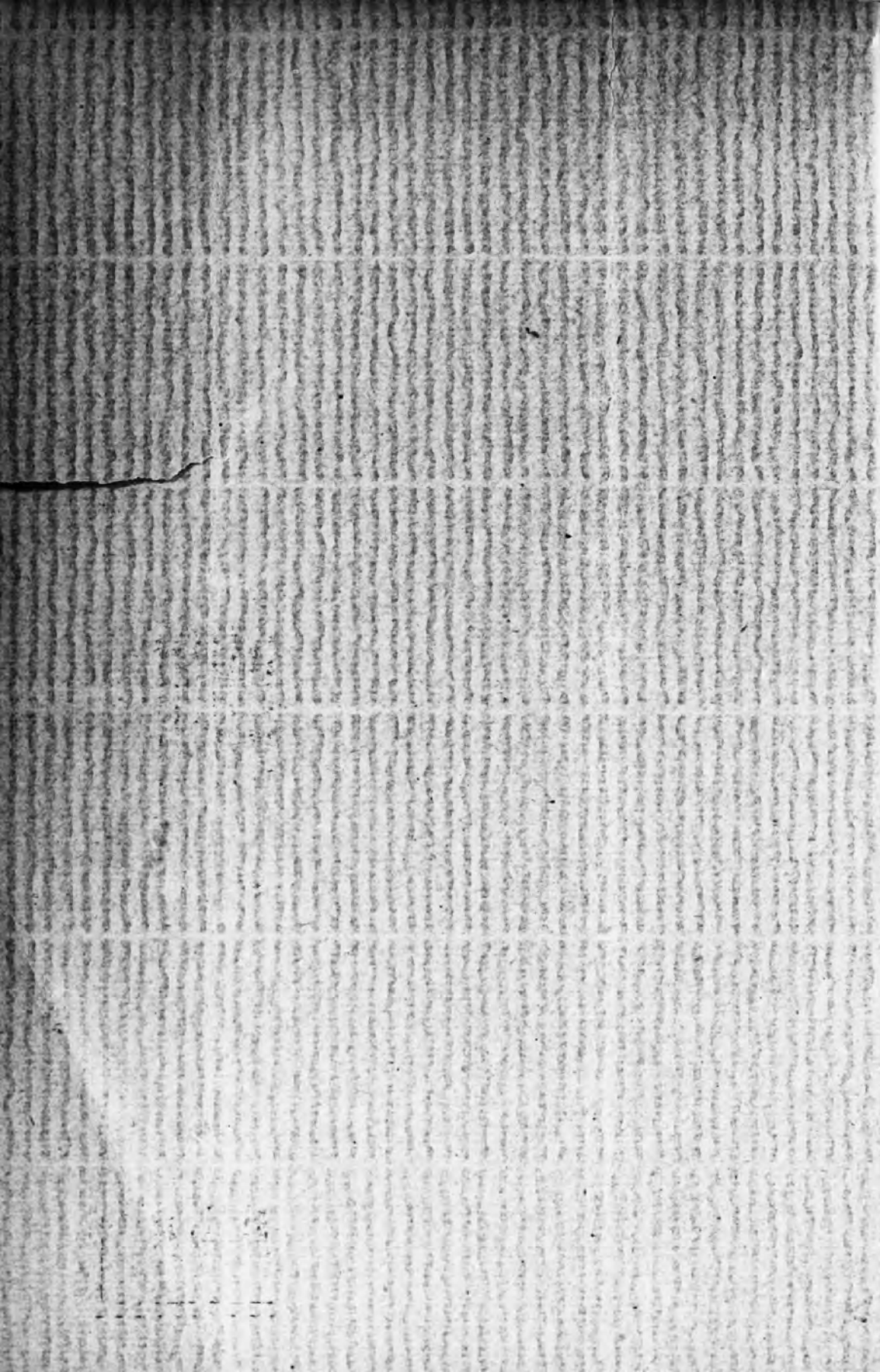


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LOWELL, MASS.,

U. S. A.



The American Boys,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

Volume 1. No. 4.

Lowell, Mass., April, 1897.

Price, 5 Cents.

LUCKY LARRY, THE BOY COLLECTOR.

— OR —

THE STORY OF A STAMP.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE.

CHAPTER VII.

(CONTINUED FROM NO. 3.)

Almost the moment that he acted, Larry knew his mistake and he regretted it. He had acted upon a blind impulse to recover his lost property.

"Thief! that is mine!" he cried.

But before he could grasp the yellow envelope the man thrust the pocket book back into his bosom and sprang up. He was powerful and brushed Larry aside like a fly.

"What do you mean? You young whipper-snapper!" he cried, "I'll hand you over to the police."

In that moment the man's face was indelibly fixed upon Larry's memory. It was low browed, square jawed and the cast of a brute and a villain. Somewhere it seemed to Larry that he had seen it before.

His companion was tall, dark and thin featured. He answered the description of the bearer of the forged note, which he undoubtedly was.

Larry's best plan would have been to have dogged the two villains until he had met an officer and then to have had him arrested. He saw it now all too late.

But he was desperate and disposed to make the best of his chances. So he pluckily confronted the two villains saying:

"You are the men who robbed Mr. Meredith of a valuable stamp and you know you are. I saw it in your pocket book. Give it up to me and I will not have you arrested. But I will if you do not."

"What is the young cub talking about," his-

sed the dark man, "Tap him, before he gives us any trouble."

There were unfortunately no other passengers in that part of the boat. They were in the forward end as the boat was making the dock.

Larry would have shouted for help, but just at that moment the burly villain of the two made a blow at him. The boy dodged, but it sent him reeling into the next compartment. When he picked himself up he was faint and dizzy.

He rushed out on the dock however, but the villains were gone. Search was useless.

Deeply disappointed Larry executed his errand and returned to the store. He there narrated his experiences to Mr. Meredith who was much excited.

"You think you would know the rascals if you should see them again?" he asked.

"I know that I should," replied Larry.

"Then we shall scour Brooklyn, but we will find the dogs," declared the stamp dealer wildly. "Hello, here is Prentiss."

The door of the office opened, and sure enough, in walked the wealthy stamp collector. A glance satisfied him that something was up.

"Heigho!" he exclaimed. "what is the matter with you fellows?"

Mr. Prentiss listened with startled interest to Larry's story. Then a quick conference was held.

Mr. Meredith went to his telephone and called up Detective Headquarters both in New York and Brooklyn. Then he donned hat and coat.

"Larry," he said, "I want you to go to Brooklyn with me. It may be like looking for a needle in a haystack but we must at least try."

"Allow me to go with you," said Prentiss. "You have no objection?"

"Not the least," replied Meredith.

And with this they started for the ferry. Very soon they were upon Fulton Street but without a clue of any sort.

But as they reached the corner of Concord Street Mr. Meredith gave a sudden sharp cry.

He darted into the wide thoroughfare and clutched a miserable old hag by the arm. She carried a basket of rags and paper which she dropped.

"Hello," cried the stamp dealer. "You are just the woman I want. You know me don't you?"

A glance of recognition flashed from the old woman's eyes. She bowed with a hideous grin.

"You're the chap what bought the fancy stamp off me," she said. "Aint it all right eh? It was straight goods so far as I know."

"Oh yes," replied Meredith. "And the story you told me was that that you found it in an ash heap."

"Which was correct boss."

"What is your name?"

The woman looked uneasy.

"What's that for," she asked.

"Oh, don't fear, I don't mean you any harm."

"Well, I'm called Mag Baxter, I aint ashamed of it nether."

"Very good Mag," replied Meredith, "now I want you to tell me the truth. Were you offered money for that stamp before you sold it to me?"

The woman shifted her gaze repeatedly.

"Wall, yes," she replied. "there's no harm in it so far as I can see. Jim Block offered me fifty. It was all the money he had and he would hev made the profit if I had sold to him. But I didn't and I'm a hundred and fifty better off."

She gave a chuckling laugh.

As for Meredith he gave a sharp cry; turning to Prentiss he ejaculated:

"I have the whole thing in a nut shell. James Block was a former clerk of ours, we discharged him for dishonesty. He alone is familiar with the workings of our office. He is the scamp who put up the Astor House trick and forged the note to Marks. He has the stamp and no doubt is the rascal seen by Larry aboard the ferry-boat. With this clew we shall find him and recover the stamp."

All were deeply excited and even old Mag

was interested. Her eyes kindled and she took a step nearer.

"Mebbe I kin help ye," she said. "I know the lay of Jim Block mighty well. Is it worth anything to ye?"

Prentiss stepped forward.

"Fifty dollars my woman," he said. "You must show us where to find him."

She held out her grimy paw.

"Cash!" she said bluntly.

"First show us the way."

Mag Baxter hesitated, she looked critically at Prentiss, then she said:

"Well I reckon you're one of them high toned chaps. I'll trust ye. Come with me."

She started along Concord Street followed by Meredith, Prentiss, and Larry. They turned down Adams Street and then into an alley.

At the end of this alley was a dilapidated dwelling. Old Mag pointed to this and said:

"Fourth room on the second floor. Ye'll more likely find them in in the evenin' Cash up friend."

Prentiss looked critically at the woman and decided to accept her word. He gave her the bills.

Old Mag seized them with avidity and vanished. Then the three self constituted detectives looked at each other.

"What shall the next move be?" said Meredith.

Larry and Prentiss were at a loss to reply. But at this moment an incident decided the problem.

The door of the dilapidated dwelling opened and two men came out. Larry started back with an exclamation.

"There they are," he gasped, "the two men I saw on the ferry."

Instinctively all three stepped into a doorway. As the two rascals passed Meredith whispered:

"It is Jim Block, my former clerk. Go easy, we must follow him."

Out of the alley they followed the two scamps. Down Adams Street they went to the Brooklyn Bridge.

Here it was not easy for the pursuers to avoid discovery; but they managed to get upon a rear car of the bridge train.

On the New York side Block and his confrere struck down into Chatham Street, and now they made a puzzling move.

They entered the office of a banker named Stafford. The stamp dealer Meredith gave an exclamation.

"That's funny? What do they want with Stafford?"

The words had barely left his lips when a heavy hand fell upon his arm. He turned to stand face to face with a shrewd faced, strongly built man.

"Armstrong!" he exclaimed, "what are you doing here?"

"That is the very question I want to ask you?" said the other. "I have shadowed you as you have shadowed those chaps in there, from Brooklyn. Now what do you want with them?"

All three of our friends knew this man as one of Byrne's detectives.

"You have?" exclaimed Prentiss in surprise, "well we know them to be the villains who stole the valuable stamp from Meredith here, for which a reward is ordered."

Armstrong smiled.

"Why, that is my lay," he said.

"Indeed!" cried Meredith. "And were you on the track of these men?"

"I was."

"Well," said the stamp dealer, "we will not quarrell. Suppose we act in concert. You shall have the reward."

"What do you propose doing?"

"Snap those fellows up at once!"

"All right," said Armstrong as he drew some whisters from his pocket. "Come along."

The detective opened the door and entered followed by the others. What following was exciting.

[Concluded in our next.]

In our next number we will finish the story of Lucky Larry, and give the opening chapter of a new and highly interesting Stamp story entitled:

SAM STRONG,

The Young Stamp Hunter

OR

How a Small Boy Made His Fortune.

— BY —

GEORGE W. GOODE,

Author of "Lucky Larry."

LILLY ROSE.

BY LEM ROLLINS.

In a manufacturing city not far remote from Boston, Mass., we find the subject from which this sketch is drawn. We will call her name Lily Rose.

Lily was the daughter of well-to-do parents who had spared neither time or expense to procure for her an education worthy of their be-

loved daughter, and they secured for her the best instructors from the elite of society.

Nature, too, had been lavish of her bestowments, so much that she seemed the embodiment of perfection in the moulding of her form. Her lustrous and laughing brown eyes added beauty to nature's most perfect work.

Lily was an intelligent conversationalist, quick and sharp at repartee, though never so severe as to wound the feelings of the most sensitive person.

She seemed oblivious to all her charms, and in the absence of all vanity, she went forth to mingle with the young people, joining with them in their innocent sports and frivolities, and all unconsciously letting a flood of joy and sunshine into the hearts of those who otherwise would have been sad and gloomy.

As we have said, she was the embodiment of perfection and to those with whom she had associated she seemed only to need Angelic pinions to waft her whole being beyond the Pleiades, Arcturus and Orion.

She believed that she came into the arena of life not by her own volition, but by the will of a Great overruling Providence to do something to make the world better.

She had already found many opportunities for doing good and had so faithfully performed her duties, that she became widely known as a friend of all those who needed to be comforted.

Lily was just budding into womanhood and it was not surprising that Hiram Monson should have a heart sensation such as he had never felt before. Hiram had never loved, nor was he now fully aware that he was fast falling in love with Lily Rose.

But why could he not center his thoughts upon any other object? Why were his slumbers disturbed by visions of obstacles in the pathway of his future felicity? Why in his semi-wakeful hours did he imagine he felt the touch of her gentle hand upon his feverish brow? Why, in his wakeful hours did he recall so many of her bright sayings and the sweet songs to which he had listened? Why, when paying his adorations to duty, was the burden of his prayer for blessings upon the head of Lily Rose?

Hiram was an unpretentious young man, though with rare qualifications, every inch a gentleman and sole heir to his father's estate in the Highlands. This latter fact, however, he had made strenuous efforts to conceal from his friends and youthful acquaintances, and to keep up appearances, had taken lodgings in the city. Outside of business circles Hiram was regarded as a poor young man.

Hiram had called at Lily's home several times though he had such a keen sense of propriety that he never allowed himself to do so without having been previously invited or announced.

On this eventful evening of which we are about to relate, Hiram seemed ill at ease and reasoned thus: Did he lack the courage of a man? and if so, he was unworthy to be entertained by Lily?

He had listened to her interesting conversation and had been cheered by her sweet songs, but had never given her to understand that he had anything more than been fairly entertained.

On this evening the moon was at its full, and as Hiram started down the street in the direction of Lily's home he realized that the moon light had an extraordinary effect upon a man under certain conditions of mind. The sun shows what is; but the moon causes him to see what might be.

A thousand thoughts seemed to rush through his brain at the same moment and many of them were repugant to his sense of manhood.

As Hiram walked on he mused:

Lily Rose sings to her guitar,
Soft fingering the strings,
And sweet the tone, but sweeter far
The songs that Lily sings;
And oh so lithe her fingers are,
I would that I were her guitar;
But listening I discover this,
That while the hours go by—
A flirt, a flirt Lily Rose is,
Her slave, her slave am I;
No need, her soft guitar to be,
She sings but does not sing to me.

Should he not retrace his steps and seek his lodgings? Should he not arrange his business and go a' road and wait for time to restore him to that normal condition he was in before he knew Lily Rose? If he should decide upon the latter it would be dishonorable to do so without telling her of his decision and bidding her good-by.

With an unsteady step he had now reached the garden gate, but his trembling hand was powerless to raise the latch, and it was by the most strenuous effort that he saved himself from falling to the pavement.

Lily saw this and in a moment she was at his side. When she took his powerless hand and saw the death-like palor upon his noble face, she realized that there was something for her to do, and with almost super-human strength she led him to her parlor and placed him upon a divan.

Then she hastily summoned the aid of her cousin Maude, who chanced to be spending a few weeks with her at that time. Maude was

small and frail, but in this case of emergency she proved herself to be a little giantess.

By the aid of a little stimulent and the combined efforts of these two heroic young ladies, he was soon brought out of his abnormal condition and restored to consciousness. When Maude saw that there was nothing more her hands could do she bade them good night.

When Hiram and Lily were left alone he took her hand in his and said, "Lily," then for the first time their eyes met in full gaze, and realizing what a strange exhibition he had made of himself in the presence of ladies and that one of them was Lily Rose, he felt strangely chagrined but managed to say—"the strange incident that has taken place this evening in your presence compels me to give you a clew to its cause, and to tell you what I never dared to say before. You cannot be unmindful of the interest I have taken in you, though I have struggled hard to suppress all the emotions of my heart in your presence but can do so no longer. I love you, and emboldened by the promptings of my soul, I ask you this great and momentous question, will you be my wife?"

There was a slight nervous movement in her hand but what she said need not be repeated here.

From this eventful moment the whole current of Hiram's life was deflected into a new channel.

Hiram had never given Lily to understand that he was other than a poor boy dependant upon his own efforts for a livelihood, for he believed that true love was the only requisite between a man and wife to warrant a happy home.

She had never plied him with questions about a home for she believed Hiram would provide her with some kind of a home though it might be a humble one, yet if it was good enough for him it would be good enough for her.

When all the arrangements for an early and a quiet wedding had been made, the clock in the steeple struck three and Hiram with a light heart went to his lodgings. Early the next morning Hiram went to his old home and found the faithful old negress, Aunt Debby, anxiously waiting for him.

He at once told her all that had transpired during the previous night, and that on the next Wednesday at four o'clock he should bring Lily Rose home with him as his wife. Aunt Debby simply said, "Bress de Lord! I likes Lily, I does!" Hiram then attempted to give Aunt Debby some instructions relative to putting the house in order.

"Dear chle I knows all bout it, for I is jes de same as I was when I seed your good ole fadder and mudder go to glory wid a halaluyer on dare faces. You jes see if Aunty don't hab ebry ting shinin all ober de house."

Little did Lily think that Hiram was the owner of that magnificent house she had so often looked upon to admire its architectural beauty, and where she had seen the jack rabbits frolic on the spacious lawns beneath the tall elms.

We will omit to state what transpired during the next few days at Hiram's home. Suffice it to say everything was done just to Aunt Debby's liking.

Just at the appointed time of two o'clock Hiram stepped from his private carriage and after a word of instruction to his man in livery, he entered the house and greeted Lily, her happy father and mother, Maude and the good old Rector, Dr. Prentiss, (who twenty-two years before had united her father and mother in the bonds of holy wedlock).

Everything was in readiness and Dr. Prentiss again performed his high official duty in the same family.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Dr. Prentiss said, "and may God in his infinite goodness and mercy grant that your lives may be long, prosperous and happy."

Then for the first time Hiram kissed the lips of Lily Monson.

After the happy pair had received congratulations, Maude fastened a white lily and a white rose upon the lapel of Hiram's coat, and he led Lily to his carriage. A moment later the two dappled grays were bounding away in the direction of Lily's home in the Highlands.

After a little time the carriage came to a stop in front of the beautiful house she had so often admired.

"We will stop here at your own home," said Hiram. "Previous to today this was my own estate, I have conveyed it to you by a warrantee deed, if it pleases you, it shall be our home as long as we both shall live."

Lily was unable to reply; but Aunt Debby who stood at the door lifted up her hands and again said:

"Bress de Lord!"

JAMAICA

To any Collector of limited means who wishes to specialize with fair hopes of getting a complete collection of a British Colony both used and unused, no Colony can compete with Jamaica. Jamaica is one of the West Indian islands, and it is worthy of note that the earlier issues

watermarked pineapple, are much under priced, and when this Colony receives the attention of collectors, the prices will undoubtedly go up with a rush. Although this island has issued stamps since 1860, the issues do not contain any unnecessary stamps, and should consequently appeal to all true Philatelists.

The first stamps were issued by this Colony on 23rd November, 1860, the stamps being printed and engraved in London by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., watermark "pineapple," perforated 14, the set consisting of 5 values, viz:—1d. blue, 2d. rose, 4d. orange-vermillion, 6d. lilac, 1s. brown; I have also seen a distinct shade of purple-brown in the 1s. value. There is a great range of shades in the issue, more especially in the first 4 values. The stamps are much under-priced, more especially the unused; and eventually prices are bound to go up. Although this or any of the issues cannot be termed handsome stamps, yet, when the sets are completed, they are certainly worth looking at. On 10th of September, 1863, a new value, 3d. blue-green, appeared, same watermark and perforation.

In February, 1867, through an alteration in the postal rates of the island, a notice appeared in the *Official Gazette* of Jamaica, authorizing the use of 1-2d. stamps, the 1d. stamps being cut in two diagonally, each half to represent 1-2d. These provisionals were used from February, 1867, until some time in 1872, as the new 1-2d. claret stamp which belonged to a new set, and was watermarked Crown and C. C., perforated 14, did not arrive until then, the 1d. of the 1871 issue was also used in the same way. These provisionals are the rarest stamps which the collector will have to get to complete his collection, and these bisected stamps are rapidly increasing in value—the only three (3) offered at auction during 1896 fetching 16s., 19s., and 32s. each respectively, and in Messrs. Gibbons' new catalogue the same stamp is catalogued at 90s.

An entirely fresh issue was made in 1871-2, watermark changed to Crown and C. C., perforation measuring 14, same values and colours as first issue, with the addition of an 1-2d. stamp, claret, this last not appearing until 1872. As in the former issue a good many shades can be collected of these values.

August, 1875, two high values watermark Crown and C. C., but perforated 12 1/2 appeared viz:—2s. chocolate-brown, and 5s. dark lilac. It is worthy of note that the 5s. brown, is the highest value postal adhesive used in the Colony up to the present.

These two values do not seem to be much in demand, as they are still in use, 22 years being

a long time for stamps to remain as originally issued. In the years 1883-84 a few low values were issued, watermark again altered to Crown and C. A., perforated 14, consisting of following values:— 1d. blue, 3d. rose, 4d. orange (shades) 1885-6 saw a further change, same watermark and perforated as 1883:—

- 1d. blue changed to rose.
- 3d. carmine changed to slate.
- 3d. blue-green changed to olive-green
- 6d. mauve changed to yellow.

The 6d. value was not changed from mauve to yellow until some time in 1890. In 1889 the colours and designs of the 1d. and 2d. values were changed to 1d. lilac and mauve, and 2d. green; there are a good many shades to be found in these stamps.

In 1890 the only surcharged stamp of this Colony was issued (except officials), being the 4d. orange brown of the 1883-6 issue surcharged "two pence half penny" in two lines, in long thin capitals; this stamp can be found with double surcharge.

1891 saw the 2 1/2d. in a new colour, being now blue and ultramarine.

There are fiscals used postally, but care should be taken to see they have not been used fiscally, then cleaned, and carefully postmarked for the benefit of unsuspecting stamp collectors; the best means to prevent this, is to collect these fiscals on original covers so both *dispatching* and *receiving* postmarks can be seen. Official stamps were first issued in 1890, the stamp so used being the 1-2d. green of 1885 issue surcharged "official" in thin capitals; there are many minor varieties of this stamp, such as inverted surcharge, double surcharge, two surcharges, one being inverted, also with the letter "I" of official omitted, &c. Messrs. Gibbons' new catalogue tells us that "stamps with this surcharge, were again issued about February, 1894, during a temporary exhaustion of those with the block letter surcharge, but no errors or varieties occur in this second printing." In 1890 the 1d. rose and 2d. grey of the 1883-6 issue were surcharged "official" in thick block capitals, to which in 1891 was added an 1-2d. value green, surcharged with the thick type, and this set is still in use.

I am convinced if collectors will only take up the study of stamps of Jamaica, they will not be satisfied until all blank spacer are complete, and they can look about them for minor varieties, &c. Looking at these stamps from the investor's side of the question, they are still more worthy of your support, as they are now at practically bottom prices, and are sure to

go up shortly; a great many of the values and issues are much rarer than most collectors and dealers think.

C. J. M. LEHNER, in *Stamps*.

AN HONEST COLLECTION.

By an honest collection, I do not mean a collection without any counterfeit stamps, but a collection in which each stamp has been honestly obtained.

When you buy stamps of a regular dealer you generally make a fair bargain, because the dealer knows what he is selling you. If the stamps were given to you by one who knows the worth of them and wants you to have them, that is all right. And if you make a fair exchange with a collector, of course that is all right.

A boy of twelve years old was asked where he got some particularly good stamps that he had, and he replied, "oh, I bought them for a few cents of a boy. He didn't know the value of them, but I did." The air with which he said it implied that he was smarter and shrewder than the other boy, but was he honest? The only safe way in dealing with the other boys is to use the latest catalogue you can.

If you are willing to be a little patient you can get a good large collection, and yet be thoroughly honest. Try it and see. You will find that the satisfaction of knowing your stamps were honestly obtained will more than balance any regret you may feel at not having some particular stamps that you might have had, if you had been willing to take advantage of another's ignorance.

Georgiana Brown.

Fortune often smiles on her favorites. A Lowell gentleman who has not collected since 1871 recently brought his old collection to light. He tried to dispose of the collection but not being able to secure his price, he looked up the catalogue values and was surprised to find them valued at nearly four hundred dollars. The examination of the stamps brought on the old fever and he is now one of the most enthusiastic collectors in the city. A few days ago he added several specimens to his collection. He visited a friend who collected in the sixties when he did and was allowed his pick from the collection in exchange for some of the common stamp. Among the lot was a superb copy of the first issue of Hawaii, and several rare stamps. Such finds are scarce now-a-days.

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BEFORE MAY 31, 1897.

Are you interested in collecting
Coins, Stamps or Minerals?

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is the best paper published for collectors giving as it does, information not to be found elsewhere.

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AMERICAN BOYS.

LOWELL, MASS., U. S. A.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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Send us 50 cents for a year's subscription to the AMERICAN BOYS, the best youth's paper published, and we will send you \$30.00 in broken bank bills, FREE as a premium. This offer holds good only while our present stock lasts. Order at once.

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To every person sending us 50 cents for a year's subscription to THE AMERICAN BOYS we will give a new Stamp Album and a collection of 110 different stamps. Postage extra, 8c.

1000 POSTAGE STAMPS FREE.

We will give 1000 stamps free to each collector sending us 50 cents for a year's subscription to the American Boys. Postage extra, 5c.

STAMP CATALOGUE FREE.

Send us 50 cents for a year's subscription to the American Boys, and 12 cents to pay postage and packing, and we will send you an 1897 edition of the Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, which retails at 50 cents each, free.

STAMP ALBUM FREE.

We will send a Bay state Stamp Album, (containing space for 2500 stamps,) to anyone sending us 50 cents for a year's subscription to the American Boys.

These offers are made to increase our subscription list at once, and will be withdrawn in a very short time. To entitle you to one of the above premiums you must send us a self-addressed stamped envelope.

AGENTS WANTED to secure subscriptions for the American Boys to whom a liberal cash commission will be paid.

Address all communications to

THE AMERICAN BOYS,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.,

U. S. A.

THE AMERICAN BOYS,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

A monthly Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting, Short Stories, History, Cycling News, Biography, etc.

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T. E. ADAMS,
159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., April 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

It is surprising to us that there are so few stamp Journals of an intelligent character devoting their space solely to the interest of collectors. It is true that there are a large number of amateurish stamp papers, whose editors devote their space to cheap stamp talk, stamps, politics, or complimenting themselves on their "quality" etc. One of the latter editors in a recent effusion written undoubtedly when he ought to have been in the land of nod, really thinks that he can get along without the people but the people cannot get along without him. Poor, poor fellow, how he must suffer! But alas, he is but humane for in his last issue he comes out in two lengthy articles and admits error of judgement, and of facts. "Go west, young man!" We will not miss you when you are gone.

The "stamp trade" during the past month has not improved to any marked degree. The market however has become finer, good stamps commanding better prices. Revenues and cheap foreign remain about the same having reached bottom at 50 per cent. off. It is doubtful if there will be any marked increase in sales till general business improves.

The uncalled for increased prices of many stamps in the Scott's 57th. Standard Catalogue has been one of the means of unsettling the stamp business. It is now rumored that a

few of the large dealers were in the "scheme" and that they have been buying heavily.

It is with pleasure that we call the attention of stamp dealers to the advertisement of the Merchants Collecting Agency. This agency can be relied upon to do just what they agree to in every particular.

They collect all kinds of accounts from all kinds of people and have been very successful in making collections.

Their Blue Book should be in the hands of every dealer who sells, and collector who exchanges stamps.

The publisher of the American Boys desires MSS. on stamps, coins and other kindred subjects, etc., and will pay good prices for same. Also, competent writers wanted to take charge of special departments.

On page 39 we offer special inducements for you to send in your subscription by return mail. These terms will obtain for a short time only.

The recent failure of the Mekeels of St. Louis has not affected the market. The old firm, it is reported, will close out their business, but the Mekeels are said to be arranging to start again.

Several hundred copies of this issue of the American Boys will be sent to foreign collectors whose subscription we solicit. Improvements are made monthly and a growing subscription list is a good evidence of its appreciation.

The recent sale of a collection of stamps by Mr. F. W. Ayer of Bangor, Me., to a London dealer for \$250,000.00 is reported to be the largest collection of stamps ever sold. Although Mr. Ayer has been collecting for only about four years, he amassed many of the finest and best stamps to be seen in a single collection.

Chas. Scott, the American arrested in Havana last month for having Cuban stamps in his possession, has been misquoted. A correspondent writes us that the stamp in question was a rubber stamp used by the insurgent government on notices, etc. Our correspondent intimates that the "Cuba Libra" stamps are private speculative issues and that the insurgent Government receives no benefits from their sale.

Lowell is soon to be favored with the system of house to house collection of letters and sale of stamps.

**Historical, Heraldical, Botanical and Postal
Statistics about Watermarks
on Stamps.**

BY F. P.

I. The Meaning of Watermarks.

There are two species of watermarks known in the philatelic world. The first species are the so-called manufacturer's watermark, that means the trade-mark of the paper mill that furnishes the paper to the Government for the manufacture of stamps. The second are such watermarks as have an historical, heraldical or postal meaning in a scientific way. As there are a great many varieties of watermarks I will give only a short review of the most important. The anchor on some issues of Cape Colony, which means hope, as the full name is Cape of Good Hope, and is of an historical meaning, (name of the country.) The same meaning have the letters R. A., on the stamps of the Republica Argentina. The letter Q on Queensland Stamps, the crown and N. S. W. on New South Wales Stamps: the star or N. Z. on New Zealand Stamps, the crown and the letters S. A. on South Australia stamps, the crown and the letter V on Victoria stamps: and further, the letters Tas. on the stamps of Tasmania, (named in honor of the navigator Tasman, the discover.) I now come to watermarks that have an heraldical meaning. The earliest issues of newspaper wrappers of Russia, and some issues of those of Hamburg, (Free City, Europe.) have the complete coat of arms of the respective country as watermarks. As parts of arms are to recognize the crowns of Great Britain, Denmark, Italy, British India, Sweden, further, the Swan, of Western Australia; the Lion with the Hatchet of Norway, (1 issue); the Shell-snake of Travancover (native Indian state), the Eagle of Mexico, (newspaper), the Half Moon and Star of Egypt, the Lillies of Naples, (under French Bourbon family rule), the Sun of Argentina, the Garters (Garter Order) of Great Britain, and of the same country, the Rose and Clover Leaf (the white and red leaf of the rose signifies the union of York, white; and of Lancaster, red.) There are two watermarks that have abbreviations of the names of rulers, as the letters L. L., (Signifying Leopold, King of Belgium,) and further the letter W, (signifying William, King of the Netherlands.) Luxemburg stamps, as up to 1890, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg belonged to Holland, and as King William had no male heir, the Grand Duchy fell as an heir-loom to Adolph, formerly Duke of Nassau, House of Orange—Nassau, Representatives, in a botanical sense, the Island of Jamaica, West Indies, shows as watermark,

the Pineapple, which plant grows there in abundance. A piece of culture-history of the old age is the pyramids, (obelisks,) of Egypt, Africa. Watermarks of a postal nature are the dove, (pigeon,) of Switzerland newspaper wrappers. Further, the post-horn on stamps of Brunswick, Duchy, in Germany; and Norway, Netherlands. Further, the Portuguese words, "Corneio Brasileiro," (Brazilian Post,) on newspaper wrappers of Brazil. British India shows the elephant.

II. How to find watermarks.

As there are different varieties or species of watermarks, so there are also different ways of finding the same. The most simply for you is to hold the stamp before the window or light because the watermark is easier to see, as for instance with Hamburg and Brunswick Duchy. Another method, especially adapted for English Colonial stamps, to find out if the watermark is a crown or the letters C. C. or U. A., is as follows: You look at the stamp in the dark, perhaps under a table, and with good, careful looking you will see the watermark as a dark object.

More difficult watermarks, as for instance the Eagle of Lubeck, (Free City in Germany,) and the Swan of Western Australia you can find when you lay the face of the stamp on black leather or oil cloth, and you touch with a wet finger the back side of the stamp; but don't wet the stamp entirely! In this way by and by the watermark comes out, but unclear to see. Generally you can find all watermarks if you do as follows: Put a few drops of benzine or alcohol in a small japanned-wood plate, and put the stamp into it, face down and upon the back side the watermark will be seen more or less clear. The greatest difficulty and trouble is to find out the watermark on the first issue of stamps of Russia, unperforated and perforated, and also on the earliest issue of Norway. You hold the stamp with hand extended arm-length, but not against the window. Look now very sharply at the back of the stamp, and you will see the watermark clear white showing out from the dark front of the stamp. I hope this advice will suffice for beginners as well as for the advanced collectors of stamps. But it is easier when you know what form the watermark is: animal, plants, letters or other design.

III. Artificial Watermarks.

It is no proof at all if you have a stamp with a watermark that it is a genuine stamp. Experts, alias counterfeiters, put them on stamps artificially. A regular watermark is made as follows: A papermill manufactures the paper, and while this process is going on,

the design intended for a watermark is placed inside the machine, on a roller. While the papermass, call it stew, is shovelled by mechanical means up and down the roller with the raised figures, (watermarks,) cannot get so much of the mixture, and as a consequence the paper is thinner on this place and the light shines more easily through it. Paper in such a way manufactured was for a long time thought sufficient protection against stamp counterfeiters, and some governments still stick to this idea. But human genius always finds a way for wrongdoing, and the domains of "Mother Philatelia" are a nice field for counterfeiters. Their way of manufacturing watermarks is as follows:

The paper is wetted and warmed, then put into a press. This press contains a steel stamp on which is engraved the intended design for a watermark. While the paper is pressed this steel stamp cuts into the paper. While, or better through the pressing, the paper gets thicker with the exception of those places where the steel stamp has touched it. These places on the paper are thinner and the watermark can be plainly seen—counterfeited.

The manufacture of these artificially made watermarks is so far extended in Europe that a German Physical Technical Manufacturing Company has published a remedy by which counterfeited watermarks can be found out in the following way:

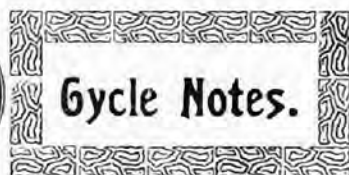
Lay the (counterfeiters) pressed paper in a solution of natron, and in consequence of this process, the pressed paper becomes so thoroughly boiled up, that the artificial watermark disappears in a short time. Of course, the regular made paper if put into the solution boils up also, but by this process the genuine watermark shows more plainly than usual. It is a pity that this chemical process is not suitable for stamps, because the sharp natron solution would damage the color.

Another method for counterfeiters to manufacture artificial watermarks into the paper is as follows:

The counterfeiter takes in hand a steel or iron stamp, puts it into a solution of sulphuric-saltpetre acid, and stamps the paper at different places, and quickly washes off the paper. This acid changes the places stamped into a so-called artificial pergameneous paper, on which places the light shines much more through than on the other parts of the paper, not touched by the acid. This artificially-made watermark is now plain to see.

This falsification can also be proven, because the fibres of the paper, stamped with the acid, are horny and not too distinguished, and if, at such places, other chemicals are applied they never take it up as good as clear paper fibre. Of course one must use a microscope for this procedure.

The manufacture of artificially made watermarks is far extended, just as well as counterfeiting postage stamps. A serious stamp collector should have a book about watermarks, which is published in English, German and French languages, and contains designs of watermarks and names of the country.



The East Boston News is arranging a road race for May 8; about forty individual prizes will be offered.

Patriot's Day was a great bicycle day. A great many of the Lowell riders visited Concord and Lexington during the day.

The California Cycle Club has seceded from the L. A. W., and formed new rules for their own government. The rupture has been caused on account of Sunday racing which is forbidden by the L. A. W.

Lowell bicycle dealers report an active trade during the present month. If you want the best wheels see GEO. BACHELDER.

The Denver wheelmen at a meeting held on April 13 passed a resolution favoring local option in Sunday races and calling for a session of the national assembly. If local option is not granted they threaten to secede from the L. A. W.

The Massachusetts Legislature takes the lead on bicycle legislation. April 18 the Legislature passed a bill imposing a heavy fine on bicycle thieves. The penalty for the second offence for stealing of a bicycle valued at \$10.00 or more, imprisonment in State's Prison not exceeding five years, or by a fine not less than \$100 or by imprisonment in jail for not less than three months.

The Minnesota wheelmen have seceded from

L. A. W. and organized a division of the proposed United Wheelmen of America.

The Boston & Albany Railroad Company has ordered 400 sets of appliances for storing bicycles in baggage cars.

No one needs to be without a bike this summer. Geo. Bachelder (see ad.) is now offering a new Reliable Reading bicycle for only \$60.00 with a discount for cash. Mr. Bachelder sells this wheel on the installment plan, thereby enabling a person of limited means to take a spin on his own wheel.

A newly devised gearing for bicycles has a steel ball set in every link of the chain, the sprocket wheel being hollowed out to receive the balls; the chain being made so that the teeth of the sprocket wheel are used as well as the ball socket.

Glass Jars

are the best for fruit.

Raspberries

and

Blueberries

. . . In Glass Jars,

Try them. They are Fine.

BOSTON BRANCH GROCERY,

455 Middlesex Street, - Lowell, Mass.

Caleb L. Smith, Prop.,

Opposite Northern Station.

SMALL HALL FOR RENT

Two Evenings.

GEO. H. MARSTON,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

MY TAILOR, 104 Central St.

1000 Spring Styles to Select From.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Garments Cut to Fit and made up to order in the Latest Style at prices that will defy competition.

Dress Suits, Clerical and Military Uniforms a Specialty.

P. J. HALLINAN, Lowell, Mass.

GUMB BROS.

LOWELL, MASS.

Designers, Manufacturers and Importers of Fine

GRANITE AND MARBLE MONUMENTS.

And All Kinds of Artistic Memorials.

Salesroom and Office, Gorham Street, Cor. Anderson
NEAR EDSON CEMETERY. TELEPHONE CONNECTION.

You have not seen the

Reliable

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Bicycle

It is only \$60.00 on easy terms, with a liberal discount for cash.

It is the most up-to-date wheel on the market for the price.

I only want you to see it, that will settle it.

GEO. H. BACHELDER,

Near New Post Office,

23 POST OFFICE AVENUE.

LOWELL, MASS.

Until sold, we offer the following

BARGAINS

	Cat.	Our price.
Cuba, 1876, 50c*	.15	.05
St. Christopher, 1880, 4d.,	1.00	2.50
New South Wales, 1892, 12d.* 1.20,	.50	.20
Hawaii, 1882, 15d	3.00	1.75
Gold Coast, 1875, 1p.	7.50	4.00
Nova Scotia, 1900, 10c.	2.00	1.10
Gibraltar, 1880, 75c.	1.00	.70
Bahamas, 1882, 4d.	.75	.40
Great Britain, 1872, 3p. rose*	1.25	.70
Dominica, 1883, 1p.	1.25	.70
Barbadoes, 1800, 2 sh. 6p.	1.25	.85
Cape of Good Hope, 1d.	1.25	.85
New Zealand, newspaper, 1.20*	.05	.03
New Brunswick, 1800, 1c*	.10	.00
Congo, 1895, 5c.*	.03	.02
U. S. Revenue, 3c Playing Card.	8.00	3.75

Stamps marked with an * are unused.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

LOWELL, MASS.

A \$25,000.00 Stamp Collection.

Our publishers have had a good many big collections in the last few years, and we thought it would be hard to beat the Castle collection for which we paid the sum of £10,000, followed soon after by the Ehrenbach collection of German stamps for £6000. Now, however, these figures, great as they are, are rendered almost insignificant by the size and amount of the vast collection we have just acquired, the value of which is nearly £15,000. This collection is a part of that of Mr. F. W. Ayer, of the United States of America, well known as the largest purchaser of stamps in the States. The portion of the collection we have got consists practically of the rarities only. The common stamps Mr. Ayer has not troubled to part with or to value but we have secured the finest lot of the *great* rarities that has ever been on the market since we have been stamp dealers. It is not our intention to publish a price list of this collection, as it would be giving too much information away in regard to the market price of the first-rate rarities.

Stanley Gibbons, in Monthly Journal.

Remainders.

The Peruvian Government has ordered an auction sale of all stamps, postal cards, etc., which have not been in circulation for the space of four months, sale to be held May 31, 1897. There are 4, 536, 093 stamps, cards and envelopes, in this lot with a face value of \$421, 410.83. The board having the sale in charge puts a reserve price of \$5,000.00 on the lot and all bidders must deposit 10 per cent. of the amount they bid with the government.

The Government of Hawaii destroyed all obsolete stamps in the hands of the Post Office Department on the morning of Jan. 28, 97. It is claimed that 870, 071 stamps were destroyed by being burned.

The total value of stamps ordered to be sold (no sale after Dec. 31, '96) or destroyed was \$147,000.00; the values claimed to have been destroyed was \$100,000. Reports from Honolulu state that Stanley Gibbons of London, was present at the destroying of the stamps and offered \$5,000 for the lot before they were consumed. The stamps were cast into a furnace in sealed sacks, and it is intimated that all the sacks were not filled with stamps.

A druggist in a small Illinois town who reads the newspapers was much struck with the ingenuity of a fellow craftsman, who advertised thirteen two cent stamps for a cent and a quarter, and then charged his customers a cent and a quarter of a dollar.

The Illinois druggist decided to resort to the same kind of advertising and placed a placard in his window. This is the way it read: "Thirteen two-cent stamps for 1 1-4 cents."

Before the clerk's error was discovered the druggist was threatened with bodily violence by several would-be purchasers of postage stamps at bargain counter prices.

Liberal Offer for Afghan Stamps.

It is said that some time ago a small potentate in Afghanistan offered a British collector \$42,000 for a complete set of stamps of Afghanistan.

MIDDLESEX RESTAURANT

54 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL.

25 Cent Dinners a Specialty.

All delicacies in their season.

Rear Entrance, Back of New Post Office.

J. C. LEITH,

DEALER IN

Boots, Shoes and Rubbers,

First Class Repairing.

521 Lawrence Street, Lowell, Mass.

CHEAP!

Yes, at lowest prices.

1000 Stamp Hinges, post-paid,	10 cents.
3000 Stamp Hinges, post-paid,	25 cents.
Standard Catalogue, "	53 cents.
New International Stamp Album,	85 cents.
Postage or Express, Extra.	
Blank Album, post-paid,	25 cents.
U. S. "National" Stamp Album, post-paid,	\$1.20.

Foreign Collectors

Do you want to exchange your duplicate stamps for stamps not in your collection? Send us a consignment and we will promptly send exchange or cash. Always mention what you want for your stamps.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.

I offer below a few bargains for cash.

UNITED STATES

2c Certificate orange,	52c
30c Postage, due, 1894,	42c
1000 "Perfect Stamp Hinges,	10c

I also have a fine line of approval sheets of stamps at 33-3 and 50 per cent. discount. Have over 3500 varieties.

(Formerly with Crowell & Hill, of Decatur, Ill.)

HENRY C. CROWELL,

Box 50,

Glenville, Ohio.

Send for our Superb

Sheets at 50 per cent. discount.

Fine Selection. Better Stamps at 33-3 per cent. and 25 per cent. off, also at net prices. Send without delay.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,
LOWELL, MASS.

Bargains! Bargains!

While they last, we offer a few stamps at bargain prices.

Money returned if stamps are sold. Order at once.

SETS.

We offer for a short time the following bargains: All stamps unused:

Cuba, 8 varieties,	.07
Cuba, 4 varieties,	.05
Cuba, 15 varieties,	.15
Nicaragua, 1894, official, 10 var.	.45
Heligoland, 19 var.	.45
Heligoland, 12 var.	.35
Ecuador, 1887, 4 var.	.25
Ecuador, 1881, 6 var.	.12
French Colonies, 1c, 18 var.	.24
French Colonies, 2c, 18 var.	.24
French Colonies, 4c, 18 var.	.35
Barbados, 1892, 9 varieties,	1.80
Gold Coast, 1891, (set)	1.60
Malta, 1885, 5 var.,	.60
Tasmania, 1892, 5 var.,	.75
Sarawak, 4 var.,	.28
St. Lucus, 6 var.,	.80
Salvador, (\$2 \$5 \$10) 3 var.,	.40
Lagas, 8 var.,	1.20
Costa Rica, 6 var.,	.10
Venezuela, 5 var.,	.15
Mexico, 5 var.,	.20
Salvador, 1892, 10 var.,	.45

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

159 Middlesex Street,

Lowell, Mass.

CUBA LIBRE!

\$1.00 worth of Stamps Cuban FREE!!

We want to renew the interest of the young people in stamp collecting, and at the same time increase the circulation of our magazine, so for a limited time we propose to give away

ABSOLUTELY FREE

Sixteen varieties of unused Cuban stamps, 1857 to 1882 in sizes only, catalogued by Scott's 59th Edition at \$1.00.

How to get them. Send 25c for a year's subscription.

THE EASTERN PHILATELIST

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Some may ask how we can make this liberal offer; well, we don't make anything the first year, but hope for many renewals.

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Until sold, we offer the following dues, at the following prices. * Means unused.

	Cat.	Our price,
1883	5c*	.25 .15
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	5c	.05 .03
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1894	1c*	.03 .02
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POSTAGE STAMPS, \$1.00.

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FREDERICK PHILIPS,

15 First Avenue, NEW YORK, U. S. A.

A New Use for Cancelled Postage Stamps.

The gathering of old postage stamps with the idea of making a collection of the different varieties is not the only use to which cancelled stamps are put.

Stamp plates, artistically arranged stamps, or parts of stamps, in the forming of various designs, are quite common.

The decorating of all furniture in a room, or the decorating of the walls of a room with old stamps is not common, and when the stamps are properly arranged, they give not only an added value to the furniture in the room but also a unique and beautiful effect.

Ernest Chase of this city who is an enthusiastic stamp collector, has recently decorated his room in his home with cancelled stamps.

The room was first papered with light tint of ingrain paper, and then the stamps were pasted on the light background.

The border around the room consists of a large scroll made by pasting the common two cent stamps side by side in the form of a very graceful scroll. Above this is a row of Columbian two cent stamps, and under the scroll is a row of two cent green envelope stamps, making a very pretty border. The figure of the paper is a fleur-de-lis pattern made of two cent red stamps, not one of which is cut, placed at equal distances around the room forming a diamond pattern.

The chair rail is made of one cent blue stamps placed so as to form a "Grecian fret" design making an effect very beautiful.

The dado is paneled off with two cent red stamps, the corners of each panel being fancy. Around the bottom of the room is a row of envelope stamps of various colors and of one and two cent values. It required nearly 10,000 stamps to decorate the room, and consumed all of Mr. Chase's spare time for nearly six weeks.

The decoration of the room is indeed unique and a great novelty in this city, and is greatly admired by collector's many friends who have been permitted to visit it.

Mrs. Geo. Wilson, of Birmingham, N. Y., is the owner of a valuable collection of old stamps on a bedroom set, consisting of bedstead, dresser washstand and chairs, said to be decorated with stamps from every stamp issuing county on the globe.

For seven years Mrs. Wilson has been collecting, having gathered during that time 862,000 stamps.

The stamps were first glued to the furniture and then covered with a heavy spar varnish, which allows the furniture to be washed without injury to the stamps.

The first chair of this strange set was decorated many years ago when owned by a colored family in Virginia. The chair is of antique make of the 16th century, and has been handed down from hand to hand until it fell into the possession of Mrs. Yancy, a colored lady living in Ovid, N. Y. Mrs. Yancy made a present of the chair to Mrs. Wilson, who at once conceived the idea of decorating a full set in like style.

The United States stamps predominate in the decorating, but every nation in which the international postal system reigns is represented

Our Approval Sheets

At 50 Per Cent. Discount

are the best on the market.

Boys, you can make lots of money selling from our sheets.

SEND FOR A LOT.

Better stamps at 33 1-3, 25 per cent. and net prices.

Good Revenues at 50 per cent. dis.

AGENTS WANTED.

Reference Desired.

STAMP COLLECTIONS.

We have an U. S. Album, (new,) containing 200 stamps; to sell cheap. Write for price.

One Best Album, several hundred varieties, listing about \$30.00; to sell cheap. Write us.

Another Best Album, with about \$12.00 list, for \$5.00 cash.

We want to buy Old Postage and Revenue Stamps, also Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Foundland, British Colonies, etc., for which we will pay prompt cash.

Look over your old letters from 1842 to 1882 and send us the envelopes and stamps. Do not take the stamp off the envelope. Also look over your old documents for Revenue stamps. We buy all kinds. There are thousands of dollars' worth of stamps packed away in old trunks and bags and this is just the season when you have time to look them up. It will pay you to look up your old stamps. We are headquarters for buying all such stamps. Common trash not wanted. In all cases send us the amount you want for your stamps.

Revenues and Good U. S. Wanted.

Send us a list of what you have, with price wanted.

T. E. Adams & Co.,

LOWELL, MASS.

in goodly numbers in many varieties. The U. S. stamps show many valuable obsolete stamps that are seldom seen even by many advanced collectors.

Mrs. Wilson has been offered several hundred dollars for the set, but will not sell to anyone. Cornell University has made several efforts to secure the set, but as yet have been unable to secure possession of the novelty.

A well known London barrister has several articles of furniture decorated with stamps.

Among the collection is a light rosewood chair covered with some of the rarest stamps in existence, and estimated at five times its weight in gold. This article, which is covered all over except one leg bears a collection that has taken twenty years to accumulate, and when finished will be as valuable as if it were studded with gems.



Lyford's Magic Pain Cure

[Formerly called Lolord's Extract of Spices.]

Used externally cures Neuralgia, Headache, Toothache, Puerisy, Lame Back, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Inflamed and Painful Joints, Bunions, etc.

Used internally cures Dyspepsia, Painters' Cholice, Cholera Morbus and Summer Complaint.

This never-failing remedy has stood the severest tests during the last twenty years, and is today more popular as a ready relief than ever before.

PUT UP IN 25 AND 50 CENT BOTTLES.

If your dealer does not keep it, you can send direct to the Proprietor,

S. G. LYFORD, LOWELL, MASS.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

One notice in this Department allowed to each subscriber if sent with remittance. Extra notices, 15 cents each. Non-subscribers 25 cents each insertion. All notices must be for EXCHANGE, and limited to 30 words each; notices over 30 words, 1 cent per word extra.

I will exchange a bicycle for the best offer in stamps. Only U. S., N. and S. American and British Colonials wanted. Make offer.

WM. DAVIS, 102 High St., Lowell, Mass.

Postmarks from any state in the Union, or any country in the world exchanged for stamps. Can supply postmarks from nearly every city in the United States. Let us know what you want and what stamps you will give for it.

T. E. ADAMS, Lowell, Mass.

I desire to exchange a Students' Camera, with 12 plates and 12 blue prints, ready to take pictures, (with full directions for using,) for good U. S. or British Colonial Stamps. Will accept stamps cataloguing \$6.50 for Camera. T. EDWARDS, 157 Middlesex St., Room 1, Lowell, Mass.

COINS WANTED.

We want to buy old coins. Also to exchange stamps for coins. Write us.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

Money! Money! Do You Collect Bills?

We have a large assortment of **CONFEDERATE AND BROKEN-BANK BILLS** for sale at low prices. Following are a few prices:

\$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, Confederate Bills, set.	.30
4 Broken Bank Bills, (\$35.00)	.20
\$50.00 Mississippi R. R. Co.,	.12
\$2.00 Bay Mining Co.,	.12

\$1.00 City of Omaha, (Neb.) new,	.15
\$100.00 Confederate Note, 1862	.15
\$100.00 Confederate note, 1862, fine.	.15
\$5.00 State bank of North Carolina.	.10
£50 Bond, Grand Republic Gold and Silver Mining Co.,	.25
\$5.00 State of North Carolina.	.10
\$1.00 Virginia Treasury Note.	.10
\$1.00 Bank of Hudson,	.15
\$1.00 Adrian Insurance Co., (Mich) fine.	.15
\$10.00 Bay State Mining Company.	.15
\$5.00 Allegheny County Bank, (Md)	.15
\$1.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo.	.15
50c Confederate Script,	.10
\$5.00 Bank of Hudson, N. Y.	.15
\$5.00 State Bank, South Carolina.	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.08
\$10.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus.	.06
\$5.00 Bank of Georgetown, South Carolina.	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.10
\$5.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus	.12
\$5.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo	.10
\$3.00 Adrian Insurance Co., Mich., fine.	.15
\$3.00 City of Omaha, handsome.	.15
\$1.00 Bank of Washenaw, Mich.,	.12
\$3.00 Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, N. Y.	.18
\$1.00 River Raising and Lake Erie R. R. Co.	

(Signed by J. Q. Adams, President.)

On orders of \$1.00 or over we allow 25 per cent. discount, except on Confederate set.

Other bills cheap.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

LOWELL, MASS.

THE MERCHANT'S COLLECTOR, FOR APRIL, 1897.

STAMP SWINDNER CAUGHT.

A stamp collector, Herbert W. Porter, alias H. H. Williams, was arrested in Philadelphia Pa., April 7, by Deputy Marshall Myers, is 19 years of age, and resided on Parrish Street with his wife. When arrested, he was at work in his father's shoe store on Lancaster Avenue. He was taken to the Post Office building and given a hearing before United States Commissioner Bell.

It appeared from the testimony and evidence presented that the prisoner has obtained both money and stamps from collectors and dealers and made no returns in either case. He advertised to sell stamps, but when money was sent him for stamps he failed to respond; he also ordered stamps and sheets from dealers, but neglected to make returns.

The prisoner stated, when arrested, "Nearly everybody in the stamp collecting business is a beat and I am one of them." He has been committed to prison for another hearing.

There are others doing the very same thing with impunity. There may be several of these "smart chaps" in the government toils soon.

The success of our Agency in collecting accounts for stamp dealers and collectors warrants us in soliciting the patronage of every dealer and collector in the United States and Canada. We are making it our specialty showing up frauds, dead-heads and criminals who have been working Philatelists all over the country.

We are compiling a Blue Book, that will give a list and record of each person who refuses to pay his honest bills.

This **Blue Book** will be supplied **Free to Our Patrons** in an up-to-date form, and will be the only book of its kind issued. Due care will be exercised by us not to advertise anyone until we have secured reliable information on each case.

To know **WHOM NOT TO TRUST** is of great value now-a-days; we furnish our patrons with such a list free. Write us for information.

OUR METHODS for the securing of settlements are practical and up to date, and invariably brings about the desired result.

No Membership Fee is charged by us for handling your accounts. We take your bills, make all collections without any expense to you, charging only a small commission on moneys collected. Should we be unable to secure any payment or settlement on your bills, there is no expense whatever to you.

WE GUARANTEE two things, viz: prompt and honest returns for all moneys collected. We make returns in all cases monthly, and when desired, every one or two weeks.

OUR ATTORNEY who has charge of all legal proceedings is one of the best legal advisers in this city, and all cases requiring legal services will receive the very closest attention.

OUR TERMS are low, ranging from 10 to 25 per cent for amounts collected, or settlement effected, according to size of bill and difficulty in collecting it.

A great many small stamp accounts are being sent us for collection. In such cases we make a special rate for all bills of \$2.00 or under. Accounts under 50 cents respectfully declined.

We Want Your Bills to collect. We have secured settlements where others have failed and we can do so again. Send us a lot of bills on trial. If collectable, we will collect them.

We collect accounts in every city, town or village in the United States or Canada, and push such legal action as may be necessary.

A BLACK LIST, or a list of persons who refuse to pay their honest bills is always of great service to those extending credit, and if carefully compiled and followed, will save hundreds of dollars to our patrons.

ACCOUNTS FOR SALE.

Until further notice, we offer the following accounts for sale:

George C. Crowley, 308 Broadway, N. Y.,	4.93
W. G. Foye, Athol, Mass.,	3.21
Wm. Flint, 48 West Miller Street, Newark, N. J.,	2.07
Wm. Livingston, West Tewksbury, Mass.,	2.50
Mrs. D. O'Byrne, Phillips Street, Lowell,	3.11
Leon Bergeon, Middlesex Street, Lowell,	2.50
Matthau McDonald, Lowell	0.70
Miss Nettie Seavey, Lowell,	21.80
J. G. Lake, Bridge Street, Lowell,	3.84
James Robarge, 19 Westford Street, Lowell,	255.00
George V. Cutting, Lowell,	20.00
Anders Gustafson, Lowell,	7.75
Daniel Carville, 13 Sawtell Place, Lowell,	63.94
Patrick Duffy, Lowell,	4.00
Wm. Jenkins, O'Connell Street, Lowell,	2.00

ADDRESSES WANTED.

We desire the present address of the following persons. Any information leading to their location will be appreciated. The addresses given below are the latest known to us.

Wm. Farrow, New York City, N. Y.
Clyde Armstrong, Bolton, Ga.
John McAlbin, Dracont, Mass.
Thomas Bursnell, Laconia, N. H.
George E. Haskins, Athol, Mass.
Herbert W. Thibbetts, Providence, R. I.

Merchants' Collecting Agency,
159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.





Volume 1.
Number 5.

MAY,

1897.

The —

American



— Boys,

Story and Stamp Paper.

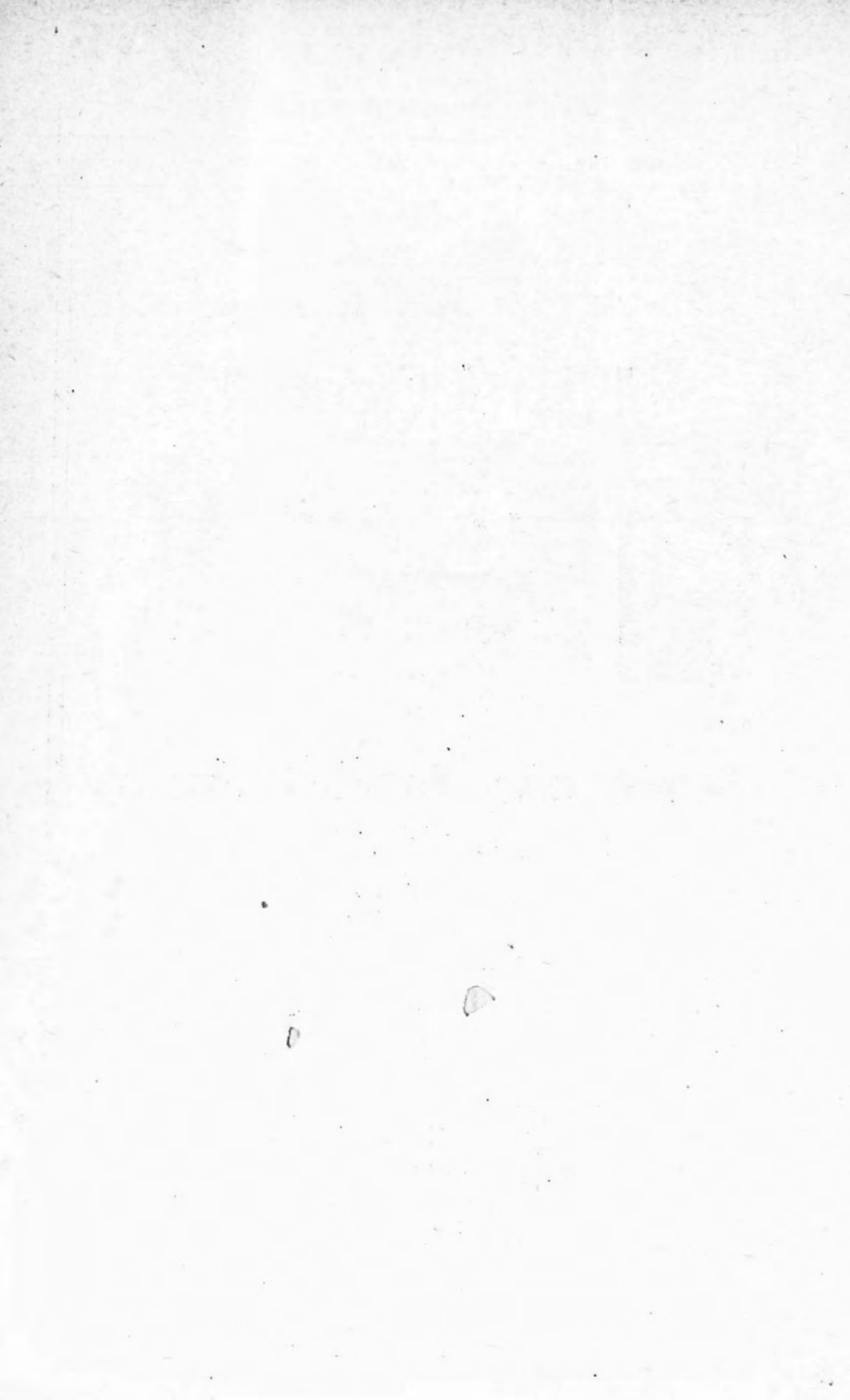


T. E. ADAMS, PUBLISHER.



LOWELL, MASS.,

U. S. A.



LUCKY LARRY, THE BOY COLLECTOR.

— OR —

THE STORY OF A STAMP.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE.

CHAPTER VIII.

Lucky Larry was begun in number one and back numbers can be obtained of the publishers.

CONTINUED FROM NO. IV.

As Mr. Armstrong and the others entered the broker's shop, Block and his conferee were at the counter conferring with Stafford, the proprietor of the place.

Stafford looked up and recognized Armstrong. The two exchanged glances.

Then the broker exclaimed in a voice loud enough for all to hear:

"I'm afraid you'll have to go somewhere else with that draft. I have heard of that English firm before and have no doubt they are all right. But I haven't time to bother with them. So good day."

"There's big discount in it for you," cried Block dissatisfiedly, "I tell you, you are foolish not to negotiate."

"Can't help it, I'm too busy just now. Try somebody else."

With which the detective and Stafford exchanged winks. Then Block and his chum turned to confront with amazement the detective and his companions. The effect was startling.

Block recoiled with a sharp cry. His companion dodged for the door. Larry and the others tried to stop him, but he evaded them.

"Never mind, let him go," cried the detective as he slipped the hand-cuffs on Block, "he's of little account."

"What do you want me for? Where's your warrant?" angrily asked Block as he tried to slip from the detective's grasp.

"You'll find out quick enough!" replied the detective, "Where is that rare British Guiana

stamp on the yellow envelope! How about that message from the Astor House? You may as well give up the game my fine fellow."

Block stood in the centre of the group, low-browed and sullen. Prentiss was conversing with Stafford.

From the broker he learned a startling fact, and one which puzzled him not a little.

Block had offered a draft for negotiation with a London firm of brokers from parties in Georgetown, British Guiana and which bore an old date. Stafford could not remember the name.

"I don't doubt but that draft is as good as wheat," he declared, "And I might have negotiated it for him by cable. But there was the possibility of it's being a forgery."

"A wise precaution," said the stamp collector. "Let us see what they will do with him at Police Headquarters."

Armstrong led his prisoner to Detective Headquarters and Larry, with Prentiss and Meredith, followed as a matter of necessity, for their evidence was all important.

Inspector Byrnes was pleased when he saw that the stamp thief was captured. Block was taken into an inner office and carefully searched.

The yellow envelope was found in an inner pocket with the stamp intact. Larry looked laughingly at it, but the Inspector said:

"We shall have to hold the stolen property until after the trial. It will be returned to its owners then."

The detective, Armstrong, who had been going through Block's pockets, now exclaimed:

"What is this?"

He pulled out a long thin piece of paper. It

was stained and gummed, as with mucilage. It bore a large stamp, and the date Georgetown, B. G. in plain letters.

Everybody stared at the draft, for such it was.

Larry glanced at it without a thought of its possible importance to him, until Inspector Byrnes took it and read:

"Montrose & Co., London.

Pay through any New York Banking House to Mrs. Vane, or her order, The Sum of Ten Thousand Pounds in Gold

Signed: Lawrence Vane.

Endorsed by Clark & Co., Georgetown, B. G.

For a moment there was a hush in the room. Then Larry gave a great cry.

"Why, that is the draft my father sent to my mother from Georgetown twelve years ago and which she has never received."

A few words explained the matter to Byrnes, he then turned to Block.

"Where did you get this draft?" he asked, "it will go better with you at the trial if you tell the truth."

"I will tell the truth," said Block.

"Well, what is it?"

"The draft was in that yellow envelope."

A sharp cry escaped all.

"In that envelope?"

"Yes," replied Block, "in sealing it the sender unconsciously gummed the leaf onto the draft and it was so thin that you would never dream of its presence there without a close examination. I found it only by the merest accident."

The astonishment of all was great. The effect upon Larry was beyond description. All pressed about him to congratulate him.

But all he could say, was:

"What will mother say, it will be a surprise indeed."

It seemed that after all, John Moore had been faithful to his trust. The long-missing draft, which would have made Mrs. Vane so independent all these years, had come to light at last.

Certainly it will be agreed that the circumstances were strange and unreal enough.

That the valuable bit of paper should have remained so long undiscovered in its position was very curious. But of course Block told the truth.

Words can hardly explain the effect of all this upon Lucky Larry. That he was indeed lucky the reader will agree.

From a poor boy he was now, with his mother, raised to the standard of a wealthy individual. Fifty thousand dollars was indeed a respectable

fortune and placed them happily beyond present want.

Larry's head swam.

He grasped Mr. Prentiss' hand and cried:

"I can now lift the mortgage on our house and pay you back the money you so kindly loaned us!"

"There is no hurry," replied Prentiss, "but you can now sell me the stamp for my collection. I will give you a check at once and also settle with Mr. Meredith here for his claim on it."

"By no means," cried Larry, "I am not wholly ungrateful. Do you think I can forget the great debt of kindness I owe you? I have met with good fortune—I can afford to be generous: the stamp is yours, Mr. Prentiss, a gift from me. And a token of my esteem and good-will."

"No—no—" began the stamp collector.

"But I insist!" cried Larry.

"Well, we shall see," said Prentiss, "wait until after the trial of this rascal, and we really regain the stamp."

Larry went home to his mother that night in a happy frame of mind. When he broached the good news to her she nearly fainted with surprise and joy. She clasped Larry in her arms.

"God has sent us this kind reward," she said.

"May we truly live so as to well deserve it."

The draft was forwarded to England by Mr. Prentiss and pronounced all right, and the money in gold was sent by a return steamer. It was safely invested for Larry and his mother and times looked bright indeed for them.

About this time Prentiss made a proposal to Larry. This was, that they should embark in the stamp business together.

This suited Larry, and today the firm of Prentiss & Vane is one of the most reputable in New York. Success smiled upon them.

And one day returning home from business, Larry found Mr. Prentiss in the parlor with his mother. They arose and it could be seen that Mrs. Vane's face was very tearful and happy while Prentiss said:

"Larry, your mother and I were old schoolmates. After all these years the old affection has lived. Will you take me as your father?"

For a moment Larry was startled. Then he sprang forward and embraced the other joyfully.

"Nothing could make me happier," he cried.

Could we find a more propitious point at which to end our tale? We have seen how Larry Vane merited his title of Lucky Larry, with which let us us write

THE END

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

You all know a great deal about George Washington, but perhaps you do not know so much about Benjamin Franklin, and you may have wondered why his picture instead of that of some other man, was placed on the first issue of stamps and on nearly all the one cent stamps since. Possibly you have fallen into the error of supposing he was the first Postmaster General of the United States, but he was not; Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts had that honor conferred on him. With the exception of Washington, Franklin did more than any other man towards freeing the Colonies from the bondage of England, and that is the reason why a greatful country holds him in remembrance.

He was born in Boston in 1806, and his family little dreamed that he would become such a great and distinguished man. And just think what a family there was! He had fifteen brothers and sisters! As he was the fifteenth child some of his brothers and sisters had grown up and left home before he was born, but there were plenty left.

When Benjamin was eight years old, his father thought he would educate him to be a minister, but found he could not afford to keep him at school long enough. When he was ten years of age his father took him to help him in his business, which was that of a soap-boiler and tallow-candler. Some of you may not know what a tallow-candler is. You must remember that in those days people generally lived in a primitive style and that they used candles for lights. The candles were not as nice as those we use now for decoration and illuminations, but were made of tallow. Benjamin had to cut off the wicks and fill the moulds with the grease and he disliked the work exceedingly; in fact he disliked it so much that he wanted to run away to sea. His father was afraid he would, so he sent him to one of his brother's to learn the printer's trade. He liked this better, for it brought him more in contact with books, of which he was very fond. He saved every cent he could in order to buy them, and he got up early and sat up late, that he might have time for study.

He stayed with his brother some years, but they did not get along very well together. His brother thought he tried to show off his knowledge too much, and he thought his brother did not treat him fairly, so one day he sold some of his books, collected all the money he could, tied his clothes up in a bundle, and ran away.

At first he went to New York, but as he couldn't find anything to do there, he went to Philadelphia where he was fortunate enough to get work in a printing office. In the course of time by being very industrious and frugal, he saved money enough to go back to Boston and make a visit. According to his own account he felt rather proud that he had done so well, and perhaps he showed it too much during this visit. However, it didn't spoil him, for he went back to Philadelphia and went to work again with renewed industry and energy, and after a few years he was able to publish a newspaper of his own.

He was always thinking of original things to

do; he started the first circulating library in Philadelphia; he was the originator of the modern business advertisement; he published an almanac called "Poor Richard's Almanac" which besides the calendar for the different months, contained a great deal of practical wisdom in short sentences, many of them having become famous; he invented several useful articles, an open stove in which to burn wood being one of them; he was also very fond of making experiments in electricity and was considered one of the greatest electricians of that age, and he wrote many books on the subject which the French, in particular, prized very highly.

As he grew older he took a great deal of interest in public affairs and always showed so much common sense that he was often consulted by his fellow men, and was given many posts of honor. He was Postmaster of Philadelphia at one time, and Deputy Postmaster General of the British Colonies from 1753 to 1774, and was the first one who made the postal service pay, on this side of the water.

When the heavy taxes imposed by England became unbearable, Franklin was sent there to see what he could do towards making things easier for the colonies. But King George III was determined to have his own way, and by so doing lost his possessions in America.

When Independence was declared in 1776, Franklin was sent to France to ask for aid in carrying on the war, and because the French people thought much of him, they sent us money and soldiers. It is probable that if it had not been for him, France would not have given us much assistance, for she did not like the other men sent there with him. You know the great Statue of Liberty in New York harbor was given us a few years ago by the French to commemorate their friendliness at the time of the Revolution.

Franklin also helped to make the final treaty of peace between the mother country and her children.

Now I think you will find it interesting to look over your stamps and see how many portraits of Franklin you have, and notice how they differ from each other.

Georgiana Brown.

A young stamp collector scores a point.

Recently in one of the public schools of Maine, a teacher asked a large class, "Where is Montenegro, and who is its ruler?" And she also asked some questions about several small countries. A boy, who is a stamp collector, was the only one in the class who could answer the questions, and he answered them all correctly. That boy went home feeling very comfortable.

G. B.

BOYS AND GIRLS You can make money selling our Indigo Blueing Cards. It is cheaper, more convenient, and gives a purer tint than the liquid blueing. Can be sold at every house, and you make 100 per cent. profit. Send 10 cents for sample package and terms.

T. E. ADAMS, Lowell, Mass.

THE AMERICAN BOYS,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

A monthly Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting, Short Stories, History, Cycling News, Biography, etc.

Subscriptions, 50 cents per year.

Subscriptions to foreign countries, 65 cents per year.

Single copies, 5 cents.

ADVERTISING RATES QUOTED ON APPLICATION.

For club and cash rates, write us.

Entered at Post Office at Lowell, Mass.,
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Published on the 20th of each month by

T. E. ADAMS,

159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., May 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

Owing to the dangerous illness of the author Mr. Goode, we regret to announce our inability to publish the opening chapters of the fascinating serial, "Sam Strong, the Young Stamp Hunter," in this issue. It will appear in our next number without fail.

Mr. M. C. Wright, President of the Lowell Philatelic Association, will leave this city in a few weeks to take charge of an office in Montreal. As president of the local Association, the departure of Mr. Wright will make a new era in Association history, and his absence from the meetings will be regretted by many. We wish him success in his new field.

The T. E. Adams Co. informs us that they are unable to fill all orders for approval sheets coming from new customers, as promptly as received, owing to the large number called for. Their ads. in *The American Boys* have brought more orders than they anticipated. All orders are being filled in the order of receipt and will be sent out at an early date.

Why not send us 25 one cent stamps by return mail for a year's subscription to the *American Boys*? If received on or before July 1st. 25c will be accepted as full payment.

The International Postal Union is holding its Congress in Washington, D. C. Delegates are present from every country represented in

the Union. An effort will be made to have the Congress adopt a universal stamp that can be used in any country. There is a strong opposition to the scheme and it is doubtful if it be carried through.

The success of the Merchants' Collecting Agency in dealing with delinquent stamp collectors is very gratifying, both to the Agency and those dealers who have sought its assistance. The plan by which stamp dealers can put their bad accounts into the hands of one reliable agency is sure to benefit every dealer connected with the agency. By this method the frauds, thieves and swindlers among collectors are found out and each dealer is duly warned and thus protected from further loss.

When you purchase a mended stamp from a dealer, always have him write or print on the back of the stamp, "Mended, do not soak."

Philatelic Notes.

The Cuban Republic has opened a number of post offices in Cuba and it is claimed that mail is regularly sent to and from New York.

Canada will soon issue a Jubilee set of stamps. The stamp will be about the size of our Columbian Stamps and will contain two portraits of the Queen taken at two important eras of her life. The stamp will be on sale on the morning of June 22. The set will consist of only one design, but of fifteen values from 1-2c to \$5.00.

New Foundland will soon issue a new set of stamps of 14 values, from 1c to 60c.

A new stock company has been formed in Boston to deal in postage stamps. Wm. J. H. Lyons is Manager.

It is said that two dummies are employed in the New York Post Office to stamp and sort letters. When a man gets noisy, he is put to work between the two deaf mutes, which soon brings about the desired result in the noisy man. New York is not the only place where this plan ought to be adopted.

Mr. Wm. R. Adams, of Toronto, Ont., has issued a neat catalogue of Canadian Revenues.

Peru will issue a "Jubilee" set of 3 values to celebrate the opening of the new post office in Lima. The values will be 1c, 5c, and 10c.

Salvador has issued two stamps in gorgeous colors, (blue, gold, red and green.); which will be in circulation only one month.



Cycle Notes.

A Brooklyn man invented a scheme to consolidate all bicycle factories in the country. It is said that he is now an inmate of an insane asylum where he will soon issue stock certificates.

Zimmerman will appear on the race track again this season.

A bill has passed the Dominican Legislature to compel railroads to accept bicycles as baggage. The bill has yet to pass the Senate where opposition is expected. The Montreal Turnpike Co. contemplate charging a toll on all bicycles passing through their gates.

Electric carriages are taking the place of cabs in New York. The carriages weigh about 2500 pounds and are run by electricity from storage batteries. These carriages are more than paying expenses, and are a success in every way.

The New York police force has a bicycle squad of fifty men.

Newspaper correspondents used the bicycle to excellent advantage during the Graeco-Turkish war. On one occasion it was the means by which a wounded man escaped from the approaching Turk.

DOESN'T WANT PAVING.

It is hard to believe a member of the L.A.W. would vote against a reasonable proposition to improve streets, and against the substitution of pavements for mud, but, "they say" that is what a member in Clearfield, Pa., did. However, 342 voters out of 411 said they preferred hard, clean streets, and so shall they be, giving that city the finest streets in that part of the State. It is said that the reason why this member opposed street improvement is because he has property worth half a million and doesn't wish his taxes increased. Poor fellow! It must be perfectly awful to have to be rich.

L. A. W. Bulletin.

DON'T KILL STRANGERS.

The Darby Wheelman of Darby, Pa., are going to have a sign placed at the top of "Chester Hill," leading out of their city, warning wheelmen that it is dangerous for coasting, several accidents, one resulting fatally, having occurred there. Wheelmen in other localities should follow this good example. Isn't there a danger trap in your locality? If so, warn people of it, or fix it in some way before, by your negligence, you are aiders and abettors in the crime of manslaughter.

L. A. W. Bulletin.

MY TAILOR, 104 Central St.

1000 Spring Styles to Select From.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Garments Cut to Fit and made up to order in the Latest Style at prices that will defy competition.

Dress Suits, Clerical and Military Uniforms a Specialty.

P. J. HALLINAN, Lowell, Mass.

You have not seen the

Reliable

Reading

Bicycle

It is only \$60.00 on easy terms, with a liberal discount for cash.

It is the most up-to-date wheel on the market for the price.

I only want you to see it, that will settle it.

GEO. H. BACHELDER,

Near New Post Office,

23 POST OFFICE AVENUE,

LOWELL, MASS.

Glass Jars

are the best for fruit,

Raspberries

and

Blueberries

. . . In Glass Jars,

Try them. They are Fine.

BOSTON BRANCH GROCERY,

455 Middlesex Street, - Lowell, Mass.

Caleb L. Smith, Prop.,

Opposite Northern Station.

Lowell Philatelic Association.

The May meeting of the Lowell Philatelic Association, held the evening of May 5 at the home of Samuel Burbank, Fort Hill Avenue, was one of the most interesting in the history of this organization. The attendance was large. Our new member was admitted, and several names proposed to the governing board for admittance to membership.

Mr. Batchelder, of Boston, was the guest of the evening, and besides exhibiting a very fine collection of U. S. Revenues and a nearly complete collection of Match and Medicine stamps, most of which were unused, gave a talk on stamps in general containing much information and practical sense. There were also shown several collectings belonging to members of the Association, including Mr. Burbank's fine collection of Revenues; some sets of Japanese "syllable characters" or plate numbers belonging to the Secretary; an assortment of 10 cent, first issue, unperforated, on original cover; and some spic and span specimens of the early "stamp currency," the property of some of the members.

To Be Clean Handed.

Whoever shall go about with unclean hands is entirely to blame, for the ways of cleaning them are numerous. The latest, suggested by one of our readers, is to use sawdust which has been saturated with turpentine. We can recommend this especially for taking off paint or varnish, but care should be taken to thoroughly wash the hands afterward with soap and water.

L. A. W. Bulletin.

Money! Money!
Do You Collect Bills?

We have a large assortment of
CONFEDERATE AND BROKEN-BANK BILLS

for sale at low prices. Following are a few prices:

\$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, Confederate Bills, set,	.30
4 Broken Bank Bills, (\$35.00)	.20
\$50.00 Mississippi R. R. Co.,	.12
\$2.00 Bay Mining Co.,	.12
\$1.00 City of Omaha, (Neb.) new,	.15
\$100.00 Confederate Note, 1862	.15
\$100.00 Confederate note, 1862, fine,	.15
\$5.00 State bank of North Carolina,	.10
50 Bond, Grand Republic Gold and Silver Mining Co.,	.25
\$5.00 State of North Carolina,	.10
\$1.00 Virginia Treasury Note,	.10
\$1.00 Bank of Hudson,	.15
\$1.00 Adrian Insurance Co., (Mich) fine.	.15
\$10.00 Bay State Mining Company,	.15
\$5.00 Allegheny County Bank, (Md)	.15
\$1.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo.,	.15
50c Confederate Script,	.10
\$5.00 Bank of Hudson, N. Y.	.15
\$5.00 State Bank, South Carolina,	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.08
\$10.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus,	.06
\$5.00 Bank of Georgetown, South Carolina,	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.10
\$5.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus	.12
\$5.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo	.10
\$3.00 Adrian Insurance Co., Mich., fine,	.15
\$3.00 City of Omaha, handsome,	.15
\$1.00 Bank of Washenaw, Mich.,	.12
\$3.00 Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, N. Y.	.18
\$1.00 River Raising and Lake Erie R. R. Co.	

(Signed by J. Q. Adams, President.)

On orders of \$1.00 or over we allow 25 per cent. discount, except on Confederate set.

Other bills cheap.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

LOWELL, MASS.

SPECIAL OFFER

For New Subscribers.

The 10,000 mark not having been reached, we will send the AMERICAN BOYS to any address for one year for only **25 Cents**. Send in your subscription at once.

T. E. ADAMS, Publisher,

LOWELL, MASS.

A New Departure in Advertising.

THREE PAGES FREE

to responsible dealers.

Although we are in business with the object of making money [for ourselves and our friends], we have decided to GIVE AWAY FREE the space of THREE PAGES OF ADVERTISING for the next four months, to all respectable dealers desiring and applying for space. Not more than half a page to be given any one dealer.

We desire to prove that the AMERICAN BOYS is the most popular and best medium for advertising in the Philatelic field today, and take this method to prove it. Write us at once for space and full particulars.

AMERICAN BOYS, LOWELL, MASS.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHTS &c.

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain, free, whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Oldest agency for securing patents in America. We have a Washington office. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice in the

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN,

beautifully illustrated, largest circulation of any scientific journal, weekly, terms \$3.00 a year; \$1.50 six months. Specimen copies and HAND BOOK ON PATENTS sent free. Address

MUNN & CO.,
361 Broadway, New York.

Blank Approval Books.

Hold sixty Stamps, in four colors

Best made. Post free.

15—30 cents.
50—60 cents.
100—90 cents.
1000—\$7.00

HENRY C. CROWELL,

Cuyahoga Av. Glenville, Ohio.

Our Approval Sheets

At 50 Per Cent. Discount

are the best on the market.

Boys, you can make lots of money selling from our sheets.

SEND FOR A LOT.

Better stamps at 33 1-3, 25 per cent. and net prides.

Good Revenues at 50 per cent. dis.

AGENTS WANTED.

Reference Desired.

We want to buy Old Postage and Revenue Stamps, also Canada Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Foundland, British Colonies, etc., for which we will pay prompt cash.

T. E. Adams & Co.,

LOWELL, MASS.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

One notice in this Department allowed to each subscriber if sent with remittance. Extra notices, 15 cents each. Non-subscribers 25 cents each insertion. All notices must be for EXCHANGE, and limited to 30 words each; notices over 30 words, 1 cent per word extra.

I will exchange a \$100 Fenton bicycle for the best offer in stamps. Only U. S., N. and S. American and British Colonials wanted. Make offer. Bicycle warranted in perfect order.

WM. DAVIS, 102 High St., Lowell, Mass.

Student's Camera for best offer in stamps.
T. E. ADAMS, Lowell, Mass.

An U. S. stamp catalogue by Scott, at 25 cents, to exchange for each 50 different Seebeck Stamps.

GEO. O. GREENE,

Box 41,

Princeton, Ill.

CUBA LIBRE!

\$1.00 worth of Stamps Cuban FREE!!

We want to renew the interest of the young people in stamp collecting, and at the same time increase the circulation of our magazine, so for a limited time we propose to give away

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Sixteen varieties of unused Cuban stamps, 1857 to 1882 issues only, catalogued by Scott's 56th Edition at \$1.00.

How to get them. Send 25c for a year's subscription to

THE EASTERN PHILATELIST

and enclose a STAMPED self-directed envelope, and the stamps will be sent you by return mail. The EASTERN PHILATELIST is the oldest stamp magazine in America, 12 to 24 large pages monthly, contributed to by the leading philatelic writers, and no collector can afford to do without it. It alone is worth 50 cents per year, but you get it and \$1.00 worth of stamps for 25 cents if you subscribe now.

Some may ask how we can make this liberal offer; well, we don't make anything the first year, but hope for many renewals.

Present subscribers can obtain the premium by sending a new subscriber, or by having their own subscription extended one year.

DON'T FORGET THE STAMPED ENVELOPE. Address:

F. H. PINKHAM, Publisher, Newmarket, N. H.

U. S. DUES CHEAP.

Until sold, we offer the following dues, at the following prices. * Means unused.

	Cat.	Our price.
1883	5C*	.25
1891	2C*	.06
	5C*	.15
1894	5C	.05
	50C	2.00
	1C*	.03
	2C*	.05
1895	10C*	.50
	30C*	.75
	1C*	.03
	2C*	.05
	3C*	.10
	5C*	.15
	10C*	.20

Orders under 30 cents, respectfully declined.

T. E. ADAMS & CO., LOWELL, MASS.

300 VARIETIES FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS, \$1.00.

60 varieties Foreign Revenues, \$1.00. Philatelic and Curious Literature, Numismatics, Curiosities, Libraries, 12 varieties, \$1.00. Books, Sheet Music, 10 varieties, \$1.00. Musical Boxes, \$1.00 to \$10.00. Magic Tricks, 20c to 6.00. The sixth and seventh Books of Moses, (magical secrets) \$1.50. Cameras, \$1.00 to \$50.00. Telephone Outfit, \$1.00. Amateur Printing Presses, \$2.50 to \$30.00. Magic Lanterns, \$1.00 to \$20.00. Typewriters, \$2.00 to \$100.00. Rubber Stamps, 20c to \$5. Your Portrait, postage stamp size, 50 for \$100; Automatic Pocket Knife, \$1; View Albums, (United States and Foreign Views,) 25c to \$6.11; Money, (Bills,) Making Machine, \$1.00. Pocket Cash Register, \$1.00. Money Registering Machines, \$25.00 to \$200.00. Joker's Cigar Case, \$1.00. Revolvers, (self-acting,) \$2.00 to \$10.00. Bicycle Supplies, Toys, Information, Merchandise of any kind retailed and shipped.

My pricelist for return postage only.

FREDERICK PHILIPS,

15 First Avenue, NEW YORK, U. S. A.

THE MERCHANT'S COLLECTOR, FOR MAY, 1897.

CASH.

We offer to return you cash for your delinquent accounts. If you want cash, write us.

WE COLLECT

all kinds of accounts, anywhere in the United States or Canada.

NO CHARGE MADE

by us if unsuccessful. Our terms are only 10 to 25 per cent. of the amount collected, or on settlement effected.

THE LARGE INCREASE

in our business during the last four months has made it necessary to increase our facilities for handling accounts, and we are now prepared, better than ever before, to handle your bad bills, and push settlement of same.

During the Last Four Months

650 different accounts have been placed in our hands, with a total value of \$14,405.45. Of this number, 270 accounts have been paid us or satisfactory agreement made to settle, amounting to \$4,307.47, while bills to the amount of \$3,425.66 are now in the courts for suits or trustees.

Do You Want Part

of our collections? You may have it by sending us your bills.

REPORTS

are made monthly, (oftener if desired), on all business to date.

Our References

are many, but the best references come from our clients, to whom we refer.

OUR ATTORNEY who has charge of all legal proceedings is one of the best legal advisers in this city, and all cases requiring legal services will receive the very closest attention.

A great many small stamp accounts are being sent us for collection. In such cases we make a special rate for all bills of \$2 00 or under. Accounts under 50 cents respectfully declined.

We Want Your Bills to collect. We have secured settlements where others have failed and we can do so again. Send us a lot of bills on trial. If collectable, we will collect them.

We collect accounts in every city, town or village in the United States or Canada, and push such legal action as may be necessary.

Correspondence Solicited.

We Can

Collect

Your Bills.

Stamp

Accounts—

Are sure to come when we
get after them.

AND THE

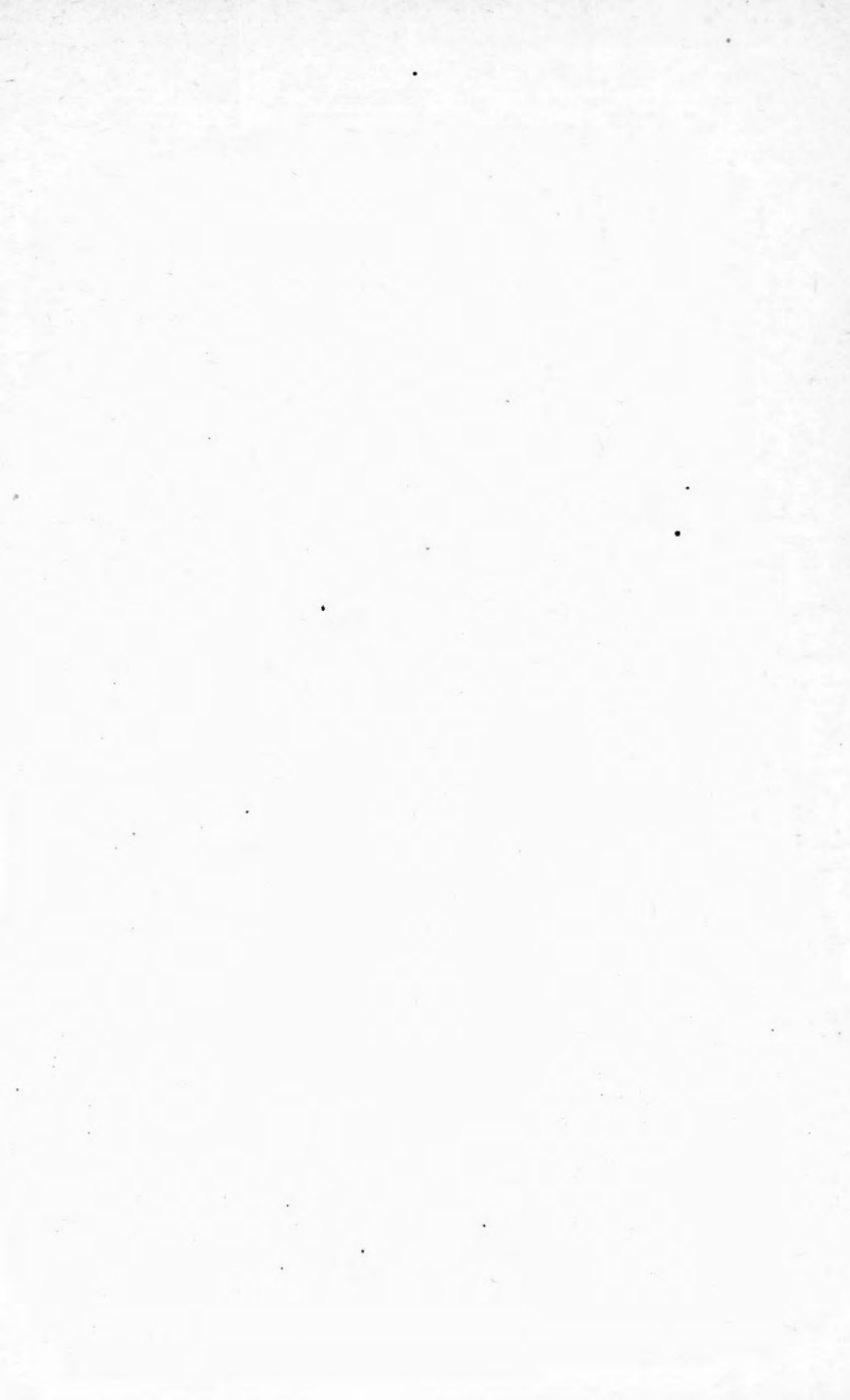
Swindlers Shown Up

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Merchants' Collecting Agency,

159 Middlesex Street,

Lowell, Mass.





Volume 1.
Number 6.

AUG.

1897.

The

American



Boys,

Story and Stamp Paper.



T. E. ADAMS, PUBLISHER.



LOWELL, MASS.,

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The American Boys,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

Volume 1. No. 6.

Lowell, Mass., August, 1897

Price, 5 Cents.

Sam Strong, The Young Stamp Hunter,

— OR —

HOW - A - SMART - BOY - MADE - HIS - FORTUNE.

BY GEORGE W. GOODE,

Author of "Lucky Larry", Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

Life's Stern Reality.

"Wife, I can see nothing in the future of any encouraging sort for us!" groaned Leander Strong, Merchant of the smart little town of Meldon, not far from the city of Boston, Mass.

"I have done my level best. I presume people will feel bitter towards me, but I cannot help it: I will give them all I have got. The business did not pay and I was obliged to fail."

The stong man broke down completely and wept. The wife, always a comforter in man's distress, was ironing at a table in the little kitchen. She put down the flat iron which she held and looked drearily out of the window upon the row of dingy tenements opposite. But she did not permit her husband to see this expression upon her woary face.

When she turned to him her sweet though wrinkled face was smiling and she said cheerily:

"Pshaw! we are not so badly off. Leander, there is father, who stands ready to lend us money—"

"Never!" cried Leander Strong arising, "I have never borrowed of any man on earth and I never will."

He walked moodily to the window. A smart little lad was coming up the walk from the street, whistling gaily. The next moment he was at the door.

"Here is Sam home from school!" said Mrs. Strong lightly.

"Poor boy!" groaned the father, "I fear I shall not be able to give him the best kind of an education. He is too young for hard work too."

The door opened and Sam Strong, the hero

of this story, crossed the threshold. He paused as he entered and glanced from one of his parents to the other. The whistle died from his lips, the smile faded.

He saw at once that something was wrong. Mr. Strong turned with a smile of forced pleasantness and said:

"Well Sam, were your lessons good today?"

"Yes father," replied the lad, "I am to go to the upper room next term. Mr. Swift the principal has promised me that."

Mrs. Strong flashed a glance at her husband. He saw the woman's pride and love in her eyes and his heart was touched. A film came over his vision.

"Well done Sam," he cried, while Mrs. Strong repressing a sob, kissed the lad in her motherly way, "let me see, it must be near closing time for the schools."

"Tomorrow is the last day is it not, Sam?" asked Mrs. Strong.

"Yes," replied Sam, "we have eight weeks vacation. Hooray! Won't that be jolly?"

Mr. Strong, with something like a gasp, sank into a chair. He drew Sam wondrously to his side. Then with a sort of gulp in his throat he said:

"Sam, my boy, would you feel real bad if you never went back to school?"

Such a startling question and from such a course staggered the lad. For a few moments he was at a loss what reply to make.

"What do you mean, father?" he asked, "Am I not to go back?"

Mr. Strong bowed his head.

"My boy," he said brokenly, "I must tell you the truth. Your father is in deep misfortune and disgrace. You probably have not heard the news. I have failed in business, my all is swept away from me, and I may not be able to send you to school again. You may have to earn your own living, Sam. Many boys at your age of sixteen do that, but I had hoped to give you a college education."

Sam listened like one in a dream. Then he recalled what one of the rough boys at school had jeeringly said to him, viz: that his father was a ruined man, and which he had deemed but an unmeaning slur. Now he realized that it meant much.

A great wave of curious feeling swept over Sam. Despite his youth he had some knowledge of business. He knew that his father's failure was a serious matter for all of them. But grit was Sam's predominant trait. He studied his father's face a moment and then said:

"I heard it at school today, father, but I did not believe it. Well, there is nothing left for me but to go to work and help you, and that I will do."

He spoke so bravely and his resignation to what seemed to be an unkind fate was so ready and complete that Mr. Strong was powerfully affected.

"Have you any idea what you would like to do, Sam?" asked the ruined merchant in a subdued tone.

Sam's eyes shone.

"Yes" he replied promptly.

"Ah! a clerkship."

"No," replied the lad, "I am going into the stamp business."

Mrs. Strong turned in surprise and his father looked puzzled.

"The stamp business," exclaimed Mr. Strong, "I don't believe I understand you, Sam."

From among the books strapped and held under his arm Sam took a small volume. He opened it and said:

"Of course you have heard father that the collecting of postage stamps has become a great industry and fad in this country. Millions are invested in the stamp business."

Mr. Strong's face lit up.

"Ah, I understand," he said. "I had the fever once myself. Well, how do you expect to make a living out of it, Sam?"

"I shall become a stamp hunter."

"A stamp hunter?"

"Yes."

His father and mother were now both interested.

"You puzzle us Sam."

"Well I will explain," said Sam in a business-like way. "You know that large prices are paid for many rare stamps. Now there are lots of these valuable bits of paper to be found hidden away in the old correspondence of large firms, merchants, lawyers and others. I intend to visit these places and offer good prices for the privilege of searching for these rarities, which, having secured, I shall sell to dealers or wealthy collectors at a profit. Why should not this be a good business?"

Sam was so earnest that Mr. Strong laughed. "But where is your capital?" he asked.

"I have none as yet," replied Sam. "I shall begin by securing the stamps on commission. There is Mr. Burton the millionaire of this town who will pay one hundred dollars for a rare shade of U. S. 5 cent stamp of 1851. If I can find such a stamp I ought to be able to make a good commission and that would give me a good start. Pretty soon I could become a buyer instead of agent."

"But how will you proceed to find this rare stamp?" again asked his father.

"Hunt for them. In this very town there can no doubt be found old correspondence which may be of great value. I shall visit first the house of Mr. Burke, the explorer. He was for twenty years prior to 1860 in Japan and the Orient. I learn that he has kept his correspondence which was mostly from the U. S. He is now in reduced circumstances and would no doubt be very glad of the chance to realize something upon that which is of little intrinsic value to him.

Mr. Strong passed a hand across his eyes which were misty. He arose and put on his hat.

"Sam," he said fulsomely, "you have set me a good example. If you can have courage to face our present situation, I ought to. I wish you the best of luck!"

The door closed behind him. Mrs. Strong came over and threw her arms around Sam's neck.

"Do you really think you can do all that, Sam?" she asked. "Oh, I know you are going to be a smart boy and a credit to us!"

Sam's face flushed, and his eyes glistened.

"I will succeed mother!" was all he said.

The next day Sam's school closed. The following day he spent in making preparations for his new enterprise.

He addressed letters to all the large dealers and collectors of whom he could get the address,

Then he dressed himself in his smartest suit of clothes and set forth for the home of Mr. Burke the explorer.

It was a shabby little cottage filled to the roof with curios and relics from all parts of the world. Sam felt a queer little lump in his throat as he rang the bell. It was his first move in his new enterprise. Would he succeed or would he fail.

[To be continued.]

CENTS WORTH DOLLARS.

By W. S. Dobbins.

Nearly all boys and girls are collectors of something—coins and stamps chiefly, which have historical interest and serve, if well directed and studied, an educational purpose. There are some who waste their time on tin tags, picture cards and many other worthless articles, which have neither intrinsic value or historical interest. But to return to coins. Very few people need ever hope to make a really valuable collection of coins. Common coins are plentiful enough and some very old ones may be bought for a trifle or discovered by accident, but the really valuable or rare coins are beyond all but the millionaires.

Some people continually live in hopes of coming across a silver dollar of 1804. There are only ten dollars of this date in existence, and the whereabouts of each is well known. The 1804 dollar is not, as many suppose, the most valuable coin in this country. The rarest U. S. coin is the double eagle of 1849, of which there is only one in existence, and it belongs to the U. S. Mint. There is no fixed price on it, being absolutely unpurchasable. Next in rarity is the half eagle of 1815. One sold at a recent coin sale for \$2,000. There are only five specimens known to exist.

Our half dollars are as a rule high on the market. At a New York sale one of 1796 brought \$69, and one of 1797, \$42, while the half dollar of 1853 from the New Orleans mint fetched \$121, and was considered cheap at that figure. Quarter dollars of 1823 and 1827 are quoted at \$30, strictly fine \$50. Of dimes there are none of great variety, that of 1804 being the rarest, selling from \$5 to \$10, according to condition. Of the half dimes the only rare one is that of 1802, a really fine specimen sells readily for \$100. All half dimes from 1794 to 1829, excepting 1802, are quoted at \$5.00, and those from 1829 to 1846 command a premium of 25c, all being in an uncirculated condition. The silver three cent pieces do not command a very high price, those of 1863 to 1869 bringing \$1 in an uncirculated condition. The nickel three

cent and five cent pieces are not quoted over 50c, in no case excepting the three cent piece of 1877 which brings \$1, and the five cent piece of 1877 which readily brings \$2. The two cent piece of 1873 in fine condition brings \$2 50.

The rare copper cents are away ahead of all the higher coins in the appreciation of their values. The cent of 1793 is a real little gold mine. There were several varieties of the coin struck, each variety having a special value to a collector. One with lettering on the edge reading "one hundred for a dollar" brought \$61. There is a cent of 1799 worth \$18. All dates from 1817 to 1857 command a premium of 10c, but they must be in fine condition. Half cents from 1793 to 1800 are priced from \$2 to \$15 according to condition. Half cents are quite scarce and are eagerly bought by collectors. The nickel cent of 1856 with flying eagle upon it brings \$5.50. The "V" nickel of 1882 with no "cents" are at a premium of 10c in uncirculated condition.

Of course there are hundreds of other coins which are rare enough to command a premium of a dollar or two but these values depend on a great many conditions.

The age of a coin is not always a guarantee of a premium; in fact there are many oriental coins which are centuries old and not worth more than their bullion value. A badly disfigured dollar, for instance, no matter how rare it may be, is not wanted by a collector, while one not so rare, but in good state of preservation, will find ready bidders. At a sale an 1851 dollar in uncirculated condition commanded \$75, and another of the same date brought \$30. In the latter case the coin was slightly disfigured by carriage and circulation. So you see the main point is condition.

Coins are classed according to their preservation, as "proof", "uncirculated", "fine", "good", "fair", and "poor". Proof coins are those which have been made for collectors by the mint for many years and received a brilliant surface by burnishing. Uncirculated coins have been laid away carefully since the time they were minted, so that they have the original mint lustre and are as sharp as when coined. Fine coins have the hair, eyes and letters bold and sharp, and not worn off or corrected. Good coins are those in which the hair and eyes show up well, and the date and letters being perfectly plain. Fair coins have the date distinct, but the hair and letters somewhat worn. Poor coins are those which have the date indistinct, or the hair and letters badly worn, or the surface badly corroded, pierced or battered.

Nearly all the coins which fall into the hands of the juvenile collector are in fair or poor condition and not salable. Unless a coin is very rare no collector will buy it if it ranks below "good" and thus many a boy thinking he had some great rarity, has been woefully disappointed.

THE AMERICAN BOYS,

STORY AND STAMP PAPER.

A monthly Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting, Short Stories, History, Cycling News, Biography, etc.

Subscriptions, 50 cents per year.

Subscriptions to foreign countries, 65 cents per year.

Single copies, 2 cents.

ADVERTISING RATES QUOTED ON APPLICATION.

For club and cash rates, write us.

Published on the 20th of each month by

T. E. ADAMS,

159 MIDDLESEX STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., August 20, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

We have been favored with a copy of the American Citizen in which the Methodist Book Concern is severely, but justly scored. Editor Long understands his business.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Arthur W. Morris of this city who died a few weeks ago, after a very short illness. He was an active and enthusiastic Philatelist, highly esteemed by all who knew him. His many friends sympathize with his family in their loss.

The Merchants Collecting Agency of this city has proven itself of great assistance to many dealers and collectors in collecting and settling delinquent accounts. It is surprising to see the large number of persons who send to dealers and collectors throughout the states for stamps, and then try to defraud the dealers out of the stamps.

Many of these delinquents are getting to know that Merchants Collecting Agency means business and that they had better settle up at once when the Agency gets after them.

This Agency is accumulating a list of delinquents that will be of value to its clients to determine whom not to trust. If all the dealers would assist this agency the frauds and swindlers would soon be so well known that it would be impossible for them to find victims.

If you have any delinquent accounts send them to this Agency for collection. See advertisement on Page 64.

The delay in issuing this number of the American Boys is deeply regretted and we assure

our subscribers and friends that the full number of issues will be completed before the year is out. There will be no double numbers.

Good M. S. S. wanted on Philatelic subjects. Cash prices paid.

The Canadian Jubilee Labels are unworthy of collection.

Philatelic Notes

At the July meeting of the Lowell Philatelic Association, Mr. Charles A. Gale was elected President of the Association to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. M. C. Wright who left the city. Mr. Frank Clark was elected as a member of the Board of Management, to fill a vacancy. The meetings have not been largely attended during the summer months but with the approach of cooler weather a full attendance is expected.

The Association voted to contribute \$5.00 from its treasury to the expense fund of the Collectors Club of N. Y. to assist in defending the suit against W. S. Scott Co. by the Gov.

It is reported that the newly elected president has several plans to suggest to increase the membership and create renewed interest in the meetings.

The Boston Association have invited the members to be their guests on Aug. 25th in a trip down the harbor to Salem Willows. Several members will accept the invitation.

The New England Philatelic Association will hold its annual convention Aug. 23 at Bass Point Hotel.

The Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association will be held in Boston Aug. 24 to 26 at which nearly all the leading dealers in the States and Canada will be present.

A local committee of Boston Association has arranged a series of entertainments and trips to several points of interest for the visitors. The Convention will be called to order at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield Street. At this meeting committees will be appointed and other preliminary business transacted. The remainder of the day will be devoted to sight seeing.

Wednesday and Thursday will be devoted to business meetings. On the 25 a trip will be taken down the coast to Salem Willows and other points of interest.

The duty on stamps was removed by the Dingley Tariff Bill. It is said that J. W. Scott of N. Y. spent \$250 in his efforts to have the tax removed.

A grand Philatelic Exhibition was opened in London, England, July 22. The leading phil-

atelists of Europe and many from America were present on the opening day. This exhibition contains the most valuable collections ever on exhibition.

Stamps are of great service to cyclists in repairing punctures. Two or three stamps stuck one on top of the other will hold for a long ride.

Not long ago the government seized a lot of periodical stamps that Walter S. Scott Stamp Company had offered for sale. The seizure was made on the grounds that the stamps had been taken from the Department without authority. As these stamps cannot be used for postage and at one time were given away by the Postmaster General, the action by the Department was a surprise and entirely uncalled for.

The Collectors Club of N. Y. has formed a Defense Fund to assist the Scott Company to defend the suit and desire the sum of \$2000 for that purpose, one half of which has already been subscribed.

L. T. Broadstone of Superior Neb. has sold his paper the Philatelic West to the publisher of the Omaha Philatelic. Mr. Bradstone will visit the A. P. A. Convention in Boston, Aug. 24-26.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing has received an order from the Post Office Department for the following supply of stamps for the year ending June 30, 1898: 3,444,167,000 ordinary stamps; 6,462,000 periodical stamps; and 21,168,000 postage due stamps.

The Cochín China sur charged due stamps of Mr. Carion have been shown to be forgeries, as no such surcharges were ever issued.

The new Jubilee Stamps of New Foundland are very attractive in design and color. This does not appear to be a speculative issue.

The Canadian Jubilee Swindle.

Toronto Phil.

During the last twenty eight years Canada has been one of the most conservative of stamp issuing countries, having used one general issue of stamps, with a few minor changes, during that long period.

The announcement made a few months ago that the Canadian Government would issue a set of Jubilee Stamps to commemorate the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign was hailed with delight by all Philatelists, believing as they did, the same honest and conservative course would be observed.

Alas, the Canadian ideal has been shattered. The Canadian Postal Department has shown the same corrupt and demoralized condition that obtains in other Departments of the Public Service.

There is no longer doubt but that those in official positions have connived with speculators to fleece Philatelists. The issuing of stamps of a higher denomination than is allowed by the postal laws is the first evidence of fraud.

The Postal Laws do not allow a package over a certain weight to pass through the mails, the limit on such a package being \$3.79, including registration; and the limit of letter postage is \$1.65. It can be seen, therefore, that the higher values cannot be used to prepay postage.

It has been the custom for the Department to redeem its postage stamps at a small discount, but it has been given out that the higher values of the Jubilee Set will not be redeemed, thereby repudiating the bogus stamps.

The distribution of these Jubilee labels also show marks of fraud.

On the first distribution 25000 stamps of the lower values were sent to a few of the larger offices, and later 25000 more reserved for full sets. When the first lot were disposed of by the local offices, orders were sent for more, but they could not be supplied as the stock had been exhausted. 150,000 of the half cent stamps printed, 50,000 of which are accounted for as above. What has become of the remaining 100,000? The department claim the supply is exhausted, yet only one third of the lot had been issued to post masters in the regular way.

It is now openly asserted here that several high officials and speculators formed a syndicate and purchased the remaining one half cent (100000) and a quantity of other values direct from the Government and that they are holding them for fabulous prices.

Dealers in the United States, it is reported have sent orders to postmasters for the Jubilee labels. These orders have been turned over by the postmasters to speculators who charge a commission and expense for their service. Is this not a bare faced swindle? Again Canadian dealers have advertised to sell partial sets of 1-2c to 50c for a nominal price; but when an order is received, they reply that the sets are exhausted but they can furnish any of the stamps singly at an increased price quoting the 6 cent and 8 cent stamps at \$1.00 each and the 1-2 cent at a fabulous price.

The issue of these Jubilee Swindling labels and the connivance of the postal officials is outrageous and a dark blot upon the fair records of the Canadian Postal Dept. As these labels were not issued, and cannot be used, all Philatelists should shun them and refuse to place them in their albums.

The "Stamp Creaks", as the speculators in re term Philatelists, should show these swindlers that they cannot be so easily victimized. Let these labels alone, they are not stamps and are unworthy a place in your collection.

Dobbins, the Curio Man

Will send per 1000

Confederate Bank Bills.	.06
Bullet, Gettysburg Battlefield.	.15
Sea Beans, 3 for	.05
Cassia Beans, 3 for	.05
Tooth, from Indian Grave.	.10
Fragment of Pottery, from Mound.	.05
Over 200 Indian Beads.	.10
Fossil.	.05
Curio Letter.	.05
15 Varieties Sea Shells,	.10
30 " Foreign Stamps.	.10
Canada Jubilee, unused, 1, 2, 3.	.15

Stamps taken. My approval sheets will suit you at 50 per cent.

WILLARD B. DOBBINS.

BARNSVILLE, OHIO.

Lock Box 22.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

One notice in this Department allowed to each subscriber if sent with remittance. Extra notices, 15 cents each. Non-subscribers 25 cents each insertion. All notices must be for EXCHANGE, and limited to 30 words each; notices over 30 words, 1 cent per word extra.

I will exchange a \$100 Pouton bicycle for the best offer in stamps. Only U. S., N. and S. American and British Colonials wanted. Make offer. Bicycle warranted in perfect order.

W. J. DAVIS, 102 High St., Lowell, Mass.

Student's Camera for best offer in stamps.
T. E. ADAMS, Lowell, Mass.

SPECIAL OFFER

For New Subscribers.

The 1000 mark not having been reached, we will send the AMERICAN BOYS to any address for one year for only 25 Cents. Send in your subscription at once.

T. E. ADAMS, Publisher,
LOWELL, MASS.

A New Departure in Advertising.

THREE PAGES FREE

to responsible dealers.

Although we are in business with the object of making money (for ourselves and our friends), we have decided to GIVE AWAY FREE the space of THREE PAGES OF ADVERTISING for the next four months, to all respectable dealers desiring and applying for space. Not more than half a page to be given any one dealer.

We desire to prove that the AMERICAN BOYS is the most popular and best medium for advertising in the Philadelphia field today, and take this method to prove it. Write us at once for space and full particulars.

AMERICAN BOYS, LOWELL, MASS.

Do You Collect Bills?

We have a large assortment of
CONFEDERATE AND BROKEN-BANK BILLS

for sale at low prices. Following are a few prices:

\$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, Confederate Bills, set.	.30
4 Broken Bank Bills, (\$35.00)	.20
\$50.00 Mississippi R. R. Co.,	.12
\$2.00 Bay Mining Co.,	.12
\$1.00 City of Omaha, (Neb.) new,	.15
\$100.00 Confederate Note, 1862	.15
\$100.00 Confederate note, 1862, fine,	.15
\$5.00 State bank of North Carolina,	.10
£50 Bond, Grand Republic Gold and Silver Mining Co.,	.25
\$5.00 State of North Carolina,	.10
\$1.00 Virginia Treasury Note,	.10
\$1.00 Bank of Hudson,	.15
\$1.00 Adrian Insurance Co., (Mich) fine,	.15
\$10.00 Bay State Mining Company,	.15
\$5.00 Allegheny County Bank, (Md)	.15
\$1.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo.,	.15
\$0c Confederate Script,	.10
\$5.00 Bank of Hudson, N. Y.	.15
\$5.00 State Bank, South Carolina,	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.08
\$10.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus,	.06
\$5.00 Bank of Georgetown, South Carolina,	.08
\$10.00 " " " "	.10
\$5.00 Commercial Bank of Columbus	.12
\$5.00 Merchants' and Planters' Bank, Geo	.10
\$3.00 Adrian Insurance Co., Mich., fine.	.15
\$3.00 City of Omaha, handsome.	.15
\$1.00 Bank of Washenaw, Mich.,	.12
\$50 Virginia Treasury Note, fine,	.20
\$20 Confederate Note, 1861, ship,	.15
\$1.00 River Raising and Lake Erie R. R. Co.	

(Signed by J. Q. Adams, President.)

On orders of \$1.00 or over we allow 25 per cent. discount, except on Confederate set. Other bills cheap.

T. E. ADAMS & CO.,

LOWELL, MASS.



Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain, free, whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Oldest agency for securing patents in America. We have a Washington office. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice in the

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN,

beautifully illustrated, largest circulation of any scientific journal, weekly, terms \$3.00 a year; \$1.00 six months. Specimen copies and LIND BOOK ON PATENTS sent free. Address

MUNN & CO.,
361 Broadway, New York.

\$5 REWARD to any one for first information of a vacancy for a Bookkeeper, Stenographer, Clerk or Telegraph Operator which we succeed in filling.

We not only train for practical work but always secure situations for worthy graduates of our Business and Shorthand Departments. If you are seeking employment and willing to study, send ten two-cent stamps for five easy lessons (by mail) in shorthand to



or the **New York Business Institute**

81 E. 125th St., New York.

The most celebrated practical schools in America. Business, Shorthand, Typewriting, Penmanship, Telegraphy and Preparatory Departments. Business men everywhere indorse these schools. Refer to Bankers, Merchants and prominent patrons all over the world. Superior Instruction. The best mechanical equipment. Grounds for athletics. Board and other expenses moderate. No vacations. Students may enter at any time. Beautiful catalogue mailed on request. Address (*omit on this paper*)

CLEMENT C. GAINES, President, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

U. S. DUES CHEAP.

Until sold, we offer the following dues, at the following prices. * Means unused.

		Cat.	Our price.
1883	5C*	.25	.15
1891	2C*	.06	.04
	5C*	.15	.10
	5C	.05	.03
	50C	2.00	.85
1894	1C*	.03	.02
	2C*	.05	.04
	10C*	.50	.25
	30C*	.75	.45
1895	1C*	.03	.02
	2C*	.05	.04
	3C*	.10	.07
	5C*	.15	.10
	10C*	.20	.14

Orders under 30 cents, respectfully declined.

Our Approval Sheets

At 50 Per Cent. Discount

are the best on the market.

Boys, you can make lots of money selling from our sheets.

SEND FOR A LOT.

Better stamps at 33 1-3, 25 per cent. and net prides.

Good Revenues at 50 per cent. dis.

AGENTS WANTED.

Reference Desired.

T. E. ADAMS & CO., Lowell, Mass.

CUBA LIBRE!

\$1.00 worth of Stamps Cuban FREE!!

We want to renew the interest of the young people in stamp collecting, and at the same time increase the circulation of our magazine, so for a limited time we propose to give away

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Sixteen varieties of unused Cuban stamps, 1857 to 1882 issues only, catalogued by Scott's 50th Edition at \$1.00. How to get them. Send 25c for a year's subscription to

THE EASTERN PHILATELIST

and enclose a STAMPED self-directed envelope, and the stamps will be sent you by return mail. The EASTERN PHILATELIST is the oldest stamp magazine in America, 12 to 24 large pages monthly, contributed to by the leading philatelic writers, and no collector can afford to do without it. It alone is worth 50 cents per year, but you get it and \$1.00 worth of stamps for 25 cents if you subscribe now.

Some may ask how we can make this liberal offer; well, we don't make anything the first year, but hope for many renewals.

Present subscribers can obtain the premium by sending a new subscriber, or by having their own subscription extended one year.

DON'T FORGET THE STAMPED ENVELOPE. Address:

F. H. PINKHAM, Publisher, Newmarket, N. H.

We want to buy Old Postage and Revenue Stamps, also Canada Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Foundland, British Colonies, etc., for which we will pay prompt cash.

T. E. Adams & Co.,

LOWELL, MASS.

THE MERCHANT'S COLLECTOR, FOR AUG., 1897.

CASH.

We offer to return you cash for your delinquent accounts. If you want cash write us.

WE COLLECT

all kinds of accounts, anywhere in the United States or Canada.

NO CHARGE MADE

by us if unsuccessful. Our terms are only 10 to 25 per cent. of the amount collected, or on settlement effected.

THE LARGE INCREASE

in our business during the last few months has made it necessary to increase our facilities for handling accounts, and we are now prepared, better than ever before, to handle your bad bills, and push settlement of same.

Do You Want Part

of our collections? You may have it by sending us your bills.

REPORTS

are made monthly, (oftener if desired), on all business to date.

Our References

are many, but the best references come from our clients, to whom we refer.

OUR ATTORNEY who has charge of all legal proceedings is one of the best legal advisers in this city, and all cases requiring legal services will receive the very closest attention.

We also have attorneys in nearly every city and town in the United States and Canada to look after suits, etc.

A great many small stamp accounts are being sent us for collection. In such cases we make a special rate for all bills of \$2.00 or under. Accounts under 50 cents respectfully declined.

We Want Your Bills ^{to collect.} We have secured settlements where others have failed and we can do so again. Send us a lot of bills on trial. If collectable, we will collect them.

We collect accounts in every city, town or village in the United States or Canada, and push such legal action as may be necessary.

Correspondence Solicited.

**We Can
Collect
Your Bills.**

Accounts—

**Are sure to come when we
get after them.**

Swindlers Shown Up

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Merchants' Collecting Agency,

159 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

