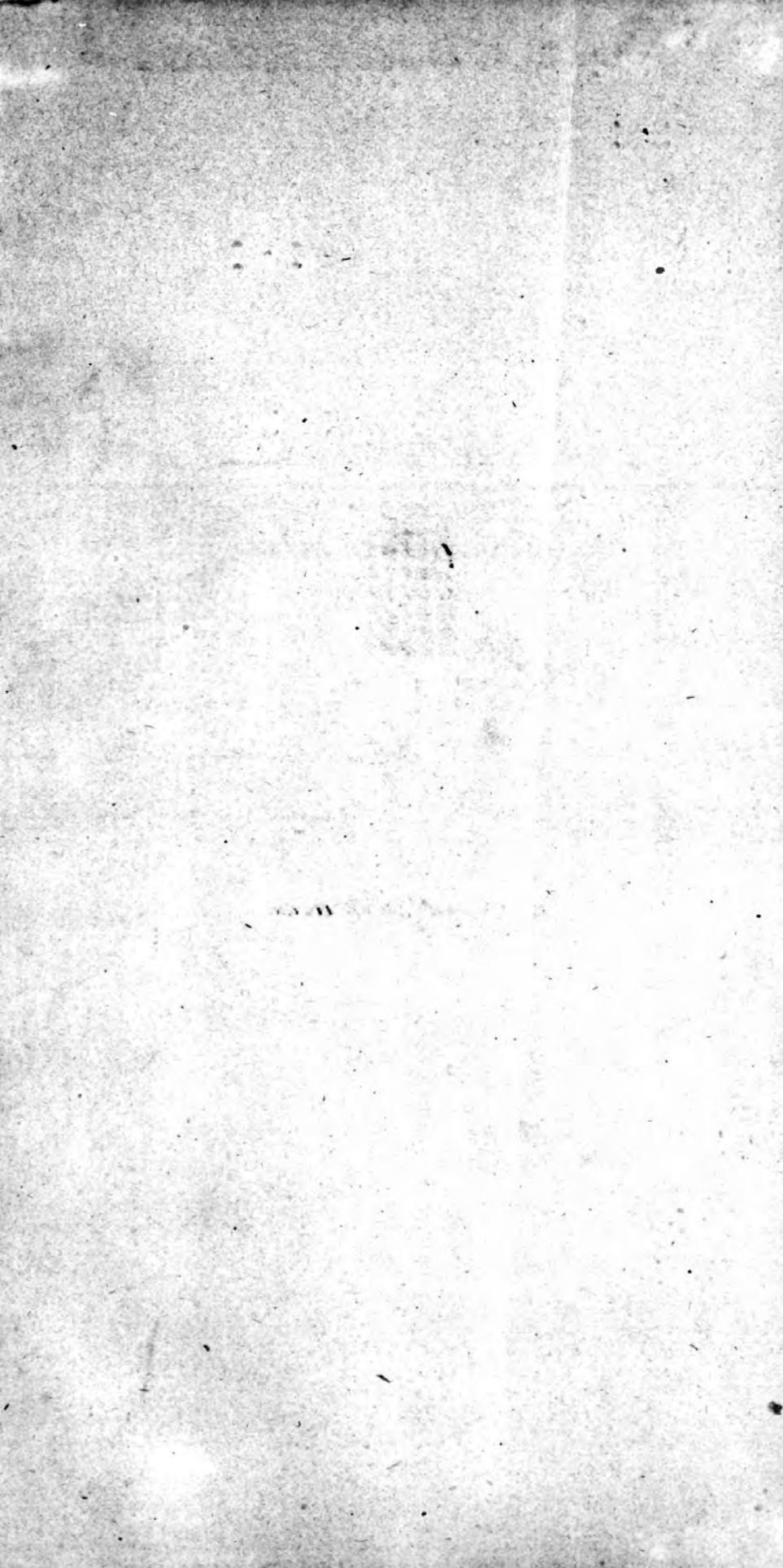
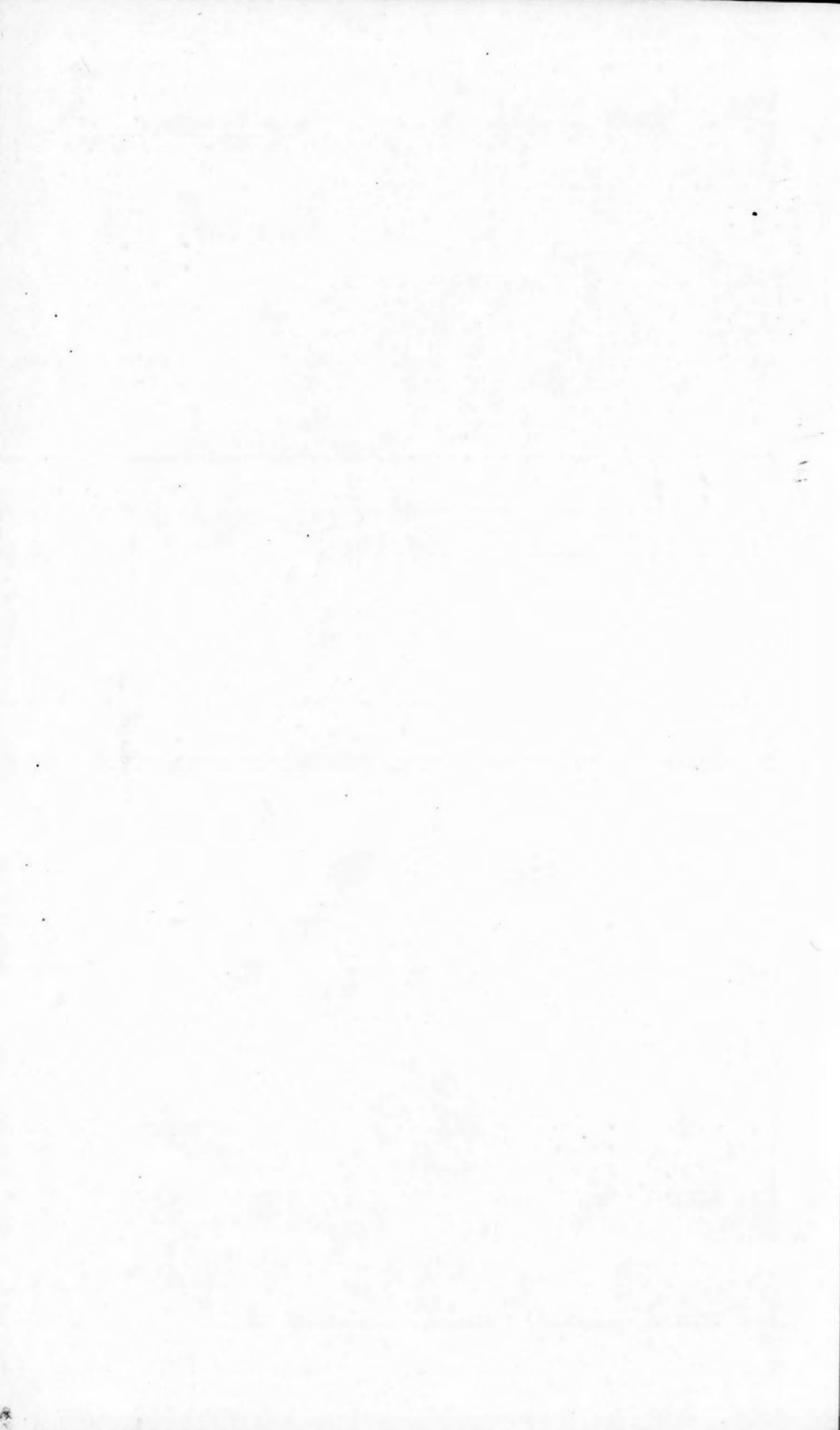


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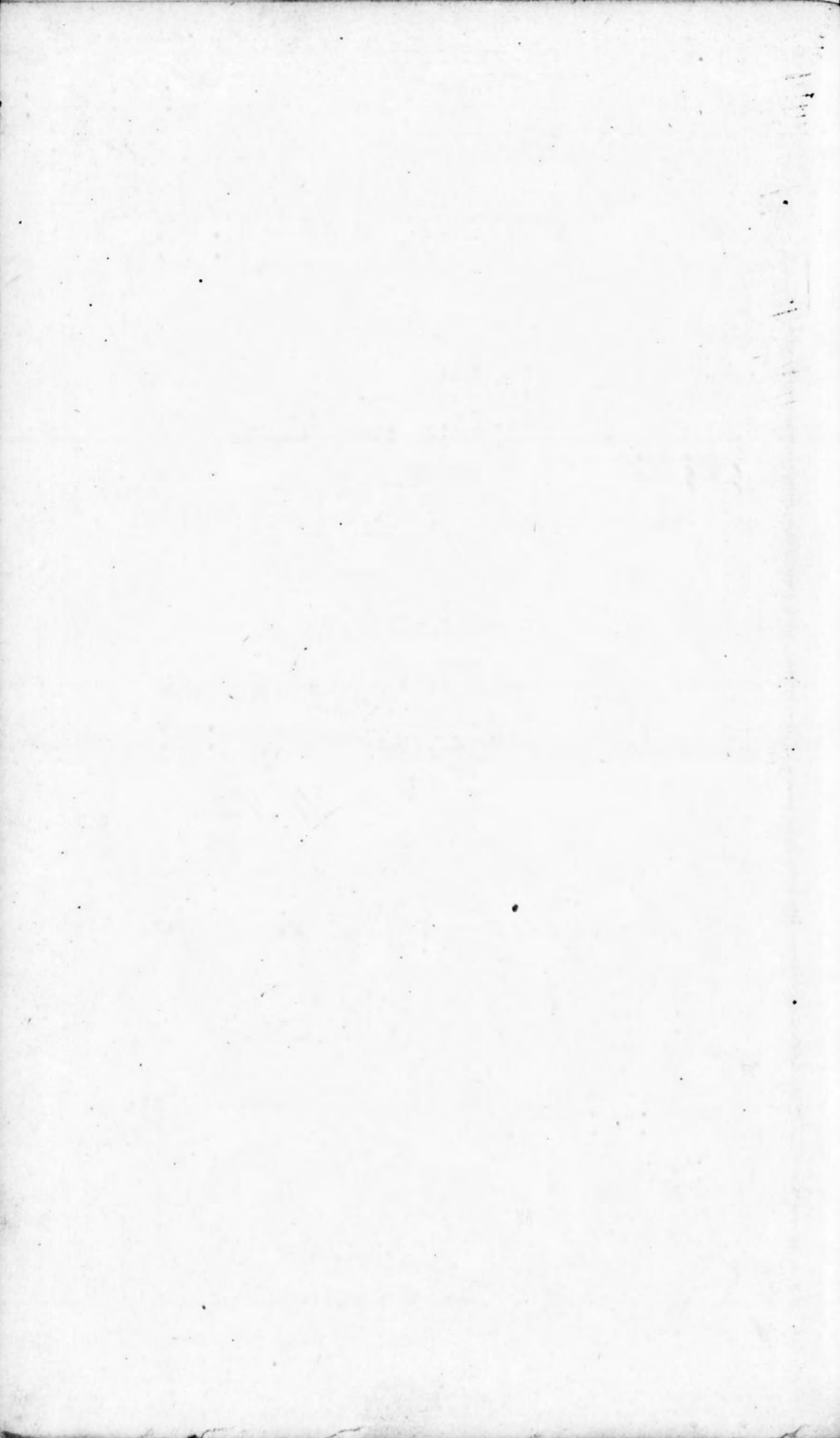






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## The History of Coins.

FRANK SMITH was a bad boy. He did not like to go to school. Arithmetic was of "no account," history "no good," and geography he would learn by and by, by "trotting around."

A crisis came at last, and it was resolved that if he would not study with the boys he should not play with them, and he was shut up in the attic in solitary confinement. Poor John was miserable at first, but presently he began to look about for amusement.

Among the attic treasures he found a box full of old rusty coins which once belonged to his uncle Fred. Frank wondered why any one saved such old dirty pennies; but he idly began to count them, and then to look at the different heads they bore, and to read the inscriptions. He found the coins were of different countries, and to occupy his time, he selected the cents of his own country. Many of the coins were so covered with dirt and rust, that he could not tell their date; and while he was wondering what means to use to clean them, a servant brought his dinner, and through her he obtained some fine scouring brick and chamois skin. After dinner he went to work, and as the black coins commenced to shine out like new pennies, here a feature and there a date suddenly legible, the boy felt like the excavators at Pompeii and Nineveh as they came upon the treasures of those long buried cities.

The afternoon passed quickly away. Twilight found him still at work. Before him lay a row of shining United States cents, arranged according to date. The oldest bore the figures 1793. On one side was the head of the Goddess of Liberty, on the other side thirteen links. There were also cents of the same date when to the head of the Goddess was added the Liberty-cap, while the other side of the coin bore the olive-wreath of peace. With the succeeding years, the head of the bold

Goddess with her flowing hair-disappeared from the cents, and in its place was a finely chiselled head, with classic Grecian features and the hair bound with a fillet. The cents seemed to rejoice in this last device, and bore it proudly until the whole race of large copper cents disappeared in 1857, and into their places stepped the small nickel cent which had appeared the previous year; but this coin was crowded out in 1864 for the small bronze cent, which still holds the place of favor. Frank could find no cent of 1815, and afterward discovered that no cent was coined that year.

The tea-bell was Frank's signal of release. As he entered the supper-room his brothers and sisters stole glances, expecting to see him look particularly sullen, and they were very much astonished to encounter a pair of eyes bright and smiling. Frank was not much of a talker; but to-night he evidently had something to say, and the following concise dialogue almost immediately took place:—

"Father, when did they first have cents in this country?"

"In 1793 they first appeared from the mint."

"Whose idea was it?"

"Two years before their appearance Robert Morris proposed the coin, and Thomas Jefferson gave it his name."

"Who was Robert Morris, and how did Thomas Jefferson happen to be the one to name it?"

"If you study the history of the United States as you ought, you will know all about them."

"Why was the head of the bold man put on the first cent?"

"You are mistaken. The first cent bore the head of Washington; but it was the time of the French Revolution, and the enthusiasm of the French reached America, and caused them to change the noble head of Washington for that of the French Goddess of Liberty."

“What did they do for cents before that time?”

“They had English pennies, half-pennies and farthings. They also had copper coins of three times the value of King George’s half-pennies. They were first made in 1737 at Granby in Connecticut, by John Higley, a blacksmith. On one side of the coin was the figure of a deer, and the inscription, ‘Value me as you please;’ on the other side were three sledge-hammers, wearing crowns, and around the edge the inscription, ‘I am good copper.’”

“Can you get me one of those first coppers?”

“Probably not; there are not a dozen in existence. Besides these there were colonial cents. There was the Fugio cent of 1787, which bore on one side a sun-dial, and below it the inscription, ‘Mind your business;’ on the other side were thirteen links, and the words, ‘We are one.’ There were the Massachusetts cent and half-cent of 1787 and 1788, the Connecticut cent first issued in 1785 and continued for four years, the Vermont cent of the same date, the Virginia half-penny of 1773, the Carolina cent of 1794 bearing the figure of an elephant, the Louisiana cent first issued in 1721, and the New Jersey cent of 1786, 1787, and 1788. On the New Jersey copper was inscribed the national motto, ‘*E pluribus unum.*’”

“What does ‘*E pluribus unum*’ mean?”

“If you studied your Latin lessons you ought, you would know. This motto appeared for the first time on a copper coin struck in 1786 from a private mint at Newburg, N. Y. In 1799 the motto was inscribed upon our gold coins, and was borne by our silver coins in 1798. In 1834 it disappeared from the gold coins, and showed that gold was not the same number of carats fine as before. In 1837 the silver coins discarded the motto, but of

late years the new silver dollar bears it again.”

“Why do you say gold is so many carats fine?”

“The carat is a small bean that grows on a tree in Central Africa; its weight is uniform, and thus it is used as a unit of weight for gold. Eighteen carats fine means that in every twenty-four carats’ weight of gold there are eighteen carats’ weight of pure gold.”

Frank would have kept his father talking all of the evening, but he was called away on business, and the boy retired to the library to find out for himself some of the things he ought to know.

The next morning when consigned again to the attic, he selected the English coins. Many of them bore the heads of the four Georges, then came the head of William the Fourth, and last of all, Queen Victoria. There were Canada coins bearing the heads of English sovereigns, and coins from India with the head of Victoria upon them. He did not understand about these last coins; and when he asked his father about them in the evening, he was briefly told that his geography and his history would give him the information.

Among the coins Frank found one bearing the head of Constantine the Great, and wrapped around the coin was a paper, on which was written a history of this particular coin: “It was one of those found not many years ago in an old Roman camp in French Alsatia. Some laborers in digging came upon an old chest which contained seventy-five hundred bronze coins from the mint of Constantine. These coins had probably been buried in the ground since before the middle of the fourth century, when the Roman legion encamped there.” Frank’s father hinted to him just enough of the history of this Roman Emperor of 306 to make the boy eager to know more of this first Christian Emperor,



whose vision of the cross had led him on to victory.

Frank stayed in the attic three days; and the result was that the little copper schoolmaster inspired him with a new ambition, and he gladly went back to his studies at the Academy and became an industrious pupil. Some time after his marked improvement at school, his father gave him a large box of coins which uncle Fred had left to be given to him when he was old enough to appreciate them.

Upon opening the box, Frank's delight was great to find it full of silver coins, not only of America, but from nearly all the countries from which coins can be obtained. Some were finely preserved, and the heads and inscriptions as clearly cut as when they first appeared from the mint; others required much labor to bring out their hidden story.

Chemistry, which Frank once despised, he now made his servant; and by its aid he was saved days of labor in cleaning the coins. Each one of the rare old coins seemed to have a history, and Frank sought it out from books and scholarly men, who were pleased to help the young enthusiast. Coins bearing the head of Frederick the Great made him study the histories of Carlyle, Macauley and Abbott, and he traced the growth of Prussia from the Marquisate of Brandenburg to its now vast dominions, for the story of its rulers was written on the coins from the first Frederick to the Frederick William IV. whose head shone out on perfect specimen of a coin, *ein thaler* of 1856, and on to that last coin bearing the head of William I., King of Prussia. The head of Maria Theresa invited him to the study of Austria. The head of Napoleon and the old French kings led him to the study of France. A Mexican *peso* of 1866, bearing the head of Maximilian, urged him to the study of Mexico, and the story of the unfortunate emperor

and the beautiful Carlotta thrilled him with an interest which sent him to the study of Belgium, not only in the past but in the present, eagerly searching for some news of the sorrow-stricken empress, who was still waiting for the dead emperor.

He found the earliest date on English coins was in 1549, during the reign of Edward VI. A William I. coin sent him back to 1066 and the early history of England. Specimens of the "clipped coins" made him rejoice when William set up the mint in the tower of London in 1558, and the new "milled money" appeared, with the raised rim and fluted edge.

The coins of his own country inspired him with a feeling of patriotism. They whispered of the Revolution, when the head of King George disappeared from the cents, and Liberty became the inscription on the coins, and the watchword of our land. The changes that the years wrought in the devices were of great interest. Romance also added its charm to some of the coins. His specimens of the pine-tree shilling, coined in Massachusetts when together with Maine it formed a province, chanced to belong to those given as a marriage portion to the daughter of John Hull, who was Master of the Mint in 1652, when the pine-tree shillings were struck, and who gave his daughter as many shillings as her own weight would balance in the scales.

The coins taught Frank not only geography and history, but the nickel five-cent piece taught him the metric system of weights and measures. Its weight being five grammes, two of the coins weighed a decagramme. Its diameter being two centimeters, the length of five was a decimeter. The measure of the length was also a guide to the capacity, as the kiloliter is a cubic meter.

The coins also led Frank to a study of metals, and of their distribution

throughout the world, also to the different materials used as money in different ages of the world. He found not only gold and silver and copper used, but brass among many nations. Indeed, it seemed the favorite metal of the Chinese, who had used it for thousands of years for their one coin—the *cash*. The old Lacedaemonians and Athenians used iron, and Lycurgus even banished gold and silver, and made the cumbersome iron coins take their place. He found that not only metals were used as money, but learned that the engraved stones of the Ethiopians, the wampum of our American Indians, of the polished shells of barbarous tribes, and how once an attempt was made to coin oyster shells in our United States.

The study of the old Roman and other foreign coins, with the royal medals upon them, made the boy feel the lack of a similar history written upon the coins of his own country, and caused him to mourn that the coins had not continued to bear the head of Washington during his administration, and of every succeeding President during his term of office; then each of our rulers would have been commemorated, so that not only the youth of our own land, but those of foreign lands, might learn in this happy way the Presidents of our Republic.

Frank Smith is no longer a bad boy. He has developed into a scholar, and cherishes a secret hope of some day not of being the President of the United States—but the Secretary of the Treasury, when he will use his power and influence to revolutionize the coinage of our country, and cause the set of coins, at least, to bear the head of the President then in power. Meantime, he had already carried out the invention. He would not keep his coins packed away in boxes; he wished them arranged in order, and the face of each to shine out in a suitable frame like the face of a friend. He ques-

tioned his father in regard to the arrangement of the great collections, but he was not satisfied with the idea of having them hung up in glass cases like those at the mint in Philadelphia, or of their lying down on velvet cushions as at the Museum in Edinburgh; so he devised a coin album, and obtained permission from his father to have some made to order. Now Frank's fine collection is arranged in these albums, which take up but little room as compared with glass cases.

### THE LOCAL POST-OFFICE OF SHANGHAI.

CAPTAIN E. B. EVANS, R. A.

A correspondent who resided in Shanghai a few years ago has given me some particulars as to the postal arrangements there, which I think may possibly be of interest to the reader.

Most collectors are aware that the Shanghai stamps are not issued by the Chinese Government; they are perhaps also aware that the locality to which they belong is quite distinct from the Chinese town of Shanghai, being in fact, a foreign settlement in China, inhabited, and practically governed, by foreigners.

The Government consists of a Municipal Council elected by the settlers, who make their own laws, and see to the lighting, police; etc. The local post-office is under the control of the Council, and its issues are not Chinese, nor anything else but Shanghaiian (if one may coin such a word) pure and simple.

At the same time these stamps are not solely for local use, because they also frank letters conveyed by sea from Shanghai to the other treaty ports in China, though they cannot be used on letters to other countries, some of which have post-offices of their own there. For instance, there is a British

post-office, which is a branch of that of Hong Kong, and at which Hong Kong stamps are employed; an American, where United States stamps can be bought, and letters posted to America and Europe, *via* Japan and San Francisco; a Japanese, through which Japanese stamps will convey letters also to America and Europe by the same route; and a French office, where French stamps are current. In short, Shanghai would seem to be a sort of paradise for stamp collectors, where the stamps of all nations can be purchased at face value in the same street.

Doubtless many collectors have noticed the fact that used specimens of the Shanghai stamps are not so common as might be expected or wished. There is an especial reason for this, which is, that any one who chooses to subscribe a certain amount per annum to the local post-office can have all his correspondence conveyed by it free, without the trouble of using stamps at all. No doubt most of the residents, or those, at least, who have much correspondence, are subscribers; and the stamps are principally employed by persons passing through the place, or others residing there who do not send a sufficient number of letters to make it worth their while to subscribe.

This subscription arrangement gives rise to peculiar species of post card, which, I think, has no parallel among the issues of any other country. This is the subscribers' card. It is an unstamped card, and bears no indication of any value, but it does not belong to the same class as ordinary unstamped cards, inasmuch as it does not require the addition of an adhesive stamp to frank it through the post. Again, it is different to an official card or a war card; for they denote a freedom from liability to the payment of postage, while this denotes to some extent postage paid.

I do not, as a rule, collect unstamped cards, and I believe there are other

collectors who draw the line in the same place; but I do not know what we are to do with this card. It forms an intermediate class all by itself.

Cards are issued also for the official use of the local volunteer corps, but these would come under the head of official or privileged cards; they do not denote postage paid in any way.

In looking at some used specimens of these cards I notice a curious circumstance. In all the printed inscriptions on them the name of the place is spelt thus, SHANGHAE, with a final E. It would seem that even the municipal authorities are doubtful as to the proper spelling of the name of their municipality.

My correspondent is of opinion that the CHINA stamps—1, 2, and 3 *candarin*s—also belong to Shanghai, and that they are issued by a species of local post-office worked by the *Custom* authorities, this is nominally a Chinese service, but actually managed by foreigners; and its post-offices conveys letters overland, the only route open to some of the northern treaty ports in winter when blocked with ice by sea.

This however is only a conjecture as to the origin of the stamps in question.

The *Customs* post office exists, but whether it issues these stamps or not is uncertain—P. R.

## POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTING.

If stamp collecting had been introduced by a schoolmaster as a "Royal road" to acquiring a knowledge of history, geography, national statistics, etc., he certainly would have been considered a clever person and would have received the thanks of many parents for his ingenuity, and the success which attended his labors.

When stamp collecting was a new thing it was thoroughly ridiculed by non-collectors. I will, however in this short article endeavor to lay before the reader some of the reasons which render

## HOW TO COLLECT.

The young Philatelist who is about to choose an album for the first time in which to mount his treasures, needs some advice from those who have had more experience. A great many of the more advanced collectors use simply a blank-book, in which they arrange their specimens in order to suit themselves, either Chronologically, or Alphabetically, as they choose. For the beginner, however, we would advise the selection of an album that contains spaces for the various emissions of every country of the correct shape of the stamps. By the use of such an album there will be but very little possibility of any mistakes being made in mounting the specimens. Now having selected an album, the collector has his stamps to mount. If he collects only unused stamps, great care should be taken in their selection, only the cleanest and most perfect specimens being allowable; so, also, if he admits used stamps into his book, only those that are perfect in every respect should be given a place in his collection.

Before mounting, if there is any paper remaining on the backs of the stamps, they should be floated face upward in a goblet of water, and after being thoroughly dampened, the paper can be very easily removed without injury to the stamp. Never paste your stamps down solid in your album, you may sometime wish to change them over into another book, or remove them for the insertion of better specimens, but if they are gummed solid, they can only be removed by wetting, which injures the appearance of the album. The plan which we have adopted, and can recommend to every collector, is to mount your stamps on hinges, which are made from very fine note-paper, gummed on one side only, then doubled into hinges of about one-fourth of an inch in width, with the gummed side out. These are to be placed at the top of each stamp, and then the stamp is

amp collecting not only amusing but instructive pursuit. The first thing which it teaches is I think a knowledge of Geography; for instance, nine collectors out of ten will tell you where Toluca, Alwur, or Labuan are situated but very much question if one out of ten non-collectors could tell you.

Then I will take history; turning over the pages of an album. I come to Portugal. I see that the first stamps were issued in 1853 and bear the head of Donna Maria II., but in 1855 it has changed and in its stead is that of King Pedro I., then in 1862 that of King Louis I., and so on. Then again take the stamps of England and its Colonies; they all have the Queen's effigy, and a collector knows at a glance that, Heligoland, Hong Kong, St. Vincent, Canada, New Zealand etc., are British possessions for the simple reason that the stamps of these countries have the Queen's head on them—even to a non-collector it must be of interest to see how the various issues of some countries faithfully reproduce the various changes of Government, &c.

France and Spain are perhaps two of the most interesting.

France shows us, on her stamps first, the Republic of 1848, then, Napoleon I. as President of that Republic, then, Emperor, then, after the French victories, his assumption of Cassanarurels, then after the German war, another Republic.

Spain shows Queen Isabella, then a Republic, then the short reign of King madeus, then, Alphonso, besides the stamps which show the Carlist troubles, &c.

Of course it is impossible in a short article like this to do more than glance here and there.

It may also be mentioned that stamp-collecting teaches a knowledge of the coinage of each country, also of the various methods of printing, engraving, &c.

ready for mounting in its proper place in your album. Stamps fixed in this way can very easily be changed for better specimens, and can also be raised for examination of their watermarks; they also present a far better appearance than stamps which are struck on solid. Last but not least, keep your album clean; don't handle it with dirty hands; many collections are ruined by being rubbed and soiled with dirty fingers. When you wish to mount new specimens or show your collection to a friend, be sure your hands are in a clean condition. If you follow these directions, and keep clear of counterfeits with which many unprincipled dealers are flooding the country, you will in a short time have a collection fit to adorn the parlor of a nabob, and one which if you look at it in a pecuniary point of view, will bring a good price, whenever you wish to dispose of it.

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