

THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. 1.

EASTON, MD., NOVEMBER, 1886.

No. 1.

The English Sparrow.

The effects good and evil produced by it and other birds.

The English sparrow was imported to this country some years ago as protector of shade trees and other vegetation but now it has become a greater nuisance than any other bird in the United States. In Maryland this bird is especially numerous and admirably and hercically supports our motto, "Crescite et Multiplacimini." Its nests are built in the eaves of houses and especially in the ivy growing upon the sides of churches and other buildings. When this bird was first introduced, it was expected to devour catapillars, inchworms and other insects, but the ravages it has made upon all kinds of fruit has more than eclipsed the benefit derived from the former use. Dr. Merriam, the secretary of the American Ornithological Union, says that this bird invades a new territory of over 130,000 square miles annually. How to get rid of this pest? that is the question. Poisoning and fire arms will do no good, what next? Some have suggested to utilize the blue-bird claiming it will drive the sparrow from its home. No matter how it can be accomplished, the sooner the extinction of this bird is effected, the better it will be for farmers and fruit growers.

One of the most valuable birds in the north for farmers is the Bobolink. This bird lives upon the seeds of destructive weeds and also upon field insects, but grain it seldom touches. In the summer, however, the Bobolink passes two or three months in the rice fields of the south where it destroys grain to the amount of three or four million dollars annually. Dr. Merriam thinks that one hawk trained for the purpose, could protect a field of 2,000 acres, as the hawk feeds upon Rice birds, the name given to the Bobolink in that section of the country.

The crow is very fond of corn, but the benefits received from its use in the destruction of field vermin and also as a scavenger more than compensate for the former loss.

The Loss of our Birds.

Where are our red-birds, orioles, blue-birds and others which are yearly growing less and less numerous. The following is an extract taken from the Phila-

delphia Times, suitable as an answer to this question:

In the hats of our "tender-hearted" women, who, if they saw anyone kill a sparrow, would cry for shame. Whereas there are 50,000 of our natives songsters sacrificed annually for fashion. Take a walk along any of our principal highways and count the wings, heads, breasts, etc., of our birds and then ask why do they feed sparrows to the snakes at the Zoo.

The Discovery of Native Iron.

The following extract is taken from the Baltimore Sun of the 20th ult:

Dr. R. H. Lawrence writes to THE SUN as follows: "I received from a friend in North Carolina recently a fine collection of gold ores from eighteen different mines in that State, and accompanying those specimens were also a large number of crystals of magnetic iron ore. In order to find out if any gold was associated with the magnetite, I threw a number of the crystals in an iron mortar, and commenced beating them with a pestle to reduce them to a powdered condition. I found that while most of the magnetite yielded readily to the pounding, there were five pieces that could not be broken up. Thinking they might possibly be native iron, I removed them from the mortar, and after satisfying myself that I was correct in my opinion, I determined to send them to Prof. Dana, of New Haven, Conn., to have his opinion respecting the discovery. He stated in answer to my letter that they were undoubtedly native iron.

"There are no properly authenticated accounts of native iron, apart from its meteoric origin, having ever been found in the United States, excepting that which I recently discovered."

A Very Curious Tree.

Near the town of Preston, Caroline Co., Md., Stands a tree which attracts the attention of passers by. The tree from its peculiarity, has received the name of "The Rainbow Tree." A fine white spray descends from it and it is said a rainbow has been seen in this spray, which is really the sap of the tree discharged by numerous bugs which cling to it and extract the sap. At the Smithsonian Institute, similar phenomena have been noticed.

THE COLLECTOR.

A monthly journal devoted to the interests of collectors of Stamps, Coins, Curiosities, Etc.

PUBLISHED AT

EASTON, - MD.

—BY—

C. HADDAWAY, - Editor.

ADVERTISING RATES:—25c. per inch. All ads under one inch, 5c. per line.

AG No Stamps Taken.

Subscription Price 20c. per year.

Contributions from the pens of patrons always in demand.

Our Introduction.

This is our introductory issue as you can well imagine by taking a bird's-eye view of us. Excuse us for not presenting our card, but we left our card-case at home on the piano, and consequently this blunder. In order to atone for this piece of negligence, we have presented you with the cards of several eminent and reliable dealers in stamps, curiosities, etc., trusting that you, with becoming grace, will submit to the inevitable. We have entered into Amateur journalism: yes, we have. Perhaps you have witnessed the confusion of a school-boy upon making his first speech before his friends, or upon attempting to write his first composition. Perchance, who knows? you may have felt this delightful sensation yourself. Well, that's just about the way we feel. We have had the colic and we have been in love, but never before have we felt such a feeling as is hammering away under our vest pocket. In preparing this salutatory we have sharpened our pencil so often that there is nothing left at present but a stub, and we have wasted so much paper that this issue of *THE COLLECTOR* *est certainly mirabile dictu*. There is no use in portraying in italicized words visionary schemes and promises never to be

fulfilled; this is very often done and such journals too soon become a literature of the past. Now, we do not desire to be classed among the papers that bloomed in the spring, because we would feel like a misplaced ornament(?). As you have probably concluded from what we have already said, we are naturally of a retiring nature; but we are not too bashful to make our appearance. We will always endeavor, to prepare our monthly speech and to deliver it as meekly as possible, but we do not wish to be presented with bouquets while speaking as we are not as yet accustomed to that sort of thing. Unobtrusive we shall always strive to be, but we propose to make ourselves known, even by our unobtrusiveness.

Now that we have introduced ourselves, let us cordially grasp each other by the hand and swear a life-long and we sincerely hope, a long-life friendship.

P. S.—We forgot, *absolutely forgot* to say how much we can be bought for. At present our manager asks only 20c. (no stamps). Cheap, isn't it? Well, as we have said, that's the way we feel and we are positively opposed to dissimulation.

N. B.—The privilege of posting bills upon us can be obtained at this office for only 25c. per inch for one insertion.

How much better does *The American Philatelic Association* sound than *The Philatetical Society of America*. Thanks to Mr. Mekell for this change of name and also for the privilege of allowing collectors under seventeen years of age to enter this association.

Next month we will open an exchange column free to patrons. Others charged 5c. per line. Notice not to exceed 25 words.

Remit all money to us by postal note, money order or registered letter. No stamps taken.

Exchange Notice.

We will open an exchange column next month free to subscribers and advertisers. Exchange notices must not exceed 25 words.

Others than patrons charged at 5c. per line.

California's Big Trees are Going.

The "big trees" of California will soon be extinct. Seventeen lumber companies, owning from 3,000 to 25,000 acres of red-wood forest each, are waging the war of extermination with all the weapons known to the modern logging camp. The demand for the wood is unlimited, and all the mills are kept at work to the limit of their capacity. The forests are large, but the forces employed against them are swift and irresistible. — *Missouri Republican*.

Disappearance of Song-birds.

A Utica naturalist says that song birds in that region are fast disappearing. The wren is almost unknown, the bobolink, that formerly abounded on the Mohawk meadows, is disappearing rapidly, while blue birds, yellow birds, orioles, and even woodpeckers, hightoes, and crows are becoming scarce. As a consequence, he says, fruit trees and all sorts of vegetation are suffering from the ravages of insects. The disappearance of these birds is due chiefly to pot hunters.

A Straw House.

A house of straw is now being constructed in Philadelphia, to be shipped to England and erected on the grounds of the American Exhibition in London. It is an American suburban villa of the most approved architectural design, two and a half stories high and covering a space 42x50 feet. It is built entirely of material manufactured from straw—straw timbers, straw lumber, straw sheeting, straw flooring and straw decorations, the inside finish being of very handsome design, executed in imitation of rosewood, mahogany, oak, walnut and ash.

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Letter Heads, name and business on, 35 cents. Envelopes and Business Cards same price. 1000 Circulars, 4x6, \$1.50. 1000 Circulars, 6x9, \$2.00. All job printing equally low. We make a *Specialty* of Job Printing for *Naturalists* and *Collectors*, Papers or Magazines, Circulars, Price Lists, Data Blanks, etc. Send stamp for samples and prices. Our paper *The People's Press* sent one year free with order am't to \$1. **R. M. Ralston, Flushing, Mich.**

THIS PAPER IS A SPECIMEN OF OUR WORK.

THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., DECEMBER, 1886.

NO. 2.

The Candle Fish.

One of the curiosities of the animal kingdom is the eulachon or candle-fish (*thaleichthys pacificus*) of the North-eastern Pacific. It is about fourteen inches long, resembles the smelt in appearance, and is caught in large quantities in the early spring. It is the fattest of all known fishes, for which reason its dried and smoked flesh is highly esteemed as a warming food for winter by the Indians, by whom the oil is also eaten. So fat is the fish that when dried it burns with a bright flame until entirely consumed, forming a candle much used among the Indians either with or without a wooden wick passed through the body

From Petrified Wood.

A Presbyterian church built from petrified wood found in Allen's creek, is one of the curiosities of Mumford, N. Y. Leaf and moss fossils are to be plainly seen in the stone.

(For the Collector.)

U. S. Carrier Stamps.

There were three sets of these stamps issued in 1851 by the U. S. Government. The first and second sets contained but one variety each, and the third three. The first two are very common, even now, being worth but from ten to twenty five cents. It is of the third I wish to speak. This set consists of three varieties, each containing the picture of a horseman, over which is the word "Government," and below, the words "City Despatch." They are the 1 cent, black; 1 sent, black; and the 1 cent, red, all of which are unperforated. These stamps are very rare, and command a high premium. Some time ago a collector of this place found

among some old letters of his father's and grandfather's some of these stamps, at least several of the 1 cent, red and 1 cent, black. At first they passed from one collector to another and were bought for from one to five cents. Finally, however, their true value was found out and they were bought up by one or two collectors and sold to a dealer. M. L. Durbin, of Philadelphia, purchased several.

This goes to show that many old and rare stamps may be found on old family letters and when found thus, they are sure to be genuine. Nearly every household contains some of these letters which, if you ransack, you will see contain such stamps. Another collector here found some U. S. Locals and in excellent condition. These stamps are, of course, too expensive for collectors' to purchase, the price paid for the Carrier stamps spoken of above being 65 cents and \$1.25 for the black and red, respectively.

—A. F. H.

Anagrams.

A good game for evenings, for the elder as well as the young folks, is "anagrams." To play it you need a set of letters on card board. The game is simply to pick out the letters which make some word, mix them up, and give them to your neighbor, who is to puzzle out the word; and he also should give one to you. The words should not be too long; the best fun is to puzzle others with a word of six or seven letters. It is said that Lord Beaconsfield and Queen Victoria used to lighten the cares of State by an occasional game of "anagrams;" and it is also said that the prime minister gave the Queen a word of eight letters over which make "at barley," and make

them into one word,—a good, plain English word,—no “catch” about it.

For instance, “moon starker” makes “astronomer.” It takes a pretty bright person to make them out—especially the long ones.

We would be pleased to receive any of these from our readers.

Two Remarkable Eggs.

Not long since, Mr. John W. Scott, of Oxford, Md., brought us an egg which was laid by an ordinary hen. The egg is one of the largest we have ever seen, measuring eight inches around the point and butt, and six inches around the sides. Its weight was five ounces.

We would like to hear from anyone having an egg any heavier than this. It is now in our possession and we would be glad to show it to visitors. We have another egg laid by an “every-day” hen and is unlike the ordinary egg, inasmuch as it is perfectly flat on one side and will easily remain on an inclined plane, if the inclination to roll off be not too great. The hen that laid this egg had the misfortune of dying a natural death a few days after and was thus prevented from laying any more like it.

(For the Collector.)

A Beautiful Specimen of Conglomerate.

It was my pleasure last month to witness the dedication of the first monument marking the position of a Confederate command at Gettysburg, and while there I saw a very striking specimen of conglomerate, a description of which may be of some interest to your readers. On this vast battlefield one beholds numerous monuments, such as was recently erected, of many quaint and original designs. The one that is generally conceded to be the handsomest on the field is the shape of a diamond, resting on end in a pillar, and bearing the life-size statue of the youngest soldier in the regiment engraved upon its

front. This monument was erected by one of the regiments of Massachusetts, and I may say just here, that this state has the prettiest and most costly structures on the ground. But of all the pretty and original monuments seen, the one that impressed me more than any other was that erected to the memory of the twentieth regiment of Mass. This is composed of a base probably four feet in height and as many in width, upon which stands a cube of conglomerate about six feet in dimension. This rock is of the *pudding* stone variety, and was brought from a river in Massachusetts and erected at Gettysburg by the surviving members of the 20th regiment a few years ago. One side, even at present is of a yellow color, showing where the stone had lain in the river-bed before its removal. The reason of my strange attraction to this monument is that I am very much interested in the collection of minerals and such things, and this specimen was one of the prettiest I had ever seen.

—A COLLECTOR.

A Ball of Birds.

It may, perhaps, be adduced as one of the most remarkable of the many curious and often inexplicable habits common to the lower animal of widely different classes, the practice of forming themselves into ball or clusters, as is the case with bees, star-fish, some kinds of bats, and at least two species of birds. One of these species is a swallow found in Van Dieman's Land: the other, the mouse bird of Central Africa. These straggly little creatures, according to Le Vaillant, who describes them, generally live in small companies of five or six individuals, and generally select a densely foliaged tree or thick mass of bushes for their gathering place.

Pheneaux, who verifies this statement of Le Vaillant, also mentions having seen them clinging to each other while asleep, the first bird holding on

to the branch with one foot, while it supports a second bird by entwining one of the latter's legs with its own free limb; this second bird in a like manner supporting a third, and so on until they form a chain that often contains as many as six or seven of these living links.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

—Ingenuity is often displayed by the sparrow.

—A petrified man has been found in Philadelphia.

—A natural gas well has been discovered in St. Louis.

—In two weeks during last October nearly 130,000 dollars worth of land containing iron was sold in Virginia to northern capitalists. A great deal of the land is in Pulaski County.

—Ramon Vejar, of Pomona, Cal., killed a four-legged quail, which is now in the hands of a local taxidermist.

—A deposit of blood agate, containing stones large enough to be sawed into slabs for mantels, has been found in Utah, near the Grand River.

—The Rochester, (N. Y.) *Democrat* speaks of a double apartment nest found in that vicinity lately, with two broods of American sparrows, separated by a horsehair partition.

—The U. S. silver dollar that we handle every day is really worth only 75c. —*Curiosity World*.

Bro. Hubbard is luckier than we are, as we seldom handle a coin higher than a quarter.

—A duck on a Lancaster County, Pa. farm caught a sparrow, took it to a barrel which a stream of water runs into and deliberately drowned it.

Why do not all farmers train their ducks to follow suit?

—A Russian engineer claims to have discovered a process of reducing petroleum to the form of crystals, which may be easily and safely transported to any distance and then reconverted into liquid form.

—Last month the Police Board of Baltimore collected all the old money accumulating about the police headquarters for years in one place. The collection amounted to \$336, and contained many old and curious coins.

—Of all curious things sent through the mails, the most curious we have heard of, was put in the letter-box at this post-office a short time ago. It was a clothes-pin. A clothes-line is expected very soon.

—Eleven owls were shot near Locust Grove, Md., by Wm. E., and Thomas Pennington a few days ago. They were of the largest size.

—A gray eagle was recently shot near this place, measuring 6 feet, 8 inches from tip to tip across the wings, and 2 feet, 8 inches from head to tail.

—A vein of silver ore has been struck in Millvale borough, Allegheny County. Specimens have been analyzed and assayed rich. The silver was found sixty feet down by an old "Forty niner" named Martin Zeigler, whose experience led him to suspect its presence and to sink a shaft.

—To TAXIDERMISTS:—It is now circulated through the press that the latest want, a lady's wire-bustle has supplied, is that of a squirrel-cage. All persons interested in taxidermy should persuade their lady friends to loan their bustles, or to wear them on the outside of their dress instead of the present arrayment.

EXCHANGES.

—This department free to patrons.

Fine, perfect arrow and spearheads, for large U. S. cents. Write and state what dates you have, and what you want for them. H. T. UPSON, Parkersburg, W. Va.

To exchange Indian money, minerals curiosities, books, etc., for a good printing press, (chase not less than 3½x5½.) THOS. R. RAINES, Hickory, Miss.

Additional exchanges on page 7.

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Remit by Postal Note when convenient.

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EDITORIAL.

It will be seen in this number that we have raised the subscription price from 20 cents per year to 25 cents. Owing to our extremely low advertising rates, we feel justifiable in making this change, and hope our readers will find no complaint.

We wish to exchange with every amateur and curiosity paper published. Editors and publishers please send copy.

We have received the introductory issue of the *Young Virginia*, published at Smithfield, Va., by Mr. J. W. Johnson, Jr. It is a neat and attractive sheet and we wish it success.

Articles for publication should reach us by the 20th of the month to insure publication in next issue.

Remit all money to us by postal note, money order, registered letter or silver. No stamps taken.

The *Philatelic Press and Advertiser*, of N. Attleboro, Mass., is announced for this month. It is probable that but one issue will be published.

Not until its thirtieth number did the *Mystic World* become aware of the fact that every amateur paper should have a philatelic department.

NOTICE.—To every one who subscribes to this paper before January 1st, we will give free a set of beautiful picture cards or five varieties of same.

A Curiosity.

I have in my collection a curiosity in the form of a pipe bowl. It is of common brier wood and found by fishermen while dredging for oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. Three small shells cling to the outside of the pipe, while securely wedged in the interior of the bowl is a small oyster shell. The pipe may have been dropped into the sea by some fisherman or sailor or was lost by a drowning seaman. The young oyster probably took up its abode in the bowl of the pipe and became securely fastened. Being unable to extract itself, it thus starved to death.

The above is taken from the November issue of the *Youth's Herald*. The writer is certainly not acquainted with the oyster and probably imagines him a peculiar species of sea animal walking about upon the bosom of the vast deep and occasionally paying a visit to the home of some lonely light house keeper when he unceremoniously orders a first-class meal. Now, we can vouch for the fact that oysters, at least Chesapeake Bay oysters, do not have legs, nor do they dine at a hotel. How the oyster in question, ever became so attached to the pipe is a mystery. Of course there are several ways of accounting for the phenomenon: but all seem equally improbable. One of them runs thusly: A hungry fish-hawk may in one of his dives after a fish for breakfast, or perhaps dinner, have grasped a wee oyster with the fish. Upon perceiving this, he bethought himself how to dispose of his passenger. Very soon he spies a pipe floating in the water, and into this he safely places the small oyster. It is plainly evident that the weight of the latter sunk the pipe, as the pipe was made of brier wood, which in itself cannot sink. This theory is improbable, as the writer says the oyster was wedged tightly in the pipe and could not extract itself. We are not in least

surprised that it could not extricate itself: but how it became wedged in, is another mystery. There is no account of the fish-hawk dropping a wedge at the same time as the oyster, and even this it would have required a third party to wedge the wedge between the oyster and the pipe. Another version of the affair may be that as some poor, tired sailor was asleep on his boat with his feet hanging over the sides and almost touching the water, an oyster bent on adventure, was leisurely strolling about and perceived the sailor. After a little meditation in his mind the oyster proceeding gently to wend his way up the sleeping sailor's trouser leg, and extracted from his pocket the wonderful pipe. This granted, the question arises, why did the oyster not take the sailor's flask as well as his pipe and, perchance a pack of cards?

We all know this cannot be, as the foresaid oyster was a Chesapeake Bay oyster! All who are acquainted with these oysters, can say that their moral training has been of too high an order as to allow them to use tobacco or intoxicating liquor in any form.

Can any of our readers solve the mystery of the oyster and the pipe?

(For the Collector.)

Indian Relics of Clinton County, Pa.

Clinton County was one of the favorite hunting grounds of the Delaware, or Moussey tribe of Indians.

Within one mile of my home is a large island in the Susquehanna River, where the Indians met in council. And the site of an Indian town and burying ground is also near. Large quantities of weapons and implements are found, principally in ploughed fields and along the banks of the river. The principal relics found are large numbers of Indian arrowheads, large and small fragments of pottery, net-sinkers, spears, celts, axes, pipes, hammer

stones, etc. One variety of pottery, which is scarce, is made from soapstone and varies from one half to an inch and a half in thickness, and seems to have been used over hot fires, as it still shows marks of heat.

I recently found an arrowhead of copper, which is rarely found in this locality. Large numbers of finely dressed war and arrow points are found of fine workmanship. I also have in my collection, which is large, a finely polished perforated celt $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, covered with characters, which no doubt mean much in the Indian language.

I found eight spearheads in one place in a single day, all of which were over six inches long. I know of a large number of pipes found here: one $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches, and made of soapstone with the head of a fox finely engraved upon it. A pair of stone bullet moulds and a 4th. solid cannon ball were found here also. How the cannon ball got here is a mystery. Although there were several forts close, none employed cannons. I would like to correspond with collectors on this subject, and all letters will be cheerfully answered. I will send a fine fragment of the above mentioned pottery, post-paid for 20 cts. Address, T. B. Stewart, Island, Clinton Co., Pa.

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1 "	Coal Agates.....	10 cents.
1 "	Slate Agates.....	10 cents.
1 "	Aafna.....	10 cents.
1 "	Fruit Agates.....	10 cents.
1 "	Miss. Petrified Wood.....	10 cents.

Your choice 10c. The lot for 50c. No stamps taken. Send Money Order, or Postal Note on Hickory. Miss. Send stamp for price-list. Address THOS. R. RAINES. — Hickory, Miss

EXCHANGES.

Continued from page 3.

5 varieties of sandstone or 10 varieties of minerals for every 2 good Indian arrowheads, or 8 pieces of pottery. A set of Mikado cards for every good arrowhead or 4 pieces of pottery. C. HADDAWAY, Easton, Md.

A 4 months subscription to the *Eclipse*, an eight-page monthly, devoted to philately, natural history, etc., for every perfect Indian arrowhead sent me. GEO. D. MORRIS, #216 Station St., E. E. Pittsburg, Pa.

—Some of the bones of a mastodon were dug up near Milan, Mich., a short time ago. A part of a tusk, broken, is fifty-two inches long and fourteen inches in circumference. The femur is forty inches long. Two bones of the hind leg are fifty-four inches in length. A tooth is $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the top, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and seven inches deep. Many parts of the skeleton are lacking.

—Nearly 2,500 bags of pecan nuts have been received in New England from Texas within a few days past. Most of the supply is said to be consumed in this section.

—A number of Eastern taxidermists are encamped among Ten Thousand Islands, near Ponce de Leon Bay, Fla., slaying the now nesting feathery tribe by the wholesale.

—Twenty-three years ago New Mexico was overrun with turkey buzzards that had followed Sibley's command from Texas. The birds remained there for five or six years and all at once disappeared, since which time not one has been seen in the Territory.

—A New Mexico cattle dealer recently shipped five car loads of fine heaves to the Kansas City market, and after paying railroad freights, stockyard charges, feed, commissions, etc., had just seven dollars a head left for his cattle.

—It is charged that the doctors in the City of Mexico write their prescriptions in cipher, which can only be put up at a certain drug store.

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—*G. HADDAWAY,*

Easton, Md.

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THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., JANUARY, 1887.

NO. 3.

(For the Collector.)

The American Rail.

BY "NIGHT OWL."

The American Rail affords the sportsman a most agreeable amusement, and a delicious repast. In Virginia it is called *sora*, and in South Carolina, the *coot*. Its history is involved in profound mystery. No one can detect the first moment of arrival; yet, all at once, the reedy shores, and grassy marshes of our large rivers swarm with them, thousands of them being sometimes found within the space of several acres. These when they do venture on the wing, seem to fly so feebly, and in such short fluttering flights among the reeds as to render it highly improbable to most people that they could possibly make their way over an extensive country, yet on the first smart frost that occurs, the whole suddenly disappear as if they had never been.

When the reeds along the shore of the Delaware have attained their full growth, the rail resort to them in great numbers to feed on the seeds of this plant, of which they are immoderately fond. As you walk along the embankment of the river at this season you hear them squeaking in every direction like young puppies. In the meantime none are seen, unless it be at high water; for when the tide is low, they universally secrete themselves among the reeds, and you may walk past and even over them without seeing a single individual. Their flight through the reeds is exceedingly low; and shelter being abundant it is rarely extended far. They swim and dive with great rapidity, and sometimes when wounded, they dive, and rising under the gunwale of the boat, secrete

themselves there, moving around as the boat moves, until they have an opportunity of escaping. They are feeble and delicate in everything but the legs, which seem to possess great vigor and energy, and their bodies being so remarkably thin, as to be less than an inch and a half through transversely, they are able to pass between the reeds like rats. These birds are also numerous near Detroit, in the lagoons, where another species of reed grows of which they are fond. Where there are no reeds, they are never to be found; but wherever the reeds are, there the rails are sure to be in great numbers.

(For the Collector.)

Facts Concerning the stamped Envelope.

BY A. F. H.

The stamped envelope of universal daily use throughout the United States is a great convenience to business men, and possesses certain valuable privileges over the envelope with an adhesive stamp not as yet generally known. An envelope with an adhesive stamp can be sent only by mail, whereas the stamped envelope may be carried "outside of the mails, by railroads, steamboats, express, stages and other means of conveyance." These privileges may be found to good account sometime by business men.

A wonderful mountain of slate has been discovered in Blount County, Tennessee. It is described as "a solid wall of slate, illimitable in extent and of very superior quality."

The postmaster is about the only one price dealer.

THE COLLECTOR.

A monthly journal devoted to Agents and Collectors of all branches.

—Published at—

EASTON,

MD.,

—By—

The Collector Publishing Co.

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EDITORIAL.

Remit money to us in any manner, except stamps if possible.

Thanks to Mr. C. T. Tatnan, of Worcester, Mass., for his pocket "Manual of Coins."

The *Clyde Press* is fast improving in appearance.

The *Eclipse* of December was warmly clad in a cover for the winter.

The *Monthly Advertiser*, of Passumpsic, Vt., is announced for this month.

The *Youth's Ledger* still appears with a supplement.

All letters of inquiry addressed to us should contain a stamp for reply.

Mr. R. T. James of Vernon Hill, Va., contemplates starting a paper at his place this month. Success.

The *Young Barbarian* desires the prohibition party to prohibit something sensible,—for instance, the killing of birds for fashion purposes. Quite a good idea, bros.

The *Naumkeague Collector*, of Salem, Mass., is announced for this month. It will be devoted to collectors of postmarks, tags and birds' eggs.

"Much Ado about Nothing,"—the controversy between the editor of the

Sweetshoro Eagle and the editor of the *Neenah Clipper* in regard to what is in each others' cranium.

We have received from Mr. W. B. Beekman, of West Medford, Mass., two pretty specimens of minerals mounted on card-board, and labeled "Himonite, Chester, Pa." Thanks.

The new postal card, which so much has been said and written, has appeared and is a decided improvement upon its predecessors.

By some mistake our notice of Scott & Co's. catalogues was omitted from our December number. We received from the printer their catalogues from these publishers, viz., Catalogue of Gold and Silver Coins, of Copper Coins and Postage and Revenue Stamps. As Scott & Co., of 721 Broadway, New York, are one of the largest firms in the country, no pains have been spared by them to make these works masterpieces in their several departments. They are finely engraved and should be in the hands of every collector and would be a great acquisition to any library.

We are in possession of a most beautiful conch shell brought by Capt. C. C. Rivers of the brig "Stephen Bishop," from the island of Orchilla, in the Caribbeian sea. The shell is perfect in every particular, and would be a great addition to any collector's cabinet.

In a recent number of the *Scientific American* a highly interesting and valuable article was published relating to the skinning of small quadrupeds for mounting. The article was written by Prof. Wm. T. Hornaday, chief taxidermist at the National Museum, and among the many valuable truths concerning the subject may be mentioned the fact that you should never throw away the bones of an animal; but always leave them attached to the skin. Taxidermists should

read this valuable article.

A Very Rare Stamp.

To the Editors of the COLLECTOR :

I enclose you a stamp which I found among a pile of old letters. I had often looked through these letters in quest of some rare stamps, and found several, the most valuable of which was a 6c. brown of the 1847 issue U. S., catalogued at 25 cents. I determined to examine these letters once more before destroying them, and in doing so I found this stamp which had hitherto escaped my notice. Will you kindly inform me as to its true value and tell me what stamp it is? I have been offered from \$1 to \$5 for it; but fearing to part with it lest it may be of some value, I take this mean of ascertaining what I want to know. Hoping to receive a reply in the columns of your very worthy paper, I remain,

Yours Respectfully,

H. K. M.

The stamp in question is a United States Local of some value. It is one of a set of two stamps, 1852 issue, Washington, D. C., with "Washington" erased. Neither Durbin nor Sterling catalogue the stamp; but Scott quotes it at \$15.00. This was quite a good find; but you should have saved the envelope on which it was.

—EDITORS.

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Fine approval sheets of rare stamps at very low prices. All stamps are genuine. I allow 5% per cent commission to agents. Great bargains. I will exchange rare stamps from approval sheets for rare U. S. coins. Send list at once. Send 2c. stamp for approval sheet to

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THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., FEBRUARY, 1887.

NO. 4

(For the Collector.)

THE REED BIRD.

BY NIGHT OWL.

THIS bird is called bob-o-link in the northern states, and butter bird in Jamaica. He is seven and a half inches long. This is one of the most common birds in the United States, and is familiar to every school boy by the lively jingle of his note. The plumage of the male is an odd mixture of white and black in the spring and early part of the summer—he changes to a yellowish brown late in the season. The female is of a dusky brown. In the eastern states the arrival of this bird is welcomed with pleasure, as he is highly esteemed and his habits are comparatively harmless to the crops. In the southern states he is more annoying to the husbandman and the sportsmen of those parts, who show the rice bird no mercy, as his flesh is excellent. They do great damage to the early wheat and barley in Virginia and eagerly devour young ears of Indian corn. They feed also on grubs, flies, and caterpillars. They pour down upon the oat fields in a torrent, and resort to the shores of the Delaware and Schuylkill in immense numbers, to feed upon the reeds or wild oats. At this time they are extremely fat. Their note is a single chink, and is heard overhead with little intercession from morning to night. These are halcyon days for our gunners, and many a lame and rusty gun-barrel is put in requisition for the sport. The report of musketry along the reedy shores of the river is almost incessant, resembling a running fire. The markets of Philadelphia and Wilmington at this season exhibit proofs of the prodigious havoc made among the birds. In the fall,

they swarm in the rice fields, and devour great quantities of that grain.

(For the Collector.)

VARIETIES OF STAMPS.

BY WANDERER.

Among the many common stamps we handle almost daily and throw aside with contemptuous indifference are worthy of a place in our collections. I will try and describe some which are very easily procured and can be added to a collection with but little or no cost. First of all I will mention some of the Austrian of the '67 issue. The 2 kr. comes in both yellow and orange: the 5 kr., in red, vermilion and carmine. I have also a specimen of the 5 kr. in brown. The 10 kr. is in navy and ultramarine blue: these colors appear also in the 2 kr. newsband, the 5 and 10 kr. envelope. Roumania appears with quite a number; but I will only call attention to the following in the '62 issue. There are five stamps in this series, although three is the number usually given—3 pa., yellow, 3 pa., orange, 6 pa., vermilion, 6 pa., carmine and 30 pa., blue. The 6 pa., vermilion has been usually considered a reprint and the 6 pa., carmine alone original. I have found the 6 pa., vermilion on the original envelope, and can safely say the stamp was issued in vermilion as well as carmine. I have also a specimen of the 3 pa. canceled by having the date and name of town written across it. I have supposed this way of cancellation was purely an American institution but find now that it was done in Europe in 1863. I notice also the 15 bani of the '80 issue has appeared in a light shade of brown, also in chocolate. The same colors

occur in the unpaid stamps. We find the 5 cent of the '52 issue of Holland in dark blue and in blue green, and among our oddities must be placed the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent red newspaper stamp of 1876 which comes to us doubly perforated—across the upper and lower portions of stamps, I have the 1 n. of Bosnia in lilac instead of the usual gray. This stamp is not listed by any of the leading American retail dealers although one wholesale dealer quotes it as an error! It may be one of those *numerus errors* made for sale with which the country is flooded. I have never seen it in a used condition.

We gain several stamps among the French issues of '76-86: the 3 cent bistre on straw and yellow on straw, the 10 cent black on flesh and black on gray, the 15 cent in navy and ultramarine blues, 25 cents black on red and black on rose, 25 cent bistre on yellow and yellow on yellow, the 25 cent blue, and in ultramarine blues.

Italy has two varieties of the surcharged 20 cent. In the oval brand surrounding the head there are at the sides two ornaments. One variety has a white dot above and below each of these ornaments, the other has the ornaments alone. I have examined a large number of the balance of this series but have never found any but the surcharged 20 cents having the white dots.

I would never have noticed this variety, had not a young collector called my attention to it. It surprised me and shows that if we would examine our common stamps more closely, we might find many varieties which are unknown and which would repay us for the time spent in this manner.

Sweden in the '58 issue gives us the 12 ore in navy and ultramarine blues: the latter is quite rare and few are fortunate enough to possess a specimen of the 12 ore in this color. In the '63 issue we get the 17 ore in violet and gray. In the '72 and official series the 6 ore appears in violet and gray; the gray variety being the scarcest stamp

of the set. The unpaid gives us the 6 ore in yellow and orange.

Victoria in '80 gives us the 2 p. in light brown, also in chocolate. Columbia in '70 issued the 5 cent in yellow and in orange, the 10 cent, lilac and violet, in '76 the 5 cent in violet and lilac, the 10 cent in light brown and chocolate, the 20 cent in navy and ultramarine blues, in '80 the 5 cent black on lilac and black on gray. Chili in '83 issued the 2 cent in lake, the color intended for the 5 cent instead of the rose color it usually appears in. Peru has the issue of '70 (Lima correas) in deep red, also in rose, the 2 cent '74-7 in lilac and purple, the 5 cent same issue in navy and ultramarine blues. Trinidad '63 and '72 has the 1 p. in red, carmine and vermilion; Antigua '62-72 the 1 p. in vermilion, carmine and lake; Salvador in '79 the 5 cent in ultramarine and navy blues; Canada in '60-8 the 10 cent in lilac and gray, in '70-86 the 3 cent in vermilion, *red* and *brown*. I do not possess the latter variety, but it is in the collection of one of the leading philatelists of Chicago.

I have noticed the varieties of color in our own stamps in a former article and will not go over them again. I have come across the 1, 3 and 10 cent of the '57 issue which are perforated on *three sides only*. This cannot be accounted for by saying they were the last stamps on the sheet, as each of the specimens in my collection has a portion of the *adjoining stamp* attached, showing the stamps must have been cut. I have also of the '70 issue a specimen of 3 cent green with upper portion of the stamp attached, showing perforations on the lower portion and both sides, but unperforated at the top.

The few stamps I have attempted to call your attention to are all distinct colors and varieties, although many are not catalogued, yet some of the leading philatelists of this country whom I have been in correspondence, have conceded that I have rightfully

classed them as true varieties, and worthy of the attention of philatelists. I am not endeavoring to force any new varieties upon the public: but simply call attention to those stamps which, perhaps, we handle almost daily. Our catalogues are as yet very imperfect, especially in regard to foreign and U. S. local stamps. As there are many of these stamps which are unknown, and in almost every collection of above 2,000 you will find stamps you never heard of before, many stamps are rejected as being bogus on account of not being catalogued. For example, not long ago I found an Adams' Express City Post, 2 cent, in possession of a dealer who said it had been rejected as an invention of a new local by all his customers. I bought the stamp for a trifle and found upon investigation that it was worth from twelve to fifteen dollars. Perhaps some day we will have a good catalogue of U. S. postage and local stamps which will be a standard, the same as Mr. Sterling's Revenue catalogue. Then we will find many things in U. S. stamps bringing a high value we never noticed or thought were worthy of attention.

(For the Collector.)

EXPLORING A CAVE.

BY F. R. STEARNS.

PART II.

The water in which I landed was a small creek about three feet wide. It covered the floor from one wall to the other, and ran so evenly on the smooth floor that it could hardly be heard. I shouted to the boys who were eagerly looking from above, and one by one they came down the rope. But I didn't tell them to look out for water, and it would have made any body laugh to have seen how surprised and scarlet they looked when they "struck bottom." We decided to explore the passage in the direction the stream ran, first. The water was as clear as glass, and tasted as pure as water could. It was very cold, as we found

after we had walked in it a short distance. What seems strange to me is that the air in this passage was warm, while in the passage above it was very cold. We had only gone a short distance when we heard a kind of hollow sound, which grew louder as we approached its cause. Going forward, we found it was produced by the water falling down a dark hole in the floor. We lowered a lantern as far as our rope reached (50 feet), but could not see bottom. We named it "Underground Waterfall."

It was now getting late, and, as we wanted to explore the other passage, we were forced to retrace our steps. We returned to the large chamber without exploring the passage in the direction the creek came from. It was an agreeable change to get out of the lower passage, for it was so warm there we were almost in a perspiration. We entered one of the passages opening out of the large chamber. It was altogether unlike those we had been exploring. Instead of the roof being high above us, it was so low we had to creep on our hands and knees in many places. The floor was covered with stones like a creek or river bed, and as we went along we found several fossils belonging to the Lower Silurian age. We proceeded in this way for a short distance and came to the end. This looked like a stone quarry, from which rock had been quarried. We accepted the theory that the waters of a creek had dropped down from above, wearing the rocks and carrying them along its bed (which was the passage we had been following), the same as in any creek above ground. The rock was some of the lower strata of the Trenton limestone, had a dark blue color, and in some parts was filled with fossils. While moving rocks in search of these, a hole just large enough to squeeze through was uncovered. It opened into a large, though very low room, and was probably the outlet of

(Continued on page 4.)

THE COLLECTOR.

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Agents and Collectors of all branches.

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PERSONAL.

Thanks to Mr. John M. Hubbard, of Lake Village, N. H., for one of his pamphlets, entitled "The Stamp Dealers of the World."

Mr. W. A. Saxton, present editor of the *Clyde* (N. Y.) *Press*, expects to issue the first number of a 10-page monthly this month. • The paper will be devoted to collectors of all branches.

Mr. R. T. James, of Vernon Hill, Va., writes us that he returned home the latter part of December from attending a patient with hydrophobia. He states that a perfect cure was effected with one of his famous "Mad-stones."

Mr. C. R. Bishop, of 1514 Linden Ave., Baltimore, informs us that he will start a paper in a short time, to be devoted to collectors and lovers of puzzle craft.

Mr. Edgar D. Melville, of Chester, Pa., will issue about February or March, the first number of the *Exchange and Advertiser*.

Mr. Risdon's "ad." appeared in our last number with the name J. W. Risdon, Cambridgeport, Mass., instead of I. W. Risdon. Collectors will find it to their advantage to deal with Mr. Risdon as he is thoroughly reliable.

REVIEW.

The first number of the *Western Philatelist*, of Chicago, has appeared. It is a neat publication and a valuable journal to stamp collectors.

Vol. I, No. 1, of the *Peerless Review*, of Worcester, Mass., has reached us. From the initiatory number we believe Mr. Culross will make his paper a great success. Our well-wishes accompany his undertaking.

The *Golden State Scientist*, of Riverside, Cal., has suspended publication.

Our sanctum has been honored with a visit from this *Tiny Collector*, published by Mr. Herbert Bricker, of Slate Lick, Pa. This is the first number of this occasional, and we would like to see more of it.

The *Midget*, of York, Pa., is dead. We are extremely sorry for this, as we have seen but one number.

The first number of the *Chester* (Pa.) *Amateur* has been received.

We are in receipt of the *Monthly Advertiser*, published at Passumpsic, Vt.

(Continued from page 3)

a part of the waters from above. The floor of this chamber was covered with stones from the quarry above, making a fine place to hunt for fossils. Several small passages opened out of this room, but they were all too small to explore. We decided it was too late to explore any further that day, and returning to the large chamber where we had left our specimens, we gathered them up and returned to the mouth of the cave. We named it the L. S. T. E. A., in honor of the last names of the explorers. It was now 9 o'clock and very dark and had a three mile tramp before us. We reached home, however, about 10 o'clock to think and dream over the L. S. T. E. A.

We will make another visit to the cave soon to explore the other passages and gather specimens.

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A fire spearhead to be given for the best offer in old cents and U. S. coins. The spear is the finest of any in my collection of 500 different pieces, all considered very fine. H. T. UPSON, Parkersburg, W. Va.

An illustrated history of the U. S. mint at Philadelphia, and U. S. and Colonial coins, curiosities etc., for Indian relics, rare Confederate money, fractional currency, coins and war relics. Parties having war relics to exchange. Please write. T. B. STEWART Island, Pa.

Trilobites and fossils fish wanted for fine arrowheads. C. C. KEYSER, Pensacola, Fla.

Stamps, coins, fractional currency, autographs, old books, rare stamps, manuscripts, war and Indian relics wanted. Especially school books published in the Southern States before the war. F. D. DONOGHUE, Box 19, Georgetown, Mass.

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"Robinson Crusoe" and "Called Back" by Hugh Conway, both of which I will give for 10 match, medicine or Department stamps, 20 Revenue or U. S. postage, used before 1870, or 2 perfect arrowheads. HERBERT BRICKER, Slate Lick, Pa.



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VOLUME I.

NUMBER 5

THE COLLECTOR,

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March.

1887.

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THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., MARCH, 1887.

NO. 5.

(For the Collector.)

DESIGNS ON OUR STAMPS.

BY VICTOR.

Probably the United States has possessed during its past history as great a number of brave men dear to the hearts of their countrymen and posterity as any nation on the globe. From the time of its first colonization until now, such men have been born, reared and have died within this, their country. Of course, some tribute should be paid to their memory, and among the many different ways of doing this, the placing of their portraits upon our postage and other stamps holds by no means an insignificant rank. The United States has now passed through nineteen stamps—issuing years from 1847 to 1883 inclusive with many intermissions. During this time the government has issued but 84 varieties of postage adhesives. These 84 varieties consist of 13 different denominations. All of our one-cent stamps bear the head of Benjamin Franklin, and no better portrait could be found for the purpose. Franklin, as shown on the stamps, was not a homely man, and his profile executed in the lightest shade of blue, is supported admirably by the dark blue background. Too often a rather large bust is used to surmount stamps, but this is not the case with our one-centers, the design of which is as pretty as we have. The two-cent stamps next engage our attention. Here we see the "Father of his Country;" but certainly at a disadvantage. Washington was a very homely man, so our stamps say, and his homeliness is rendered more apparent by the exceeding plainness of the design of the stamp. The head

and bust are not so full as on the one-cent, but are much longer, thereby making a rather disproportioned figure. Then the color is not as pretty as it might be, and there is but very little variation in its different shades. The present two-cent stamp is not as fine looking as the one of 1872, or even the one of 1875. Both of these stamps are surmounted with the head of Jackson; but the former is by far the prettier. It is executed in brown, the latter in vermilion. Jackson's profile seems to be suitably adapted to the stamp, which fact is probably owing to his commanding aspect as seen on the issues of 1872 and 1875. The two-cent stamp of 1863, however, presents him in another light. The stamp is printed in black and bears the full-face portrait of a gray-haired man. Although this issue may somewhat reveal the infirmities of Jackson's later years, yet the stamp and its figure are both attractive. The three-cent stamp issued by the United States are of four colors, viz., rose, pink, red and green. We will speak only of the three-cent stamp that has just become obsolete,—the green one. This is honored with Washington's profile, and is a decided improvement over his portrait on the present two-cent claret. The head is larger, the neck shorter, we see a more expansive and intelligent brow and force of character is plainly indicated by the lines about the mouth. Washington's head seems not to be suited for our stamps, but an improvement can certainly be made upon its present appearance. We have had but one issue of the four-cent stamp, and that in 1883. Its color is green, and it bears Jackson's profile.

Our five-cent stamps have borne

the portraits of Jefferson, Taylor and Garfield. The five-cent Taylor, blue, is a very pretty stamp, although Mr. Taylor didn't comb his hair when the die was cast. Probably the ugliest stamp we possess is the present five-cent, brown, Garfield. Unlike Taylor, his profile only is given. The color of the stamp is catalogued, and called brown; but it reminds us of the hue of water colored with coffee. Such a stamp of this color cannot be pretty, place upon it whose portrait you will. The six-cent stamp bears the likeness of the uncouth, sturdy Lincoln. Stanton keeps watch over the seven-cent stamp, or at least did guard it as it is no longer in use. We next come to the ten-cent stamps. Up to the 1869 issue they bore the head of Washington on a green background. But the present ten-cent stamp is of the 1872 issue. Its color is brown, and it has the head of Jefferson upon it. This stamp is one of the prettiest of our entire lot. The design is rather simple, but the color is very pretty and the head is an unusually attractive one. This specimen presents Jefferson in a far more pleasing manner than do the stamps of earlier date which his portrait surmounts. The head of the present ten-cent stamp is the profile of a young man with his hair tied and hanging down upon his neck. Our twelve-cent stamps have all been of dark shades: those of former dates black with head of Washington, the present dark-purple with head of Clay. This stamp and its design are quite neat. The fifteen-cent orange is another very pretty stamp, and is surmounted with Webster's profile. The great statesman has a somewhat prepossessing appearance, displayed to advantage on the fifteen-cent stamp. Our remaining stamps are quite pretty. They are twenty-four-cent purple, thirty-cent black and the ninety-cent carmine, containing the portraits of Scott, Hamilton and Perry respectively. The last mentioned is the pretti-

est of the three; but had the thirty-cent been surmounted by Hamilton's portrait when he was but eighteen years of age, the effect would have been pleasing.

In mentioning the general issue of the United States stamps, no mention has been made of the 1869 edition. Prior to that time all stamps had been surmounted with the portraits of persons distinguished in the senate, in war or on the sea. Now it seems, however, that the government decided to place upon its stamps other designs. The stamps of '69 were much smaller than other issues, and contained eleven varieties. The two-cent brown contained the picture of a horseman: an Indian would have been better; but the native inhabitant of this country adorns some of our periodical stamps. Justice or Liberty, either of which the true-borne American lovers, would also have been more emblematic designs for this stamp. These figures, also, were placed upon newspaper stamps, probably representing the freedom of the press. The three-cent blue of the series of '69 bore the picture of a locomotive. Here again the above mentioned designs could have been brought into use, but the locomotive answered the purpose very well. The ten-cent yellow of this set bears the American bird of liberty, the eagle. It seems rather strange that the eagle should not have been used for this purpose before, as it is held in such high esteem by our people. The twelve-cent green contains a steamship: the U. S. stars and stripes would have been better. The fifteen-cent green is admirably surmounted by the landing of Columbus. It was a very good idea to place this design upon our stamps, but it should appear more often than it does. Another variety of the fifteen-cent brown contains a picture framed scene. What an idea! Why not put upon it the Queen of England's head or the profile of the sacred white elephant? The twenty-

four-cent green of 1869 contained the Declaration of Independence. This was as good a design as could be gotten and it should appear upon our every day two-cent stamps instead of on an obsolete variety. This set of 1869 which forms such a contrast to the remaining issues of the United States, was an extremely pretty lot, and it is somewhat strange that such stamps as these should be thrown aside after one year's use.

What will be the next figure to adorn our stamps? Mrs. Cleveland's pet poodle, or the portrait of the colored recorder, Matthews? Whichever of the two it may be, *non est dubitum quin* the stamp will do honor to its figure.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

To Editors of the COLLECTOR:

In the December number of the COLLECTOR I find a brief mention of the stone used in the construction of the Presbyterian church of this village. My residence is about twenty rods distant from this noted edifice. This church should be seen to be fully appreciated. Your information is not quite correct.

First, the stone is not a petrification, but a formation. It is indeed a curiosity, being a living substance, not dense but quite porous and light in bulk.

Secondly, it is not found *in* Allen's Creek, but *near* it. More properly speaking it is found in Spring Creek, a tributary of the above mentioned stream.

The N. Y. State Fish Hatchery is situated on this beautiful stream whose waters are clear as crystal and on whose banks many an angler has tried his skill in tempting the trout to taste of the innocent (!) fly. But to my subject.

The stone or formation is in or near swamps, through which Spring Creek or some of the many spring in this vi-

cinity flow. However, much of the swampy land has been reclaimed and in many instances the course of these streams has been changed.

Fine specimens of cedar, willow, maple, beech, and other leaves, and of limbs, twigs, moss bark, wood, etc. are found, showing in a remarkable degree the form of the natural. One explanation is that the leaves, etc., act as a mould around which the limy substance has formed and solidified.

Our townsman, Mr. Oliver Allen, has some very fine specimens of the formation which he exhibited at the Centennial in 1876. He has refused many offers for them, and one of \$150.00.

I have beautiful specimens of layers of leaves, besides acorn shucks, snail shells, etc., etc., etc.

I have yet to learn a similar stone to be found anywhere except here.

Very truly,

W. M. Christie.

Manford, N. Y.

Dec. 27, 1886.

—:O:—

The New Postal Card.

To Editors of COLLECTOR:

The newly designed postal card has now come into active service; but what is its superiority over its predecessors? The design is pronounced more graceful, inasmuch as the chief attraction is the position of Franklin's profile. Beauty it may possess; but convenience, none. Letters and postals are usually stamped in the upper right hand corner, thereby cancelling the stamps and making the postmark. This latter should be very plain, so that the date may be clearly seen. This cannot be done on our postal cards unless stamped twice, which would cause a great deal of inconvenience. This is the fault with a great many of
(Continued on 5th page.)

THE COLLECTOR.

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and Collectors of all branches.

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—BY—

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EDITORIAL.

Humanum est Errare.

Mistake, error, is the discipline through which we advance. Thus spake the poet, and very truly spoken. In our December number we commented somewhat upon the moral character of the Chesapeake Bay oyster; but we now fear that our comments were in vain. When we make a statement we usually sustain ourselves to the end if correct; but if in the wrong we are very willing to retrace our steps to set ourselves aright. We now find that what we stated with regard to the oyster is again proven false, as the following from a local exchange will show:

Mr. Martin Thawley, of Centreville, has a decided curiosity in the shape of an oyster attached to the mouth of a whiskey bottle. The small end of the oyster was firmly attached to the mouth of the bottle and was alive and about two-thirds grown when caught. Mr. Thawley caught it while tonging off the shore of Addison Emery, Esq., Corsica river, in about 14 feet of water. A gentleman who inspected the curiosity remarked that "even the oysters had taken to drink out of bottles since the passage of the local option law."

It was indeed heartrendering for us to read this, but through a strictly honest motive we reproduce it for our readers to see. The charge of using

tobacco brought against the oyster by the *Youth's Herald* was refuted by us, and it was done free gratis for nothing. But what does the oyster do in return? Reform? Oh, no! It goes from bad to worse, and we are afraid it will have to be sent to an inebriate asylum. And not invite us—us, its friend, its champion—to partake of that bottle of whiskey! Oh, the ingratitude with which this world is filled! Is life worth living? Ask us, and from a parched throat and fevered lips a sepulchral voice will answer no.

PERSONAL.

Mr. I. C. Greene, of Fitchburg, Mass., retired from the stamp business about eight months ago. He forbids any and all publishers from inserting his advertisements.

REVIEW.

The *Clyde Press*, of Clyde, N. Y., is now published semi-monthly instead of weekly.

The *Youth's Herald* has suspended publication for several months.

The *Tag Press*, of Titusville, Pa., issued its first number during the latter part of January. There are now two papers in the United States devoted to tag collecting.

Vol. I, No. 1 of the *Bay State Collector* has been received.

The *Empire State Philatelist* has added a coin and curiosity department.

The *Stamp Album*, of Brooklyn, N. Y., will appear this month. Latour Brothers will be the publishers.

The *Keystone State Philatelist* is a new one from Philadelphia.

First number of *Common Sense*, published by Mr. F. A. Thomas, of Mexico, N. Y., has been received. It is a very interesting sheet to collectors, and will improve with old age, if there is any room for improvement.

The *Golden Eclipse*, of Sycamore,

Ill., is received.

The present form of the *Eclipse* is far neater than the old one. It is now composed of eight pages and cover, with two columns to a page, instead of three. It is published at East End, Pittsburg, Pa., by the Eclipse Publishing Company.

(Continued from 3rd page.)

the foreign postal cards. What we want is a postal with the profile in the upper right hand corner, and the inscription far enough to the left to allow sufficient room for the postmark and date between it and the profile.

—POST MASTER.

—:O:—
(For the Collector.)

AN ANCIENT FORT.

BY P. S. JOHNSON.

About half a mile distant from the town of Bolivar, N. Y., is situated one of the oldest Indian earthworks that I know of in this section of the country. The structure is of an oblong shape and is placed on the highest hill around here, which commands a view of ten miles in any direction. When the fort was first built there were probably no trees on the hill, as there are none over two hundred years old around it.

The hill slopes down on every side but one which a narrow neck of land joins to another hill of lesser height, rendering this narrow road the only place where it could be attacked in force as the hill is too steep to be scaled without great difficulty.

The fort at present shows a wall around its edge about three feet high in most places and is in a fair state of preservation. There are trees over one hundred years old growing on it in one or two places.

I made a number of trips to it last summer and excavated quite a large space, finding several spear and arrow-heads and some finely marked, though small pieces, of pottery in addition to

one fine soapstone pipe shaped like an owl's head—eyes, ears and nose plainly marked. I also found several sea shells of various kinds and several small pipes made of common pottery clay, all nicely marked.

There are three distinct depths where pottery, etc. are found, each having a separate layer of clayey earth and roots between the other, which points to three different periods far apart when it was occupied for a considerable time at each period as relics are found in abundance in each layer.

Remains of fires and bones are very plenty and I have found several pieces of deer's antlers. I have questioned many people who have lived here all their lives, and I can get but little information.

As this fort is on a direct line between Pittsburg and the Great Lakes, I think it must have been a stopping place for the Indians going to and from Fort Du Quesne and the lakes.

—:O:—
A friend showed us quite a curiosity a short time ago. It was a parsnip firmly rooted and growing in a half brick.

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4 well assorted arrow points, for any mineral 2x2 not in my collection. J. R. NISSLEY, Ida, Ohio.

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Another New Local.

Mr. J. L. Neal, of this place, showed the editors of the COLLECTOR a local stamp found by a friend and given to him for his collection. The stamp is a U. S. Post-office dispatch, which is

numbered in Scott's as 175. Three varieties are quoted in this catalogue, viz. 1c. red on blue, 1c. blue on blue and 1c. blue on white. The stamp Mr. Neal has, however, is a 1c. green on white. He wrote to Messrs. Scott & Co., concerning it; but they seem to be unacquainted with such an issue. This is, by no means, the first instance where a new stamp has been discovered, and it may likewise not be the last.

Now that postal notes are made payable at any money order post-office, probably the next printed will contain a sentence expressing this fact, instead of leaving a blank for the post master to fill out.

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Rare match, medicine, document, entire envelopes, postal cards, etc. Sheets on approval @ 30 per cent. commission.
Reference required.

MITCHELL AND COMPANY,

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By sending only 25 cents for my large paper **COMMON SENSE**, published the list of each month, and get one of the following premiums—all large specimens—Star Fish, Sea Urchin, Shark's Egg, Arrow Head, Silver Ore, Gold Ore, Amethyst Crystals, 4 Good Curiosities, 4 Good Minerals, 4 Good Fossils, 25 Small Sea Shells, or my large 14-page price list.

The paper is devoted to Collectors. Large exchange column free to subscribers. Send at once.

F. A. THOMAS,
EDITOR,
MEXICO, NEW YORK.

LOOK AT THIS!

WE will send you the **AGENTS' WORLD**, a large 20 column monthly, containing agents' directory, exchange and bargain columns, 4 months on trial and have your name inserted in 2 directories, from which you will receive thousands of samples, circulars, etc., and piles of good reading matter free; all for only 10c. silver. Try us. Only one dime.

AGENTS' WORLD PUB. CO.,
Passumpsic, Vt.

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Complete Novels and Other Works by Famous Authors, Almost Given Away!

The following books are published in neat pamphlet form, many of them handsomely illustrated, and all are printed from good type upon good paper. They treat of a great variety of subjects, and we think no one can examine the list without finding therein many that he or she would like to possess. In cloth-bound form these books would cost \$1.00 each. Each book is complete in itself:

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No. 122. **Out of the Sea.** A Novel. By Clara Augusta.

No. 123. **Agatha's History.** A Novel. By Margaret Blount.

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We will send any four of the above books by mail, post paid, upon receipt of only Twelve Cents; any ten for 25 Cents; any twenty for 50 Cents; the entire list (40 books) for One Dollar. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

SPECIAL OFFER!

FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS we will give the above set of books and THE COLLECTOR one year for only \$1.00.

Every person subscribing to this paper before April 30, 1887, will receive, FREE OF CHARGE, any two of the above books. Address all orders to

C. HADDAWAY,
EASTON, MD.

THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., APRIL, 1887.

NO. 6.

(For the Collector.)

The Chalcedonic Variety of Silica.

By "OLD FOSSIL."

The chalcedonic variety of silica is the most beautiful and at the same time one of the most common of all the varieties of silica. As will be seen by the following it is found in all the colors of the rain-bow; the agate alone having many colors, sometimes as many as four in a single specimen and as many more shades. I will now give a brief description of the different forms.

Chalcedony, the most common, has a glistening and somewhat waxy lustre. It is usually of a bluish, grayish, or reddish-brown shade. It often lines the cavities in certain kinds of rocks. Stalactites might be called "icicles" of chalcedony. The geodes found in the Keokuk limestone in Iowa and Illinois are lined with chalcedony. It is here usually of a grayish shade and sometimes very beautiful.

The bright green colored variety is called Chrysoprase. The color is owing to the presence of nickel.

Carnelian is most commonly found of a red color. It occurs in all the shades of red and is rarely found yellow and still more rarely black. It is sometimes very clear and beautiful.

Sard is of a brownish-red color; of a blood red color by transmitted light.

Agate is the most beautiful of the chalcedonic varieties. The colors are distributed in clouds, spots, or straight, circular, or zigzag lines. When the last it is called fortification agate. The lines are the edges of layers of chalcedony, which are the different deposits during the process of its formation. In variety called moss-agate the "moss"

arises from disseminated iron oxide. The "line" agates are handsome stones when polished.

Onyx is an agate in which the colors are arranged in flat, horizontal layers. It is usually of a light, clear brown and an opaque white. It is called sardonyx when the stone consists of layers of sard and white chalcedony. Cameos are made from this stone. The figure is carved out of one layer and stands in relief on another.

Cat's Eye is a greenish-gray translucent variety of considerable value. It has glazing internal reflections, like the eye of a cat, when cut with a spheroidal surface. It is brought from Ceylon and Malabar ready cut and polished.

Plasma is a variety of chalcedony approaching jasper. It has a greenish color, sprinkled with yellow and whiteish dots.

(For the Collector.)

The Habit of Collecting.

By VICTOR.

The habit of collecting articles of different kinds has long been in vogue with children and also with persons of mature age. Some have given their attention to the preserving of books of all kinds; others, to the saving of relics and souvenirs; while still others, though of a somewhat later date, have amused themselves in procuring collections of stamps, minerals and all kinds of curiosities. The first mentioned of these is one of the most useful amusements one can indulge in, and no parent disavows such a desire among children. The last named, however, some are apt to consider mere nonsense, causing a great waste of time and neglect of one's duties. They

are apt to think it a trival occupation sprung up in the last year or two, and to believe all dealers in such things frauds of the deepest dye. This idea is so erroneous as to be absurd. These same dealers very often become geologists and naturalists, not unworthy of the name they bear, and not infrequently contributing by their scientific researches a vast amount of humanity.

When a boy, no matter how young he may be, shows symptoms of the collecting mania, allow him to gratify his whims. But a boy who collects first stamps, and trades them off for minerals, which in their turn are disposed of for tags, only to be superseded by curiosities of another sort, will never have a good collection of anything, and the result will be less than useless. Collect in one or two branches, make them your study, read books on such subjects, and you are bound to succeed. Certainly the habit of collecting shells, curiosities and insects is of ancient origin as is shown by pamphlets printed as early as 1710. To sustain this statement, the following is taken from the *Lucubrations of Isaac Brickerstaff*, as published by Sir Richard Steele in the *Tattler*. In the forthwith volume of that journal, number 216, and dated Saturday, August 26, 1710. is found the following :

"THE WILL OF A VIRTUOSO.

I, Nicholas Gimcrack, being in sound health of mind, but in great weakness of body, do by this, my last will and testament, bestow my worldly goods and chattels in manner following :

ITEM. To my dear wife, one box of butterflies, one drawer of shells, a female skeleton, a dried cocatrice.

ITEM. To my daughter Elizabeth, my recipe for preserving dead caterpillars. As also my preparations of winter May-dew and embryo-pickle.

ITEM. To my little daughter Fanny, three crocodile eggs. And upon birth of her first child, if she marries with her mother's consent, the nest of a

humming-bird.

ITEM. To my eldest brother, as an acknowledgement for the lands he has vested in my son Charles, I bequeath my last year's collection of grasshoppers.

ITEM. To his daughter Susanna, being his only child, I bequeath my English weeds pasted on royal paper, with my large folio of Indian cabbage.

ITEM. To my learned and worthy friend, Dr. Johannes Elscrickins, professor in anatomy, and my associate in the studies of Nature, as an eternal monument of my affection and friendship for him, I bequeath my rat's testicles and whale's pizzle, to him and his issue male; and in default of such issue in the said Dr. Elscrickins, then to return to my executor and his heirs forever.

Having fully provided for my nephew Isaac, by making over him some years since, a horned scarabæus, the skin of a rattle-snake and the mummy of an Egyptian king, I make no further provision for him in this my will.

My eldest son John, having spoken disrespectfully of his little sister, whom I keep by me in spirits of wine, and in many other instances behave himself undutifully towards me, I do disinherit, and wholly cut off from any part of this, my personal estate, by giving him a single cockle-shell.

To my son Charles I give and bequeath all my flowers, plants, minerals, mosses, shells, pebbles, fossils, beetles, butterflies, caterpillars, grasshoppers and vermin not above specified. As also my monsters, both wet and dry, making said Charles whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament, he paying, or causing to be paid, the forsaide legacies within the space of six months after my decease. And do hereby revoke all other wills whatsoever by me formerly made."

Yet some persons say curiosity collecting is of very late birth.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal devoted to
Agents and Collectors of all branches.

—PUBLISHED AT—

EASTON,

MD.

—BY—

The Collector Publishing Co.

Subscription price, 25c. per year.
Advertising rates, 25c. per inch,
each insertion: "ads." under one inch,
5c. per line.

No stamps taken.

Articles of interest always in demand.

Entered at the P. O. as second-class matter.

EDITORIAL.

We owe our readers an apology for this late appearance of our April number. The fact is we ordered a printer to print this issue over a month ago, but he failed to do so. In order not to omit the April number, we have decided to make our appearance for that month even at this late day. Our May number will be issued in about two weeks' time, and we hope our readers will overlook our transgression.

Mr. Geo. H. Richmond's *Philatelic Press Directory* for 1887 has been received, and is all that one can desire in that direction. The directory shows great skill and labor, and Mr. Richmond is to be complimented on his publication.

Mr. W. L. Emory, of Fitchburg, Mass., will accept our thanks for Vol. I of the *New England Philatelist*, of which journal Mr. Emory was editor.

Mr. F. R. Stearns has removed from Elkader, Iowa, to No. 521 Douglas Ave., Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Stearns is still selling minerals.

All advertisements omitted from this number will appear in our May issue.

EXCHANGES.

This dept. free to subscribers and advertisers.

Will exchange 4 different magazines in good condition and very interesting, for a V nickel, without "cents," or 5 special delivery stamps. All offers accepted. Box 9, Davidsburgh, Pa.

A choice novel, for every half-dime (silver), or a V nickel of 1883 sent me. C. HADDAWAY, Easton, Md.

F. R. STEARNS, 521 W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, Kans., wants all kinds of common and rare Kansas curiosities. Write what you have.

Rare stamps, minerals, shells, Indian relics and curiosities, for novels. Send lists. JAMES C. JAY, La Hoyt, Henry Co., Iowa.

R. S. HARRIS & CO.,

—Importers and Dealers in—

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Iowa.

OUR SOUTHERN PACKET contains 50 choice South and Central American stamps. Price.....50c

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Alsace and Lorraine, 7 varieties.....	\$0.20
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Guatemala Envelope, 4 varieties.....	.38
Hellgoland, 21 varieties.....	.35
Persia Official, 4 varieties.....	.28
Sandwich Island, Envelope, 4 varieties.....	.40

Reliable Agents Wanted to take orders for RUBBER STAMPS, stamp Novelties, Stamp Ink, Self-inking Pads, Daters &c., and for JOB PRINTING. Terms liberal and satisfaction guaranteed. If you mean business write at once. To give you an opportunity to examine goods, will send a pen and pencil stamp, with name and address die, for 25c., or a No. 3 pocket stamp, with name and address die, for 25 cts. Catalogue free with order, or 8c. Circulars free. H. M. BROCKSTEDT, Box C, 314 Olive St., ST. LOUIS, MO.

WHAT!

You can get any one of the following books in neat pamphlet form for only 5c. Robinson Crusoe, Aesop's Fables, Grimm's Fairy Stories, 57 Popular Ballads. Useful Knowledge for the Million, Parlor Magic, Gems of Poetry, Anecdotes of public Men. All for 25c. Send for list.

HADDAWAY BROS.,

Easton, Md.

SHEETS of saleable stamps sent to agents.
List of U. S. stamps free. T. SID-
DAL, 213 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

35 RARE Curiosities, such as Perfumed Pales-tine Wonder Stone. Porcupine Quills. Rare Foreign Stamps. SHARK'S TEETH. Birds' Wings. Tin Tags. Odd Coins, etc., many of which are very old and rare, no 2 alike, for only 25c. Send at once before all gone: satisfaction guaranteed. CURIOSITY CO., Box 307, KENNEDY, N. Y.

NOW Is your chance to add fine specimens to your collections of minerals, fossils, eggs, woods, &c., cheaper than every before. Scapolite 5 to 50c.; Beryl 5c. to \$1.00; Star-fish 3c. to \$1.00; Horse-shoe crabs 35c.; Saw-fish saws 50c. to \$1.00; Swords-fish swords 50c. to \$1.00 Corals 25c. up; sea-fans 25c. up. Stamps for beginners, 25 var 5c. Sheets of stamps at 33 1/2 per ct. com. on approval. Wholesale prices to dealers in minerals.

D. H. EATON, Woburn, Mass.

COLLECTORS,

Send for one of my Unrivalled Approval Sheets of rare or common stamps. Reference required. List free.

JOSEPH HOLMES, Jr.,

744 Broadway, - New York City.

Stamps ! We want collectors everywhere to sell from our approval sheets at 25 per cent. discount from Durbin's 1887 catalogue prices. All stamps guaranteed genuine.

BLACKSTONE STAMP CO.,

Worcester, Mass.

WE guarantee you to receive 500 samples. books, circulars, letters and papers FREE from firms all over the U. S. and Canada if you send 20c. to have your name in new issue of AGENTS' NAME DIRECTORY. ALLEN & CO., Box 307, Kennedy, N. Y. Copy sent you with your name inserted. VERNON HILL, VA., Dec. 27, 1886

Allen & Co., Gents :- I have received more than the 500 parcels of mail, many Newspapers etc., of which I had often paid 10c each for before. I advise all to have their name inserted at once. I know from experience your directory far exceeds all others. R. T. James, Agt.

15c. 50 embossed cards, with name on and 15c. book containing 100 popular songs. Samples for stamp. Gem Card Co., Somerville, Mass.

Stamps, Coins, Postmarks, Tin and Paper Tags, Rubber Hand Stamps &c.

Circular, song book and sample copy of the Peerless Review sent for a 1 cent stamp. Mention this paper and address WM. J. J. CULROSS, Worcester, Mass.

RUBBER STAMP with your name in fancy type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen only 25 cents (stamps). Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. THALMAN MFG COMPANY, Baltimore, Md.

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Fruit, grain, grass and truck farms. Mild and healthy climate, salt water fronts and inland farms. Fish, oysters, terrapins and wild fowl in their season abound.

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EASTON, MD.

BLACK HILLS cabinet minerals, BAD LANDS' Cretaceous and Tertiary Fossils, SIOUX Indian Buckskin Relics. 3,000 Oregon Bird Arrow Points. Wholesale and retail. Catalogue free.

L. W. STILWELL,

Deadwood, D. T.

TAKE NOTICE !

And read for your own advantage. For the next six months I shall issue a series of prizes to those who sell the most stamps for me. Send at once and get 33 1/2 per ct. commission besides.

IRVING LAUGHTON,

Successor to Loughton & Levis,

Box 757, Portsmouth, N. H.

STAMPS from EVERY NATION, at lowest prices. Agents Wanted. Address MISS ELLA SCOTT, 589 Monroe St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

LOOK ! LOOK !

Circulars mailed at prices that will astonish you. For terms, address

J. L. NEAL,

SKIPTON, MD.

THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., MAY, 1887.

NO. 7.

(For the Collector.)

THE TRADE DOLLAR.

By C. R. BUMP.

In consequence of the decrease in the value of silver, an act was passed authorizing the coinage of a trade dollar of the weight of 420 grains, and the fineness of 900 in 1,000 parts. It was made legal tender to the amount of five dollars in one payment. The dollar then in use was discontinued. During the year of 1873 proofs were struck for Members of Congress, which in due time found their way into circulation. On the obverse, Liberty is seated on a bale of cotton; her right hand is extended and holds an olive branch; in her left hand is a scroll on which is inscribed, "LIBERTY;" behind her, sheaves of wheat; beneath the bale, the inscription, "IN GOD WE TRUST;" thirteen stars in a circle, and the date, 1874. On the reverse is an eagle with expanded wings; in his right talon three arrows; in his left an olive branch; above the eagle is a scroll, on which is inscribed, "E PLURIBUS UNUM" (the motto of the United States, meaning one out of many, in allusion to the union of several states); beneath the eagle, "420 GRAINS, 900 FINE," and the inscription, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. TRADE DOLLAR." The regular coinage commenced in 1874 and extended until 1878, during which time thirty-seven millions were issued. By an act of July 22, 1876, the use of the trade dollar as a legal tender was prohibited, and the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to limit the coinage to such an amount as is sufficient to meet the export demand. This authority he made use of in 1878, and the coinage was discontinued.

Proofs of the coin appeared in 1879-4. In 1882, by a determined effort of the business men throughout the country, the market value was reduced to 85 cents. Since that time it has dropped to 78 cents. Bills have been introduced at every session of Congress since 1882, but it was not until February 12, 1887, just fourteen years after the coinage was authorized, that the bill passed both houses. It provides for the retirement and re-coinage of the trade dollar within six months from the passage of the act. The coins are to be received at face value, and to be recoined as standard dollars.

I would advise all collectors to secure a specimen without delay, as the value will increase manifold within the next three years. An uncirculated specimen of a trade dollar sells for \$2.00, and a good specimen for \$1.50. Dealers will give \$1.65 for a fair specimen of the proof.

(For the Collector.)

Newspaper and Periodical Stamps.

By VICTOR.

The issue consisted of but three denominations and four varieties, viz., 5c. blue, 10c. green and 25c. carmine.

The first contained the head of Washington and was of two designs—with plain border and with colored—the second contained the head of Franklin, and the last, the head of Lincoln. These stamps add greatly to a page being of such large size and brilliant colors, but taken in themselves they are a very homely set, and are found in nearly every collector's album. In 1875 periodical stamps were issued whose face value ranged from 2 cents to 60 dollars. The de-

sign on these stamps was fortunately changed making them a very pretty set. The values from 2 cents to 12 cents inclusive, containing the figure of an Indian, and were of a black color; these from 12 cents to \$1.90 in value were surmounted with the figure of Justice, and their color was a beautiful carmine, making a startling contrast to the black. The remaining periodical stamps of this issue were of different designs and colors, making withal a very pretty set of stamps when complete, but the whole series is possessed by extremely few collectors. In 1885 another important change was made in these newspaper stamps. This change or addition was the introduction of the 1 cent denomination, whose design and color were the same as the 2 cent, 1875. By noticing the dates of issue of these stamps, we can see how the postage on newspapers decreased. In 1865 the price was 5 cents per pound, ten years later it was 2 cents and ten years after this it was reduced to 1 cent.

Although there are a great many of these stamps, and in use at the present time, some collectors do not know the way they are used. In examining the catalogues and price-lists of stamp dealers, it is a curious fact that but few, if any, of them quote these stamps in a used condition. It is probable that they are more valuable when in an unused condition; this is undoubtedly the way stamp dealers get them. All the used ones, at least those used officially, are in the hands of the post-office department and filed away. Dealers, in purchasing them, have every chance to stamp them; but this they do not desire to do, as it diminishes their intrinsic value. Every postmaster in every town where a newspaper is published or where there are newsdealers has a book called "The Newspaper and Periodical Stub-book." This book contains numerous pages, each of which is composed of two blanks. One of

these is used as a receipt given to the newsdealer or publisher certifying that he has paid postage due on his paper or papers up to a certain specified time. The other blank is used to paste these newspaper stamps on to the amount of postage due on papers sent out by publishers or dealers. Each of the latter has a blank page given to his own use where is indicated by the periodical stamp the number of pounds of reading matter sent out by him in a certain time. Every quarter the postmaster cuts out these blanks containing the stamps and sends them to the post-office department, and are filed away. The postmasters order these stamps in such quantities as they may desire, and as every one of them has to be accounted for, it is next to impossible to purchase them of the postmasters.

—ADVERTISEMENTS—

Joseph Wigglesworth,

—Dealer in—

Archæological Specimens,
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FINE

Arrowheads, Spearheads, Celts, Grooved Axes, Pottery &c., &c.

* * Parties desiring information and enclosing stamp will receive an early reply.

STAMPS !

We want collectors everywhere to sell from our approval sheets at 25 per cent. discount from Durbin's 1887 catalogue prices. All stamps guaranteed genuine.

BLACK STONE STAMP CO.,
Worcester, Mass.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal devoted to
Agents and Collectors of all branches.

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—BY—

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5c. per line.

~~No~~ No stamps taken.

Articles of interest always in demand.

Entered at the P. O. as second-class matter.

EDITORIAL.

Look out for our grand offer next month.

Our clubbing rates with the principal magazines will appear next month.

Our premium offer of next month will be the most liberal one ever made.

If we do not fulfill our promises next month, we will remit every cent received.

It will be of interest to advertisers to notice our inducements to collectors next month.

Next month we desire five thousand new subscribers, and we make an unparalleled offer to secure them.

Agents wanted for the COLLECTOR. Write now and get our special rates, so as to be ready to receive a grand premium next month.

With our June number we will enlarge to our regular size of eight pages. The delay of this issue was caused by the failure of a certain printer in Ohio to fulfill his promises. Our offer next month, however, will more than compensate for this delay.

All those who desire to receive a sample copy of the COLLECTOR for June should let us know at once. A sample copy will be sent free to every one ordering it. Be sure and read our in-

ducements to subscribers.

We would be very much indebted to the following dealers if they would remit to us amount due for past advertising: I. W. Risdon, Cambridgeport, Mass., I. C. Greene, Fitchburg, Mass., and C. E. Sherman, Hampton, Va. These gentlemen ordered us to insert their advertisements, and promised to remit cost of same upon receipt of marked copy of paper. We have several times written to them; but as yet have failed to receive a reply. Hence we take this means of informing them that neither one of the editors of this paper is the Modern Man of Uz.

He Played One Joke too Many.

As Mr. Cherry was walking down 4th Ave. the other day he met Mr. Beadle. Mr. Cherry has a boil on his leg as big as a 10c. watermelon, but that is not his fault and he is very sensitive on this point (the point of the boil I mean), and Mr. Beadle who is a practical joker, thought he would steal a move on the forsaid boil resting on the forsaid leg. So he slid noiselessly up behind him, grabbed him by the boil, and in a fierce dog-tone said: "Bow, wow, wow!"

Now, Mr. Cherry has a No. 18 foot, and now comes the saddest part of my tale. He pointed this foot in the direction of Mr. Beadle and sent it on an exploring tour. Mr. Beadle started for "home and native land" as if he had struck a hornets nest, and Mr. Cherry went down to his office looking as if he had struck a banana peel on a stone sidewalk.

Little mistakes like this occur every day; but the one great fact about which no mistake can possibly be made, is that F. K. STERNER, 331 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kansas, sells Natural Curiosities cheaper and offers more liberal inducements to agents than any other dealer.

~~Send~~ Send stamp for list.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE

To add fine specimens to your collections of minerals, fossils, eggs, woods &c., cheaper than ever before. scapolite, 5 to 50c.; Beryl, 5c. to \$1; Starfish, 5c. to \$1; Horse-shoe crabs, 35c.; Saw-fish saws, 50c. to \$1; Sword-fish swords, 50c. to \$1; Corals, 50c. up; Sea fans 25c. up; Stamps for beginners, 25 var., 5c. Sheets of stamps at 25¢ per cent. com. on approval. Wholesale prices to dealers on minerals.

D. H. EATON, Woburn, Mass.

WE guarantee you to receive 500 samples, books, circulars, letters and papers FREE from firms all over the U. S. and Canada if you send 20c. to have your name in new issue of AGENTS NAME DIRECTORY. ALLEN & CO., Box 367, Kennedy, N.Y. Copy sent you with your name inserted. Vernon Hill, Va., Dec. 27, 1894.

Allen & Co., Gents: -I have received more than the 500 parcels of mail, many Newspapers etc., of which I had often paid 10c. each for before. I advise all to have their name inserted at once. I know from experience that your directory far exceeds all others. R. T. James, Agt.

WHAT!

You can get any one of the following books in neat pamphlet form for only 1c. Robinson Crusoe. Aesop's Fables, Grimm's Fairy Stories, 87 Popular Ballads. Useful Knowledge for the Million. Parlor Magic. Gems of Poetry, Anecdotes of public Men. All for 1c. Send for list.

HADDAWAY BROS.,
Easton, Md.

Reliable Agents Wanted to take orders for RUBBER STAMPS. Stamp Novelties. Stamp Ink. Self-inking Pads. Papers etc., and for JOB PRINTING. Terms liberal and satisfaction guaranteed. If you mean business write at once. To give you an opportunity to examine goods, will send a pen and pencil stamp, with name and address die, for 2c., or a No. 3 pocket stamp, with name and address die, for 25 cts. Catalogue free with order, or 5c. Circulars free. H. M. BROCKSTEDT, Box C, 314 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.

SHEETS of saleable stamps sent to agents. List of U. S. stamps free. T. SID-DALL, 113 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

R. S. HARRIS & CO.,
—Importers and Dealers in—

U. S. & Foreign Postage Stamps,
118 SUMMIT STREET,

Dubuque, — Iowa.

Our SOUTHERN PACKET contains 50 choice South and Central American stamps. Price.....50c

Our UNUSED PACKET contains 30 Un-used stamps. A rare bargain.....50c

A few samples prices in unused sets; prices net cash with order.

Albion and Lorraine, 7 varieties.....	\$0.20
Algeria, 5 varieties.....	.05
Armenia, 3 varieties.....	.05
Bahama, 4 varieties.....	.12
Batavia, 4 varieties.....	.12
Batavia Envelope, 4 varieties.....	.30
Batavia, 31 varieties.....	.33
Batavia Official, 4 varieties.....	.35
Batavia Island, Envelope, 4 varieties.....	.40

COLLECTORS,

Send for one of my Unrivalled Approval Sheets of rare or common stamps. Reference required. List free.

JOSEPH HOLMES, Jr.,

744 Broadway, — New York City.

Stamps, Coins, Postmarks, Tin and Paper Tags, Rubber Hand Stamps &c.

Circular, song book and sample copy of the Peerless Review sent for a 1 cent stamp. Mention this paper and address **WM. J. J. CULROSS,**
Worcester, Mass.

35 RARE Curiosities, such as Perfumed Paper, the Wonder Stone, Porcupine Quills, Rare Foreign Stamps, Hanks' Teeth, Birds' Wings, Tin Tags, Odd Coins, etc., many of which are very old and rare, no 2 alike. For only 25c at once before all gone: satisfaction guaranteed. **CURIOSITY CO.,** Box 307, KENNEDY, N. Y.

Maryland Farms For Sale!!

HOMES FOR ALL

Fruit, grain, grass and truck farms. Mild and healthy climate, salt water fronts and inland farms. Fish, oysters, terrapins and wild fowl in their season abound.

Catalogue and maps free. Address,

OSWALD TILGEMAN,
EASTON, MD.

RUBBER STAMP with your name in fancy type. 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen only 25 cents. Stamp Book of 1,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Big pay. **THALMAN MFG COMPANY,** Baltimore, Md.

FOUND! FOUND!! FOUND!!!

After reading this advertisement, you have found the cheapest dealer in rubber stamps. Name stamp, 12c. A fine self-inker 5c.

O. K. STAMP CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Embossed cards, with name on and 15 cts. book containing 100 popular songs, 5c. Samples for stamp. **GER CARD CO., Somerville, Mass.**

YOU WANT IT!!

No Philatelic library is complete without it,

The Philatelic Annual

It contains articles of interest to all Collectors. Also a catalogue of

WATERMARKS.

PRICE, — 10 CTS.

E. R. ALDRICH
Benson, Minn.

10 varieties large cents, 20c.; 5 varieties, 15c. One moderate bill, 7c. V. nickel, no cents, 5c. **F. CORNELL, Box 400, Marshalltown, Iowa**

G. D. MORRIS, Printer, Pittsburg, Pa.

THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., JUNE, 1887.

NO. 8.

(For the Collector.)

MY COLLECTIONS.

By H. C.

This article was written for the purpose of showing young would-be collectors what can really be done with but little trouble. The greater number of these beginners have an idea that they can never get a good collection of anything, and that it is time wasted to pay any attention to such things. This idea is such an absurd mistake that it is useless to start a collection, having it as the corner stone. The writer speaks from experience as he has been a collector for a number of years.

My first collection consisted of stamps, and in the department of philately I was quite successful. I collected probably two years, and gathered as many thousand varieties, among which was a very fine assortment of U. S. stamps; especially the Departments. Collectors should get possession of these stamps as soon as possible, as they are fast increasing in value, and will soon be unattainable. I afterwards sold my stamps and realized several hundred per cent. This was owing to the fact that I had a large number of rare locals and old issues which I found myself and preserved on the original envelopes. My knowledge of philately, however, I still possess, and, although a collector no longer, I take an active interest in this science.

I next turned my attention to natural history, represented by mineralogy. I followed this about six months and formed a cabinet of many varieties. It was my custom to take

a half day off each week and devote it to examining the minerals of my own town and surrounding country. Is is astonishing what a number you can find in one afternoon in this way. These can easily be disposed of and at a good price. I am still collecting minerals, which I cast aside as soon as I study them.

Archæology then demanded my attention, and my time was devoted to procuring Indian relics of all descriptions. I am still interested in this department and have a collection of about 500 perfect arrowheads, 300 imperfect ones, 200 spearheads, grooved and ungrooved axes, pipes, mortars, war points, pestles, fish knives, scrapers, grinding balls and a fine lot of pottery, soapstone and dirt. These were all gotten in a few months, and but two forlorn arrowheads were found by myself. This section of the country is very unfruitful in the bringing to light of such things, and I have often tramped for hours without finding a single relic. I have bought but eight specimens and only five were given me. The rest I have traded for, and now have them from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, New York, Maryland, Kentucky and New Jersey. For these I gave minerals, stamps and all kinds of curiosities. Perhaps in the near future I shall sell these. In the event of this, my readers will know where to buy for little money.

You may say that I do not stick long enough at any one thing to form a good collection in any branch. Perhaps this is so; but my purpose in

(Continued on 3rd page.)

THE COLLECTOR.

—PUBLISHED AT—

EASTON, - MD.

—BY—

The Collector Publishing Company.

Entered at the P. O. as second-class matter.

OUR AGENTS.

The following persons are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions for the COLLECTOR:

Geo. H. Richmond, 5 Beekman Street, New York.
Amateur Newspaper Agency, Davidsburgh, Pa.
G. W. von Ussay, Green St., Germantown, Pa.
A. A. Bronsdon, Baldwinville, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

The American Philatelic Association has abolished its official organ, the *American Philatelist* at the election last month to appoint a paper to take its place. The *Philatelic Journal of America* received 79 votes, the *Western Philatelist* 59, and the *Quaker City Philatelist* 17. The board of officers of the association then elected the *Western Philatelist* the official organ by a vote of 3 to 2. The *Youth's Ledger* says: "An appeal will probably be made, as it is thought by some the decision is not in accordance with the popular vote."

It is a great pity that *Plain Talk* was not elected after such an unequalled exhibition of cheek of the cheekiest kind.

With our July issue the COLLECTOR will be enlarged to eight pages and cover, and will be issued regular on the 30th of each month. Subscriptions can begin with any number.

Advertisers should read our rates, and collectors our grand premium offer.

The *Collector's Aid*, heretofore published by Mr. Geo. H. Richmond, issued its last number this month. The *Aid* has been disposed of to the publishers of the *Collector's Journal*, which will make its appearance next

month. As Mr. Richmond has charge of the advertising department of the *Journal*, it will no doubt be a great success financially, and a paying medium for advertisers.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The advertising rates of the COLLECTOR hereafter will be as follows:

	1 mo.	6 mo.	12 mo.
1 inch.	\$ 1.50	\$2.75	\$ 4.50
2 inches.	1.00	5.00	8.00
3 inches.	1.50	7.00	10.00

As you will see by our premium offer we are making great inducements to subscribers, and advertisers should receive excellent returns from this offer. That advertisements placed with us pay, there is no doubt, as the following will show:

"Your paper must have a large circulation to judge from the number of answers I received from my last 'ad.' F. H. STRAUS."

"I received many good agents from my last 'ad' in the COLLECTOR. JAMES C. JAY."

Hoping to merit a portion of your future patronage, we are,

Yours truly,

Collector Pub. Co.

Special Premium Offer.

Hereafter we will give each and every new subscriber to the COLLECTOR for one year, ten cents' worth of goods from any of our advertisers, in addition to any one of the following articles: Indian arrowhead, two pieces of pottery, two good minerals, ten different curiosity papers, two good novels, twenty-five varieties of post-marks, ten pretty picture cards or three broken arrowheads.

To each of the first twenty-five subscribers received to this paper for one year, we will give FREE, twenty-five cents' worth of goods from any of our advertisers. Satisfaction guaranteed in every instance, or money refunded. Here is an excellent opportunity to more than double your present collections in a very short while. Subscribe at once, as the price is only twenty-five cents a year, with one of our excellent premiums. POSITIVELY NO STAMPS TAKEN AS PAYMENT.

EXCHANGES.

This dept. free to subscribers and advertisers.

Fine Indian relics, to exchange for U. S. coins and autographs. I have a large number of rare autographs, to exchange for ones not in my collection. H. T. UPSON, Parkersburg, W. Va.

A gold embossed perfume casket, for every V nickel, without "cents," or dime dated before 1880. 25 amateur and stamp papers, for 3 special delivery, 5 square cut Grant, or 25 var. foreign stamps. Box 9, Davidsburgh, Penna.

A Wells, Fargo & Co's. 1 cent unused newspaper stamp, or an Indian arrowhead, for every Dept. stamp, except 1, 2, 3 and 6 cent War, 2 and 3 cent Interior and Treasury and 3 cent P. O. ALVAH DAVISON, Helmetta, N. J.

Indian and war relics, fine specimens of petrified wood from Colo., sea moss, a Canadian coin and other curiosities, for Indian relics of all kinds, war relics, old paper money and sea curiosities. T. B. STEWART, Island, Pa.

A collection of curiosities, from sea and land, which could not be bought elsewhere at retail for less than \$1.00, to exchange for U. S. or foreign stamps amounting to 75c. by Scott's or Durbin's latest catalogue. No stamps quoted at less than 5 cents taken. C. HADDAWAY, Easton, Md.

Bird's eggs, for rare stamps. GEO. W. BAKER, Easton, Md.

All kinds of bird's eggs, for others not in my collection. ED. TRIPPE, Easton, Md.

10 good curiosity and amateur papers, for every copy of the COLLECTOR, Vol. I, No. 1, published at Easton, Md., in November, 1886. PUBLISHERS COLLECTOR, Easton, Md.

(Continued from 1st page.)

collecting has been only to derive some knowledge from my collections. Of course I would not advise a beginner to do as I have done unless it be for the same purpose.

TO INTRODUCE THEM

I will send 10 books by popular authors, for 30c. to pay mailing expenses.

C. K. Bunnell,

Walnut, Ind.

SUBSCRIPTION

Received to any newspaper or magazine in the U. S., at less than publisher's prices. Subscribe or renew your subscriptions through us, and save money. HADDAWAY BROS., Easton, Md.

BLACK HILLS cabinet minerals, BAD LANDS' Cretaceous and Tertiary Fossils, SIOUX Indian Buckskin Relics. 3,000 Oregon Bird Arrow Points. Wholesale and retail. Catalogue free.

L. W. STILWELL,

Deadwood, D. T.

TAKE NOTICE, and read for your own advantage. For the next six months I shall issue a series of prizes to those who sell the most stamps for me. Send at once and get 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ per ct. com. besides. IRVING LAIGHTON, Successor to Loughton & Levins, Box 757, Portsmouth, N. H.

AGENTS!

Now is your time. A genuine BONANZA, sells for 25c. The Skeleton Cover & Stove Stand, patented. Sample and terms on receipt of 25 cents in stamps, or money order. ENTERPRISE COMPANY 114 East Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

C. EMERY,

Dealer in

U. S. and Foreign Stamps,

15 Newton St.,

Holyoke, Mass.

Wanted—Agents to sell stamps on commission. Reference or deposit required. List for two 1 cent stamps. I will give ten cents per hundred for U. S. envelope stamps, cut square.

Collections bought for Cash.

ONLY 40 CENTS,

In postage stamps, for a new nickel-plated stem winder and stem setter watch, just patented.

ROY JACKSON, Box 15, 251 East 10th St., N.Y. City

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE

To add fine specimens to your collections of minerals, fossils, eggs, woods &c., cheaper than ever before. Scapolite, 5 to 50c.; Beryl, 3c. to \$1; Starfish, 3c. to \$1; Horse-shoe crabs, 35c.; Saw-fish saws, 50c. to \$1; Sword-fish swords, 50c. to \$1; Corals, 25c. up; Sea fans 25c. up; Stamps for beginners, 25 var., 5c. Sheets of stamps at 33 1/2 per cent. com. on approval. Wholesale prices to dealers on minerals.

D. H. EATON, Woburn, Mass.

Maryland Farms For Sale!! HOMES FOR ALL.

Fruit, grain, grass and truck farms. Mild and healthy climate, salt water fronts and inland farms. Fish, oysters, terrapins and wild fowl in their season abound.

~~See~~ Catalogue and maps free. ~~See~~
Address,

OSWALD TILGEMAN,

EASTON, MD.

WONDERS OF THE DEEP.

CORAL SHELLS and other MARINE CURIOSITIES. We have agents constantly employed in securing rare specimens of the above-named articles, and offer to the public as fine a collection for ONE DOLLAR as they can procure at any regular shell store for double the amount. OUR DOLLAR CABINET, containing over 20 varieties of Shells, Coral, etc., will please both old and young. Carefully packed, and mailed, post-paid, to any address in the U. S. or Canada, on receipt of \$1.00. Address — MARINE CURIOSITY SUPPLY CO., — Box 15. Key West, Florida.

RUBBER STAMP with your name in fancy type, 25 Visiting Cards and India Ink to mark linen, only 25 cts (stamps.) Book of 2,000 styles free with each order. Agents wanted. Bly pay.

THALMAN MFG CO., Baltimore, Md.



Largest Stock of Stamps and Coins in the World. Standard Stamp Catalogue, 200 pages, illustrated with 2,000 engravings, 25c. Standard Copper Catalogue, illustrated, 25c. Standard Silver Catalogue, illustrated, 25c. Philatelist Album, 400 illustrations, board cover, 25c.; cloth, 50c. International Album, with specially designed spaces for every stamp issued, board cover, \$1.50, cloth \$2.50; also on heavy paper in various styles of bindings, from \$5 to \$20. A approval. Samples sent to responsible parties. AGENTS wanted everywhere. Our packets cannot be equalled in quality or price. Circulars sent free. Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd, 721 Broadway, N. Y.

50 embossed cards, with name on and book containing 100 popular songs 15c. Samples for stamp. GEM CARD CO., Somerville, Mass.

FOUND! FOUND! FOUND!

After reading this advertisement, you have found the cheapest dealer in rubber stamps.

Name stamp, 12c. A fine self-inker, 50c.

O. K. Stamp Co., Cincinnati, O.

-CURIOSITIES!-

5 Indian relics..... 15 cents
1 War relic, of Civil War..... 10 cents
White pebbles from Susquehanna river, 10c. per dozen.
U. S. Cent of 1838..... 5 cents
Fine pieces of shell from Gettysburg..... 25 cents
These relics are fast becoming scarce, and will soon be hard to get. List of Indian & War relics for a 2 cent stamp.

T. B. Stewart, Island, Pa.

HAROLD R. MILLER,

Importing Stationer,

—And Dealer in—

POSTAGE STAMPS,

P. O. Box 31. — LIMA, PERU, S. A.

Send approval sheets of varieties from Peru and South America on receipt of \$5 deposit or good Lima reference.

South American stamps, used, 20-25 sorts, many rare included, \$1.00 per hundred.

All unused cards, envelopes, bands and stamps of Uruguay, Argentine, Chili, Ecuador and Colombia forwarded at 25 per cent. above face value.

All postage extra and cash in advance. Consignments of rarities, such as old issues, surcharges, provisionals, errors, rare varieties, and the newest issues, high values, etc., solicited from foreign dealers. Forward an approval sheet: good exchange guaranteed.

Arequipas and surcharges and other rarities always in stock.

Register all important letters.

Note—Stamp papers kindly insert 3 times, 1/2 page, and send bill. Payment by return mail guaranteed.

FORTUNES!

from small beginners, a silver dime sent to E. Clayton, Station L, N. Y. City, will pay you \$100. (Mention this paper.)

THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. I.

EASTON, MD., JULY, 1887.

NO. 9.

(For the Collector.)

BIRDS' EGGS.

By REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D.

PART I.

The collecting of birds' eggs is a favorite pursuit, and by far the most common, because the easiest of all amateur scientific amusements. For the average collector of curios, minerals are too scarce in any attractive form, botany requires too much study and too close habits of observation, fossils and ethnological remains are too rare and costly, while philatelics can interest only minds of a certain class. But birds are everywhere, their nests possess a fascination for all, and their eggs, on account of their graceful form, variety of color and size and delicacy of texture, appeal to the universal sense of beauty, and tempt to the study of Nature in her most pleasing phases. Unfortunately, too, the innate love of destruction and the passion for hunting something, which seem to inhere in human nature, when youthful and masculine, add a less pleasant and far less excusable motive for obtaining these lovely treasures of the woods and fields. As usually conducted by boys, the practice of destroying birds' nests and gathering their eggs as specimens has no scientific character whatever, and is damaging alike to the interests of the public and the character of the individual. Birds are among the most useful and attractive of all God's creatures, and deserve the careful protection of all good citizens and all good people, and the habit of breaking up their nests in mere wanton mischief cultivates cruelty and selfishness, and should be

discouraged by everyone, and especially by every scientific lover of nature. On the other hand, the proper and judicious collection of eggs is healthful and elevating in its influences, encouraging a true sympathy with nature, educating æsthetic tastes and useful habits of observation, and adding to every home a new and beautiful source of ornamentation. To every boy or man, therefore, who admires birds' eggs, I would make the suggestion to let the nests and their contents alone, unless he intends to collect scientifically, in which latter case he should carefully observe the rules hereafter given.

In the first place, one must know where to look for nests, or for the many kinds of eggs which are not laid in nests at all. There is no scientific classification possible of the localities in which nests must be sought, and yet a knowledge of the habits in this respect of different species is absolutely necessary to success in finding and identifying their eggs. Thus the Mocking-bird, Brown Thrush, Cat-bird, Chipping Sparrow, Red-bird and a few others build in bushes. The Robin, Summer Red-bird, Wood Pewee, Cuckoo or Rain-crow, Common Crow and most of the Hawks are tree-builders. The Chats and some of the Warblers and Vireos select swampy ground and bushes, or low trees. The Orioles and Warbling Vireos are "hang-nests." The Woodpeckers, Crested Fly-catchers, Wrens, Tits and some others nest in tree-hollows, as do also the Owls. The Blue-bird lays in fence-posts and similar places. The Partridge, Field lark, Hermit-thrush, Vultures, many of the Finches and a

(Continued on 3rd page.)

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G. W. von Ulassy, Green St., Germantown, Pa.
A. A. Bronsdon, Baldwinville, Mass.
S. I. Adams, Hurlock, Md.
W. E. Billings, Marlboro, Mass.
H. C. Beardsley, 422 N. 7th St., St. Joseph, Mo.
F. R. Stearns, West Wichita, Kansas.
J. L. Neal, Skipton, Md.

EDITORIAL.

The "Imperial Tag Directory" it reported to be at press, and it will make its appearance soon.

The Denver Stamp Collector's League, of Denver, Col., is arranging to conduct a philatelic department at their state exhibition this September.

Can any of our readers give us the present address of C. E. Sherman, late of Hampton, Va., as letters and papers sent to him at that place are returned?

Mr. F. J. Stanton, of Smyrna, N. Y., will accept our thanks for one of his "Philatelic Directories." This work contains a large number of stamp collectors' names, and is very valuable to the publisher and dealer.

The Canadian Philatelic Association is under process of organization. Mr. J. R. Hooper, 68 Albert St., Ottawa, Ont., is secretary *pro tem*. Our Canadian friends ought to profit by the condition of affairs in the A. P. A.

The *Western Philatelist* for July appears in an enlarged form as official organ of the A. P. A. This journal is an excellent one, is conducted by an efficient corps of managers, and will

do credit to the society, whose representative it has been chosen.

The *Stamp* for July announces the fact that its serial story, "The Bluffton Stamp Society," will be concluded in the August issue. We are glad to learn that Mr. Bradt is to publish this story in book form, as it is one of the best contributions of which philatelic literature can boast.

Mr. J. M. Hubbard, of Lake Village, N. H., has favored us with a copy of his "Black List" and one of his "Premium Coin Lists." The former contains the names and addresses of a number of philatelic friends, and should be in the hands of every dealer and publisher. The latter contains Mr. Hubbard's buying prices of our premium-commanding coins, a copy of which every person should possess. For the next thirty days only we will give a copy of each of these publications and a year's subscription to this paper for only 25 cents.

About the last of next month the publishers of this paper will issue a large philatelic magazine, containing several excellent articles from the pens of some of the most eminent philatelic writers of the day, together with many interesting facts concerning the philatelic societies in the U. S. The secretaries of such societies will please correspond with us at once. Already have the service of Wanderer, Dr. Mitchell, Victor, F. E. P. Lynde and several others been engaged to contribute to this work, which we propose to make of the greatest interest to stamp collectors. A few choice advertisements are desired. For terms address the publishers. The name, address and subscription price of any paper devoted to philately, or having a philatelic department, will be inserted in this book for ten cents in silver.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The advertising rates of the Col-

TOB hereafter will be as following :

	1 mo.	6 mo.	12 mo.
1 inch.	\$.50	\$2.75	\$ 4.50
2 inches.	1.00	5.00	8.00
3 inches.	1.50	7.00	10.00

As you will see by our premium offer we are making great inducements to subscribers, and advertisers should receive excellent returns from this offer. That advertisements placed with us pay, there is no doubt, as the following will show :

"Your paper must have a large circulation to judge from the number of answers I received from my last 'ad.'"
F. R. STEARNS."

"I received many good agents from my last 'ad' in the COLLECTOR."
JAMES C. JAY."

Hoping to merit a portion of your future patronage, we are

Yours truly,

Collector Pub. Co.

SPECIAL PREMIUM OFFER.

Hereafter we will give each and every new subscriber to the COLLECTOR for one year, ten cents' worth of goods from any of our advertisers, *in addition* to any one of the following articles : Indian arrowhead, two pieces of pottery, two good minerals, ten different curiosity papers, two good novels, twenty-five varieties of post-marks, ten pretty picture cards or three broken arrowheads.

To each of the first twenty-five subscribers received to this paper for one year, we will give FREE, twenty-five cents' worth of goods from any of our advertisers. Satisfaction guaranteed in every instance, or money refunded. Here is an excellent opportunity to more than double your present collections in a very short while. Subscribe at once, as the price is only twenty-five cents a year, with one of our excellent premiums. *Positively no stamps taken as payment.*

(Continued from 1st page.)

host of others build on the ground. The Woodcock, Snipe, Plovers, Sand-pipers, Night-hawk, Whip-poor-will and water birds generally lay without nests on the ground.

These instances are sufficient to give a clew which careful observation must follow out.

JNO. T. RAYMOND'S COINS.

The coin collection of John T. Raymond, the actor, was sold at auction on June 27th. The prices obtained were very unsatisfactory. The quintuple eagle, or "slug," which Raymond used to "match" with, brought only \$66. The bogus 1804 dollar, which is really an 1803 coin with the last figure altered, which Raymond bought from a Chicago pawnbroker as a great bargain, for \$300, brought \$5. The eagle of 1797 went for \$11. A Mexican twenty pesos of 1866, with the head of Maximilian, brought \$20.25, or about \$3.25 above its face value. A Nicaragua doubloon of 1809 sold for \$4. A dollar of 1836, with a flying eagle on the reverse side, brought \$6.60. Others went for little more than face value.

(For the Collector.)

COLLECTING ENVELOPES.

By VICTOR.

The stamps that perplex the majority of young stamp collectors the most are, no doubt, the United States envelopes. These stamps are of so many different dies, producing a multiplicity of varieties, that a just discrimination between them cannot be had, unless the collector buy from a dealer their history and minute description. Young collectors in preserving envelope stamps knowing them to be preserved by others in

(Continued on 6th page.)

(For the Collector.)
**THE ADVANTAGES OF A SOCIETY
TO COLLECTORS.**

By VICTOR.

As every society involves more or less expense upon its various members, it is natural enough that each one should ask himself the question: "What advantage will this society be to me?" before he joins one. Such advantages are too numerous for me to mention all of them, but a few—and those the most important—I will enumerate.

In the first place the social pleasures arising from the gathering together of several collectors should not be deemed slight. As often as the meetings of a society take place, just so often are the collectors brought together to compare their various collections, to exchange specimens, or to assist each other in classifying and arranging them. By this means each collector adds a great deal to his store of knowledge of his respective hobby, and not infrequently greatly enlarges his collection.

Then we should mention the advantages of the exchange department, which every well conducted society has as one of its principal features. Just here may be seen the advantage of a society of collectors in *all* branches, as a collector of stamps may have a few rare coins or eggs in his possession which he can exchange with brother collectors who desire these things, and who may in their turn possess some good stamps taken from old letters at home, or secured

in various other ways. Here again is a great opportunity to increase one's collection, as the value of many specimens is discovered, which would otherwise remain unknown.

The library is one of the society's greatest features. Here may be found many choice books and papers on philately, numismatics, mineralogy, natural history, etc., which any one collector might not be able to purchase, but which could easily be secured by the society with very little cost to each member. Then come the debates, and the essays, and the exhibition of specimens, and the correspondence with other societies, and the talks on various subjects, and the multitude of other things—all of which are pleasant, interesting and instructive, and add greatly to a society's support.

Then the auction sales at each meeting are of much interest and a source of great revenue, adding to the support of the society.

Besides the few advantages mentioned above, there are many others which for want of time I cannot enumerate; but these few compel me to exhort every collector to try and organize a society in his town, and the advantages derived from such a proceeding will more than compensate for the necessary trouble.

(For the Collector.)

THE NIGHT HAWK.

By NIGHT OWL.

This bird is called a bat in some of the southern states. It is by many supposed to be the same bird as the whip-poor-will; but on comparing the two birds, the difference between them will be easily observed, and their manners also are strikingly dissimilar. The night hawk lays its eggs on the bare ground, in an open space in the

woods, or in a corner of a field, where the color of the leaves and ground may resemble the general tint of the eggs. The male and female are constantly near the nest during the day. They sit lengthwise on the branch of a tree, instead of crosswise like most other birds, their legs and feet being so slender to grasp the branch firmly. While the female is sitting, the male keeps a most vigilant watch around. He plays about in the air, mounting by several quick vibrations of the wing, uttering all the while a sharp, harsh squeal, until, having gained the highest point, he suddenly precipitates himself head foremost, and with great rapidity, down sixty or seventy feet, wheeling up as suddenly; at which instant is heard a booming sound, resembling that produced by blowing strongly into the bunghead of an empty hoghead; and which is doubtless produced by the sudden expansion of his capacious mouth, while he passes through the air. This singular habit belongs only the male. When she is approached, she moves in such a fluttering, tumbling manner, and appearance of a lame and wounded bird, as nine times in ten to deceive the person and induce him to pursue her. When the young are first hatched it is difficult to distinguish them from the surface of the ground; they sit so fixed and squat as to be mistaken for a slight moulding on the earth. The birds are seen abroad at all times of the day; but their most favorite time is from two hours before sunset till dusk. They are very numerous near salt marshes, skimming over meadows in the manner of swallows. Their chief food seems to be insects. When wounded and taken they attempt to intimidate you by opening their mouth to its utmost stretch, throwing the head forward, and uttering a kind of guttural whizzing sound, striking violently with their wings, which seem to be their only offensive

weapons. In August they steer for the south in vast multitudes, darting after insects as they advance. They are accompanied by twice their number of swallows.

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(Continued from 3rd page.)

a *cut* condition, do likewise, and very often cut them *round* instead of *square*, as dealers recommend.

When stamp dealers purchase envelope stamps from collectors, they require square-cut ones with a *good* margin, and yet the very albums we use do *not* afford ample space for good margins. The space assigned each specimen allows a margin of less than one-eighth of an inch, and what is the preference of this over the round-cut specimens?

Why do dealers, in cataloguing stamps, quote prices for square cut envelopes, and state that special rates can be given on *whole* envelopes? Does this not show that *whole* envelopes are far more valuable than *cut* ones? And why should not collectors—even beginners—collect the most valuable and desirable specimens when they can be procure almost as easily and as cheap? Do we not preserve the *best* specimens of other stamps, and why should a difference be made in this case? True, we may possess some stamps not in a *first class* condition: but do we not remove them as soon as we can get hold of *better* specimens? This should be the same case with our envelopes: often we can get a specimen *cut* and not *entire*.

The collecting of whole envelopes has many advantages over the present mode. In the first place, the color of paper can be better distinguished, as often the postmark so covers and disfigures the stamp as to render a ready distinction of color rather difficult.

Then again, when the envelope is *entire*, the date and place of issue can be plainly seen. The former may often prove a great aid in arranging and classifying the stamps chronologically.

Another advantage of this mode of collecting envelope stamps is that the different sizes of envelopes can be seen, which would be impossible now. Of

course it is well known that a collection containing *whole* envelopes can command a much higher price than one containing only *cut* specimens. With all these advantages before us, why should we not collect *whole* envelopes? If there is not sufficient room in our present albums for envelopes, then let the manufacturers compile separate ones for this purpose. Our postal cards are in a *separate* album, our revenues will probably be transferred to a book of their own, and why should not our envelopes have the same treatment? It might increase the *expenses* of the collector slightly, but would he not, as far as the beauty of his collection alone is concerned, be more than repaid for this extra outlay of cash?

In any case, collectors should not *cut* their envelopes, and if our present albums are incompetent to accommodate *entire* specimens, then keep your envelopes out of your album.

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THE COLLECTOR.

Formerly the Eclipse.

VOL. II.

PITTSBURGH, PA., SEPTEMBER, 1887.

NO. 3.

(For the Collector.)

BIRDS' EGGS.

BY REV. ROBERT WILSON, D. D.

PART II.

[Part I of this article may be found in No. 2 of the COLLECTOR. Price 5c. per copy.]

The material, too, of which the nest is formed, will often tell what bird has built it. Thus the robin and wood-thrush use mud; the Baltimore oriole, dried grass and string; the orchard oriole, straw; the wren and chipping sparrow invariably find horse-hair for lining; the mocking bird is sure to find scrapes of paper; the owls and ducks, soft feathers. The seasons, too, must be noted, some birds, such as the fish-hawk, turkey-buzzard and swallow nesting in early spring, the fly-catchers and orioles much later, after all danger of frost is over, while the waxwing, or cedar-bird waits for early summer. When a nest is found it should never be disturbed unless the bird is known. If the eggs are new to you, sit down quietly at a little distance and watch for the owner's return. If she does not come, leave her treasures and return until you can identify her. If the bird is seen, but not recognized, observe it closely so as to be able to describe it accurately, or identify it in some book of plates. *Never take an egg that you do not know*, unless sure of its rarity and the impossibility of returning to the place or waiting for the bird. *Never*, except in the case of very rare specimens, take *all* the eggs from a nest. It is a mistake to suppose that birds will not return to a touched nest. Very few

will abandon their homes for such a cause, but great caution is necessary as to the number of eggs left. Most birds *can count three*, but none have more arithmetic than that. Thus, if five or more eggs are in the nest, up to twenty—partridges sometimes lay so many—and you leave three, the bird will not abandon it. If only two or one be left, she will not return. If only two eggs are in the nest of a bird which lays more, you may take one every day and she will continue laying, but if two form the clutch—as with the dove, kingfisher and others—you may take both if any, as she will not return to one. The cow-bird lays one or two eggs in the nest of a smaller bird, usually that of the Maryland yellow-throat, the yellow-breasted chat, the goldfinch or the yellow-bird. The owner regards these eggs as her own, and the same rule must be observed in taking them. Most of the thrushes, on the other hand, resent intrusion of any foreign egg, will remove on discovery. It is not always easy for even a practised eye to identify eggs with certainty by their form and color, but a little experience will enable one to tell the class to which the bird belongs. Thus all the ground laying water-birds lay eggs of which the kiekee's is a good type. The white-egged birds can be distinguished by form and texture of shell, but are often too similar for certain identification. The fly-catcher seem to follow no rule. Hence the necessity of watching for the bird in all cases. The bull-bat and the whip-poor-will lay two eggs on the bare ground in thick woods, and the closest observation is required to detect them.

The best way to blow delicate eggs is to drill a hole in the side and remove the contents with a "pipette" or "eyedropper." Stronger sorts may have a hole in each end, made with a sharp needle and the inside blown out by the mouth. The holes should then be covered with white court-plaster. Never string your eggs, but keep them in a glass covered box, each kind carefully labelled or numbered. Be very careful in buying eggs, as dealers are "very deceiving," and you can easily be taken in. It is far better to make your own collections whenever practicable, and by following the hints above given you may do so with very satisfactory results.

OUR PHILATELIC DEAD

We have been informed of the death of Mr. L. W. Durbin, Philadelphia's greatest stamp dealer and publisher, which occurred on Saturday, August 18th, 1887.

Mr. Durbin was born in Rising Sun, Ind., August 18th, 1849. In 1869 he removed to Philadelphia, and purchased an interest in the stamp and coin firm of Mason & Co. The year following he established himself in the stamp business, and continued until his death. He published the *Philatelic Month* for eleven years, also fifteen editions of the *Standard Stamp Catalogue*, several editions of the *Postal Card Catalogue* and the *Excelsior Album*, besides the "History of the United States Envelope." When the American Philatelic Association was organized, Mr. Durbin was spoken of very highly for president, but this position he would not accept. He was, however, elected treasurer.

Mr. Durbin resided at Burlington, N. J., and conducted business at corner of Fifth and Library Streets, Philadelphia. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a Mason and member of I. O. O. F. He

was also a member of the Templars of Honor and Temperance, and had served two years as a Grand Worth Templar of the state of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Durbin's death causes a vacuum in philatelic ranks that will be difficult to fulfill. He leaves a wife and two children.

THE CANADA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

This new organization appears to be rapidly booming and the membership is fast increasing. Great care is being taken in admitting only the very best members, and the society is composed principally of gentlemen who have been collectors for ten to twenty years. Mr. Hooper, the secretary, has impressed on all applicants that no boys, who would likely tire of the Association, will be admitted under any consideration. As a consequence the better class of advanced collectors, who do not care for anything saving of amateurs, are taking an active part in the formation of the C. A. P. Ladies will be admitted, and the secretary has already applications from different parts of Europe from the leading philatelists of the world, who wish to become members. The election of officers will be held in about a month, and with such men as Alderman Redder, of Halifax, and Major Greeny, of Brantford, the success of the Association is assured. All philatelists who wish to join may send their fee of 25 cents for initiation, to Mr. John I. Hooper, 124 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, who will promptly acknowledge all such.

THE TRADE DOLLAR.

Up to the time of the *Collector* going to press (Aug. 25) the total amount of trade dollars redeemed was \$1,756,840. \$487,618 of this sum had been coined into dimes.

(For the Collector.)

The Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp.

BY GEO. P. COFFIN.

During the past few months, nearly all the philatelic papers of America have contained articles relative to this subject. Some of the writers have declared that James Chalmers was the inventor, while others have claimed that the honor belongs to Sir Rowland Hill.

We have thought it best to investigate the subject before making a decision, therefore we have withheld our opinions until we were fully satisfied in our mind that we were right. We have in the meanwhile read the articles in the philatelic papers and elsewhere which had bearing upon the subject, and find that Sir Rowland Hill had no real claim to the invention, but that the honor or glory of the invention rightfully belongs to James Chalmers.

We find that Mr. Chalmers set up in type and printed some stamps at his printing office at Dundel in 1834. These stamps were covered on the back with gum so they could be attached to mail matter.

These were sent as samples to a committee appointed by Parliament for the purpose of reforming the Postal System. One of the posted commissioners was acquainted with Hill and revealed to him the plans of Mr. Chalmers.

Hill then began to push himself ahead as the inventor of the stamp. Having a number of friends in Parliament, he succeeded in obtaining an appointment to carry out the plans which had been proposed by him. [These were in reality the same plans which had been proposed by Mr. Chalmers to the postal commission.] Hill remained in office until dismissed by the Tories. His friends then gave him a present of \$45,000.

In 1846 he was appointed secretary to the Postmaster General. Here he remained until 1864, when he was pensioned for life with his salary of \$1,000 annually. Parliament also gave him a special grant of \$100,000.

Hill died in 1879 and a committee was appointed to receive subscriptions toward erecting a monument to him. The money was raised and the monument erected, bearing the statue and name of "Sir Rowland Hill, the Founder of a Penny Post."

It was soon afterward found that Hill was an impostor and the last sentence was removed from the monument, leaving only the name "Sir Rowland Hill."

Since the death of Hill, Mr. Patrick Chalmers has discovered the facts of his father, Mr. James Chalmers' invention, and has been proving them to the world. But among philatelists are many unbelievers and many of them will not accept the rightful inventor as such; but we hope that ere many years all philatelists will "give honor to whom honor is due" as there is "no honor among thieves." Mr. Chalmers by his untiring efforts to restore his father's claims found many supporters in this country, and nearly all the philatelic societies have passed resolutions in his favor. Among the latter we might mention the Chicago, Pomeroy, Newton, Jamestown, Lansing, Denver, St. Louis and others.

We hope that Mr. Chalmers and his friends will go on with their work, until the statue of the swindler, Hill, is removed and that of the benefactor, James Chalmers, is erected in its place and the glory of the great invention is restored to him from whom it was stolen by a usurper.

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COLLECTORS OF ALL BRANCHES.

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EDITORIAL.

With this issue we announce the
consolidation of the COLLECTOR, of
Easton, Md., and the ECLIPSE, of
Pittsburgh, Pa. The paper will be
published at Pittsburgh, with the
Eastern office at Easton. Haddaway
Brothers, of the latter place, will as-
sume charge of the editorial depart-
ment, and will do all in their power
to make the paper a success. The
services of some of the most eminent
writers on philately, numismatics,
archæology, natural history, etc., have
been engaged and their productions

in this line will subsequently appear
in the columns of the COLLECTOR. G.
D. Morris, of Pittsburgh, will be the
publisher, which will insure for the
paper, a neat and regular appearance.

Subscribers to the ECLIPSE and the
COLLECTOR will have their subscriptions
filled by this paper, which will consist
of twelve pages each month.

For the benefit of publishers we will
publish next month a list of advertisers
who have defrauded us, and from
whom we cannot get an answer to our
inquiries.

Haddaway's Pamphlet is now in
press and will be issued in about two
weeks. Every stamp collector should
have one. Price, 10 cents. Address
Haddaway Bros., Easton, Md.

Mr. Patrick Chalmers will please
accept our thanks for copies of his
pamphlets, in which are clearly set
forth the claims of his father to the
honor of having invented the adhesive
stamp.

(For the Collector.)

Hints to Young Coin Collectors.

BY G. J. BAUER.

Every collector of coins, stamps,
etc., has a certain branch to which he
devotes his special attention. He may
collect specimens from his own or
some other country. There are many
collectors of stamps who collect U. S.
stamps only. In coins, however, al-
most every collector has an almost
complete set before collecting foreign
coins. U. S. copper cents are the
most popular, as the line of cents from
1793 to the present day is complete,
except one date, 1815. In this year
no cents were coined. There are hun-
dreds of varieties, and it is probably
the largest field for a collector. A set
of copper cents complete, in fine con-

dition, would be worth over \$500, and would contain between 400 and 500 cents, as many varieties of each date were issued. The half dollars are next most collected, as they rank next to the cents in number. Dimes, half-dimes, quarters, half-cents and dollars follow in the order named.

A collection of war-tokens and store-cards is a cheap and interesting study. It offers the largest field for collectors, as hundreds of varieties and types were struck in nearly every large city in the country. A collection of medals also offer a large and fine field for a collector. There are also many other branches, such as Confederate notes, Southern State notes, broken bank notes, Colonial and Continental notes, U. S. fractional currency, etc. All of these have a large number of collectors who make one or more of them a special study.

A few of the most valuable U. S. coins are as follows:

Dollars, 1794, 1804-36 38 39-51-52-58; half-dollars, 1796-97, 1815-52; quarters, 1823-27; dimes, 1796-97-98, 1800-1-2 3-4-46; half-dimes, 1794 96-97, 1801-2-3-5-46; cents, 1793-99, 1849, during which year only a very few half-cents were issued and these are only found uncirculated in collectors' hands. Amateurs buying any rare date will do well to send it to some dealer for inspection, as many counterfeits, restrikes, electrotypes, etc. are very often offered to collectors as genuine. Among the numismatic terms in daily use, and with which every coin collector should be conversant, may be defined the following: Poor, a coin worn very badly and date just visible; fair, one showing date and other main parts plain; good, a coin showing date, lettering, etc., all plain and distinct; fine, a coin not worn, scratched, or otherwise mutilated in the least; uncirculated, one, which as its name indicates, has never been circulated; a proof coin has a

polished, mirror like surface just as it has been dropped from the press. There is also a quantity between the above, such as very fair, very good and very fine.

To clean coins, probably the only way is to place them in sweet oil, as the oil softens the dirt on copper coins. Silver coins are best cleaned with soap and water. Acid must never be used, as it is liable to eat up the date or other parts of the coin.

ONE CENT POSTAGE.

A peculiar plan, by which a portion of the government's surplus money may be used, is proposed in the suggestion that letter postage should be reduced to one cent. The postal department of the government has never produced a surplus of revenue, and has never been run for such a purpose. The policy has been to reduce postage as soon as the revenue began to approximate expenditures. The policy proposed of one cent postage would be the most extreme yet pursued by the Post Office Department. The part which cheap postage has played in the development of the past twenty-five years is not generally realized. There can be no harm in continuing in the same direction still further. One of the chief advantages to be derived from a change to one cent postage would be to largely do away with postal cards. The extent to which these are used at present shows that one cent postage would be appreciated.

— *Albany Express.*

—*EXCHANGES.*—

This dept. free to subscribers. No exchange to exceed 24 words.

Conglomerate, for 2x3 specimens of Crystals. Indian pottery, for arrowheads, spearheads, celts, sinkers or discoidal stones. P. S. Johnson, Bolivar, New York.

Twenty-five collectors' names or five Chinese coins, for a V nickle without the word "cents." H. E. Kelley, Ceres, Cal.

Five fine minerals, for every one not in my collection. Write for list. F. H. Blanchard, Tunbridge, Vermont.

Fifty varieties of foreign stamps, for every large cent or half-cent. 100 good foreign stamps, for 100 U. S. stamps. C. W. Peugh, Kossuth, Indiana.

A number of "Golden Days," "Golden Argosy" and "Youth's Companion," for two perfect arrowheads or a stamp catalogued at fifteen cents or over. C. Haddaway, Easton, Md.

100 post-marks, for every stamp catalogued at ten cents or over. Collector, Easton, Md.

Philatelic, coin and curiosity papers, for coins, stamps &c. Send stamp for list. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

SALE OF STAMPS.

C. R. Morris, employed in the distributing department of the post office, sold to a dealer in San Francisco last month, a collection of seven thousand varieties of foreign and domestic stamps. The collection included a set of the entire series of stamped envelopes issued by the government.

CHANGES IN U. S. STAMPS.

The following changes are announced for September 15th:

Adhesive stamps; 2c. from red to green; 3c. from green to vermilion. Stamped envelopes; 2c. from red to green; 4c. from green to carmine; 5c. from brown to dark blue; 30c. from black to brown; 90c. from carmine to purple. The designs on the 1, 2, 4 and 5c. envelope stamps will be changed. The heads on these stamps have been engraved and will have a slightly different appearance. The orna-

mentation around them will also be changed. One purpose in making the changes in color is to have that of stamped envelopes correspond as nearly as possible with that of the adhesives.

STRAY PENCILINGS.

BY RAMBLER.

Our Canadian brethern are very active in the organization of their National Philatelic Association. My advice is to approach the question of the official organ very cautiously, lest the fearful greatness of it down the unwary.

There is some talk of forming a National Archaeological Association. Success to it. By the way, how does Mr. E. B. Sterling strike you as being the man for president?

The *Niagara Falls Philatelist* has been received and reviewed. A little more good, sound reading matter and not so many jokes would be an improvement.

The *Buckeye State Collector* for August presents a very good appearance for No. 1. It seems to me, however, that one or two good articles on philately and numismatics would be more interesting than the present departments devoted to those subject.

The *Southern Collector*, of Tuskegee, Ala., has left this world of woe. I extend my congratulations to its subscribers. R. I. P.

The *Stamp*, Editor Frazer, the "Philadelphia kickers," *et al* will have their hands full now that Hubbard with his *World* will jaw at them twice a month.

INDOVINELLUM.

CONDUCTED BY

DEW DROPS.

Address all communications for this department to R. BERLT, 1608 Madison Avenue, Covington, Ky.

New Puzzles No. 2.

1. ENIGMA.

Here I am before you,
Just christened after birth—
I will confess that I'm not large.
(I could but want the earth.)

How do you like my looks?
Speak now; what do you mean?
You think I'm N. G. 'cause I'm small,
You also think I'm green.

M. K., do not so judge—
I'm like the banyan tree,
Though small at first I quickly grow,
And then—look out for me.

Columbus, O. JEST FUR PHUN.

2. HALF-SQUARE.

1. Pertaining to a painful inflammation. 2. Low, oven shaped mounds (geol.) 3. Adorned with the fur of an animal of genus *Mustela*. 4. Joins. 5. Saps. 6. Goddesses of revenue. 7. A bush (rare.) 8. Exists. 9. A letter.

Plainfield, N. J. ALPHEUS.

3. ANAGRAM.

A "motto" or a "saying" wise,
Will here most surely greet your eyes:
'Twas only made for those who're
poor:

The wealthy class don't need it sure—
The wealthy ones have sayings funny—
The main one is—"O' claw the money."

Denver, Colo. E. Z. 2 C.

4. SQUARE.

1. Fashionable. 2. A drama set to music. 3. A R. R. station. 4. Ascended. 5. After.

Hallam, Ky. P. D. FOSTER.

5. HALF-SQUARE.

1. Diversion. 2. High. 3. Particle of fire. 4. To weary. 5. A black

fluid. 6. A pronoun. 7. A letter.
Covington, Ky. PENEUS.

6. CHARADE.

All the horrors that wait on my *first*,
would you know,
Seek Spitzbergen's cold shores and her
hills cap't with snow:
When the gloomy approach of the
tempest you've fled,
How you've wished that my *second* were
over your head!
My *whole* heightens luxury's summer
repast,
Yet hates genial warmth, courts the
chill northern blast:
Loves the bleak air of winter, and
studious retires,
From the sun's fervid beams, and the
heat of your fires.

Rochester, N. Y. R. O. CHESTER.

Answers and prize-winners in
two months.

PRIZES.

First complete list, COLLECTOR 1 year.
Best incomplete list, " 6 mo.
First solution to each flat, a copy of
Golden Argosy.

SPECIAL—A book for the largest
and best batch of flats.

PLAIN TALK.

Cons have been accepted from
"Peneus" and "Jest Fur Phun."... Our
"mystic box" is empty... "E. Z. 2 C."
"Tidal Wave" and "R. O. Chester"
please send some cons... Where is the
July *Young Investigator*?... Have received
Exchange & Mart and *Youth's
Ledger*... Every puzzler who receives
this number is earnestly requested to
join our ranks and send in some cons,
and to gain that end—subscribe, 25
cents per year... In the July number
we made a slight mistake in Jest Fur
Phun's Anagram. It should have been
"Britan," not "Britain."

DEW DROPS.

(For the Collector.)

THE ECHINODERMS.

By "Old Fossil."

Nothing can add more to the beauty of a collection than a few specimens of perfect fossils from the beautiful and extensive family of crinoids. The crinoids, or echinoderms, are often called "stone lillies," from their resemblance to a lily; not only in appearance but in structure.

From the centre of the base a peduncle shoots upward and on this is found the head. From the sides of the base branching arms come out on all sides; in some species there are nearly a thousand, and each is made up of innumerable small bones joined together. The fragments of the stems of these animals found in the rocks were used as rosaries in the Middle Ages, and were called St. Cuthberts beads. Sir Walter Scott thus notices them in his *Marrion* :

"On a rock by Lindsfarm
St. Cuthbert sits, and tries to frame
The sea-born beads that bear his name."

Crinoids first appeared in the L. Silurian age, but they were of a much simpler form than in after ages. The remains that are found now are mostly disks from the stems that have been broken. I have a few specimens from this age in which a part of the head still remains.

From the Lower Silurian age they increased in numbers, until, in the Sub-carboniferous age, we find whole strata composed of their remains. Their great number and variety of shapes make them an important characteristic of this age.

Since the Sub-carboniferous age they have gradually decreased in numbers, as is found upon examining the deposits of after ages.

A number of beautiful ferns are found in the Jurassic age, and a few in the Cretaceous, but at the present time I believe there are but two species, and these will soon be extinct.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE !

~~Now~~ Just Look at the following.

100, 25c.	—	1,000, \$ 1.50
500, \$1.00.	—	10,000, 10.00
		2,000, \$15.00.

Now when you consider that every
1,000 pkg. contains
200 U. S. DEPT. STAMPS,
200 U. S. REVENUES,
500 OBSOLETE ISSUES of U. S.,
100 5, 10, 15 and 30c. STAMPS.

What do You Think of the Prices ?

N. B. — I have had some complaint about packages lost in the mail, and wish it understood unless 10 cents registry fee accompanies the order, delivery cannot be guaranteed. 10 cents is only a small matter to you, but it would take all my profit.

Remittances made by money order or registered letter are perfectly safe.

✽ORDER AT ONCE.✽

BEN L. DARROW,

545 N. ILLINOIS ST.,

Indianapolis, Ind.

~~Now~~ Consignments of U. S. stamps solicited, for which prompt cash will be paid.

THE COLLECTOR.

Official Organ of the N. C. A.

Vol. II.

GAMBIER, OHIO, OCTOBER, 1887.

No. 4.

(For the Collector.)

PURCHASING STAMPS.

BY VICTOR.

The collector of to-day has at his disposal a variety of ways to purchase stamps for his collection, and all of these ways are after a manner equally satisfactory. The most general way for young collectors, however, to purchase stamps from dealers is from approval sheets, and nearly every dealer pays a great deal of attention to this department. And here lies one of the advantages of the stamp dealer over the dealer in coins, minerals, eggs, curiosities, etc. While these latter dealers can and do send their goods on approval, still the postage is sometimes so much and the risk to run so great, that the approval custom is rendered impracticable. But the stamp dealer has many advantages, and the collector more, in the approval sheet custom. The collector then has the stamps before him and can satisfy himself as to their condition, etc., but a reliable dealer will not send his stamps in any other than good and satisfactory condition, unless previously stated. But a dealer has a great many risks to run in sending out approval sheets. First, he very often loses his stamps entirely by sending them to a dishonest collector. It is therefore the duty of every dealer to warn his brother dealers against all such frauds as he may encounter in his experience. Would it not be a good plan if the official organ of the American Philatelic Association should publish each month or two a list of approval sheet frauds as reported by its members, whether dealers or collectors? I notice that several papers are publishing a list of honest stamp collectors, but I think a

list of dishonest ones would be of more value to their readers. The sooner the entire number of philatelists become acquainted with such frauds, the better, and means should be provided for this end.

Another way for the dealer to be cheated in his approval sheets is effected by the trading process indulged in by some collectors. This consists in replacing for stamps on the sheet some inferior ones he may possess. But a dealer soon finds this out, and that collector's goose is cooked.

Most dealers, when collectors send for approval sheets, require the names of some reliable parties to whom they may refer as to their honesty. This is no more than just on the dealer's part, and no honest collector will hesitate in furnishing references. Nine times out of ten these references are not examined, but the collector should not betray the trust placed in him. The dealer, however, knows exactly where to turn if the applicant for stamps proves dishonest. This plan of requiring references is rather better than the deposit system, although the latter is the safer plan, as very often young collectors cannot furnish the money for the deposit, but can supply satisfactory proof of their reliability.

Another way for the young collector to purchase stamps, is by packets. Here a great variety can be had at little cost, and both dealer and collector are made happy.

But as the collector grows in years, and his collection grows in numbers, there are stamps that cannot be purchased from approval sheets or in packets, but must be taken from the catalogue. And I do not know but what

this is the best manner to collect, after all. If you are studying any one country, or any one variety, such as locals, surcharges, envelopes, etc., you have a complete list with their history before you, and can easily fill out your list. True, it takes some little outlay of cash to do this, but by the time the collector reaches this stage of collecting, he is a philatelist in every sense of the word, and spares no pains or reasonable expense to become better acquainted in his special department of the study of philately.

CHRONICLE.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

ANTIGUA. The 2 1-2d. is now blue and the 4d. red-brown.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. The 1c. of 1873 is reported rouletted.

BAVARIA. Both the 2pf. and 5pf. cards come with date "87" at the left.

BR. BECHUANALAND. The "Ph. R." reports the 1-2d. and 1d. wrappers and the 1d. card with surcharge in two lines, 7 and 14mm. long.

CASHMERE. The 1-2d. of current type is printed in blue.

CEYLON. The surcharge "15 cents" on the 12c. envelope is now in two lines.

COCHIN CHINA. The 30c. unpaid letter stamp is said to be surcharged for use as 20c. and 1f.

DANISH W. I. The 3c. card is now on buff, and there is a 2x2c. blue on white.

FRENCH GUIANA. In addition to the surcharges issued in December "L'U. de T." mentions three others with date "Avril 1887," viz: 0.05 on 2c. 1881; 0.20 on 35c. 1881 and 0.25 on 30c. Liberty.

GRENADA. It is stated that the 1d., 6d. and 2sh. revenues have been surcharged "Postage—1d."

HOLLAND. The 5c. and 10c. unpaid letter stamps of the new design are out.

HUNGARY. There is a new 5kr. envel-

ope, carmine on gray. The stamp is oval and contains the figure of value with crown and posthorn.

LABUAN. The 4c. card now measures 121x89mm.

PARAGUAY. The "Ph. R." has a series of stamps of similar design as the 5c. lately reported. 1c. green, 2c. carmine, 7c. chocolate, 18c. purple, 15c. orange, 20c. pink.

PORTO RICO. Of the 3c. card on brown, we have three minor varieties in the setting up of the inscriptions.

PORTUGAL. A new 20 reis rose was issued July 1st. Effigy 3-4 to right without relief, also a card with same stamp. The 500 reis is now lilac instead of black.

ROMANIA. The color of the unpaid letter stamps is to be changed.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. New cards with head in circle have been issued; 1d. carmine on buff and 1 1-2d. brown on buff.

SWITZERLAND. It is said stamps are to be issued without embossing.

BOKHARA. "Le Timbre Poste" has a communication from Teheran, stating that there are three stamps in use there: 11 poul, red; 22 poul, green; 65 poul, lilac. The money of Bokhara is the Tenga, or 25 kopees of Russia, equal to 65 poul.

COLUMBIA. The new 2c. stamps represent Marshall Siare, the 20c. General Narinos (don Antonio), both heroes of the war of Independence. The latter was the first Dictator of Colombia, born at Bogota in 1769 and died at Cadiz about 1822. The 20c. stamp reads "Repulica" instead of "Republica."

PARAGUAY. According to "Le Timbre Poste" 2c. bands and 5c. envelopes are in use.

PORTUGAL. A new 25 reis, bright violet, has been issued, somewhat resembling the 25 reis brown.

VENEZUELA. The 5c. escuelas is now lithographed instead of engraved. It is printed in pale green.

INDOVINELLUM.

CONDUCTED BY - - DEW DROPS.

Address all communications to R. Berli, 1604
Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.

NUMBER 3.

ANSWERS TO NO. 1.

No. 1. The Celtic and Brittanic.	
No. 2. HOLCAD	No. 4.
ORIOLE	DU CAT
LI GULA	NABOB
COUNED	TIDAL
ALLEGÉ	BAKED
DEADEN	YEARN

No. 3. A dream.

No. 5. Denver, Newport, Ontario.

NEW PUZZLES.

No. 1.—CHARADE.

A boarder lay idly in his cot,
Dreaming of loved ones far away;
When some *first* appeared before the
door,

Screaming their clamorous melody.

His first impulse was to *last* them,
And a bootjack he hurled in the air;
But the creatures were not at all fright-
ened

And for this, they seemed not to care.

The summer resort of this boarder,

Where the *first* he tried to *last*;Was at base of *entire* mountains—

But this is a thing of the past.

North's Landing, Ind. GOLDIE.

No. 2.—SQUARE.

1. To value. 2. A square of enam-
eled glass. 3. A Mediterranean fish
(Obs.). 4. Made of elder. 5. To
starve. 6. A poem of fourteen lines.

Plainfield, N. J. ALPHEUS.

No. 3.—BEHEADMENT.

Glorious ocean! Entrancing sea!

Unbroken waste, so wild and free.

To thy everlasting *all*

Many a man does yearly fall,

And when thou hast ceased from thy
weird pleasures;

When thou, at last, givest up thy treas-
ures

From 'neath mid-ocean's rushing blasts,

To where thy shores are crowned by *lasts*.
Out from thy depths thy dead will rise
To meet their judgment o'er the skies.

Plainfield, N. J.

EUREKA.

No. 4.—HALF-SQUARE.

1. A city of Southern Conn. 2. One
who conducts a department. 3. To
mature. 4. A particular. 5. A Span.
title. 6. A prefix. 7. A letter.

Covington, Ky.

PENKUS.

Answers and prize winners in two
months.

Solutions by JEST FUR PHUN and PE-
NEUS. 1st prize, not won. 2d prize, JEST
FUR PHUN. 4th and 5th prizes, JEST FUR
PHUN.

NEW PRIZES.

First complete list, one of the famous
James' Mad Stones, (\$10 size); second
complete, one year's subscription to COL-
LECTOR. Best incomplete, six months'
subscription to COLLECTOR. Next best
ten varieties U. S. stamps. First solu-
tion to each "flat," copy of *Golden Argosy*.

SPECIAL PRIZE.—A good book, cost 50
cents, for the best batch of flats.

PLAIN TALK.

This issue of the COLLECTOR goes to
about 100 puzzlers, whose names were
taken from the "Golden Days Puzzlers'
Directory," and to them all we extend
our welcome hoping to hear from them
all, each and every one, in the line of
cons., solutions and subscriptions.—As
the prizes offered are valued at \$11, we
must make a restriction. It is this: No
one can compete for the 1st prize who
is not a subscriber, but all may compete
for the others.—Cons. accepted from
EUREKA, (His "Guess Work" also re-
ceived with thanks, and its fine work
appreciated). ALPHEUS, Arcana No. 25
also at hand. Thanks, but why don't
you send in a "sol."? Have not heard
from you for two months.—GOLDIE's
cons. accepted also. Would she oblige
by sending in some more cons? JEST
FUR PHUN and E. Z. Q. C., your batches
have given out, please replenish. Same
with R. O. CHESTER and P. D. FOSTER.

DEW DROPS.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Collectors of all Branches.

HADDAWAY BROS., - Editors.
Eastern Office, Easton, Md.

- PUBLISHED BY -

GEO. D. MORRIS,
GAMBIER, OHIO.

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Send all advertisements and subscriptions to
G. D. Morris, Gambier, Ohio.

Matter for publication should be sent by
the 25th of the month to Haddaway Bros., Easton,
Md., to insure publication in our next issue.

Exchanges will please send two copies, one to
G. D. Morris and one to Haddaway Bros.

OUR AGENTS.

The following persons are authorized to receive
advertisements and subscriptions for the COLLECTOR:

Geo. H. Richmond, 5 Beekman St., N. Y.
Amateur Newspaper Agency, Davidsburg, Pa.
G. W. Von Utassy, Green St., Germantown, Pa.
A. A. Bronsden, Baldwinville, Mass.
S. I. Adams, Hurlock, Md.
W. E. Billings, Marlboro, Mass.
H. C. Beardsley, 422 N. 7th St., St. Joseph, Mo.
F. R. Stearns, West Wichita, Kan.
J. L. Neal, Skipton, Md.
H. A. Trask, 34 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

It will be noticed in this number that
we have removed from Pittsburgh, Pa.,
to Gambier, Ohio. Readers, in writing
us, should bear this in mind, and save
needless delays.

The fall season is now at hand, and
dealers are busy arranging and complet-
ing their stock for the fall trade. Col-
lectors are likewise busy in enlarging
and beautifying their collections, and
the album and the cabinet are alike re-
plenished with equal fervor. But with
the great boom in fall and winter trade
comes the knowledge to the dealer of the
necessity of advertising. His business
must be made known, and it is the press
that comes to his assistance. The United
States can boast of many fine collectors'
journals, and it can also boast of some
of the largest and most respected dealers

in stamps, eggs, minerals and curiosities
in the world. The journals, therefore,
the good journals—should receive some
support from the dealers, and the dealers
will receive theirs from the papers. We
take great pleasure in bringing before
the advertising public the COLLECTOR as
a valuable medium, one through which
your business can be widely spread at
but little cost. We have enlarged to our
present size permanently, and our cir-
culation is constantly increasing. For a
paper of this size and with its circula-
tion, we believe our advertising rates of
fifty cents per inch are extremely low.
It is our intention to make the COLLEC-
TOR second to no curiosity journal in the
country. But to do this, we must have
the assistance of collectors and adver-
tisers. The former, we are pleased to
say, is very satisfactory, indeed, and
now let the latter contribute their share.
We are sincere when we say that we
think the COLLECTOR's advertisement of
your business will pay you. Give us a
trial and see if we are not correct.

Collectors will notice that we publish
a record of new issues of postage stamps
in this number. We have arranged to
have a complete chronicle each month,
which will contain all the leading news.

Collectors, does this issue look as if
our paper is worth 25 cents for twelve
numbers? If not, then don't subscribe.
If so, chip in your quarter and let the
good work go on.

Our December issue will be somewhat
larger than our present size. Subscribe
this month, and get one of our premiums
as offered elsewhere.

We send but one sample copy to each
address. If you want to see us again,
send along your quarter.

Mr. Patrick Chalmers will accept our
thanks for a photograph of his father.

SPECIAL TO ADVERTISERS.

In order to introduce the COLLECTOR among advertisers we make this special offer, good only this month. We will insert a one-inch advertisement for the months of November, December and January for only \$1.00. Advertisements must be paid for in advance. Remit by silver, postal note, money order or registered letter. No stamps accepted as payment. The COLLECTOR now has a large subscription list of good buyers, and more are received every day. As we send out each month about five hundred extra sample copies to active collectors, we feel sure that a standing advertisement with us will pay you. Make your contract now, and get a reduction of one-third on our regular rates. We claim that our rates are as low, and our class of readers as good, as those of any other curiosity paper of equal standing published. Make your contract for three months now and save money by it. Remember, you get the advantage of our regular subscription list and *fifteen hundred* readers extra. We are offering special inducements to subscribers, and are bound to receive many more this month. This offer is good only until October 30th, and as the busy fall season sets in you will find it to your advantage to advertise where you get value received.

GATHERED BY THE WAYSIDE.

Philadelphia has a section of the International P. V., Dresden.

The *Toronto Philatelic Journal* has been resurrected, and it is to appear this month.

Wm. Wolf, of Philadelphia, has been charged with using the mails for fraudulent purposes.

The *Philatelic Advertiser and Record* is announced for this month from Newtonville, Mass.

The *Texas Philatelic Journal* is a new one. We wish it more success than its predecessors have had.

During the month of October thirteen two-cent stamps can be bought at any post-office for a cent and a quarter.

Is S. Allan Taylor a member of the D. S. C. L. that they should conduct a philatelic department at a Manufacturer's Exposition?

Mr. H. B. Seagrave, of Ionia, Mich., is spoken of very prominently as treasurer of the A. P. A., vice Mr. L. W. Durbin, deceased.

The September *Stamp* contained a portrait of Mr. T. J. Mitchell, the now famous writer on philatelic subjects, who contributes to stamp papers under the *nom de plume* of "Wanderer."

The A. P. A. seems to have a would-be rival in the society Mr. McNamara is trying to organize. It is to be called the Philatelic Association of America, and the annual dues will be \$1.00.

First comes the resignation of the *Western Philatelist* as official organ of the A. P. A.; then S. B. Bradt resigns as secretary of the same society. Is Chicago dissatisfied, or *vice versa*?

By the way, who will be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Secretary Bradt? How about W. C. Stone or H. L. Calman, both of whom are able gentlemen and enthusiastic philatelists?

The *American Philatelic Record* is the latest of the "late lamenteds." It bid fair to be a good journal, but business matters compel Mr. Manier to cease its publication. It issued two numbers, and had an account of the second annual meeting of the A. P. A.

Shall we have a national archaeological association? Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth, of Wilmington, Del., would make a good secretary, and Mr. W. K. Moorehead, of Xenia, Ohio, would have many claims upon the office of official editor. Let's hear from all interested, and go to work at once.

The long-looked-for *Collector's Journal* of Brooklyn has at last appeared.

The new 2-cent, green, stamp has made its appearance. It looks well.

Mr. Jos. Wigglesworth, of Wilmington, Del., has purchased the stock of Indian relics of Mr. W. K. Moorehead, of Xenia, Ohio.

The Canadian Philatelic Association is well under way, and the election of officers takes place in a very short while. The Governor-General will probably be the Honorary President. The choice of President lies between Major Hechler, a wealthy alderman of Halifax, and Mr. Ketcheson, of the post-office department of Belleville. There are three candidates in the field for the honor of official organ. They are the *Niagara Falls Philatelist*, the *Halifax Philatelist* and the *Canada Stamp and Coin Journal*.

THE ICHTHYOSAURUS.

BY W. D. CROW.

Many of the most curious of the saurians have been classified by geologists into a genus called the Ichthyosaurus, a word which means both fish and lizard. This reptile had the head of a lizard with which was combined the teeth of the crocodile and a nose like a porpoise. It also had the paddles of a whale, the breast-bone of a duck-bill and vertebrae of a fish, thus combining in one creature peculiarities of three distinct classes.

The eye was of greater size than that of any living animal and constructed to admit a great quantity of light. On the front of the eye socket were thin, bony plates placed around the pupil. By retraction these bones pressed the front of the eye forward so turning it into a microscope and when at rest they made it into a telescope. This must have given it the power to see great distances at night or when far under water.

The covering of its body was a naked skin. The food of the ichthyosaurus was mainly composed of fish, although the remains of its own young have been found in its stomach.—*Curiosity World*.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

—OF THE—

NATIONAL • COLLECTORS' • ASSOCIATION.

PRESENT OFFICIAL LIST.

President and Treasurer, EDGAR D. MELVILLE, 610 Morton Ave., Chester, Pa.

Vice Pres., W. E. GREGG, Lebanon, Pa.
Secretary, HERBERT BRICKER, Slate Lick, Pa.

Official Organ, THE COLLECTOR, of Gambier, Ohio,

Official Editor, C. HADDAWAY, Easton, Md.

The dues of this association are only 50 cents per year to be paid in advance. All collectors desiring to join send their dues to Herbert Bricker, Secretary N. C. A., Slate Lick, Pa.

The object of the N. C. A. is to promote the science of collecting. It embraces all classes of collectors. Collectors of stamps, coins, postmarks, tags, autographs, curios, relics, etc., are respectfully invited to become members, and this you can easily do by simply sending 50 cents to Herbert Bricker, Secretary of N. C. A., Slate Lick, Pa., and you will promptly be notified that you are a full fledged member of N. C. A.

The present official persons announced in list shall hold the office one year, dated from Aug. 1, 1887, unless they resign or are discharged for neglecting their duties.

The largest book ever bound is owned by Queen Victoria, and measures eighteen inches across the back and weighs thirty pounds. It contains the jubilee addresses of congratulation from members of the Primrose League.

An immense cave has been discovered near Decatur, Ala., and it has been utilized as a show place.

EXCHANGES.

This department free to subscribers. No exchange to exceed 30 words.

Fine arrow-heads and spears, to exchange for U. S. and foreign stamps. U. S. preferred. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

100 circulars mailed to different addresses, for a year's subscription to any paper, 150 different stamps, or 300 different postmarks. R. Berli, 1608 Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.

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No. 4 Water St., Portsmouth, N. H.

HADDAWAY'S PHILATELIC PAMPHLET

Is now ready. Price, 10 cents. Contains articles by F. E. P. Lynde, Theodore Siddall, Dr. Mitchell, J. C. Feldwisch, Victor and A. Lohmeyer. Every stamp collector should have one.

HADDAWAY BROS., Easton, Md.

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No cambria todas clases de sellos postales.
Exchange toutes sortes de bonnes timbres postes.
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THIS PAPER is from the press of F. H. PINKHAM, Newmarket, N. H. Send for prices of any kind of printing, enclosing stamp for reply.

ARE YOU**A Subscriber to the Collector?**

If not, read the following most liberal premium list ever offered. To every yearly subscriber received to this paper before December 1, 1887, we will give free any one of the following:

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3. 100 assorted foreign stamps.
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5. 100 assorted square-cut postmarks.
6. 3 varieties good minerals, 1x1.
7. 3 pieces Indian pottery, 1x1 or over.
8. 3 varieties birds' wings.
9. 1 piece of coiled asbestos, just as it was taken from a large conflagration.
10. 1 good specimen of coral.
11. A copy of *Golden Days*, *Golden Argo* and *Youth's Companion*.
12. 1 lb. of good reading matter.
13. 2 sea shells.
14. Chestnut burr.
15. Pine cone.
16. One specimen of South Carolina rock, 2x2.

For every two subscribers we will give any three of the above; for every three, any five. In addition to these, we will give FREE to every fifth subscriber one of Haddaway's Philatelic Pamphlets, No. 1. To every ninth subscriber we will give C. Haddaway's "Sea and Land" collection of curiosities. Every 19th subscriber will receive free one of James' famous Mad Stones, \$10.00 size. Send in your subscriptions at once, and receive your choice of these premiums, 25 cents is all it costs, and you will never regret spending this little amount in this manner. Subscribe at once. Address,

**HADDAWAY BROS.,
EASTON, MD.**

Philatelic Journal of America.
A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING
EDITED BY
CHAS. HAWKLAND MEKEEL
PUBLISHED BY THE
PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO.
ST. LOUIS, MO. U. S. A.

32 PAGES AND COVER MONTHLY.
THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CTS. PER YEAR.
— ADDRESS —

C. H. MEKEEL, Managing Editor,
Room 74, Turner Building, St. Louis, Mo.



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An Illustrated Magazine devoted to Stamps, Geographical, Indian, Zoology, Ornithology, Oology, and branches of Natural History. Sample copy free.

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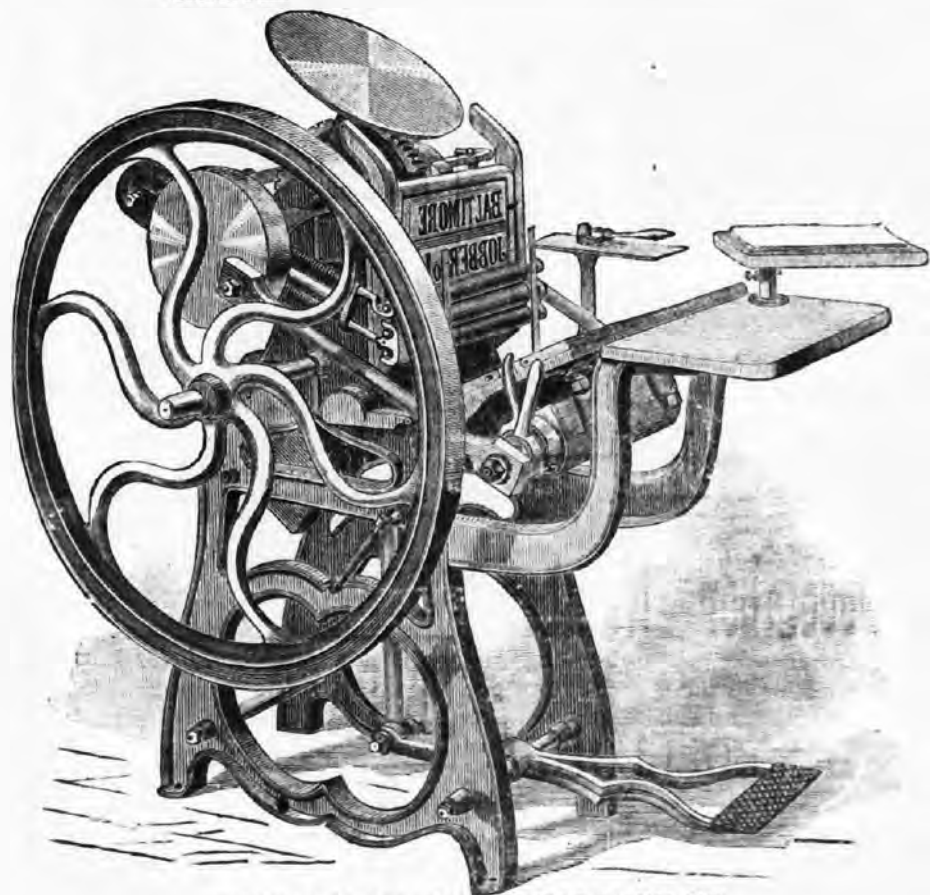
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—:THE:—

December Number

—OF—

THE COLLECTOR

—Will be—

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See third page of cover.

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only \$1.50. Address this office.

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10 " curiosities.

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is a large 8-page monthly for collectors
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**Several fonts of second-hand
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THE COLLECTOR.

Official Organ of the N. C. A.

GAMBIER, OHIO, NOVEMBER, 1887.

No. 5.

JAMES CHALMERS.



There is a good likeness of James Chalmers, the true inventor of the postage stamp, who has at last been credited with his invention through the efforts of his son, Mr. Patrick Chalmers. This position has long been held by Sir Rowland Hill, but now that of his staunchest supporters had a fall, and none save a few remain to contest the claim against Chalmers.

Chalmers was born at Arbroath, Scotland, in 1782, and died at Dundee, in 1853. It was in 1834 that he invented and produced the adhesive stamp for postal purposes, precisely on the principle now in use. Eighteen months before the penny postage bill was introduced in parliament, James Chalmers sent his plan to the select committee of the House of Commons ap-

pointed to inquire into the proposed bill. The plan of the impressed stamp as proposed by Rowland Hill not finding favor, that of the adhesive was brought forward by its advocates, and became ultimately adopted December 26, 1834. The Mulready envelope proved a failure, but the adhesive stamp saved the penny postage scheme, and still remains indispensable to the commerce of the world, the yearly issue in England alone now amounting to two thousand millions of stamps, to the value of one-half penny and upwards. Mr. Patrick Chalmers has been put to much trouble and expense in bringing forward the claims of his father, and his successful efforts are highly appreciated by the English and American press, and by an overwhelming majority of the philatelic societies and papers in the world. G. D. M.

(For the Collector.)

A STUDY FROM OAT MEAL.

BY E. C. N.

Johnson is responsible for the rather ungracious saying, that "oat meal was food for Scotchmen and horses." What a compliment to horses, to be named with Scotchmen, and how characteristic and suggestive of strength the association of Scotchmen with horses. The shaft of ridicule turns around and presents only the blunter end, and inflicts no harm. "Yes, and where will you find such horses and such men," as observed Lord Elibank. History attests the worth and power hidden neath a growth nurtured upon oat meal. To a single instance turn for a moment,—William Chambers, born at Peebles in 1800, whose name associated with that of his brother Robert will be known and revered wherever the English language

is spoken. The son of a shiftless father, who though good, and "fairly cultivated," was "rather a hindrance than help to the boys," as says the world of dollars and cents. Why is it that the inheritance that has least of wealth, proves often to be of the greatest profit to the possessor? Space will not permit the enumeration of lives successful, both as to merit and wealth, whose starting point was even less than that of William Chambers, who at the age of nineteen years conceived the idea of becoming a bookseller. With no funds to launch on such an enterprise, his fidelity to work and honesty of purpose so impressed his employer, that an advance of ten pounds' worth of books was given him, at a bookseller's sale in Edinburgh. From this beginning he worked forward to success, adding later, a partnership with his brother, and increased his enterprise by printing and publishing. "Chambers' Edinburgh Journal" appeared February 4th, 1832. Subsequent publications are familiar to all, and William Chambers died in 1883, leaving a memory worthy of emulation. The guiding star of his life was an earnest purpose, clothed with an intense desire for culture; this first finding room and home in his own breast and life, like heaven, worked through his life and plans, benefiting others, and finally the world at large.

America is peculiarly the home for the cultivation of talent and worth. Witness the little bare-footed newsboy, reading the life of Washington in the library of Boston, where Mathew Arnold saw him, and after conversation with him, expressed himself as more deeply impressed by this circumstance than anything else he had observed in our country (contrasting it as he did with the narrower rules of his own land); and he doubted not that the moments spent by that boy reading the life of Washington were the moments that would tell in all his future life. A responsibility, therefore, lies with the printer, the publisher and the author, and each is ennobled, advanced and crowned with success, only as the advantages for self-culture are first of all embraced, when through

means consecrated to noble ends, a consummation not to be regretted will be attained, and a name not written in sand will attest the worth of the printer, publisher and author, when pen, paper and ink have long passed from the hands of the workman.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

— OF THE —

NATIONAL COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

PRESENT OFFICIAL LIST.

President and Treasurer, EDGAR D. MELVILLE, 610 Morton Ave., Chester, Pa.

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Secretary, HERBERT BRICKER, Slate Lick, Pa.

Official Organ, THE COLLECTOR, of Gambier, Ohio.

Official Editor, C. HADDAWAY, Easton, Md.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

PREAMBLE.

We, the undersigned collectors of North America, believing that through system and generalization, we can make our cause an educational institution of the utmost importance to our country, and of unlimited value to the collector of the present generation, have organized ourselves into an association for the promulgation and advancement of collecting of all branches by adopting the following Constitution and By-Laws:

ART. 1.—NAME.

This association shall be known as the NATIONAL COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2.—OBJECT.

It shall be the aim of this association to advance the interest in the science of collecting.

ART. 3.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the National Collectors Association shall consist of a President and Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary and Official Editor.

ART. 4.—DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER.

Sect. 1.—It shall be the President and Treasurer's duty to appoint *pro tempore* officers from among the members, in case of the absence or disability of any officer.

Sect. 2.—It shall be the President and Treasurer's duty to countersign all bills standing against the association.

Sect. 3.—It shall be the President and Treasurer's duty to deliver over to the incoming President and Treasurer, at the expiration of his term of office, all papers, books, or property of any character belonging to the association, in his possession.

Sect. 4.—It shall be the duty of the President and Treasurer to demand the resignation of any officer of this association who shall neglect his duties; and if such resignation be not forthcoming, the President and Treasurer shall immediately discharge such officer and appoint his successor, and upon a vacancy occurring through any cause, it shall be his duty to appoint some member, in good standing, to fill it, except wherein the filling of said vacancy may be provided for by other sections of this Constitution.

Sect. 5.—It shall be the duty of the President and Treasurer to collect all moneys due the association and to pay all just bills accruing against this association.

Sect. 6. It shall be the President and Treasurer's duty to keep a complete and true account of all moneys received and disbursed.

ART. 5.—DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.

Sect. 1.—It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform all the duties devolving upon the President and Treasurer in case of his absence or disability.

Sect. 2.—It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform all duties appointed by President and Treasurer.

Sect. 3.—It shall be the Vice President's duty to deliver over to the incoming Vice President, at the expiration of his term of office, all papers, books, or property of any character belonging to the association, in his possession.

ART. 6.—DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

Sect. 1.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of all the transactions of this association and a complete list of all its members in a book provided for that purpose, and to perform such other duties as are customary under parliamentary usages.

Sect. 2.—It shall be the Secretary's duty to deliver over to the incoming Secretary, at the expiration of his term of office, all papers, books, or property of any character belonging to the association, in his possession.

Sect. 3.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to receive all bills accruing against this association.

Sect. 4.—It shall be the Secretary's duty to receive all applications for membership and dues thereof.

Sect. 5.—It shall be the Secretary's duty to deliver over to the President and Treasurer all money in his possession belonging to this association.

ART. 7.—DUTIES OF THE EDITOR.

Sect. 1.—It shall be the duty of the Editor to take entire charge of the Official Organ.

Sect. 2.—It shall be the Editor's duty to mail to every member of this association one copy of each number as soon as issued.

ART. 8.—OFFICIAL ORGAN.

Sect. 1.—The association shall publish at the discretion of the Official Editor, a paper acting as Official Organ.

Sect. 2.—This journal shall be under the supervision of the Editor, who will edit the same in the interest of this association.

ART. 9.—DUES.

The dues of this association shall be 50 cents per year, payable in advance.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Collectors of all Branches.

HADDAWAY BROS., - Editors.
Eastern Office, Easton, Md.

- PUBLISHED BY -

GEO. D. MORRIS,
GAMBIER, OHIO.

Subscription Price, 25 cents per Year.
Advertising Rates, 50 cents per Inch.

Send all advertisements and subscriptions to
G. D. Morris, Gambier, Ohio.

Matter for publication should be sent by
the 25th of the month to Haddaway Bros., Easton,
Md., to insure publication in our next issue.

Exchanges will please send two copies, one to
G. D. Morris and one to Haddaway Bros.

OUR AGENTS.

The following persons are authorized to receive
advertisements and subscriptions for the COLLECTOR:

Geo. H. Richmond, 5 Beekman St., N. Y.
Amateur Newspaper Agency, Davidsburgh, Pa.
G. W. Von Utassy, Green St., Germantown, Pa.
A. A. Bronsdon, Baldwinville, Mass.
S. I. Adams, Hurlock, Md.
W. E. Billings, Marlboro', Mass.
H. C. Beardsley, 422 N. 7th St., St. Joseph, Mo.
F. R. Stearns, West Wichita, Kan.
J. L. Neal, Skipton, Md.
H. A. Trask, 34 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

The *Toronto Philatelic Journal* made
its appearance last month.

We send but one sample copy to each
address. If you want to see us again,
send along your quarter.

Owing to a pious form Messrs. Haddaway Brothers were unable to issue their pamphlet last month as expected.

The *American Philatelist* under its new management presents a very creditable appearance. Long life and abundant success to it.

Mr. Lyman H. Low has taken charge of the coin department in the firm of Scott & Co., New York. By the way, it is thought that this firm will purchase the stock of the late L. W. Durbin.

Our December issue will be somewhat larger than our present size. Subscribe this month, and get one of our premiums as offered elsewhere.

The *Western Philatelist* for October is the best edition of a philatelic paper it has been our good fortune to see, and we don't care to see any better.

Mr. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass., has purchased the stock of the Blackstone Stamp Co., of that place, and will run the business in his own name.

We would thank the following parties very much if they would pay us what they owe us for advertising. C. E. Sherman, Hampton, Va.; C. Emery, Holyoke, Mass.; E. Clayton, New York City; I. C. Greene, Fitchburg, Mass.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

This is a new venture in its line, and it is to be hoped that it will be a success. One of the aims for which it was started is to enable collectors to get stamps at wholesale prices, and also to exchange their duplicates readily, and it certainly should fill a long-felt want. Another great advantage which it will have over other societies is that one member has the same rights as another, which is the key-note of our success. While you have the chance of becoming a charter-member you should join. The dues will be 75 cents or \$1.00. The election is expected to take place this month. All applications should be addressed to E. W. Voigte, 307 Webster Ave., Chicago, Ill.

H. H. MC N.

SPECIAL TO ADVERTISERS.

In order to introduce the COLLECTOR among advertisers we make this special offer, good only this month. We will insert a one-inch advertisement for the months of December, January and February for only \$1.00. Advertisements

must be paid for in advance. Remit by silver, postal note, money order or registered letter. No stamps accepted as payment. The COLLECTOR now has a large subscription list of good buyers, and more are received every day. As we send out each month about five hundred extra sample copies to active collectors, we feel sure that a standing advertisement with us will pay you. Make your contract now, and get a reduction of one-third on our regular rates. We claim that our rates are as low, and our class of readers as good, as those of any other curiosity paper of equal standing published. Make your contract for three months now and save money by it. Remember, you get the advantage of our regular subscription list and *fifteen hundred* readers extra. We are offering special inducements to subscribers, and are bound to receive many more this month. This offer is good only until Nov. 30th, and as the busy fall season sets in you will find it to your advantage to advertise where you get value received.

CHRONICLE.

BY R. H. BOGERT.

AZORES. New stamps, 25 reis and 500 reis, both lilac, with small surcharge.

BULGARIA. The 20 and 50 st. stamps noted last month are fiscals.

CANADA. It is reported that the stamp on the Post card is now inscribed "Post-Card" instead of "Postage."

CEYLON. The 6c. card is surcharged "2 1-2 cents," and the inscription "The price is Three Cents, including the Card."

CONGO FREE STATE. Some of the new stamps have been issued: 50c., chocolate, and 5 franc, lilac.

COSTA RICA. The new 10c. is surcharged "Official."

GERMAN EMPIRE. The 5x5 pf. card now has "Die Angebogene Karte," etc., in four lines.

INDIA. The 1 rupee is surcharged "On H. M. S."

MEXICO. Mr. Bishop has shown us the 10c. envelope (W. F. & Co.) with stamp in carmine instead of lilac, and Mr. Corwin informs us that some of the current adhesives are printed on common writing paper with blue lines, and very badly perforated.

NATAL. There is a new 2d., gray-green.

PERU. The *I. B. J.* notes the 5x5c. card with lilac sun and large figure "5." Mr. Corwin has the 50c. of 1874, with red surcharge "Arequipa" in double line circle.

PORTUGAL. The 25 reis is now lilac.

PORTUGUESE INDIA. The 1 tanga post card of 1885 comes surcharged in red "3 Reis."

SANTANDER. The new stamp inscribed "Republica de Colombia" is of the first issue and has also "Departamento de Santander."

SWEDEN. *Le Timbre Poste* illustrates an official card, blue on white, having circular stamp in upper right corner, inscribed, "Sveriges Statsbanor," and three crowns in the center.

SWITZERLAND. Both the 5x5c. and 10x10c. cards are of form 2.

UNITED STATES. Of the October, 1886, envelopes, we hear of the following: 5c., buff and blue, No. 5. 10c., white, No's 2, 3, 11; amber, 2, 3; buff 3, 4 1-2, 5, 7, 9; blue, 3, 4 1-2, 5, 7, 9; manilla, 3, 4 1-2, 5, 7; amber-manilla, 3, 4 1-2, 5, 7, 30c., white, No. 7; amber, 7; buff, 3, 7; blue, 3, 7; manilla, 4 1-2, 7; amber-manilla, 4 1-2, 7, 8. 90c., buff and blue, No. 9; manilla, 7; amber-manilla, 7, 8. We have seen also of the September, 1887 issue, 30 cents, No. 9, on buff and blue. The color of the stamp is dark brown.

The American Post Office, one of our earliest institutions, was provided for by legislation in Massachusetts in 1639.

* **INDOVINELLUM.** ***CONDUCTED BY - - DEW DROPS.**Address all communications to R. Berli, 1608
Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.**NUMBER 4.****ANSWERS TO NO. 2.**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| No. 1. Indovinellum. | No. 3. Economy is wealth. |
| No. 2. RHEUMATIC | No. 4. MODAL |
| HORNITOS | OPERA |
| ERMINED | DEPOT |
| UNITES | AROSE |
| MINES | LATER |
| ATES | No. 5. PASTIME |
| TOD | ALPINE |
| IS | SPARK |
| C | TIRE |
| | INK |
| No. 6. Ice-house. | ME |
| | E |

Solutions received and accepted from
EUREKA, JEST FUR PHUN, ALPHEUS and
R. O. CHESTER. 1st prize, not won; 2d
prize, **R. O. CHESTER**; 3d prize, **EUREKA**;
4th prize, **ALPHEUS**; 5th prize, **R. O. CHESTER.**

NEW PUZZLES.**NO. 1.—MUTA-ANAGRAM.**

From whence he came

‘Twas hard to see:

What was his name?

Why, **MISTER HE.**

He works all day,

He nothing spends,

He barely eats,—

His clothes he mends.

Yet when he dies,

From want and cold;

And gold is found!

The **MR. E.** is told.

Denver, Col.

E. Z. 2 C.**NO. 2.—PENTAGON.**(To **Alpheus.**)

1. A letter. 2. A short sleep. 3.
A truckman. 4. Tyros. 5. Boat-like.
6. To steal. 7. A relapse. 8. Rid-
iculous. 9. To replace. **R. O. CHESTER.**

Rochester, N. Y.

NO. 3. SQUARE.

1. Animals of the weasel family. 2.

A tower. 3. A genus of plants. 4.
Grown. 5. A tenet. 6. Stints.
Plainfield, N. J. 8 **IRO.**

NO. 4.—CURTAILMENT.*Beauty in Summer.*

Now on the mountain's pleasant height,

With fishing tackle and gun—

Perhaps she will kill a ONE;

I did not say she would—she might.

Beauty in Winter.

Back from vacation, pleasure and rest,

She commences work again—

Not with lead pencil or pen—

But on the **WHOLE**, with song and jest.*Columbus, O.* **JEST FUR PHUN.****NO. 5. DIAMOND.**

1. A letter. 2. A step. 3. Notice
of a proposed marriage. 4. Aromatic
drops. 5. Rapid, violent gallops. 6.
Whines as children. 7. Craftily. 8.
Perceives (*Worc. Sup.*). 9. A letter.
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PLAIN TALK.

This number again goes to many puz-
zlers whose names are obtained from **G.**
D. Puzzlers' Directory.—The correct so-
lution to **E. Z. 2 C.**'s anagram is given
above, but we received an answer from
one solver, we might say, correct partly.
It is, **Economy is the law.** In sending
some "cons" **E. Z. 2 C.** writes:

If you indite a "con" with haste.

The rhymes will surely show no taste.

This friend's batch is exhausted. Their
taste like *more*.—Puzzles have been ac-
cepted from **ALPHEUS, R. O. CHESTER,**
SALLY and **JEST FUR PHUN.**—**ASPIRO**
and **EUREKA**'s puzzles have all been
used. Replenish. We want some be-
coming verses for Christmas and New
Year. Will some one oblige us?—
"Cons." much desired, and "sols." ac-
cepted from all. All solve.

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THE COLLECTOR.

II. GAMBIER, O., DECEMBER & JANUARY, 1887-88. No's 6 & 7.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

F. E. P. LYNDE.

take up this subject with fear and trembling, as so many writers better than myself have handled it before better than I can, but I think that I may be able to bring out some new ideas and some old ones in a new light.

With so many Philatelic societies in existence — particularly in the United States — it is strange that some ideas never occurred to their members, which they have done so have never seen the light. I am an uncompromising enemy of the disposition among many established societies to introduce matters entirely irrelevant to Philately, such as entertainments consisting of humor readings, funny stories, and stuff of that sort; not because I do not enjoy such things in their proper place, but because I do not think they belong in a Philatelic society. This kind of a society organized to study Philately in all its branches, and I do not think that the members mentioned are any part of it. The advocates of this amusement say, we could make meetings more interesting for members if we had this relaxation, and we would get new members. Very likely, but will they be of real value to our study? Will a member who stays away from our meetings because we talk and deliberate over something else but Philately, and he thinks we do anything to elevate and make respected our science? I think not. We do the work of the London Philatelic Society, the Societe Internationale Philologique of Paris, or the Dresden Philatelic Society if we keep this thing up?

Now let us wander to another subject. It has not had enough care taken of the society library. Of course,

immediately every society will say, oh, why we have a library. Certainly, but what kind of one? Made up entirely of Philatelic magazines? Now, understand me, I do not say that magazines have not their use, and that you can not find things in them that can not be found elsewhere. And I also do not advocate neglect of these useful little papers, but I do not believe in giving them the prominence in the library that they hold today. In fact, in nine out of every ten libraries there is nothing else. What the real library ought to have is publications which, although a great deal more expensive, are worth twice the cost in solid usefulness. I am sorry to say that these do not exist on this side of the big pond, although the United States has more collectors than any other country. Among the few that are published, or are going to be, should be included Horner's Revised List of U. S. Envelopes, which is now unluckily quite scarce; Messrs. Rechert & Bogert's List, shortly to be issued; and Mr. J. K. Tiffany's Work on United States Stamps, about to be published. From other countries, all libraries should own a copy of Rev. R. B. Earee's Album Weeds, Major E. B. Evans' Revised List of Postage Stamps, Moen's Monographs on stamps of various countries, the book just published by the Philatelic Society of Lima, Peru, on the stamps of Peru, and many others too numerous to mention. I think that if societies would spend some of the money that they now use for purchasing stamps for their collections and other things which can afford to wait, they would feel the immense benefit of these works in a very short space of time, and the members both individually and as a society would not be so often swindled. At the same time,

as I said above, I do not advocate neglecting philatelic papers, which should hold their place, but should not be elevated above more valuable works.

Another matter which I do not think has its proper attention in America is the collection of counterfeits for reference purposes by societies. I only know of one society in the United States that has a collection of this kind, and that is the National Philatelic Society of New York. The benefits of this collection, I should think, would be very evident. The comparison of the genuine and the false, noting the minute differences between them, cannot fail to give the student of Philately a quick and discerning eye, and with a little practice he will be able to pick out most counterfeits by sight. How many members of philatelic societies can do it now? Not many. Most collectors can pick out bad counterfeits, but the bad ones are not the ones you have to be careful about. Some bogus stamps are wonderfully well executed, so much so that only the smallest difference exists between them and the true ones.

Again, to take another subject, the legitimate ways of making stamp society meetings interesting demand our attention. Don't make the meeting read the way some reports of societies do read, something on this style: "Called to order. Messrs. Jones, Robinson and Brown present. After unfinished and new business society adjourned." Why not, after the routine business has been disposed of, have an informal discussion on some noted question, a debate, or essays, and get the members interested. Mark my words, if this is kept up, you will have the majority of members present at every meeting.

Auction sales are a good thing to have during the latter part of the meeting. Let members bring up their duplicates and put them up for sale, and the fun will get fast and furious. Our society,

the Quaker City, has had them for a long time, and they are a howling success. Get a funny man like we have, and watch the members come to hear him read his celebrated essays on stamps.

I might point out any number of minor things that would increase a society's usefulness and at the same time make it more popular with its members, but I am afraid I have already tired my readers, so I will bring this article to an end.

(For the Collector.)

THE GOLD COINS OF CALIFORNIA.

BY C. R. BUMP.

There are fourteen private mints in California that issued gold coins in the five succeeding years after the discovery of gold in 1847. It has been said that these mints issued the coins simply to put the gold dust and nuggets into a convenient form for handling and trading. This statement is most probably true. But few of these coins were issued and consequently most of them are exceedingly rare. A complete set of them may be seen at the United States mint at Philadelphia.

The Mormon coinage was the first to be issued in 1849. These coins, four in number, although executed in Utah, are generally credited to California by numismatists, that state being the source from whence the material was derived. The four denominations, viz., double eagle, eagle, half-eagle and quarter-eagle, are all of the same design. On the obverse is an ecclesiastical cap surmounting an eye, with the inscription HOLINESS TO THE LORD. On the reverse are two hands joined together, with the date 1849 under. On the lower rim are the values, TWENTY DOLLARS, etc., as the case may be. On the upper rim are the letters G. S. L. C. P. G. Much irregularity of weight is noticed in these coins. The mint values are respectively ten, eight, four and two dollars, but the fee

titious value is much higher.

The mint of the Oregon exchange issued two denominations of gold coins, of the values of ten and five dollars. On the obverse of the ten dollar piece is a heaver, an appropriate emblem of the business and industry of the mining population; beneath this are the letters O. T. and the date 1849, while on each side is a small twig. At the top are the letters K. M. T. P. C. S. On the reverse is the weight, 10 D. 20 G., beneath which is the inscription NATIVE GOLD, TEN D., the whole surrounded by the name OREGON EXCHANGE COMPANY. The principal points of difference between the eagle and half-eagle are the following: The letters O. T., 1849, are replaced by the letters T. O., 1840, which is obviously a misprint, as gold was not discovered in California until 1847. On the reverse, the weight, 130 G., is substituted for 10 D. 30 G., and the value, 5 D., for TEN D. The value of these coins at the U. S. mint is \$8.00 and \$4.75 respectively.

The firm of Moffat & Co., of San Francisco, issued two gold coins of the denominations of five and ten dollars, also various ingots running in value from nine to two hundred and sixty dollars. The coins were in imitation of the corresponding value of U. S. coins at that time. This is the well-known woman's head with her hair tied by a ribbon on which is the word Liberty. On the Moffat coins this inscription was changed to MOFFAT & CO. The reverse contains the letters S. M. V. (said to stand for Standard Mint Value), in addition to the reverse of U. S. coins. On one end of the ingots the name Moffat & Co. was stamped in a rectangle, as was the value; between these the weight in carats was given. Most of these ingots are rectangular, but a few have a side rounded.

Several firms besides Moffat & Co. issued coins, the designs of which were in imitation of the gold coinage of the U. S. Of these firms, Baldwin & Co. and Dun-

bar & Co. issued ten and five dollar pieces. Shultz & Co. and Dunbar & Co. issued the five dollar piece only. All these coins are like those described above, with the exception of the name. Baldwin & Co. also issued two other coins; one a twenty dollar piece, and the other a ten dollar. The former is like the design on the U. S. coins of the same denomination, but several slight differences can be detected. The most noticeable is in the number of stars, the U. S. having thirteen, and this coin fourteen. The ten dollar piece has a figure of a cowboy waving a lasso in his right hand, beneath which is the date 1850. The inscription around the rim is CALIFORNIA GOLD, TEN DOLLARS. On the reverse is an eagle with the inscription BALDWIN & CO., SAN FRANCISCO.

The coin of "N. G. & N." is a half-eagle of the year 1849. On the obverse are the initials N. G. & N., and the date, inclosed in a circle of twenty-two stars, the whole surrounded by the inscription FULL WEIGHT OF HALF-EAGLE. On the reverse is an eagle with the inscription CALIFORNIA GOLD WITHOUT ALLOY.

The Miner's Bank of San Francisco issued a ten dollar piece in 1850. On the obverse is the name and location, and the value TEN D. with two stars on each side. On the reverse is an eagle, the inscription CALIFORNIA and thirteen stars.

Dr. J. S. Ormsby issued a ten dollar piece in the same year. On the obverse are his initials, and the inscription CAL., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. On the reverse, the value, 10 DOLLS., surrounded by a circle of thirty-four stars.

Two coins were issued by the Cincinnati Mining & Trading Co. in 1849, a ten and a five dollar piece. On the reverse is an eagle surmounting shield, inscription CALIFORNIA, the date and the value.

The Pacific Company also issued ten and five dollar pieces the next year. On the obverse is a cap hung on the hub of

a windmill wheel. Between each paddle of the wheel are three stars, making in all thirty. Beneath this is the value. On the reverse, the name, together with the state CALIFORNIA, and the date surrounding an eagle on an olive branch.

A five dollar piece was issued by the Massachusetts & California Company in 1849. On the obverse is a coat of arms, which I have not been able to find anywhere else. A bear and a deer are upholding a shield, on which is a figure of a cowboy with the inscription ALTA. Above this is an arm holding an arrow. The whole is surrounded by thirteen stars. On the reverse, FIVE D., date, 1849, and name.

Two coins, a twenty-five and a ten dollar piece, were by issued Templeton Reid in 1849. On the obverse, inscription CALIFORNIA GOLD, TEN DOLLARS, and two stars. Reverse, TEMPLETON REID, ASSAYER.

F. D. Kohler, assayer, commenced issuing bars in May, 1850. The values range from forty to one hundred and fifty dollars. The shape is rectangular, stamped with name, date, value, weight and fineness.

(For the Collector.)

THE ENVELOPE ALBUM.

BY VICTOR.

I notice in the September number of the *Keystone State Philatelist* an article on the coming envelope album. As the collecting of envelopes is assuming definite shape among the various branches of philately, the suggestions made are reasonable. Since envelopes are hereafter to be collected entire when possible, a separate album must be provided for them; and as the writer in the *K. S. P.* says, the book should be of the width of our longest envelopes, thereby showing the various sizes. He also suggests two plans of arranging this album: One is in the form of a photograph al-

bun, and the other is to have slits in each page into which the flaps of the envelope are to be inserted. The former plan seems to be faulty, inasmuch as the stamped part of the envelope would be more or less concealed. The latter plan would be feasible were it not for the fact that some of the envelopes collected are used, and consequently contain no flaps. As envelopes are of a multitude of sizes, the spaces given them possess no uniformity. My plan, therefore, of an envelope album would be to make the pages of stiff paper, and to have inserted in each page a number of bars of narrow white rubber or cardboard, say two bars to each envelope. Arrange these at the requisite distance from each other, and as the envelopes would be placed chronologically, it would be comparatively easy to fix these bands for the various sizes of envelopes. These envelopes could be inserted under the bands, which (and especially if they are rubber), would hold them firmly and without damage to them or the album. Or, if preferable, let the collector arrange these bands to suit his own taste. It seems to me that a collection of envelopes kept in this manner would present a very attractive appearance. The whole face of the envelope would be exposed to view, and the different sizes, colors and varieties could be easily shown.

Growing in the canons and on the hills north of San Bernardino, Cal., is a tree which the *Times* of that place wants named. No one there knows what it is. It bears a fruit which resembles a cherry, both in look and size. It has a very pleasant taste, does not grow in clusters as does the cherry, has a very large stone which also resembles the cherry stone in shape. The tree grows like a bush usually, though some attain a height of forty or fifty feet. The leaf resembles that of the live oak.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Collectors of all Branches.

HADDAWAY BROS., - Editors.
Eastern Office, Easton, Md.

- PUBLISHED BY -

GEO. D. MORRIS,
GAMBIER, OHIO.

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Exchanges will please send two copies, one to
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EDITORIAL.

Subscribe now and get one of the
premiums as offered elsewhere.

Advertisers should send in a trial ad-
vertisement for the February issue.

Owing to several delays we were ob-
liged to consolidate the December and
January issues.

The *Niagara Falls Philatelist* for De-
cember comes to hand with a new en-
graved cover.

We send but one sample copy to each
address. If you want to see us again
send along your quarter.

The *Collector's Review* of Denver, Col.,
has put on a new engraved cover, which
adds greatly to its appearance.

Mr. William P. Brown, of N. Y., has
favored us with a copy of his fine cata-
logue of stamps. Price ten cents.

The *Stamp* is engaged in giving por-
traits of the leading stamp collectors.
The December number contained a por-
trait of W. H. Lightstone.

THE WILD OR PASSENGER PIGEON.

BY DEW DROPS.

Although this subject has largely been
treated on, I will try to delineate their
characteristics to the best of my ability.
They belong to the Order of *Rasores*, or
scratching birds. These birds are all
stout bodied and are adapted mainly to
living upon the ground. The wild pig-
eons belong to the class *Columba*, which
name was derived from the latin word
Columba, a pigeon. The *Columba* are
birds which have the bill shorter than
the head, the basal portion of which is
covered by a skin in which the nostrils
are found. Their toes are all level with
each other, but the anterior toe is with-
out a basal membrane. They live in
pairs and two eggs constitute a brood,
generally, many of which are hatched
yearly by each female. The wild pigeon
of North America is from 12 to 20 inches
long. The upper part is of a bluish
color, the under parts are mainly a purp-
lish red and the neck and sides of a deep
violet. This bird is very rapid in flight,
often traveling at the rate of one mile
per minute. Their object in migrating
from place to place is for the purpose
of procuring food. Thousands of pig-
eons often roost in one tree, occupying
every inch of space, and literally break-
ing it down. When food is scarce, they
will fly, perhaps one hundred miles, to
their feeding grounds and return by
night. Their nests are built in the trees
and are composed of sticks and twigs,
and more than one hundred nests have
been found in one tree at one time.

INDOVINELLUM.

CONDUCTED BY - - DEW DROPS.

Address all communications to R. Berl, 1608
Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.

NUMBER 5.

ANSWERS TO NO. 3.

No. 1. Cats-kill.	No. 3. G-reed.
No. 2. ASSESS	No. 4. MERIDEN
SMALTO	EDITOR
SARDEN	RIPEN
ELDERN	ITEM
STERVE	DON
SONNET	ER
	N

Solutions accepted from FAIR PLAY, SALLY, DICK ENS, VINTON, R. O. CHESTER, 2 E. Z., T. O. BOGGAN, TANTRUMS, D. E. LA WARE, J. C. M., and ALPHEUS.

PRIZES AWARDED.—Mad Stone, not won; 1st complete list, not won; best incomplete list, FAIR PLAY; next best incomplete list, TANTRUMS; 1st flat, DICK ENS; 2d, FAIR PLAY.

NEW PUZZLES.

NO. 1. TRANS-MUTATION.

Ha! THE CHANGINGS OF THE TRAINS.

If socialists are the same again,

We'll treat them all like these,

Amen.

Columbus, O. JEST FUR PHUN.

NO. 2. DROP LETTER DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. A carriage. 3. A large trading ship. 4. A lynx. 5. South American birds. 6. A town of Yucatan, Cent. Amer. 7. A large trading ship. 8. A domestic god among the Romans. 9. A letter.

Plainfield, N. J. ALPHEUS.

NO. 3. INVERTED PENTAGON.

1. A liquor composed of acid and sugar. 2. Squares on a chess board. 3. Rusetings. 4. Blackened, as if burnt. 5. A roller protuberant in the middle. 6. Ample space from land. 7. To give strength to. 8. A tree of genus *Umbus*. 9. A letter. SALLY.

No. Boscauen, N. H.

NO. 4. CHARADE.

While thinking to-night of the bright
happy days,

That have faded forever, and past.

I ventured a ONE on the various ways

We would tread, e'er we slumbered at
last.

And I thought of the days that had long
passed by,

When we were LAST to play COMPLETE
Pranks, that made the birches fly;

'Till we kept time with our feet.

Centre Bridge, Pa. D. E. LA WARE.

NO. 5. SQUARE.

1. Rounded nodules of stone. 2. Resembling a horse. 3. Beginning. 4. Eloquent (*Obs.*). 5. To weaken (*Obs.*). 6. A vessel with one deck.

Plainfield, N. J. EUREKA.

Answers and prize winners in two months.

PRIZES.

First complete list, book, "How to Entertain a Social Party;" 2d complete list, COLLECTOR 1 year; best incomplete list, COLLECTOR 3 mos.; 1st sol. to each flat, a book.

PLAIN TALK.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.—Out of the whole solvers' list, but one, FAIR PLAY, answered EUREKA's "flat" correctly and not one solved ALPHEUS' square correctly.—JEST FUR PHUN writes that he will leave the ranks to devote his time to learning printing. Sorry to lose this friend.—R. O. CHESTER's *Journal* No. 5 received. It presents a fine appearance and greatly improving in its work. The following received with thanks, DICK ENS' "Mystic Argosy," EUREKA's "Poser's Tryst," ALPHEUS' "Arcana" and ST. JULIAN'S "Mystic Mayflowers."—For two months we offered a prize for a batch of "flats" and did not get a one; but instead, many "forms." We offer it again.—D. E. LA WARE's cons. unavailable.—The prizes are open to all. All solve.

DEW DROPS.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

EDITORS THE COLLECTOR.—Noticing an item in your valuable stamp paper concerning C. R. Morris' collection, it may probably be of interest to your readers to know that I was the fortunate purchaser. Amongst the 7000 different rare and common stamps the following is a very small list of the numerous rarities which the collection contains. An original U. S. Franklin Carrier, valued at \$25.00; N. w Haven, 5 cents, one of the thirty reprints sold or given away by the postmaster, Mr. E. Mitchell, in 1873, and catalogued by Sterling at \$15; Mauritius, 1848, 1 d., red, blue paper, \$7.50, 2 d., blue, blue paper, \$7.50, 2 d., variety, blue, \$10, 1858, 1 d., vermilion, \$6; Barbadoes, unique provisional, 1 d. on a sh., catalogued by Scott at \$10; Bolivia, 5 c., violet, postmarked, value \$10; Bolivia, 10 c., brown, a beautiful postmarked specimen, catalogued at \$12; set of Bolivia essays in black, worth \$6; set of Brazil, 1843, worth \$4; a type set of British Guiana, 1 c., pink, 2 c., yellow, 4 c., blue, unquestionably genuine originals and priceless; a British Guiana, 12 c., 1860, sur charged with big "5" in brown, for which the owner paid \$5; Spain, 1853, 1 cuarto, bronze, bear climbing a tree, valued at \$3; Spain, 1850, 5 and 6 reals, valued at \$2 each; Swiss, 1846, 2 1-2 rappen, \$2.50; Geneva, 5 c., green, valued at \$2.50; New South Wales, 8 varieties Views of Sidney, valued from \$1.50 to \$5 each; Tahiti, 6 varieties of surcharges, all fancy priced stamps; Honolulu, 2 c., blue, on original envelope, worth \$12; New Zealand, 2 d., 1855, on blue paper, worth \$3; Tuscany, 2 soldi, vermilion, priced in Scott's at \$7.50; New South Wales, 8 d., orange, on blue, \$5; Cape of Good Hope, 1 d. and 4 d., wood block, worth \$7.50 the pair; Costa Rica, 1863, 10 c. over 2 reals, and 20 c. over 4 reals, a fine cancelled pair, worth \$15; New Grenada, 1862, 2 1-2 c., black, 5 c., yellow, 5 c., orange, 10 c., blue, 20 c., vermilion, and 1 peso, rose, a very rare set, valued at \$25; etc., etc.

It would take up too much of your valuable space to enumerate the many rare varieties, suffice it to say the collection is one of the finest ever put in the philatelic market, and is valued at over \$1,500.00.

Yours Respectfully,

E. F. GAMBS.

EXCHANGES.

This department free to subscribers. No exchange to exceed 30 words.

Fine arrow-heads and spears to exchange for U. S. and foreign stamps. U. S. preferred. H. T. Upson, Parkersburg, W. Va.

125 extra fine foreign stamps for Durlin's, Scott's or other catalogues. J. R. Hooper, Ottawa, Ont., Canada.

Ten philatelic papers for Vol. I, No. 1, of the COLLECTOR, published at Easton, Md., in November, 1886. G. D. Morris, Box 116, Gambier, Ohio.

A cloth-bound book, entitled "Do and Dare," by Alger; V nickels without "cents," and type, for rare U. S. and foreign stamps. Chas. Scholtz, 1215 Peabody Ave., Baltimore, Md.

A fine Indian Arrowhead, for a Cape of Good Hope (triangular) stamp. G. D. Morris, Gambier, Ohio.

Are You a Subscriber to the Collector?

If not, read the following most liberal premium list ever offered. To every yearly subscriber received to this paper before February 1, 1888, we will give free any one of the following:

1. A rare stamp worth 10 cents or over.
2. 25 varieties foreign stamps.
3. 100 assorted foreign stamps.
4. 25 varieties square cut postmarks.
5. 100 assorted square-cut postmarks.
6. 3 varieties good minerals, 1x1.
6. A fine Indian Arrowhead.
7. A copy of *Golden Argo*.

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
IN INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING
EDITED BY
CHAS. H. MEKEEL
PUBLISHED BY THE
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THIS PAPER is from the press of F. H. PIERCE, HAM, Newmarket, N. H. Send for prices of any kind of printing, enclosing stamp for reply.

E. F. GAMBS.



The subject of our sketch, whose name is familiar to nearly every American philatelist, was born in the city of Baltimore, Md., November 14, 1858, making him twenty-nine years of age. He first became interested in philatelic matters at St. Louis, in 1872, conceiving the idea from some of his school companions, at the Washington University, in the Mound City. About the same time he acted as agent for Lewis Boysen & Brother, stamp dealers, at Buffalo, N. Y., who have long since retired from business. In the fall of 1872 he had occasion to revisit his old home—the Monumental City—and where, by chance, he picked up a magnificent collection of stamps, consisting of about three hundred varieties, in an old second-hand book store on West Baltimore Street,

at the extremely low price of five dollars. To be sure the collection was small, but it was quality and not quantity that made it a valuable one. Amongst other rarities a shilling, violet, Nova Scotia stamp was found, for which poor L. W. Durbin paid him ten dollars in exchange, which was considered a fancy price for one stamp in those days. The balance of the collection brought him sufficient returns to enable him to invest his small capital in stamps at wholesale: and thus, this collection really formed the foundation for his future career.

After graduating at school, young Gambs secured a position as clerk in a Mercantile house, which position he held for three years, at the same time devoting his evenings to the stamp business, which, however, was growing at such a rate, that he found it necessary to resign his position in order to give his stamp business the time and attention it required. Accordingly, he opened an office in 1875, dealing exclusively in stamps. In 1876 he commenced publishing the *St. Louis Philatelist*, a gratuitous publication devoted to stamp collecting and his business. In August, 1877 he published a book entitled, the "Stamp Dealers Directory," which met with a large sale.

In the fall of 1882 he became seriously ill through overwork so as to confine him to the hospital. He was so much prostrated that his physician advised him a milder climate and a change was necessary, in order to restore him to sound health. Accordingly he left

St. Louis, December 26th, 1882, for California. It is needless to say that the salubrious clime of California did prove beneficial, for he now weighs 190 pounds, and as he is meeting with big success on the Pacific Coast, he has resolved to permanently locate in San Francisco. Mr. Gambs is five feet, ten inches in height, is of a very clever disposition and as popular with those with whom he comes in contact in every day life, as he is amongst his host of stamp collecting friends throughout the world.

National Philatelic Society of the City of New York.

This resolution was adopted Nov. 23d, 1887.

Whereas, it is reported that certain stamp dealers and others have petitioned the United States Post Office Department to reprint some of its postal issues, and

Whereas, this reprinting and reproducing (being ostensibly for the aid of collectors) are entirely uncalled for by any Philatelic Student worthy of the name, but can only result mischievously and to the detriment of those engaged in preserving original specimens of rare and obsolete stamps and envelopes, and

Whereas, such reprinting would lower the United States to the level of such governments as Antioquia, Baden, Bergedorf, Roman States, etc., whose officials have adopted this means of increasing their revenue, and

Whereas, this society puts itself on record against all reprinting of obsolete

issues on the 19th of May, 1875, at the time of the first reprinting of United States stamps.

Therefore be it *Resolved*, that the National Philatelic Society strongly protests against all reprinting by the United States Post Office Department as tending to throw discredit on collections already formed, and as destroying the interest and pleasure which all true collectors feel in gathering the postage stamps of the different governments.

JOSEPH RECHERT, *President.*

W. A. WARNER, *Secretary.*

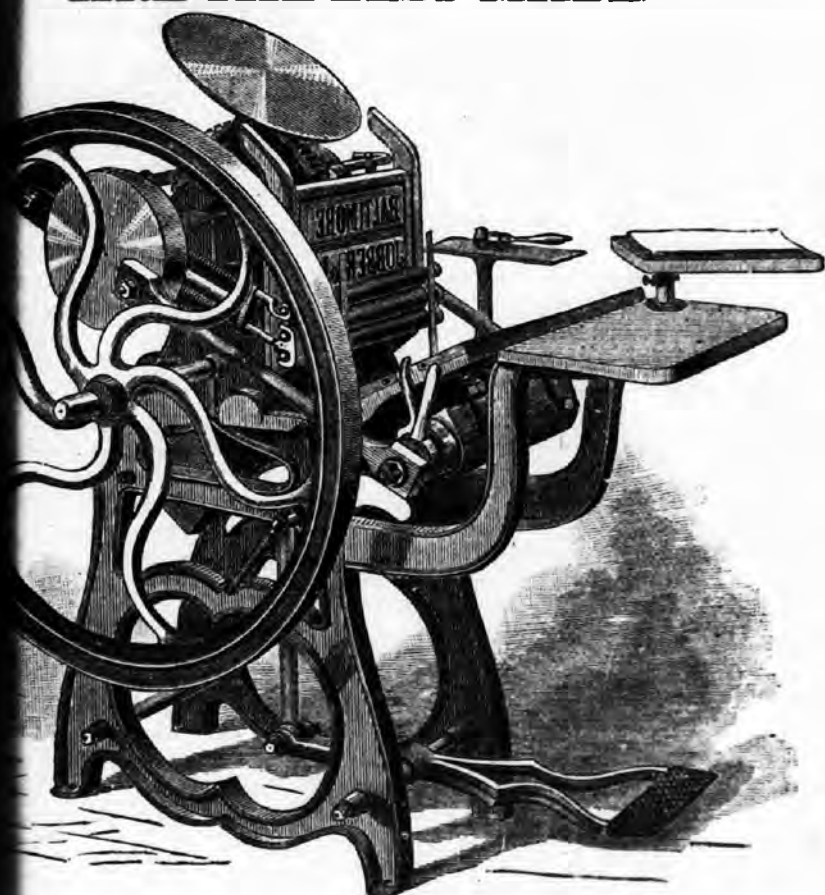
Arizona's Rich Gold Mine

Private advices from Prescott, D. T. dated Nov. 15, 1887, report that the gold mine discovered ten miles from there on the Hassayamps River, is richer by far than anything ever discovered in the world. The ore averages \$1000 per ton, and thousands of tons are in sight. Two men with a common mortar pounded out \$800 in less than one hour. The gold clings to the rock in the purest scales. A man with a knife can scale a handful in a few minutes. There is every indication of the ledge containing fabulous quantities of the precious metal.—*Exchange's Monthly.*

At Paris the other day a gold coin of the reign of Emperor Constantine was bought by the National Library for £432, an enormous sum even if the coin be really unique.

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THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. II.

GAMBIER, OHIO, FEBRUARY, 1888.

NO. 8.

(For the COLLECTOR.)

INDIAN RELICS.

BY COLLECTOR.

My first attempt at collecting relics was about eight years ago. It was then that I found my first arrowhead, which was a very poor specimen, made of slate, but I still preserve it, and it occupies as prominent a place in my cabinet as some of my finest specimens. The way I became interested in the collecting of relics was this: I once visited a young man who had a fine collection of Indian relics, and I resolved to make one of my own, beginning at once. After I found my first arrowhead I devoted much of my time in searching for relics, sometimes with success but very often otherwise. My collection slowly increased in size. I have often crawled down the bank of the Susquehanna river for a supposed beautiful arrowhead, which often turned out to be a dried, black leaf. But it did not always turn out such, as I have found some fine points in this way. This suggests to me that the Indians first obtained their idea of the form of an arrowhead from a leaf.

The Susquehanna valley was first inhabited, according to history, by the Lenni Lenapes, meaning the original people. They were divided into several tribes, the Monseys inhabiting this valley. They were known among the whites as the Delaware Indians. This tribe was noted for its warlike character. What skeletons have been found were in a perpendicular position. Some years ago the remains of a large number of Indians were exposed to view by the waters of Pine creek. They were buried in a trench and were lying in almost every shape, and are supposed to have been

warriors slain in a battle fought there. A large mound, circular in shape, and not unlike some of those of the West, stood near the mouth of this creek, but all traces of it have now disappeared. A beautiful idol was some years ago ploughed up in Clinton county. It represented a female in a sitting posture on a pedestal cut from solid stone and highly polished. It is now in the Smithsonian Institute. A sword was also ploughed up which is evidently an old English blade. It was buried in the ground in almost perpendicular position. These were the most interesting relics discovered.

The arrowheads found in this locality are generally made of red, black and blue flint, some of slate and white quartz and some of stone finely cut. Some beautiful points of chalcedony are found, but they are rare. Probably one-half the arrowheads found in this locality are small triangular points, about one-half inch in length and width.

It is curious to note the many different forms of arrowheads, and why they should have been adopted, since many of them are very delicate and do not show that they possess any advantage over the plain triangular flints. Especially is this the case in the long, slender barbs rounded at the end, which require greater force than a sharp-pointed barb to enter the body, and producing no more ugly or dangerous wound.

Many curious points are found, some about three-fourths of an inch long by one and a half wide, notched and barbed at the base. Fish spears are often found and generally of a large size. The principal pottery is made of black earth mixed with pulverized mussel shells, and is generally decorated. No whole vessels are found, all being fragments from the size of a dime

to the size of one's hand. Soap-stone pottery, which has been described in a previous issue, is sometimes found perforated near the rim. This, I think, was for the purpose of passing a thong through it to suspend the kettle over a fire.

Fine drills of large and small sizes are found, showing considerable use. Last summer I found a very large battle axe fully twelve inches in length, four in width, and two in thickness and sharp on all sides. I lost it and therefore can only approximate its size, but I think I am correct.

(For the COLLECTOR.)

Past and Present Experiences of a Stamp Collector.

BY MERKUR.

Among the hobbies of my boyhood days, such as the collecting of birds' eggs, butterflies, field and forest flowers and letter-seals (impressions on sealing wax, used for sealing letters), I had a collection of postage stamps in which I took a great deal of interest.

How I started it and how I built it up to what I considered a fine collection, without the outlay of a single pfenning, I will relate to you if you will give me your attention for a few minutes.

It was during the years 1859-62 when I conceived the idea that it might prove interesting to collect these "little bits of paper" of various colors and designs which I saw on the letters in my father's office, and I proceeded at once to save them and arrange them under the respective countries in one of my composition books.

My father was in the manufacturing business in the western part of the kingdom of Hanover (a part of Prussia since 1866), and received mail from nearly all the different German countries.

When I had collected all the then current issues which came in day after day,

and the pages in my composition book were filling up very slowly, I almost lost all interest in my collection for want of variety. At that time the name of James Chalmers had not been mentioned in connection with the invention of the postage stamp and, of course, I had no idea when they were brought into use, but thought it would do no harm to look through that row of boxes (painted white and lettered in blue), which were arranged on a shelf near the ceiling and bore inscriptions, such as "Letter, 1850, 1851, 1852," etc. My work was not in vain, for here I found all the first issues of Hanover, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Prussia, Thurn & Taxis and many others. My interest was revived.

By and by other boys had taken hold of the "craze," among them a schoolmate and intimate friend of mine who lived next door and whose father was engaged in the wholesale business. I initiated him into the secret of the letter boxes and we entered into a kind of partnership agreement for the purpose of examining his father's business letters, establishing our "office" in the garret where all the treasures were stored away. Here we reaped a rich harvest, finding such varieties as the first issues of Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemberg, Belginn, Holland, Saxony and all the old German and other European stamps.

Although more than twenty-five years have past away since those happy boyhood days, I shall never forget the afternoons we spent in that garret and how our hearts were beating when we opened a new package of letters.

What has ever become of my first collection and how I lost interest in it I am not able to say; I only know that when I left home in 1864 to prepare for the mercantile life, I did not take it with me, a fact which I have often had occasion to regret since I started my second collection, of which however, I shall take better care than I did of the first.

A few years ago, when, perchance, a few foreign stamps fell into my hands, and re

remembering what interest I had taken in them in my early days, I took up the idea to start a collection for my son in order that it might be fairly on the way by the time he would be able to appreciate it. I had no intention, at first, of placing them in a stamp album, but they accumulated so fast, that, after I had been collecting but a short time, I bought a Scott album and arranged them under the respective countries.

But, alas! my fancy of years gone by had been re-awakened, and, before I realized the fact, I had become a collector again, devoted to my "hobby" more than ever, so much so that before many months had passed and my collection was increasing in numbers and in quality of specimens, I was no longer satisfied with my album and imported an elegant Zschiesche album, to which I transferred my collection (every stamp, of course, was mounted on a hinge), which now numbers nearly 3,000 varieties.

Many rare specimens which adorned my first collection I have since bought and had to pay a good price for: some of them can hardly be replaced.

Take my advice, collectors, young and old, never throw your collection away; if you ever lose interest in it lay it aside in a safe place; sooner or later you will take it from its hiding place and with renewed vigor, and true devotion to the science of Philately, you will go to work and build it up.

I am proud of my collection, and before many years pass away, if I am permitted to carry out my plan, it will rank among the finest in the country.

In 1886 I bought a large stock of stamps, sent out my advertisements as a dealer and have now connections in various parts of the world, receiving stamps direct from the country where they "grow," and am devoting all my leisure hours to my "hobby."

This is what my FIRST collection has resulted in, and although geography and history were my favorite studies at school, I have gained considerable knowledge in

these particular branches since I have been studying the postage stamps of various countries on the globe.

My dear reader, if I have succeeded in awakening or strengthening your devotion to our science, the object of this short narrative of my own experience has been fully accomplished, and with this expectation I say "shake hands" with yours.

(For the COLLECTOR.)

Specialism in Philately.

BY VICTOR.

Philately, in the present generation, is assuming vast proportions as an instructive science, and is even now a formidable rival of numismatics. No longer is it called, a mania, or a craze; but a science, teaching the geography, the history, the language and the morals of a country. Our philatelists are not mere school boys and girls—although they collect stamps and collect them profitably—but men of mature minds, men well established in business and professions, men of sound judgement, intellectual, thoughtful men. And it is this fact gives the young collector encouragement, the knowledge that such men do exist in the ranks of philatelists, and are always willing to extend the helping hand to the beginner.

But philatelists now are beginning to see that it is next to impossible to collect properly in all branches of this science simultaneously and to see the necessity of "specialism." Of course, it is simply a matter of taste which branch of philately you will pursue, but it is apparent that you can pursue but one branch at a time. If you make the stamps of the United States your study, you want to know all about them that can be known before you take up another country. By doing this, your knowledge of such countries will be very great, and philately will indeed be of some specific use to you. Not that when collecting the stamps of one country, you should be totally oblivious to the existence of any others. Far from it. Preserve whatever stamps you get, and when you have studied your specialty, turn your attention to others. It has often been shown that

(Continued on page 5.)

INDOVINELLUM

Address all communications to H. BERL, 1636
Madison Avenue, Covington, Ky.

NUMBER 6.

ANSWERS TO NO. 4.

No. 2. N	No. 1. The miser.	No. 3. STOATS
NAP		TURRET
MOVER		ORPINE
NOVICES		ARISEN
NAVICULAR		TENENT
PECULATE		STENTS
RELAPIS		
SATIRE	No. 4. STAG-E	
RESET		
No. 5. T		
PAS		
BANNS		
PASTILS		
TANTIVIES		
SNIVELS		
SLILY		
SES		
S		

Solutions accepted from FAIR PLAY, ASPIRO, G. WHIZZ, EUREKA, J. C. M., TANTRUMS, V. G. OHNJA, R. O. CHESTER, E. Z. 2 C., T. Q. BOGGAN.

PRIZES AWARDED—1st complete list, not won; best incomplete list, J. C. M. (his list lacked one letter of being a complete); next best, FAIR PLAY; 1st flat, ASPIRO; 2d flat, not won.

NEW PUZZLES.

No. 1. DECAPITATION.

A mad confusion flashed about,
Chaos seemed repeated.

A wonderful light,
Intensely bright,

Illuming the night,

All dazzled optics greeted.

Small sparks and flames appeared,
Or fire flared in bars.

The cause of ALL fate,

Last hard to relate,

He tried to skate.

And, of course, saw stars.

Perufield, N. J.

EUREKA.

No. 2. DIAMOND (M).

1. A letter. 2. To wrap up in a veil.
3. The smallest piece of money in use among the Hebrews. 4. Reminiscence.
5. Pretaining to the mulberry. 6. A metal.
7. An eye as of seeds. 8. End. 9. A letter.
Bellon, Texas.

A. DELIA.

No. 3. NUMERICAL.

I've INTIRED out the punishment.

To high and low alike,

Who on the fields would 1, 2, 4, 3.

And for their lives would strike.

I've punished those who 1, 2, 3

In public bawls and fights;

And thus endangered others lives

When they were out at nights.

In fact I've punished all who break

The laws of God and man;

For I'm Judge of the U. S. courts.

And punish wrong doers when I can.

Covington, Ky.

PENEUS.

No. 4. HALF-SQUARE.

1. Kinds of hairy wool. 2. Intoxicated.
3. Wet. 4. Resolved. 5. Guides. 6
Attention. 7. The conclusion. 8. Lieu-
tenant (*abbr*) 9. A letter.

Dubuq, Ill.

ASPIRO.

No. 5. HALF-SQUARE.

1. Relating to the apostles. 2. A like-
ness. 3. Sweetened emulsions of almond.
4. A bad odor. 5. Sign. 6. Promise.
7. Small Chinese coins (*sup*). 8. A pro-
noun. 9. A letter.

Saratoga Lake, N. Y.

ALPHEUS.

Answers and prize winners in two months.

1st complete list, COLLECTOR 1 year;
best incomplete " " 6 mos.;
next best incomplete list, a magazine; 1st
solution to each flat, a paper.

PLAIN TALK.

We would like to increase the size of this department, but we cannot do it as long as we are not supported. Would like another column, but if we don't receive more support we'll never get it.—We want "flats" from E. Z. 2 C., R. O. Chester, Eureka and Aspiro. Can we have them?—Thanks to A. Delia for a good batch of "forms."—Will Alpheus remember his old time promise? More cons.—Will Fair Play, Tantrums and Sally send a con?—D. E. La Ware will soon succeed better. Try again friend. Your "flats" must rhyme and be model verses, otherwise they are unacceptable. Let us hear from you again.—The *Mazy Mucker* for January is as fine a puzzle paper as we've had the good fortune to see for a long time. We echo his and others' words, namely: That the publisher of the *Golden Argo* has Puzzledom re-opened in that paper and place it in the hands of some good poser. —DEW DROPS.

THE COLLECTOR.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Collectors
of all Branches.

HADDAWAY BROS., EDITORS.
EASTERN OFFICE, EASTON, MD.

—PUBLISHED BY—

GEO. D. MORRIS,
GAMBIER, OHIO.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

one year, postage-paid,	25 cents.
Six months, "	15 cents.
Single copy, "	3 cents.

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one line, 5 cents.	Two inches, 90 cents.
one inch, 50 cents.	One column, \$2.75.

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Matter for publication should be sent by the 25th of the month to Haddaway Bros., Easton, Md., to insure publication in our next issue.

Exchanges will please send two copies, one to G. D. Morris and one to Haddaway Bros.

EDITORIAL.

With this number Messrs Haddaway Brothers, of Easton, Maryland, sever their connection with this paper. It will hereafter be edited by the present business manager, as the out-going editors find their time too much occupied with other business matters to pay the necessary attention due the paper.

* * *

The *Manhattan Journal* is the successor of the *Empire State Philatelist*. It commences where the *E. S. P.* left off, but will require some hard work to attain its old position.

* * *

The *Philatelic Journal of America* is now managed by a stock company. One good thing about it is that hereafter Mr. Mekeel can only have two pages of advertisements each month, and even that amount must be paid for.

The *Collector's Review* has gotten behind several months. Is this the fore-runner of an early death?

(Continued from page 3).

these specialists, if I may so call them, have succeeded as well, if not better, in philately than the majority of those collecting everything equally as ardently, and hence not having sufficient time to study any one branch. For instance, John K. Tiffany has given a great portion of his time as a philatelist to the stamps of this country, and has compiled as the result of careful study and research a "History of Postage Stamps of the United States."

(To be continued.)

EXCHANGES.

This department free to subscribers. No exchange to exceed 30 words.

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An American Elephant Tooth.

A subscriber writes us that in her large collection of curiosities, is a tooth of the American elephant. As a whole tooth of this sort is not found in every collection of the present day, a brief description might be of interest.

The tooth was found on the bank of the Niagara River, ten miles below Niagara Falls. No other remains of the monster could be found after a diligent search. It is about ten inches in length, and about four inches of the top has a rough grinding surface. The remainder of the length has a narrow rounding termination, as though it were the last tooth in the jaw. It is composed of twenty-four layers, or plates, with enamel an eighth of an inch thick, and weighs about five pounds.

History tells us that at this late day nothing but the tusks and crown of the teeth are found. This is owing to the enamel covering, which preserves them from decay. The roots, not having this protection, are all gone. The American elephant existed and roamed over this country prior to the mastodon. E. C. P.

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THE COLLECTOR.

VOL. II.

GAMBIER, OHIO, MARCH, 1888.

NO. 9.

SPECIALISM IN PHILATELY.

BY VICTOR.

(Continued from last month.)

Major E. B. Evans has turned his attention to the adhesive stamps of the various stamp issuing countries, and has compiled his "Philatelic Catalogue," a book of valuable information for all. Then, there is Dr. W. H. Mitchell, who devotes his time to U. S. locals, who is an acknowledged authority on this subject, and whose addition to L. W. Durbin's standard catalogue proves my assertion. E. B. Sterling knows everything about U. S. revenues, and has compiled a catalogue containing some of his knowledge on the subject. J. Walter Scott's chief result in philately has been the issuing of many standard albums, all of which are well known to the collecting public. And thus I might go on through a volume, enumerating philatelic specialists and their valuable services rendered to the advancement of our science.

This is, indeed, a wide field in philately for the collector to collect from, and the different selections made by different philatelists convince me of the truth of the statement, *de quolibet non disputandum*. S. Allen Taylor chose counterfeits as his study, and who dares say he was unsuccessful in this line? But, probably, very soon philately will be free from the presence of these disgraceful vermin, and then our science will be as pure as any in existence. J. W. Palmer, another eminent philatelic specialist, has long been trying to exterminate these pests, and has been negotiating with the United States on the subject. If he succeeds, which is very probable, his name will descend to philatelic posterity second to none, save that of the great and only James Chalmers.

THE OPAL.

BY COZ.

The opal is no doubt one of the most valuable stones, and certainly one of the most beautiful, that we possess. Its chief attraction is the combination of colors possessed by it, especially in its iridescent flame when it unites those of the ruby, the emerald and the amethyst. The opal assumes many varieties in different localities, among which are the Mexican opal, the wax opal, the hydrophane, the precious opal and the wood opal. The last named is a very curious form, being wood converted into stone by the chemical action of water upon its fibre. A good specimen of wood opal will show the grain and rings of the wood in perfect condition. The opal familiar to us in jewelry is termed the noble or precious opal. These stones, and especially wood opal, are found in great quantities in Hungary and Tasmania. One of the most familiar forms of the precious opal is porphyry, in which state it is found in Hungary, Russia, Saxony and South America. It is described by Mawe, in his treatise on precious stones, as "a gem of a white or pearl grey color, which, when seen between the eye and the light, is pale red, or wine yellow, with a milky translucency, exhibiting by reflecting light iridescent colors." According to Dana, the composition of the opal is ninety parts silica and ten parts water. The largest mass of noble opal in the world is in the imperial cabinet at Vienna. It weighs seventeen ounces, and is very nearly as large as a man's fist. Half a million florins were offered for this gem by a jeweler of Amsterdam. This stone was well known to, and highly valued, by the ancients, who called it *pauideria*, or *child beautiful in lore*.

Opals, when taken from the mine, are soft, but soon harden and lessen in bulk. They are cut on a leaden wheel in a hemispherical shape, and are very fragil, requiring careful handling. Many theories have been advanced in regard to the play of light and color in the opal, but the one most generally accepted is that it is caused by water in the unequalled divisions of the the larger and smaller cavities of the stone, since when of a dull color it can be restored to brilliancy by soaking in water or oil. There is one exception, however, to this fact, viz., the fire opal, or girasol, an opal with yellow and bright hyacinth, or fire-red reflections, found in Mexico and the Faroe Islands. This opal looses its color if soaked in water, but recovers it if slightly warmed. The following is clipped from an exchange and is of interest on the subject :

"Sir Walter Scott made use of this supposed peculiarity of this variety of the gem in his novel of 'Anne of Guerslein,' in the chastening scene, and it has been stated on good authority that the price of opals very sensibly declined in London after the publication of this work, from the added strength it gave to the superstition that the stone is unlucky. The Empress Eugenie was a firm believer in its evil influence and would never own or wear an opal. Queen Victoria, on the contrary, always presents as a wedding gift to her daughters a necklace of opals set with diamonds."

The opal is of several different values according to its kind, the most precious of which is the one which emits the various rays, red, yellow and green, with special lustre. The value of this stone depends entirely upon its play of color, and is rarely sold by the carat. If the colors are distributed over the surfaces of the stone in small flakes, jewelers give it the technical name of "harlequin opal." There is a very rare variety of black opal found in Egypt, which shows the glowing color of the ruby seen through a vapor, "like a coal that burns only at one end." The common, or semi-opal, is of white, gray, yellow, bluish or greenish hue, and can

easily be scratched by quartz. This quality distinguishes it from siliceous stones. There is one variety of opal called cachalong which many persons cannot distinguish from chalcedony and often mistake the latter for the opal. This variety was first brought from the river Cash, in Bucharia. There are other varieties of opal, as follows; hyalite, or Muller's glass, menilite, opal jasper, siliceous sinter and tabasheer. Some persons often mistake cat's-eye for a variety of opal, when it is in reality a form of chalcedony. The following taken from an exchange shows this mistake :

"A species of opal called the cat's-eye is very much sought after now for scarf pins and rings. This stone comes from Ceylon, and is prized above all others by the Cingalese, as it is supposed to guard its wearer from the evil effects of witchcraft, and better still, to enrich him by bringing him success in his affairs. The cat's-eye is rarely larger than a hazel nut, and its value depends on its size, color and degree of play of light. The best stones are of a soft deep olive color, with the mysterious gleaming streak of light, ever shifting like a restless spirit from side to side as the gem is moved. Indians believe it to be the abode of a spirit and dedicate it to their gods as a sacred stone. It is rarely, if ever, engraved, its play of light rendering it impossible to obtain any very good effect with the engraver's tools or art. The English are especially fond of the cat's-eye. Among the gems in the Duke of Marlborough's collection, is a monster cat's eye, cut in the shape of a lion's eye. It was the work of a Roman jeweler of 16th century, when the Italians revived the ancient Greek and Roman styles of decoration in all ornamental art."

In 1820, when the jewels belonging to the King of Kaney were sold in London, a perfect cat's-eye, two inches in diameter, brought the large sum of £400."

The opal enjoys one privilege not granted to all gems, and that is the difficulty of imitating it. All attempts at this have thus far proved failures. The false stones are made of enamel mixed with metallic oxides, or by placing on the back of a worthless opal a thin plate of mother-of-pearl.

(Continued on 4th page).

INDOVINELLUM.

Conducted by Dew Drops.

Address all communications to R. BERLI, 1608
Madison Ave., Covington, Ky.

NUMBER 7.

ANSWERS TO NO. 5.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| No. 1. The hanging of the Anarchists. | No. 5. GEODES |
| No. 2. C | EQUINE |
| CAB | OUTSET |
| CARAC | DISERT |
| CARACAL | ENERVE |
| CARACARAS | SETTEE |
| BACALAR | |
| CARAC | No. 3. |
| LAR | SHRUB |
| S | HOUSES |
| | RUSTLES |
| | USTULATE |
| | BELLYROLL |
| | SEAROOM |
| | STOOM |
| | ELM |
- No. 4. Remark-able. L

Solutions accepted from V. G. OHNJA, R. O. CHESTER, T. O. BOGGAN, PENEUS and P. D. FOSTER.

Prize Winners.—1st complete list, not won; best incomplete, V. G. OHNJA; 1st flat, R. O. CHESTER; 2d flat, not won.

NEW PUZZLES.

No. 1—DECAPITATION.

If milk could talk like folks we see,
At public meetings on the stump,
No doubt it's little toast would be:
"Here's to the pump."

All at my breakfast down I sit,
With well fed PRIMAL 'stead of roast,
I take for dessert, as more—
A pure milk toast.

One milk man, who comes round each day,
And rings his bell, just at the door;
May pump me, weekly, for his pay,
But nothing more.
Dubois, JP. ASTRO.

No. 2—PENTAGON.

1. A letter. 2. The fruit of the wild dog-rose. 3. Spirit. 4. Auditors. 5. A climbing plant. 6. Point. 7. An elegy. 8. Cutting. 9. A tract of land.
Plainfield, N. J. EUREKA.

No. 3—NUMERICAL.

My 1 to 4 as you will learn
Is nothing else but just "to turn."
And in a certain small "degree,"
My 5 to 8 will allied be.
Had we no mate COMPLETE to mate,
We'd scribble down "emasculate."
Denver, Colo. E. Z. 2 C.

No. 4—SOUTHERN CROWN.

Diamond: 1. A letter. 2. A certain hole or pipe. 3. A protection for a part of the face. 4. A small drum. 5. Able to cause a movement in the walls of vessels (*Supp*). 6. A small bird. 7. Equal to 2.113 Amer. pints. 8. In no degree. 9. A letter.
Rhomboid, left: *Across*: 1. Government of Russia. 2. Root of a certain plant. 3. A half note. 4. A platform. 5. A drain pipe. *Down*: 1. A letter. 2. Society of Jesus (*A*). 3. A Hebrew measure. 4. A genus of trees. 5. Repairs. 6. To study. 7. Moderate. 8. A point of the compass. 9. A letter.
Rhomboid, right: *Across*: 1. To forgive. 2. A small bird. 3. Governments. 4. Certain fowls. 5. Rances. *Down*: 1. A letter. 2. End. 3. P. O. of Carroll Co., Mo. 4. Names. 5. Controls. 6. Certain birds. 7. A prefix denoting error. 8. On account of. 9. A letter.
Balloon, Texas. G. WHIZZ.
(*"American Boy"* for 1st correct solution).

Answers and prize winners in two months.

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PLAIN TALK.

Owing to the discontinuance of the "Monitor," the "Mystic Recess" will be abandoned for a time, to be opened soon in another paper. All promises made in it will be kept as near as possible, but as a very mixed up state of affairs exists in our sanctum at present we must be excused if everything don't run just right.—Thanks to E. Z. 2 C. and EUREKA for "cons." After April 1st, no "con" having an obsolete word will be accepted.—R. O. CHESTER knows how to conduct a puzzle paper, and the "Journal" had 76 solvers to No. 8. Success to you—All solve. Dew Drops.

(Continued from 3d page.)

peck). The name opal is derived from the Greek word meaning "the eye," and it was thought by the ancients to have the power of protecting the vision from harm. Among the valuable opals may be mentioned the one owned by Votius, the Roman senator, who endured banishment rather than part with it at the command of Marc Anthony.

Among the French crown jewels are two large opals, one is set in the centre of the order of the Golden Fleece, and the other forms the clasp of the imperial cloak. The Empress Josephine had an opal "the great fire of Troy," from its immense fire sparkles. In the London exhibition of 1851, there was shown a Hungarian opal called "the mountain of light." It weighed 526 carats and was valued at \$20,000.

According to Dana, hyalite is the only variety of the opal that has yet been found in the United States. It occurs sparingly at the Phillips ore bed, Putnam County, N. Y., and Burke Scriven Counties, Ga. The Shavano spring in Georgia affords small quantities of siliceous sinter.

CHRONICLE.

BY R. R. ROBERTS.

Antioquia.—The 5c. is now red on pale green.

Argentine Republic.—Three new stamps have appeared, resembling the 1867 issue. 5c. rose, 10c. brown, 15c. orange.

Bavaria.—The current stamps are perforated 15 instead of 12, and it is intended to issue stamps of 30 and 40 pf.

British Honduras.—Surcharged stamps have appeared, 2c. on 6c., 10c. on 4c., 20c. on 6c., 50c. on 1 sh.

British North Borneo.—There is a 5c. gray.

Cuba.—The 24c. is red brown, 10c. blue, 20c. lilac.

Honduras.—The new stamps, it is said,

are made by a German dealer.

Mauritius.—The 6c. card has been surcharged to do duty as 2 cents.

Mexico.—The 4c. vermilion, as well as the 8c. and 16c. already reported.

Montenegro.—Four post cards have been issued, 2n. and 2x2n. carmine on buff, 8n. and 8x8n. black on gray.

New South Wales.—There is a new card, 1d. red on white, 150x84mm., with orn. frame.

Persia.—All the envelopes and bands, issued by the post-office, bear a black surcharge. The others were obtained in some way from the printer.

Philippine Islands.—The new stamps are: 1c. green, 5c. slate blue, 6c. brown, 8c. brown.

Santander.—Of the new type there is a 5c. vermilion.

Senegal.—We hear of the 5c. on 3c. and 10c. on 4c.

Tolima.—There are three new stamps inscribed "Departments del Tolima." 5c. vermilion, 10c. green and 50c. blue.

United States.—The 30c. brown is out. We have seen the 2c. envelope of Sept. 1887, printed in gray, and of a slightly different type from the ordinary one. There are 72 points in the outer rim instead of 67. We believe this to be the first die made, which was rejected by the Government. Ten cent envelopes, size 9 on white and amber, have appeared.

Uruguay.—The 5c. is again blue. 42c. 7c. orange, 20c. brown, 25c. vermilion, and there is another new 10c. lilac with arms in centre and "Republica Oriental" in a curve above. Figures of value are at the sides, and "Uruguay - 10 - Centesimos" below in three lines.

AN ODD CONGLOMERATE.

BY P. A. JOHNSON.

Among the hills of western New York little visited by any persons except the few living in its immediate vicinity, section

visited except by some roaming picnic party which has strayed out of the usual course of such gatherings, lies one of the greatest natural curiosities of which New York can boast. The Rock City—for that is the name it bears—consists of about three hundred immense rocks, ranging in size from 10 feet square by 2 feet thick to 30 feet square and 25 feet high. Situated upon one of the highest hill in this part of Allegany County, it commands an almost unbroken view in nearly any direction of ten miles over a very diversified range of scenery, rendering it one of the most pleasant of places to a collector, both for pleasure and for adding specimens to his collection. I turned my attention to this place one summer day, and after a pleasant drive about six miles, having surmounted the very steep hill on which the rocks are situated, reached Rock City. Notwithstanding its populous name, we found the human population to consist of a man, his wife and five children, who lived in a shanty erected under the lee of one of the large rocks, probably for the purpose of keeping the wind off his dwelling.

Borrowing a dipper of him, in which to get water, we started off on our exploring tour. We found the rocks were composed of various kinds of conglomerate, a great part of it being pudding stone, some of the pebbles in this formation being nearly four inches long and weighing nearly three-fourths of a pound.

They are of all colors—black, white, yellow, pink and gray. The rocks are made up of the various formations arranged in regular layers, some having as many as fifty, giving them an odd appearance from a little distance. One formation is very pretty, being glassy quartz pebbles formed in an iron substance, which when broken sparkles brightly.

On one of the largest rocks is another large rock weighing perhaps a ton, set on so true a centre that it can easily be rocked with the hand, and on top of it there are several natural seats, which command a

fine view. The sides of these rocks are deeply furrowed by the action of the water, while in some cases there are holes right in the centre, reaching down to the ground. Through many of these extend the roots of trees, numbers of which grow on top of the rocks, some of the trees being from three to five inches in diameter, while on one rock there was quite a raspberry patch, growing in the mossy soil which covers most of them.

When we started for home, we had about fifty pounds of specimens, including one specimen one and a half feet square, and many fine specimens now grace my cabinet—the result of that day's collecting.

How these masses of rock came where they are, and what their origin was, whether volcanic, meteoric or the result of some great earthquake, I leave the reader to judge for himself.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

This is our initial issue in the combined capacity of editor, publisher and business manager. By the withdrawal of the former editors, Messrs Haddaway Brothers, we are compelled to assume the entire responsibility. Though we do not expect to equal our worthy predecessors, yet we will do our best to make an interesting and attractive paper. We hope our patrons will continue to extend to us that favor for which we have heretofore been so much indebted.

Dealers, try an advertisement in our next issue. We will insert a one inch advertisement in our next issue for only 35c.

The *Buckeye State Collector*, of Portsmouth, Ohio, has added a cover, which adds greatly to its appearance.

We send but one sample copy to each address. If you want to see us again, send along your quarter.

The *Kentucky Stamp Magazine* is to ap-

pear from Covington, Kentucky, next month.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

San Francisco, March 10, 1888.

Editor the COLLECTOR.

Dear Sir:—I have a question to place before your readers, that I consider of great importance for all philatelist's consideration, and that is: Ought stamps imported from foreign countries to be dutiable?

I suppose that most of your reader are aware that a Baltimore dealer has had his foreign mail held, and I believe, made to pay duty; and that of late, things, philatelically speaking, are assuming a complicated state of affairs in San Francisco.

The fact is we (both dealers and collectors) are in an embarrassing situation, having considerable trouble with the U. S. custom house officials in securing our foreign mail, upon which they demand duty. The law stating that stamps are dutiable, I believe, is an old one, but it seems has never been generally enforced. In 1876, when in business in St. Louis, I had all my bulky mail matter from foreign countries seized by the St. Louis authorities, and for a long time I was obliged to pay 25 per cent duty, ad valorem. Through strenuous efforts on the part of my esteemed friend, Mr. John K. Tiffany, and myself, we finally succeeded, after considerable delay and trouble, in securing our foreign mail matter without any further difficulty.

One great objection I found at the time, was that eastern dealers were not obliged to pay duty, as the law was not generally enforced by their P. O. officials. Had I therefore been obliged to continue paying duty much longer I would never have been able to compete with my rivals.

Now I am convinced that there is a law to the effect that all used and unused stamps imported from foreign countries are subject to 25 per cent duty at the present time, but why is this law not made general and only partially put in ex-

cation?

Where it is *not* enforced I have found that dealers prefer to remain quiet, as they probably think it better for their own interest to do so, fearful that in expressing their views they might possibly call the attention of the P. O. officials to a law that really exists, but which they are negligent of, and, on the other hand, where it is a strict law, one can not blame a person who is having custom house difficulties, in protesting against something, that to every intelligent dealer in stamps, must prove to be as preposterous as it is unjust. Why should we be made pay a tax of 25 per cent duty on foreign stamps which have only fictitious value, when foreign coins which have an immediate marketable value are *free from duty*; when it is almost an impossibility to get any fire insurance on a stock of stamps, owing to the great difficulty of adjusting; and lastly, when the new ruling mentions that stamps are *valuable as printed matter* (such a decision having been established in July last) and, at the same time the Government rejects the identical stamps admittance in the mails *as printed matter*?

Does this not add one more to the list of postal absurdities?

Yours respectfully,

E. F. Gambs.

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This department free to subscribers. No exchange to exceed 30 words.

For every perfect war point, spearhead or arrowhead sent me, I will return arrowhead found in this county with my price-lists, etc. Let me hear from all. G. U. Duer, Millersburg, Ohio.

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