

New York Philatelist.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1878.

No. I.

U. S. STATES LOCALS.

By Frank A. Jones.

are locals? This is a question persons unfamiliar with stamps, and for the benefit of such state, that they are stamps of private individuals, for a locality; generally a large city. the localities where locals are issued, New York, stands out, mostly owing to the large names of Hussey, Boyd and others. design of Mr. Boyd's stamps, has been an eagle, with spread wings perched on the globe world. In June, 1878, "City Dispatch," issued a stamp of a very dark red, of the following design; Mercury, running on a horse, on which are the words, "City Dispatch," and at the bottom the address "1 Park Place." This stamp was issued until last November as they desired something else they changed the color of the stamp to pink, which improves it very much; it was originally selected from different proofs, (of which Mr. Boyd has a complete set,) printed in various inks, on different colored paper.

The design of Hussey's first issue, consists of various inscriptions around the Bank of America, and a letter-box. His next issue consisted of simple inscriptions. In 1863 he issued five stamps of a very fine

design, with Mercury on horse-back in the center; they then, again issued stamps with simple inscriptions.

Having changed to a stamp, with a messenger running to the left in the centre, and as these were found to be rather large, they reduced the size to that of our present issue of U. S. Postage Stamps.

Many of the other New York locals, such as Winans, Cummings, McIntires, Gordon's &c., are of very peculiar designs.

Some of the prettiest U. S. locals, are those issued by Wells, Fargo, & Co. the Pony Express stamps are especially pretty, as they represent an equestrian at full speed; their newspaper stamps are very peculiar looking, though quite handsome; I think the most unique local I have ever seen is their stamp, which represents a seal.

The city which is next to New York, is probably Chicago. Prominent among these locals are Brady's Penny Post, and the Chicago Penny Post; the former is simply an oval surrounded by emblems, with an inscription in it; the latter is a brown stamp with a bee-hive in an oval, in the centre, with "Chicago" above and "Penny Post" below, while all this is surrounded by honey-comb work.

The Humboldt Express of Nevada has quite a landscape on it, representing a "coach and four."

The stamp of the Penny Express Co. represents an affectionate bear trying to hug a figure 5 and at the same time trying to catch an equestrian, riding at full speed.

NEW ISSUES.

AZORES—The Portuguese cards surcharged "Azores," in black are now in use.

AUSTRIA—The army operating against Turkey, now uses war envelopes.

BARBADOES—A 1d provisional, is said to have been issued. It is half of the 5s stamp, divided lengthways by perforation, it is surcharged 1d and the original value is cut off.

BAVARIA—Mr. Moens says that there were only 6,000 of the 5pf. post card (numerals in four corners,) made and that only half of that number were issued, they were used for a short time before the 5 pf (Post horn in upper corner), came out.

Both the single and the double cards are now issued without any stamp impression.

BOLIVIA—A 5c blue has appeared.

FALKLAND ISLANDS—Stamps with head to left in oval, have been issued of two values, viz: 1 penny, claret; 6 pence, green.

GREAT BRITAIN—The following are being prepared.

1st 1d post card to take the place of the present 1½d, for all points in the postal union.

2d 1½d for all points not in the postal union.

GERMAN EMPIRE—A post card of 10pf. black on carmine, for all countries in the postal union is being prepared.

NICARAGUA—All the values are now rouletted.

PERSIA—The following have al-

ready appeared on current white cards.

1st card without surcharge or stamp.

2d card with red surcharge, 2½ in circle.

3d same as above, left half of 5sh stamp, and surcharged 2½ in red.

4th as above, except change to right and surcharged 2½ in red.

5th card with 2sh, and half of 1sh, stamp surcharged 2½, in blue.

If we set the surcharged varieties aside (as the *Collectors World* thinks they ought to be) there are but three cards to collect, viz: 1st Russian card used temporarily with Persian stamp.
2d The white Persian card.

3d The buff Persian card.

There are two distinct shades of the last.

The cause of there being so many varieties of cards is that the director of Tauris is also a postage stamp dealer.

SAMOA—Two more values 1 shilling; yellow; and 2 shillings, brown.

SWITZERLAND—The following is a correct list of the new issue of this country, 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, 100c, 500c, they are all blue on white.

UNITED STATES—Boyd's City Dispatch issued in June last a stamp representing Mercury running with a flag bearing the inscription "Boyd's Despatch," and beneath the address "1 Park Place." color, dark red; but finding that the black ink on that color did not look well, they lately changed it to pink.

CLUB RATES.

Any one sending us 4 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions will receive this Journal for one year and 25c cash, or 30c worth of stamps.

Any one sending us 12 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year, and 50c cash or 60c worth of stamps.

Specimen Copies sent for stamp.

The New York Philatelist.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

Devoted to the interests of Philately.

Subscription price, per annum, in advance.

In the U. S. and Canada, \$.25

In all Foreign Countries, .50

Address,

HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317, New York.

We are very much pleased to be able to greet our former patrons, and the Philatelic public in this new relation, and hope they will continue their patronage. In starting the New York Philatelist, we shall endeavor to conduct in as ably and to make it as pleasing as our space and talent will admit.

We hope to receive the patronage of collectors and dealers, in subscriptions and advertisements, and would call attention to this journal as an advertising medium, as it will have a circulation of about 500, which we hope to increase each month, and will be widely diffused, not only all over the United States, but also over Canada, Europe, etc.

Dealers in coins, cards, novelties, etc., will find this a fine medium, through which to communicate with their customers, and we feel confident that our advertisers will receive ample returns.

We shall be pleased to receive any interesting philatelic information, and all letters not containing a three cent stamp for reply, will be answered in our Letter-Box.

Our paper will contain an interesting Philatelic article; by some well known writer, the present number contains an article on United States Locals, by Mr. Frank A. Jones.

There will also be a description of new issues, illustrated by cuts; and we can assure our subscribers, that the prizes offered in the "Word Hunt" will be well worthy of any trouble they may take to obtain them.

We will end by asking other Journals not to judge us too harshly, as we are yet new in the business,

and must obey the old maxim; "Live and Learn."

If you receive this paper and are not a subscriber, it is a polite invitation to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of paper, or have no use for this one you will oblige us by giving it to some stamp collecting friend, and let him have the benefit of it.

EXCHANGES.

We desire to exchange with all other Philatelic Journals that will be sent regularly to our address.

WORD HUNT.

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest numbers of words spelled from

MONTENEGRO.

For the largest list, 25 cts worth of stamps, at our list prices, of the winner's selection.

For the second largest, 50 varieties, including 2 locals.

For the third largest, 25 varieties, including one local.

CONDITIONS—Only subscribers can compete, although persons may send the subscription price with their lists. No words, except those in the body of an English dictionary, will be accepted. No letter can be used twice in the same word, unless occurring twice in the original word. All lists must be arranged alphabetically, to secure attention and be in before January 15th.

A HINT TO EDITORS.

Mr. N. Thomas, has requested us to ask Editors not to insert his advertisement any more, without his order. He having requested the amateur public some 12 mo. ago to stop inserting it but it still went the rounds again he notified the public 4 mo's ago. We would say that if Editors, would get the sanction of advertisers before they inserted their advertisements they would have a great many less bad debts.

ADVERTISE.

1 Insertion.
Per line.....\$.10
Per inch..... .50
Per 1-2 column..... 1.20
Per column..... 2.00
6 insertions for the price of 5, Terms
CASH in advance.

ADDRESS,

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P. O. Box, 1317, New York.

In answering advertisements please
mention this Journal

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Frank A. Jones,

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48 PAGES.

Sent Post Paid for 10 Cents

Address Box 4232, N. Y. City.

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voices, taught music and
paid salaries according to ability.

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349 FOURTH AVENUE.

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900 Broadway, Cor. of 20th Street.

Illustrated Books.

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS.

THE
New-York Philatelist.

VOL. I.

New-York, January, 1879.

No. 2.

THE ORIGIN & PROGRESS
OF
POSTAGE STAMPS

By the Editor.

It is interesting to know the number of attempts that were made to establish the Postage Stamp system before that of Sir Rowland Hill, which was adopted by the British Parliament in 1837.

Almost the first country to issue stamped paper was China, where they claim that Taetsoo, in 950 A. D. established a very perfect postal system.

In 1653 during the reign of Louis XIV of France, M. De Valayer established a penny post. M. De Chamouset in 1758, under Louis XV, established a private Carrier Post, for the convenience of the metropolis and his own profit. He charged 2 Sols for a single letter of less than an ounce in weight, which was prepaid by stamps similar to those now in use. This was so successful, that the government took it away from him, giving him instead an annual pension of twenty thousand Francs.

In 1817 Spain used postage stamps. Italy seeing the gains of this system, issued stamped envelopes from 1819 to 1836. Lieut. Treffenberg of Stockholm next made an attempt-

to issue stamps in 1823, his plans received the support of Count de Scherwin, but were rejected by the Swedish Assembly.

The next attempt was successful, being that of Sir Rowland Hill.

The 1d. black of Great Britain came out on May 6th 1840. The reason that Sir Rowland Hill made his plan some say, was an incident that happened to him, which showed the roguery that could be practiced under the old system, while others say that it happened to Coleridge, the poet, who when a young man visited Lake District where it occurred. Among those who affirm the latter is the "Stamp Collector's Magazine" on whose authority we rely.

Mr. Hill having heard of this inserted it in his first pamphlet on postal reform.

Although Great Britain was the first to permanently issue Postage Stamps, the United States has issued a great many more than she, without counting the almost innumerable revenue stamps, including match, medicine, tobacco, beer, wine, cigar license, playing card and government issues, which are very interesting.

The United States has issued more Postage or Revenue stamps than any other country.

Although we doubt if Postal Cards should come under this head or

not, we think you will excuse us if we discuss them. They were first issued by Austria, who in fact invented them. The first of them bore the inscription, "The Post Office undertakes no Responsibility, for the contents of this communication." which shows that the post office expected that the new privilege, would be abused but experience did away with that idea.

There is an amusing but improbable story of a man who sent a postal card to a friend saying, that he had lost a number of dollars at such and such a place and would meet him there at a certain time, when they got there they found a large number of letter-carriers and other post office officials, in search of the money. Of course they did not find it, so the man and his friend enjoyed themselves greatly.

Nearly all civilized countries now issue Postal Cards, and all except a few unimportant places issue Postage stamps.

NEW ISSUES.

BELGIUM—Post cards without border, are now used by this country.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The 4ct. 1860 is now surcharged "official."

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—This colony now issues post cards, which have the usual inscription, with arms in centre, and a villainous copy of the one penny adhesive in the right upper corner; the whole is enclosed in a rect. frame, with the maker's name below.

CHINA—This country has at last issued postage stamps. Only two varieties have yet been issued, viz: 3 cand. red, 5 cand. yellow. There will probably be six more issued before long. They are fac-similes

of the first issues of Shanghai.

FRANCE—The 25 centimes of the current, black on red, has appeared.

NICARAGUA—Post cards, 2ct., brown on buff.

NORWAY—This country has added more values to its set, which have enlarged as follows: 25 ore, sea green; 60 ore, dark blue; 1 krona, green; 1 1-2 krona, blue; 2 krona, rose frame, brown centre.

The first two are of the current type, and the last three bear the head of King OSCAR II. as the principal device.

ORANGE STATES—A 4 pence, blue, same design as regular issue, has appeared.

PERSIA—A 2 Shapi, blue, has been added to the set.

TRANSVAAL—Surcharge 3 pence, lilac.

UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA—Antioquia—Two new values from this state, viz 2 1-2 and 5 centavos. The design of the first is condor in circle, holding in its claws a scroll, which appears to be inscribed with the national motto, but the LIBERTAD is very indistinct. This is surrounded by a circular band, inscribed, E. S. DE ANTIQUA above. EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA, numeral of value at side, in straight lines above CORREOS, below value. It is badly printed in dirty blue ink. The 5 cent. is very similar in appearance to the 10 cent. U. S. of Columbia, having the same head on solid ground in centre, E. S. DE ANTIQUA above, EE. UU. COLUMBIA below, numerals of value in angles, COERREOS in straight line above, value below, 5 centavos, dull green.

Club Rates.

Any one sending us 4 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c cash, or 30c worth of stamps.

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P. O. Box 1317 New-York.

**PHILATELIC
BREVITIES.**

The receipts from the sale of Postage Stamps in the General Post Office for the week ending Dec 21. were \$ 59,500.

Postmaster James of New York, received from the Post Office Department, Dec. 21, a copy of a letter addressed by the post master general to a lawyer in this City, decided that matter produced by the Type-writer Papyrograph and Electric Pen shall be subject to letter rates of postage.

If you receive this Journal, and are not a subscriber, it is sent you as a polite hint to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of this Journal, and have no further use for this one you will oblige us by giving it to some Stamp Collecting friend, and let him have the benefit of it.

In Subscribing please state what number you want your Subscription to commence with.

We desire to Exchange with all other Philatelic Journals that will be sent regularly to our address.

Mr. Henry Wells founder of Wells Fargo & Co., is dead in Scotland.

We want an Agent in your vicinity to solicit subscriptions and advertisements.

Send Stamp for terms.

Word Hunt.

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest number of words, spelt from

GUATEMALA

For the largest list, 20c cash or 25c worth of stamps, at our list prices of the winners selection.

For the second largest, 50 varieties of stamps including 2 locals.

For the third largest 25 varieties of stamps including 1 local.

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15th 1879,

Funnygraphs

A Miss Tanner, who recently married a widower named Hyde; with eleven children, says she has given up tanning and is now dressing Hydes.

A Minnesota father, who has five grown-up daughters, has sued the county. He claims that the residence has been used as a court-house for the past two years.

What is the difference between the highest unit and a beautiful quadroon girl?

One is a fine nigger and the other a fine figure. What is the difference between a successful lover and his rival? The one kisses the miss, the other misses the kiss.

A Father in consoling his daughter, who had lost her husband said: "I don't wonder you grieve for him my child; you will never find his equal," "I don't know as I can," responded the sobbing widow, "but I'll do my best."

The New York Philatelist.

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| | 1 Insertion. |
| Per line..... | \$.10 |
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P. O. Box 1317. New York.

In answering advertisements please
mention this Journal.

Efficiency of Post Office Clerks.

The quarterly examination of the assorters and window clerks employed in the General Post Office was concluded on Dec. 16th. Its results show that some of the competitors have wonderfully retentive memories. There are 5,751 boxes in the Post Office, into which letters addressed to 30,000 persons must be put by the assorters.

There are 33 assorters, who are divided into three classes. In the first there are 10, each receiving \$1,400 per annum; in the second 15, each receiving \$1,200 per annum, and in the third 8, each receiving \$1,020 per annum. Each assorter must remember the location of 1,900 boxes in his division, and the names of the 10,000 persons whose letters ought to go into them.

In the examination just ended, C. B. Page, an assorter of the first class, distributed, without an error, cards bearing the names of all the persons whose letters enter his division; Robert Miller made only a single error, and Frank Masterton was charged with but two errors.

The average time of distribution is 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Page's time was 55 minutes; Miller's 40 minutes, and Masterton's, 1 hour.

The three assorters named retain their places at the head of the first class. Some of the first grade assorters are confident that they can distribute 30,000 tickets among the 5,751 boxes without an error.

N. Y. TIMES.

STROUGH & TAYLOR.

Lock Box, 27 Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Importers of and Dealers in U. S. and Foreign Postage & Revenue Stamps.

Publishers of the "Little Spectator," a monthly Amateur Philatelic paper. The Jan. number will contain 10 pages of reading matter, including Stamp Dept., Prize Word Hunt, in which \$5.00 worth of Prizes will be given, and other great attractions, will be sent for Stamp. Sub price 15c per year, or abroad 25c. per year.

Every Subscriber sending 3c. extra to pay postage will receive a Rare Stamp Catalogued at 25c. Specimen copy free

Our Specialty is the Sheet on approval dept. Agents wanted everywhere. Commission from 25 to 50 per ct. Collections bought for Cash. All kinds of Stamps Bought, Sold & Exchanged.

The Manhattan
PRINTING & DESIGNING CO.
860 Broadway,
NEW-YORK.

SOMERS,

Merchant Tailor,
860 Broadway,
Cor. 17th St., NEW-YORK
\$10. English Trousers.

Old & New Books, & Engravings bought
at the cheap Book Store,
139 8th ST., N. Y.

PRIZES! To purchasers, selling out CHEAP, for cash a collection to the largest purchaser,

FREE! Stamps given away. CHEAPEST dealers in U. S. Star Stamp Co. Boston Mass.

50 per ct. Discount on Stamps to Agents, 10 years established Stamps furnished at half dealers prices.

S. B. Samples & Rates of Amateur Papers wanted.

All who Collect

STAMPS

Will save money by sending for circulars to, L. W. DURBIN, FIFTH & LIBRARY STREETS, PHILA. PA. Albums 25cts. to \$10. Illustrated catalogues 25cts. packets 5cts. to \$10.00. Portraits of Rulers, 50cts. etc.

New-York Philatelist.

VOL. I.

New-York, February, 1879.

No. 3.

WELLS, FARGO & CO'S

PONY EXPRESS.

—:0:—

In the "American Statutes at Large," dated March 2nd, 1861, the following passage occurs: "The Postmaster General is directed to run a pony express, from New-York to San Francisco, in ten days for eight months, and twelve days for four months, carrying for the Government free of charge, 5lbs. of mail matter, with the privilege of issuing postage stamps, and charging the public, one dollar per half ounce letter; the contractors shall receive £20,000 per annum and the contract expire July 1st, 1864."

On receipt of this authority from the Government, the line was formed by two companies, viz: Wells, Fargo & Co. and the Pioneer Stage Co.

By the provisions of the legislature, the contractors were to run a daily express from St. Louis to San Francisco for the Government service, with a stage coach service three times a week, carrying twelve passengers and newspaper matter.

The Pony Express rider was generally a small man, brim full of spirit and endurance. No matter when his watch came, what kind of weather it was, or whether his beat was a straight, level road or a crazy trail, he had to ride his forty miles without stopping.

He rode a splendid horse, that was born for a racer, and kept him at his utmost speed for ten miles, and then changed horses "in less than no time."

The rider's dress was thin and fitted

closely; he wore a "roundabout" and "skull cap" and tucked his pantaloons into the top of his boots, like a race rider.

He carried no arms, nor anything that was not absolutely necessary, for even the postage on his literary freight was \$2.00 an ounce. He had but little frivolous correspondence to carry, his bag had business letters in it mostly.

His horse also, was stripped of all unnecessary weight. He wore light shoes or none at all.

The flat mail pockets, strapped under the rider's thighs, would hold about the bulk of a child's primer.

The stage-coach travelled about a hundred to a hundred and twenty five miles a day (twenty four hours.); the pony rider about two hundred and fifty.

There were about eighty pony riders in the saddle all the time, night and day, stretching in a long scattered procession, from Missouri to California. Forty of them flying eastward and forty toward the west, and among them, making four hundred gallant horses, earn a stirring livelihood, and see a good deal of scenery every single day of the year.

Wells, Fargo & Co. had a reputation that would do any Post Office good; for they very seldom lost a letter, and would send a man thirty or forty miles, to deliver one to the person to whom it was addressed.

Henry Wells, founder of Wells, Fargo & Co., died this winter.

NEW ISSUES.

ARGENTINE—A newspaper wrapper, 1 centavo, carmine, has appeared.

CASHMERE—A half anna, blue, of the new type, is in use.

CUBA—The 1879 issue is out. It consists of 12 1-2 c. de P. deep rose; 25c. de P. blue; 50c. de P. lilac; 1 P. brown. They are of the same design as the 1878 issue.

LUXEMBURG—Le Timbre Post mentions two varieties of a new 5 centimes card. One has "Postkarte" with a long and the other with a short S.

MEXICO—A new set of Porte de Mar stamps has been emitted.

NIZAM—Le Timbre Post mentions the existence of an envelope, bearing a stamp, for the use of the State of Nizam, in Decan. The value is 1-2 anna, red.

PARAGUAY—The 2 reals, blue, and the 3 reals, black, are now surcharged 5 in black.

QUEENSLAND—Le Timbre Post announces a new issue, engraved by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons of London.

SAMOA—A five shillings green has been added to the series.

TRANSVAAL—A new issue from this country. Thus far, we have seen but two values, viz: 1 penny, brown, and 4 pence, green.

URUGUAY—Both single and double cards are issued by this republic. The single card is blue and black on white and of the value of two centavos. The double card is simply two single ones, with the words "Contestacion Paga" added and printed black and carmine.

UNITED STATES—Boyd's City Despatch has issued yet another stamp. It is of the same design as their last, only it is printed in black, on envelopes of various sizes and colors. We have a novel Post Card (if it may be called such.) On the front is "Special Postal Card" and a place for a stamp; on the back an advertisement. The one we have is printed with red ink.

WHAT THE POST OFFICE CLERKS DECIPHER.

From the Concord (N. H.) Monitor, Dec. 31.

A Post Office official hands us the following list of directions on letters, which illustrates what the railroad clerks have to wrestle with in the performance of their duties:

Enicuir, N. H.—Henniker, N. H.
 Celam, Mass.—Salem, Mass.
 Woisse Raindoffe, Kermointe.—West Randolph, Vt.
 Ouseti, New Amehir.—Hooksett, N. H.
 Postdume, C. N. Y.—Potsdam, N. Y.
 Les Tins Rivires, Mass., U. S.—Three Rivers, Mass.
 Lidiolonne Tille, Tement.—Lyndonville Vt.
 Nard Broy fill, Massachuset.—Supposed to be North Brookfield, Mass.

Club Rates.

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Any one sending us 8 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c cash, or 30c worth of stamps.

Any one sending us 12 subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one year and 50c cash, or 60c worth of stamps.

Specimen Copies sent on receipt of stamp.

STAMP DIRECTORY.

Thanks to Mr. E. F. Gambs for a copy of his directory. It is a very neat little book containing the name and address of about 200 United States and Canadian dealers.

It is well worth the price, which is 15cts. It can be obtained of E. F. Gambs, 621 South 5th St., St. Louis Mo.

OPERA GLASSES.

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In all Foreign Countries, 50

Address:

HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317 New-York.

Philatelic Brevities.

—:0:—

The receipts from all sources, at the Brooklyn Post Office, during the month of December, were \$ 41,631.02.

—:0:—

The average daily number of packages, sent out from the New-York Post Office, under the third class matter registry system. It is said that the express companies are beginning to feel the effect of this competition.

—:0:—

The receipts for the postage stamps at the New-York Post Office, during the week ending January 18th, were \$ 57,700 and during the week ending January 25 \$ 57,100.

—:0:—

The outgoing European steamers from this port, carried out January 18th 44,026 letters and 71 bags of newspapers; and on January 25th, 57,000 letters and 95 bags of newspapers.

If you receive this Journal, and are not a subscriber, it is sent you as a polite hint to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of this Journal, and have no further use for this one you will oblige us by giving it to some Stamp Collecting friend, and let him have the benefit of it.

In Subscribing please state what number you want your subscription to commence with.

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—o—

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—VENEZUELA.—

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For the third largest 25 varieties of stamps including 1 local.

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No Prefixes nor Affixes allowed.

All lists must be arranged alphabetically to secure attention, and be sent in before March 15th '79

WINNERS of the PRIZE for December.

1st prize—J. W. Dowling Jr., New York, 121 Words.

2nd prize—Rupert Sargent, New York 111 Words.

3rd prize—S. B. Hinckley Jr., Boston Mass. 110 Words.

Auction Sale!

On the 27th ult. a collection of about 4000 stamps, the property of, C. S. Withington was sold at auction at Clinton Hall Book Sales Room and Art Galleries. The total amt. of the sale was about \$740.00 there were 463 lots making an average of \$1.60 a lot, and 20cts. per stamp. The highest any stamp brought was \$10.50 the next \$10 both were sold to Mr. Brown.

The New York Philatelist, ADVERTISING RATES.

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HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317. New York.

In answering advertisements please
mention this Journal.

POSTMASTERS' STAMP COMMISSIONS.

:o:

WASHINGTON, JAN. 3.—The Post Office Department is realizing the beneficial effects anticipated from the law which went into effect on the 1st of July last, changing the mode of compensating Postmasters at fourth-class offices by allowing them commissions on stamps canceled on letters mailed, instead of on the amount of stamps sold. The returns for the quarter ended Sept. 30 have just been adjusted, and show that the total amount of stamps sold during the quarter was \$6,407,972, and the pay of the Postmasters \$1,721,341, or 26.8 per cent. of the postal revenue from stamps. During the quarter ending June 30, it required 30.3 per cent. of the stamps sold to pay Postmasters. From these figures it appears that the new system saves to the postal revenue 3.5 per cent. of all the stamps sold and that the saving at this rate during the quarter ended Sept. 30 was \$224,279; or at the rate of \$897,116 per annum. The amount of stamps sold during the quarter ended July 1 was \$381,745 in excess of the amount sold during the succeeding quarter. This excess is accounted for by the fact that advantage was taken of the expiring moments of the old law to secure the large premium it offered on the sale of stamps. A result of the old system was to leave in private hands a large accumulation of stamps, often obtained at a discount, and through traffic and speculation, and as these stamps will now be used in paying postages, the postal revenues will be likely to suffer for some time to come. This is indicated by the diminished sales for the first quarter after the expiration of the old law.

N. Y. Times.

Your attention is respectfully invited to a selected assortment of general

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executed in style and finish second to none. Special attention being given to Invitations for WEDDINGS and RECEPTIONS. Designs furnished for MONOGRAMS, &c.

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| Boyd's deep red Mercury, | - | .15cts. |
| " " pink | " | .10 " |
| " black envelope, | " | .12 " |

All other Local & Foreign stamps cheap.

Address:

Harry C. Jones,

P. O. Box 1317, New-York.

SOMERS,

Merchant Tailor,

360 Broadway,
NEW-YORK

Cor. 17th St.,

\$10. English Trowsers.

To Stamp Collectors.

We offer for February, 10 var. Sardinia for 10cts. 4 var. Danube Steam Navigation Co. 20cts. 3 var. Argentine 10cts. 6 var. Bremen only 30cts. 6 var Brazil 1ct.

Address:

Frank H. Best & Co.
Toronto Ont.

Berlin & Jones,

Envelope Co.,

134 & 136 William St., N. Y.

Postage Stamps.

Shells, Minerals, Fossils, Corals, Old China, Porcelains, Curiosities, Rare old Books, Oil Paintings and Rare Engravings, For Sale by W. COOKE, 141 8th St., opp. Mercantile Library, New York.

THE MONTHLY AMERICAN is a large, eight page paper. Subscription price, 50 cents per annum. Address:

388 Fifth Ave., New-York.



New-York Philatelist.

Vol. I.

New-York, March, 1879.

No. 4.

The Collecting of Varieties of the Same Stamp.

—:0:—

In regard to this subject, we will first review the ways in which these varieties are made :

1st. By the difference in perforation.

2nd. By the mixing of the ink and the quantity of it on the die when used.

3rd. By the wearing out of the die.

4th. By discoloration with acids ; and sometimes mere water will change the color.

5th. By the color, quality, and watermark of the paper on which they are.

In the first : a stamp can hardly be called unperforated, unless you have an unseparated pair ; for stamps are often irregularly perforated, making it very easy to cut the perforation off, and make them appear unperforated.

In the second : stamps are often so different in shade, that one would hardly think that they were intended to be the same. This difference is caused by the mixing of the ink, as said before.

In the third : the wearing out

of the die often produces distinct varieties ; as in our 3 cents, 1853 envelope, there being five varieties of the same die.

In the fourth : the discoloration with acids is sometimes practiced by disreputable dealers. It is a simple thing to do. Our present 3 cents green, when soaked in certain kinds of acids, turns blue. All stamps will not stand being soaked in water.

Russian and some others are printed in water colors, and therefore their color comes out if soaked.

In the fifth : there are a great many varieties of paper ; caused both by color and quality, and these, together with the water marks and other differences, are really unlike, although places are not left for them in printed albums. There are also varieties in envelope stamps, caused by the different sized envelopes, their shapes, and the water marks on them.

All the varieties that we have mentioned, do not include those that are a little different in design. For there are many stamps almost the same, but a little different in design, so little however, that it would not be noticed by the unobservant collector.

We will now end by adding, that we would not advise collectors to collect all these varieties while

they used a printed album, as they would have to make their album look anything but neat, to put their stamps in without places, and especially to avoid discolorations.

It is best to collect in a large blank book, if you want to collect all the varieties, as you would soon have certain parts of your printed book over-run.

NEW ISSUES.

CYPRUS—This newly acquired English possession, now has stamps of its own, values: 10 paras, rose; 20 paras, yellow; 50 paras, blue.

FALKLAND ISLANDS—1 shilling, brown, of same design as current issue.

FIJI ISLANDS—All the values, [1, 4 and 6 pence,] now come on laid paper.

ITALY—The 10 cent cards, brown on buff, bearing the engraved bust of the late King, now come on white.

INDIA—5 anna, black, on yellow, and blue-green envelopes, are now in use. They are of a very peculiar design.

MEXICO—The following is a list of the new Porte de Mar stamps, according to the Philatelic Monthly. 2 centimes, brown; 5 centimes, yellow; 10 centimes, red; 25 centimes, blue; 50 centimes, green; 100 centimes, violet.

ORANGE FREE STATES—5 shillings, green, is in use.

PHILIPPINES—Le Timbre Post, gives the following full list, of unperforated varieties. 2 c. de p. blue; 10 c. de p. blue; 12 c. de p. lilac; 25 c. de p. green; 0625 m. de p. lilac; 25 m de p. black; 50 m. de p. lilac; 200 m. de p. pale rose.

ROMANIA—50 boni, rose, on laid paper, has appeared.

SWITZERLAND—Another unpaid letter stamp, value, 1 franc, blue.

TOLIMA—5 peso, brown on white, unperforated.

UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA—The color of the 10 cent, has been changed to brown-violet.

BOOK REVIEW.

We have received Horner's U. S. Envs., and think that Philately ought to congratulate itself on having such an addition to its ranks. Every one should have it.

EXCHANGES.

We exchange with the following papers. The amount at the side of the name, is their annual subscription rates.

THE COLLECTOR'S WORLD.
P. O. Box, 3619. New-York 25 cts.

THE PHILATELIC MONTHLY.
S. E. cor. 5th & Library Sts., Phila. Pa. 25 cts.

ST. LOUIS PHILATELIST.
621 S. 5th St. St. Louis, Mo. Gratis.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S REVIEW.
Box 34, Davenport, Iowa. Gratis.

HANDFORD'S QUARTERLY CIRCULAR
195 Wooster St., New-York. Gratis.

THE LITTLE SPECTATOR.
Lock Box 27, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. 15 cts.

THE EASTERN BOY'S COMPANION.
Box 101, Gorham, Me.

THE MONTHLY AMERICAN.
388 5th Ave., New-York. 50 cts.

THE PHONOGRAPH.
Lewiston, Me. 25 cts.

THE PINE TREE CHIP.
West Waterville, Me. 25 cts.

Club Rates.

Any one sending us 4 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c cash, or 30c worth of stamps.

Any one sending us 12 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 50c cash, or 60c worth of stamps.

Specimen Copies sent on receipt of stamp.

The New-York Philatelist.

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Address :

HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317 New-York.

**A MILLION POSTAGE
STAMPS.***From the New Haven Journal, Feb. 17.*

Some time since a Philadelphia gentleman, offered an old lady, the sum of \$ 200 if she would obtain for him 1,000,000 canceled stamps, the money to be used in securing for her a life residence in a Home for the Friendless. Miss Chloe Lankton, of New-Hartford, Conn., became deeply interested in the measure, and on Oct. 10th 1878, began to assist the lady in making her collection. Others assisted Miss Lankton, packages of stamps being sent her from New-Haven, Hartford, Boston and points as far away as Dubuque, Iowa. Among the liberal donors, are Mrs. Lucy A. Case, of New-Haven, who gave Miss Lankton 220 stamps, some of them of the first issue, all cut from her box of neatly packed letters. Aurelia E. Case, of New-Haven, contributed 144 stamps to the collection. The million stamps have been collected and the good work accomplished, as the following letter from Philadelphia under date of Feb. 3rd will show :

My Dear Miss Lankton :

I send you word that the million stamps have been collected, and \$ 300 paid for them ; a nice outfit given the old lady, who is now rejoicing in her comfortable home, the Methodist House. I know you are pleased to have been able to contribute so largely toward the fund.

Yours respectfully,

Miss E. S. FARR.

Word Hunt.

—o—

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest number of words, spelt from

—MOZAMBIQUE.—

For the largest, 25c worth of stamps, at our list prices of the winners selection.

For the second largest, 50 varieties of stamps including 2 locals.

For the third largest, 25 varieties of stamps including 1 local.

CONDITIONS:—Only subscribers can compete, although persons may send the subscription price with their lists. No words except those in the body of the English Dictionary will be accepted. No letter can be used twice in the same word, unless occurring twice in the original word. No Prefixes nor Affixes allowed.

All lists must be arranged alphabetically to secure attention, and be sent in before April 15th '79

**Winners
of
Prizes for January.**1st Prize—J. W. DOWLING JR., N. Y.
111 words.2nd Prize—S. B. HINCKLEY JR., Boston,
Mass. 104 words.3rd Prize—FRANK A. JONES, New-York,
95 words.

If you receive this Journal, and are not a subscriber, it is sent you as a polite hint to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of this Journal, or have no further use for this one, you will oblige us by giving it to some stamp collecting friend and let him have the benefit of it.

In Subscribing, please state what number you want your subscription to commence with.

We desire to Exchange with all other Philatelic Journals that will be sent regularly to our address.

We want an Agent in your vicinity, to solicit subscriptions and advertisements.

Send stamp for terms.

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HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317. New York.

In answering advertisements please mention this Journal.

Wanted U. S. stamps, in large and small quantities; also, Canadian and other Foreign stamps. Address: Frank A. Jones, care, N. Y. P. P. O. Box, 1317 New-York.

FUNNYGRAPHS.

—A fellow who had been hooked by an unruly cow, limped in his gait. A lady remarked that the man appeared to be intoxicated. "Yes," replied her beau, "the fellow has been taking a couple of horns."

—An Amherst college student was once driving with a rather loving young lady, who remarked, as she nestled up to him, that nobody loved her. "Oh, yes, there is somebody who loves you," said he. Thereupon she nestled still closer, and looking into his face said, "No, nobody loves me." "Yes," said he. "God loves you." An awkward silence followed.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Post Office authorities will withdraw the discount on stamps from regular agents, after this month, the undersigned will continue the sale of STAMPS to his customers as heretofore, at

349 4th Ave. (East Side,)



Bet. 25th & 26th Sts.

Observe the Sign at the Door.

Your attention is especially called to his varied stock of stationery, &c., &c. which he is still offering at a greater reduction than heretofore.

PRINTING and ENGRAVING executed at the lowest rates and in the most satisfactory manner.

Richard W. Turner,

349 Fourth Avenue,

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FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

125 varieties including Portugal, Sardinia, West Australia, Brazil, Japan, etc., price 30cts. Stamp dealers directory containing over 500 addresses of all the World. Price only 25cts address

G. H. Fabian & Co., 101 8th St., N. Y.

SOMERS,

Merchant Tailor,
360 Broadway,
Cor. 17th St., NEW-YORK
\$10. English Trowsers.

To Stamp Collectors.

We offer for March, 10 var. Sardinia for 10cts. 4 var. Danube Steam Navigation Co. 20cts. 3 var. Argentine 10cts. 6 var. Bremen only 30cts. 6 var Brazil 10cts.

Address :

Frank H. Best & Co.

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H. HALDSTEIN OPTICIAN

41 TINTON SQUARE, NEW-YORK

RECEIVED THE PRIZE MEDAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE



Q. Q. Philatelist.

Vol. I.

New-York, April, 1879.

No. 5.

ANCIENT LETTERS & POSTING.

BY WM. FRUITNIGHT.

All over the world the nations are in possession of systems of communication whose perfection seems almost marvelous. By the telegraph and by the mails, the harmonious and discordant elements of people's and individual's characters are made manifest. By the electric wire, the lightning flashes, so to speak, of civilization, discovery, invention, and a thousand other agencies, are conveyed to the minds and hearts of men. By the letter the more intricate and detailed accounts of governmental and financial transactions, the more finished and thorough mental products, the joyful and tearful, congratulatory and hateful, expressions of individual life, are portrayed with a vivid accuracy, that the telegraph is not intended or adapted for. And it is this latter means of communication that we will bestow our attention upon. Not the postal system and letters of the present day, for they are perfectly well known but those of times previous to these. For it is one of the pleasantest things in a man's life, when he has reached a position of social, mental, and pecuniary prominence, to look back over bygone days, to review his successes and his mishaps the rough and ragged pathway along which he toiled.

As far as my knowledge goes, no absolutely certain date of the beginnings of posting exists. And to digress for a moment, it is on account of the great meagreness of facts that this account must necessarily be very general.

The first glimmerings that we have of anything resembling a system of communication was a line of couriers somewhat similar to our own western "pony express." These horsemen were stationed at intervals of one hundred miles along the principal roads of ancient Persia. This crude method of communication was instituted by the

son of Hytaspes, Darius I [521-485 B. C.], whose conquest by Alexander is so familiar.

Leaving the far East now, let us direct our attention to Rome. And before speaking of its system of communication, it will perhaps be but proper to have an idea of the form and shape of a Roman letter, in short, Roman writing materials.

Letters were written not on paper or parchment as in subsequent times, but on sheets of wax spread over boards of wood, ivory or metal. Two or more of these were hinged together and folded like a book. But in order that the writing might not be erased by the contact of the waxen surface the boards were surrounded by raised margins. Modern pens and pencils would have been useless to write a letter on such material. Consequently we find an instrument employed adapted to these "tabelæ," as they were termed. This instrument, called a "stilus," was a cylindrical bar of ivory or metal, of about the length and diameter of a goose-quill. One extremity, that used for writing was pointed, the other was flattened and was used in erasing.

And not only in the earliest ages were they employed, but waxen tablets continued to be used in Europe, for the purpose of writing, in the Middle Ages, but the latest of these with which we are acquainted belongs to the year 1301 A. D., and is preserved in the museum at Florence, Italy.

Letters or "tabelæ" were thus written, and when finished were firmly secured by being bound together with pack thread, and sealed with wax. Accordingly we read in Plantus, a great Latin writer who flourished in the 2nd century B. C. when a letter is to be written, "Effer cito stilum, ceram, et tabellas, et linum," which means in English, "Bring forth the stilus, wax, tablets, and the cord." Now as to the despatching and delivery of the "tabelæ." Post Office there was none, letter-carriers were not in existence. But in order to commu-

nicate with your distant friend at Athens, Corinth, or Alexandria, you must select a trusty slave, or intrust your letter to a departing friend. And thus matters stood for centuries. It was not until Augustus' day that carriers are to be met with, and then they had the same character as Darius' couriers, being stationed only along the magnificent roads that lead to and from Rome, and being restricted to governmental and imperial use.

—[o]—
NEW ISSUES.

BAVARIA—The color of the 5 ph. stamp has been changed to violet, and that of the 50 ph. to brown. The color of the 5 ph. card has also been changed to violet.

DENMARK—The 4 ore card has been reduced in size, and the inscription changed to **BREV-KORT**.

EGYPT—The 2½ piastres violet has been surcharged 5 and 10 paras. The numeral being in the center, with **PARAS** on one side, and its equivalent in oriental language on the other.

FIJI ISLANDS—A 3 d. green surcharged **TWO PENCE** has been substituted for the **Cacaban** stamps, the supply of which is exhausted.

GUADALUPE—An unstamped card printed in black, or yellowish grey is in use.

NATAL—Another variety of surcharge. **POSTAGE** in centre, value, 1 shilling, green and carmine.

NORWAY—*Christiansund*—A new local post has been established at *Christiansund*. It has so far issued but two values, viz: 4 ore blue on white; 7 ore solferino on white. The first was but a provincial, and was printed in black on rose colored paper; the second is lithographed and perforated 13. *Drontheim*—A new issue smaller than the former, but of the same design, is out. They are lithographed and perforated 12. Values 2 ore, blue; 4 ore, red and orange; 8 ore, green and yellow.

PORTO RICO—*A. Smith & Co's Monthly Circular* gives the following values of the new 1879 issue, which is similar in design to the 1878: 5 cent

de peseta, deep red; 10 cent de peseta, grey-brown; 15 cent de peseta, black; 25 cent de peseta, bright blue; 50 cent de peseta, green; 1 Peseta, grey.

PORTUGAL—Two envelopes of the type of current adhesives printed on thin, pale buff, unglazed paper are now in use, viz: 25 reis, pale blue on buff; 50 reis, red on buff.

WENDEN—The 2 k. stamp has been slightly altered. It now has the value in full at the bottom.

—[o]—
EXCHANGES.

Since our last went to press we have received the following papers. Sub. price same as before.

A. Smith & Co's Monthly Circular,
7 Bath St., Bath, England. 1 shilling.
Anzeiger der Wienerillustrirten Brief-
marken Zeitung.

1 Aldergrasse 2, Vienna, Austria. 80c.
L'ami des Timbres.

31 Passage du Havre, Paris, France.
3 francs.

L'ami du Collectionneur.
Via Stellata 4, Rome, Italy. 80c.
Deutscher Briefmarken Zeitung Union.
Palais Guttenbourg, Dresden, Saxony.
75c.

The Southern Philatelist,
P. O. Box 519, Galveston, Texas.

Trifits Monthly Circular,
61 Court St., Boston Mass.

The Stamp Journal,
P. O. Box 1698, New York.

The Michigan Philatelist,
77 Macomb St., Detroit, Mich.

The Pastime,
90 Frelinghuysen Av., Newark, N. J.

—[o]—
Club Rates.

Any one sending us 4 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c cash, or 30 cents worth of stamps.

Any one sending us 12 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 50c cash, or 60 cents worth of stamps.

Specimen copies sent on receipt of stamp.

The New York Philatelist.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

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In all Foreign Countries, .50

Advertising rates—see last page.

Address,

HARRY C. JONES,

P. O. Box 1317, New York.

PASTIME PRINT, NEWARK, N. J.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Not long ago we saw an article in the New York Times, the substance of which was that after May 1st sample copies of publications could be sent by their publishers, for two cents per pound [without regard to time of publication] to persons whom they wished to subscribe for or advertise in their publication, to agents, to persons desiring to become agents or whom the publisher wishes to induce to act as agents, to be used by them in procuring subscribers and advertisers. On seeing this we went down to the Post Office to enquire about it and found that it was as above. And also that the reason that the Post Office Department allowed it was on account of the increased circulation naturally resulting therefrom. If the Postmaster has reason to believe that the publisher has sent copies in this way to persons for such persons benefit and not that of their publication, he has the right to retain the suspected matter notifying the publisher at once of his action, and reporting the facts to the Postmaster General. If such third class matter should by inadvertence reach its destination the Postmaster at the office of destination must collect postage due thereon as prescribed by law.

Now this is what we call a step in the right direction for it enables publishers to send any number of copies of any number of different editions to persons not subscribers for less than monthly papers have hitherto had to pay to send to subscribers, and thus many a paper has woodbined that

would have been in a flourishing condition had this regulation been passed before, and also it will save a great many more from doing the same, and will be a blessing to their publishers.

We would simply finish by saying that publishers ought to be thankful for the new regulation.

—[o]—

Dealers, now is your time to advertise. Our next will be sent to nearly every dealer in the United States and Canada, besides a great many foreign ones. Send at once to secure space as it goes to press on the 30th inst. No attention paid to advertisements not accompanied by cash.

—[o]—

We have received the Bulletin of the Wytheville Philatelic Association, and a very neat little work. It contains the Organization, Constitution and By-Laws of the association, and a list of the 15 books in its library.

—[o]—

WORD HUNT.

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest number of words, spelt from HELIGOLAND.

For the largest, 25c worth of stamps, at our list prices of the winners selection.

For the second largest, 50 varieties of stamps including 2 locals.

For the third largest, 25 varieties of stamps including 1 local.

CONDITIONS:—Only subscribers can compete, although persons may send the subscription price with their lists. No words except those in the body of the English Dictionary will be accepted. No letter can be used twice in same word, unless occurring twice in the original word. No Prefixes nor Affixes allowed.

All lists must be arranged alphabetically to secure attention, and be sent in before May 15th '79.

—[o]—

Winners of prizes for February.

1st Prize—J. W. Dowling, Jr., New York, 48 words.

2nd Prize—Frank A. Jones, New York, 44 words.

3rd Prize—Henry L. Gilbert, Gilbertville N. Y., 27 words.

The New York Philatelist.

Advertising Rates.

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| | 1 insertion. |
| Per line..... | \$.10 |
| “ inch..... | .50 |
| “ 1-2 column..... | 1.20 |
| “ column..... | 2.00 |

6 insertions for the price of 5. Terms
CASH in advance.

Address,

HARRY C. JONES,
P. O. Box 1317, New York.

In answering advertisements please
mention this journal.

Postal Points.

Recent Rulings of the Post Office Department.

Pocket Knives are unmailable.

It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive mail matter properly prepaid and enclosed in U. S. stamped envelopes, when one mile or more from a Post Office.

A mark calling attention to some particular paragraph in a newspaper does not subject it to additional postage.

Crayon drawings are subject to letter rates of postage, the same as any other mail produced by pen or pencil.

The postal laws prohibit the exchange of postage stamps of one denomination for those of other denominations.

Some part of a publication must be printed in the county wherein the claimed office of publication is located, to enable the same to be sent free to subscribers residing in said county.

There is no law excluding postal cards from the mails because of notices of indebtedness being printed or written thereon, but no indecent language, terms or epithets will be allowed in such notices.

All letters having one full-rate prepaid must be forwarded. Second and third class matter must be fully prepaid.

BURNTON'S

92 and 432 Fourth Ave., N. Y.,

STATIONARY, MUSIC,
BOOKS, TOYS,

And miscellaneous goods in very
large variety.

A full assortment of Patent Medicines.

*Card Printing and Engraving,
Book Binding and Job Printing,*
of every description.

Our prices are the least possible advance over cost.

Postage Stamps and Cards.

BURNTON'S, 92 Fourth Ave., opposite 11th St., and 432 Fourth Ave., near 30th St., N. Y.

FELL & SOMERS,

MERCHANT TAILORS,

35 Union Square, New York.

POPULAR PRICES.

To Stamp Collectors.

We offer for April, 10 var. Sardinia for 10c., 4 var. Danube Steam Navigation Co. 20c. 3 var. Argentine 10c. 6 var. Bremen only 30c. 6 var. Brazil 10c.

Address,

Frank H. Best & Co., Toronto, Ont.

The Largest and Best Assortment of Stamps in the Country.

Illustrated catalogues and everything required by stamp collectors at the very lowest prices. Packets 5 cents to \$10.00. Many varieties in stock for advanced collectors. Circulars free.

L. W. DURBIN,

FIFTH AND LIBRARY STS., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE OMNIBUS CLUB!

The Southern Philatelist,

P. O. Box 510, Galveston, Texas.

A live monthly paper devoted to collectors in general. Subscription 25 c-nts per year. Send postal for Specimen.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

A Foreign Post Card given to every one who subscribes for this paper between now and May 10th. Subscribe at once.

“The Monthly American” is a large 4 page, 20 column paper. Subscription price per annum, 50 cents.

Address,

The Monthly American,
388 Fifth Ave., New York.



THE

New-York Philatelist.

Vol. I.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1879.

No. 6.

LETTER POSTAGE.

A daily paper, of a recent date, published an item concerning a law-suit which was carried on by the United States Government to defend the action of a Syracuse Postmaster who refused to deliver a newspaper without the payment of letter postage. The case occurred during the administration of Col. William W. Teall as Postmaster of that city, under President Polk, and under a law of Congress subjecting newspapers passing through the mails with writing on them to letter postage. A circular from the Hon. Cave Johnson, of Kentucky, then Postmaster-General, enjoined upon all postmasters a rigid observance of that law, and a prompt compliance with the requirements of his circular on that subject. It was in the discharge of this duty by Col. Teall, and while enforcing "official" instructions from the department at Washington, that the suit against him was commenced. A paper addressed to Miss Felton, a niece of the late Charles T. Hicks, then, or subsequently, Clerk of the County of Onondaga, came to the office, and having writing on it, was subjected to letter postage, which Mr. Hicks demanded to pay. Col. Teall, therefore, instructed his deputy not to deliver the paper. Mr. Hicks subsequently tendered the usual newspaper postage in behalf of his niece, and demanded the paper, which was refused. Mr. Hicks then, as guardian of Miss Felton, a minor, instituted the suit against Col. Teall as Postmaster of Syracuse. The case was reported to the department at Washington, and the return mail brought an "au-

tograph" letter from the Postmaster-General thanking Col. Teall for a faithful discharge of duty, saying he was the only officer who had rigidly enforced the law and fully complied with instructions in his circular, and especially assuring Colonel Teall the Government would stand by him to the last, and defray all expenses attending the litigation. Instructions were immediately despatched from Washington to the Hon. William F. Allen, late Judge of the Court of Appeals, then United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, to proceed to Syracuse and assume the control and management of the case in behalf of the United States, which he did. Miss Felton sued the Postmaster in trover for the value of the paper, and the case was tried before a Justice of the Peace, who held the postal instructions illegal, and consequently gave 6 cents damages and costs of \$2 89 for plaintiff. The case was carried by the Postmaster to the Court of Common Pleas, which affirmed the judgment with additional costs of \$22 95. From there it was carried to the Supreme Court of the State, which added \$37 65 to the judgment before rendered, and the Postmaster then appealed the case to the Court of Appeals, where the judgment was affirmed with the additional sum of 175 74, making \$236 34 in all. Not satisfied with this measure of justice in the State courts, the Postmaster went with the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it was elaborately argued by Mr. Seward, and decided by a very labored opinion of the Court, affirming the findings of other courts, and ren-

dering judgment accordingly, but with what costs the record does not show.

NEW ISSUES.

CURACOA.—A 2½ florin stamp has been issued; color, violet and bistre.

DENMARK.—Three new cards; 4 ore blue on white, 6 ore brown on chamois, 10 ore green on chamois, all measuring 128x79 mm. The 6 and 10 ore cards are especially for the Postal Union, and it is so specified on their face.

FINLAND.—The 10 p. card with slate colored stamp and violet border, lettering, etc., now has the inscriptions at top slightly larger than heretofore.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Thanks to Mr. J. T. Handford for a specimen of the new card. It is for use in the Postal Union, and the value is 1 penny, brown on buff.

HONDURAS.—*Le Timbre Poste* mentions two varieties of surcharge not heretofore known, viz.: Por un real, black on 2 r. green. Medio real blue on 2 r. green.

ITALY.—The 10c. blue, and 20c. yellow, are now surcharged, *Estero*.

PERU.—*The Collector's World* says that a 1c. *unpaid* stamp has been ordered. It will be very different from the other *unpaid* values. It will be shorter, will not bear the steamship, and will have the national arms in the place of the llama. The color has not yet been decided upon, but it will be of some light tint.

PHILIPPINES.—Mr. Moens says that the 4 orzas, 1855, Spain, has recently been found on a letter from the Philippines.

RUSSIA ARDATOFF.—*Le Timbre Poste* says that this post was established January 13, 1878, when two stamps were issued, similar in design, and of the values of 3 kops. and 5 kops. The former representing the charge for delivery of correspondence received from the government post, and the latter the postage on letters circulating in the district. The

stamps are lithographed and unperforated colors; 3 kops. bright blue on white, and 5 kop. vermilion on white. *Valdia.*—We do not think that the view of the Valdia hills in the second edition of this work known local is an improvement on its predecessor. It is lithographed on lilac paper. *Balaschoff.*—*Le Timbre Poste* also states that this stamp was issued in 1876, when the post was first established. Value, 4 kopecks; black on white. *Benzoulouk.*—This stamp is also said to have been issued in 1876. The design is that of a figure 3, denoting the value, in center, 3 kopecks, on red checkered ground enclosed in yellow-green framework. It is lithographed on white paper and unperforated. *Morschansk.*—A stamp the value of which is 5 kops., vermilion, plain and bright. It is lithographed on white paper and unperforated, *Prilousky.*—A stamp of the value of 5 kops., black on rose. It is lithographed on rose-colored paper and unperforated.

SERVIA.—The 10x10 paras, double card, now has the word "reponse" in 11 mm. instead of 21 mm.

SWITZERLAND.—This country now uses a post card with the inscription in three languages, viz.: Postkarte, carte postale, cartolina postale; 5c., black on chamois.

SURINAM.—A 2½ florin stamp has been issued; color orange and green.

UNITED STATES.—Boyd's City Despatch has changed the color of the envelope stamp to pink, improving it greatly. It has also issued a stamp, black on blue, of the same design as the pink one. This is used only for circulars, so as to make it easier for the superintendents to distinguish circulars from letters, for which the pink one is still used.

UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA.—The 25 centimes stamp, black on blue, is now green on white. This is the first time this country has changed the colors and not the type of any stamp.

URUGUAY.—A new newspaper wrapper, value 1c., red. Also stamped envelopes of the following values: 5 centimes, red; 10 centimes, blue; 20 centimes, carmine.

HOW THE ANCIENTS WROTE.

LECTURE BY MR. A. W. TYLER AT THE BROADWAY TABERNACLE.

The "Romance of the Manuscripts" is the title of a course of lectures on ancient documents by A. W. Tyler, the first of which was delivered at the Broadway Tabernacle a short time since. Behind the lecturer was arranged enlarged facsimiles of ancient forms of writing, from the signature of Cleopatra, Queen Egypt, in hieroglyphics, to specimens of the hieratic and demotic writing of Egypt, and of the uncial and cursive letters of the ancient Greek codexes and inscriptions. Mr. Tyler first explained the ancient method of writing and the materials employed in correspondence, which were described in our last. But with manuscripts of a literary cast a different custom prevailed from the earliest ages, and Egypt did a thriving commerce in the prepared bark of a reed, which was sold in sheets styled papyri, from which comes the modern word paper. A roll of manuscript soon came to be called a codex, from its resemblance to the trunk of a tree (codex or caudex.) Our word book, from the Gothic *boka*, contained a similar allusion, as our Saxon ancestors wrote upon the prepared bark of the beech—Gothic *boka*, Danish *bok*, English *book*. The origin of parchment was supposed to have arisen from a quarrel between Ptolemy, of Egypt, and King Eumenes, of Pergamos, of whose magnificent collection of manuscripts Ptolemy became jealous and laid a heavy export tax upon Egyptian paper, in order to place obstacles in the way of the Pergamos collection. But Eumenes surmounted the dif-

ficulty by causing the skins of sheep to be so beautifully prepared that they were preferred to papyri, and the fame of his invention has descended to modern times in parchment—that is, pergament, derived from Pergamos. A very interesting portion of the lecture was that in which Mr. Tyler traced the modern habit of writing from left to right from the ancient, which was from right to left. The earliest Greek inscriptions follow the ancient form, but finally, as a matter of convenience, the boustrophodon (from *bous*, an ox, and *strepho*, to turn) was adopted. Manuscripts of a middle period are consequently written as the ox turns the plow—that is, alternately from right to left and left to right, commencing with the former. The origin of the uncial and cursive methods of forming letters was traced with equal felicity from the old angular letters in use when laws and documents were engraved on stone or brass. Mr. Tyler deciphered Cleopatra's signature, and exhibited, in conclusion, a fragment of a stone tablet engraved in the reign of Assarbanapol II., King of Assyria.

WORD HUNT.

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest number of words, spelt from GUADALUPE.

For the largest, 25c. worth of stamps, at our list prices of the winner's selection.

For the second largest, 50 varieties of stamps including two locals.

For the third largest, 25 varieties of stamps, including one local.

CONDITIONS:—Only subscribers can compete, although persons may send the subscription price with their lists. No words except those in the body of the English Dictionary will be accepted. No letter can be used twice in the same word, unless occurring twice in the original word. No Prefixes nor Affixes allowed.

All lists must be arranged alphabetically to secure attention, and be sent in before June 15, 1879.

WINNINGS OF PRIZES FOR MARCH.

1st Prize.—Frank A. Jones, New York, 57 words.

2d Prize.—Henry L. Gilbert, Gilbertville, N. Y., 51 words.

3d Prize.—Frank E. Brewer, Gilbertville, N. Y., 50 words.

CLUB RATES.

Any one sending us 4 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c. cash, or 30 cents worth of stamps.

Any one sending us 12 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 50c. cash, or 60 cents worth of stamps.

Specimen copies sent on receipt of stamp.

POSTAL POINTS (CONTINUED.)

RECENT RULINGS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The postal law forbids the renting of boxes in post offices to two families or firms.

A printed business card may be mailed at third-class rates, provided it has no writing upon it other than the address.

Regular newspapers cannot be admitted to the mails at pound rates when a handbill or circular is enclosed.

The department rules that post office shall not be kept in a barroom or a room directly connected therewith, nor must any mail be opened or delivered in any such room.

Letters passing through the mails cannot lawfully be opened by any officers of the law for the purpose of detecting criminals.

The Post Office Department is not responsible for matter lost in the mails.

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The game of billiards is a delightful game, especially when played on one of the *J. M. Brunswick & Balke Company's* elegant billiard tables with the "Monarch" cushions, which are the most elastic, accurate and durable of all billiard cushions manufactured. On the largest "runs" ever made by Schaeffer, Slosson, Sexton, Daly, Garnier, Gallagher and other experts were accomplished. They have also been unanimously selected by the several contestants for their use in the great Paris Tournament, which is a triumph over all other cushions—nothing but the great merit of the "Monarch" could achieve. Their tables are renowned everywhere, not only for their cushions and bed, but also for the elegance of the ornamental parts. If one doubts this, let him call at the magnificent warerooms situated at 724 Broadway, and see for themselves the large assortment of Billiard and Pool Tables, Cues, Billiard, Pool and other Balls, and all other articles needed in a billiard room, whether public or private.

One of the curious results of the recent alterations made in the code of the Postal Union, which went into force on the 1st of April, is that mail matter of certain kinds can be sent from the United States to any part of Europe, and even to Peru or from Europe to any part of the United States, at lower rates than those charged for carrying similar communications.

one part of our country to another. What are known as commercial papers are classed at 5 cents for any weight not exceeding four ounces, and 1 cent for every additional two ounces from that up to four pounds, beyond which no packet of this kind can go. Under this heading of commercial papers are included quite a number of things which are put at letter rates in our national service, as, for instance, documents written or drawn wholly or partly by hand that do not partake of the nature of actual personal correspondence, documents of legal procedure drawn up by public functionaries, copies and extracts from deeds, way-bills, bills of lading, invoices, documents of insurance, all kinds of manuscript music, manuscript of books, magazines and other literary works, and other papers of a similar description. The regulation requires that these shall be forwarded under a band or in an open envelope. Whether a plan which conflicts at so many points with our domestic customs can be successfully carried out without imperiling the continuance of the latter remains to be seen.

PROMULGATING A NEW MAXIM.

"Give a beggar a copper and it shall come back to you again," would make as good a maxim as any, and a more truthful one than most of them," remarked the philosophical-looking young man of the crowd.

"How so?" inquired the more venturesome members.

"You give him a cent?" gravely explained the first speaker.

"Yes."

"And immediately he bows assent in return!"

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, having received numerous letters from tobacco manufacturers requesting him to issue 16-cent stamps after the close of business on the 30th inst., has replied in all cases that he has no authority to do so; that the 16-cent stamps cannot be issued until the day fixed by law. The Commissioner adds, however, that if the

manufacturers choose, they may open their places of business to obtain the same immediately after midnight.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A gentleman in Arcade has a collection of 2,000 coins, among which are two that date before the Christian era.

The Government has ordered that the General Post Office administration of Cuba be conducted from April 1 in accordance with the convention of the International Postal Union signed at Paris, June 1, 1878.

The gas bills of the New York Post Office have heretofore averaged \$33,000 per annum. To reduce this expense the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered that the electric light be used, as it will cost much less. There are to be five lights in the rotunda. Some of the officers think the use of the electric light will be injurious to the eyesight of the employees, even when the intensity of the light is subdued by globes, which are being manufactured expressly for the purpose.

The delivery of postal cards by the contractor to the Government during the month of January was 30,000,000. This is the largest amount delivered for any one month in the history of the postal card contract.

THE BURIED TREASURE.

A French merchant was agreeably surprised by the receipt of an anonymous communication advising him that a big box of treasure was buried in his garden, and that the exact whereabouts would be shown him if he agreed to an equal division of the spoil. He jumped at the offer, met his kind informant, and the pair were soon plying spades, their labor being rewarded by the unearthing of a box full of silver coins. The delighted merchant counted out two piles of 800 five-franc pieces, and bade his partner take his

share. That worthy, after contemplating his heap for a minute or two, observed that it was rather too heavy a load to carry comfortably to the railway station; he would prefer having the amount in gold or notes, if it could be managed. Nothing was easier; a walk up to the house and the business was settled entirely to his satisfaction and that of the merchant too. Twenty-four hours later, the good man took a very different view of the transaction, for upon examination he discovered that there was not one genuine five-franc piece among the 1,600.

NOTES.

If you receive this Journal, and are not a subscriber, it is sent you as a polite hint to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of this Journal, and have no further use for this one you will oblige us by giving it to some Stamp Collecting friend, and letting him have the benefit of it.

In subscribing please state what number you want your subscription to commence with.

We desire to exchange with all other Philatelic Journals that will be sent regularly to our address.

We want an agent in your vicinity to solicit subscriptions and advertisements.

Send stamp for terms.

We want a correspondent in every city, town or village in the United States of America, Canada, and all foreign countries. Those that wish to act as such should let us know as soon as possible and learn particulars. We will give 25 foreign stamps for every 15 names and addresses of genuine stamp collectors. Or a copy of the next issue with them for two cents extra.

"Subscribers coming in at the rate of fifty a day," said an editor; and the rival paper explained that they were coming in to order their paper stopped.

EXCHANGES.

We have received the following Philatelic Journals. The new ones we give the address of:

The Collector's World, The Philatelic Monthly, The Stamp Collector's Review, The St. Louis Philatelist, Handford Quarterly Circular, The Deutscher Briefmarken Zeitung Union, L'ami du Collectionneur, A. Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular, Trifits Monthly Circular, The Southern Philatelist, The Anzeiger der Wienerillustristen Briefmarken Zeitung, L'ami des Timbres, Stamp Journal, Michigan Philatelist, Stamp Reporter, 13 Hammond St., Worcester, Mass.

PUNYGRAPHS.

Young Whatshisname, King of Greece, has almost made up his mind to notify Turkey that he will submit to no more-in-Sultan.

The newest dining tables are square, the round extension table being unfashionable. The new style is more appropriate for a "square meal."

The Boston *Transcript* says that sea captains never allow a deaf and dumb person on board their vessels. They naturally dread mutiny when they have even one mute-a-near.

Miss Stanton has broken off her engagement with Rustem Effendi. She concluded that Turks were unreliable and wouldn't Rustem. He was much Effendi-ed.

Scene—An eating-house.—Old gentleman: Walter, how's this? These potatoes are quite hard! Waiter (with presence of mind): Hard times, you know, sir.

Miss Prue—"There must be some one devoted to me, for I have received a beautiful valentine every year." Malicious little puss—"Oh, Pruey, dear, what a collection you must have."

"Speaking of walking matches," observed a married lady, "just look at my husband. He has been a walking match for the last five years, and I am begin-

ing to get tired of walking around with a skeleton."

The young lady who gave the mitten to the young man who wouldn't go into the house where it was comfortable, but persisted in keeping her out at the front gate, now refers to him as one of her cast-off gaters.

A queer sort of a cat is owned by a little girl in West Kalamo, Mich., who has taught it to repeat poetry or prose after her—at least as nearly as is possible to a cat's limited powers of articulation. Placing the cat facing her, the little girl will repeat a word, when the cat will repeat it after her by a series of mews, one mew for a word of one syllable, two mews for two syllables, &c. This singular gift of intelligence on the part of puss has excited much interest in the neighborhood.

IN THE MAY NUMBER
of the

MONTHLY AMERICAN

a highly exciting, but exceedingly pure, serial story, translated from the French of PAUL DE NAVERY by MARIUS LAZARE, commences entitled:

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most satisfactory manner.

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Address,

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MERCHANT TAILORS.

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Exchange! Exchange! Exchange!

Wanted To exchange United States Post Cards for those of Foreign Countries. In quantities of 50 or more.

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1879.

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TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

We offer for April 10 var. Sardinia for 10c. 4 var. Danube Steam Navigation Co. 20c. 1 var. Argentine 10c. 6 var. Bremen only 30c. 6 var. Brazil 10c.

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THE NEW YORK

Philatelist.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1879.

No. 7.

POSTING IN MEDIEVAL TIMES.

BY WM. FRUITNIGHT.

Taking up again the thread of narrative, we will continue the consideration of posting from where it was broached in the April number. Charlemagne, that great hero of mediæval romance, who ruled over what was left of the Roman Empire in the west, found it necessary to establish means of communicating with the far and near parts of his vast realm. He is said to have established stations for carriers, who delivered small packets, letters, and decrees from the court to every part of the Empire. While he lived, his post lived. It did not survive his death. And this system lay buried until 1464, when it was once more called into being by Louis XVI. Leaving France now, and crossing the Channel to "Merry England," we find that two centuries previous to this French revival, similar posts had been established whose riders were termed "nuncii." But like all the methods thus far considered this also was "governmental." And while we peruse these data, and think over them, we unconsciously compare the beginnings of written intercourse with other great "auroras." It was a thing of life; it was begotten of nature; it must exist, because there was mind; and mind was progressive; and progression required, yea, demanded sympathy, criticism, and the pro and con of argumentative discourse. But while it was thus great, it did not spring into existence a Minerva. It grew. Its childhood, like other childhoods partook of all the vicissitudes of infant life. Now it waned, now it flourished. But as its age increased, its strength grew, and its good influence was shed

upon the world. It is now in the brilliancy of its prime, and it would be folly to dilate on its power. It was but natural then that posting should rise and fall, that it should at first be limited in its rise. Experience must first be gained, before an organized system could be so arranged as to benefit all mankind. With this bit of digressive intercourse let us go on with our tale. It will be a matter of surprise that as late as the fifteenth century, butchers or drovers, who went about buying cattle were the principal carriers of private letters. The only exception to the general custom in regard to private correspondence was the establishment in the eleventh century by the university of Paris, of a body of pedestrian messengers who bore letters from its thousand of students to the various countries of Europe, whence they came and delivered to them the money sent from home wherewith to prosecute their studies. And now comes in this truth namely that nature never has things stale. She always creates them when they are needed. The beginning of the sixteenth century beheld many great things. It saw commerce reviving and developing from the crusades. It looked back upon the geographical discoveries of the Italian, Portuguese, and the Spanish. These things created an urgent necessity for business correspondence. The royal nuncii or post riders had already found it for their advantage to use their surplus horses for the conveyance of passengers, and thus the system of posting or travelling with post horses came into vogue. These posts were now used for the carriage of private letters. At first irregular and without fixed compensation or regular periods of arrival or departure, but eventually with considerable order and system. The earliest of these posts for general accom-

modation was instituted in the Tyrol in 1516, and connected Germany with Italy. The honor of laying a corner stone of modern postage belongs to Roger, Count of Thurn and Taxis. By his efforts, and those of his successors, it was extended throughout almost the length and breadth of these two countries. On the one hand, there were Venice, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, on the other Hamburg, Bremen, Lubeck, and Frankford-on-the-Main. And how much was the enormous commerce facilitated and increased by the organized establishment of mails, no one can tell. This posting was a monopoly in the hands of Thurn and Taxis, and although, nowadays, we hear so much of Kearneyism, Nihilism, Communism and goodness knows what other ism, nevertheless I am fully satisfied that it was no more than a just reward for the boon he conferred upon the people. The Counts of Thurn and Taxis continued to have this postal monopoly until the fall of the first German Empire and ever now the Thurn and Taxis post is maintained in a number of the smaller German states and supplies thousands of inhabitants.

—o—

NEW ISSUES.

BOLIVAR.—They have changed the design but not the color of the 5 centaros stamp.

DENMARK.—A four ore, blue and carmine, has been added to the present series.

EGYPT.—The following is a list of the new issue: 5 paras, brown; 10 paras, lilac; 20 paras, blue; 1 piastre, red; 2 piastres, yellow; 5 piastres, green. They are an improvement on the former ones, both in engraving and design.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr. J. T. Handford, also, gives us information concerning 3-2 pence post card, similar to the one penny one mentioned in our last, and of the same color. Thanks to Mr. Wm. P. Brown for a specimen of the new wrapper in brown [no pun intended,], which takes the place of the green one.

MAURITIUS.—The following surcharged values: 4 cents, orange; 24

cents, bistre; head of queen in oval and coat different in design. Also a new envelope, 5 cents, brown on white.

MEXICO.—The following is a list of the new set: 1 centaro, black; 2 centaros, brown; 5 centaros, orange; 10 centaros, blue; 25 and 50 centaros, and 1 peso, color, as yet, unknown to us. The design is head in oval, "Correos" in upper left hand corner, with "Mexico" opposite, and value below.

PERSIA.—The colors of the head series are to be changed. A 1, brown, is to be used in the meantime.

SALVADOR.—A 2 reals, carmine, and a 5 reals, blue, have appeared.

UNITED STATES.—From various sources we hear that we are to have *unpaid* letter stamps, but the Ohio Philatelist publishes the correspondence of its editor with various Post Office Officials, in which they all state that they have not heard of any such thing. Boyd's City Despatch have issued a post card, with a pink stamp for the use of a certain firm. A new post has been established, called the "Douglas' City Despatch." They have already issued two stamps, one blue, and the other pink.

—o—

BABYLONIAN TABLETS.

The large find of contract tablets which was made by the Arabs in 1874, and which furnished to the British Museum the splendid series of Egibi tablets, has now practically come to an end, not, however, without the exhumation of more than 5,000 tablets dealing with the commercial transactions of this large firm of bankers from the commencement of the late Babylonian Empire until the fall of the Persian. Stimulated by the ready sale which they found for these antiquities in the European markets, the Arab dealers have continued their explorations in other parts of the mounds of Babylon, and unearthed a quantity of inscribed tablets of a class hitherto but scantily represented in the European museums. These tablets, some of which bear dates and docketts, belong to the period of the Parthian Empire and the dynasty of Arsaces, and relate to abstruse mathematical calcu-

lations as to the relationships of the sun, moon, and stars. They are extremely difficult to read, as they are evidently written in an enigmatical manner, and the key to the theory of numbers cannot as yet be found. However, when this shall be solved, there is little doubt we shall find that they throw some light on the Cabalistic philosophy. The astronomy and astrology of the Babylonians appear from these tablets to have taken a new lease of life, and to have borrowed some Western theories. A collection of more than a thousand of these tablets, some perfect, some very fragmentary, has arrived in England, and it is to be hoped they may be soon translated or examined, so as to solve some of the theories of the later Babylonian philosophy.—*The Athenæum*.

THE ROMAN TABULARIUM.

The massive edifice which now crowns the eastern ridge of the Campidoglio and fronts the Campo Vaccino or Roman Forum, was erected at the end of the fourteenth century on a still more massive substruction of Roman times, a building on the face of the Capitoline. This substruction formed the lower story or stories of the great building which was the palace of the public accounts, the Somerset House of Rome. Recent explorations have traced out the chambers in which the troops of clerks conducted their operations, and exercised the delicate task of casting up sums in Roman figures. These chambers have been found to be connected with the corridors which they daily thronged in coming and going, and the stairs, steep it seems and narrow, by which they ascended or descended. We thank Mr. Parker for the ground plans he has given us of this structure, and for the photographs also with which he has brought their remains so visibly before us. The Tabularium was no doubt in the immediate vicinity of the Ærarium or treasury in which the Government stored its ready money. Payment both of the army and of the civil service was made in cash, and for the most part in brass, which required ample space for storage. We may

judge of this from the chambers we have from time to time unearthed in the Roman stations in our own country, with hoards of bronze and silver coins still lying in them, to discharge, as we presume, the stipends of the legionaries. We are told that the treasure of the State was kept in the Temple, that is, in the vaults beneath the Temple, of Saturn. Now the ruins which antiquarians have generally recognized as the Temple of Saturn lies very close under the eastern face of the Capitoline, not absolutely contiguous to it, but separated from it by the *clivus* or ascent to the summit of the hill from the Forum, while another ruin, known as the Temple of Vespasian, actually abuts on the cliff and the ground floor of the Tabularium. Mr. Parker is tempted to believe, and he follows therein the respectable authority of Becker, that this latter temple is the real Ærarium, the Temple of Saturn, rather than the other. No doubt it lies the more convenient of the two in respect of the chambers in which the accounts were kept. Nevertheless, it seems impossible to accede to this conclusion. The well-known passage in the Statius asserts expressly that the Temple of Vespasian looked upon the back of Damitian's statue in the Forum; nor are there wanting several other notices of antiquity, especially that on the Monumentum Ancyranum, which favor the common opinion. The remains of the inscription on the pediment of the temple itself lead, we think, unmistakably to the same view. Finally the Temple of Vespasian seems far too diminutive to have been used as the receptacle of the treasure of the world-wide Empire, nor does it possess the capacious vaults for which, among all the temples at Rome, that of Saturn is the most conspicuous. Nor is it necessary that there should have been a direct communication between the Tabularium and the Ærarium, any more than between the Somerset House and the Bank of England. At all events, they lay very close together and it is not impossible that there may have been some underground communication between them.

POISONED WITH A POSTAGE STAMP.
Young ladies who think proper to

correspond with rejected lovers would perhaps do well to take a hint from the following curious case, which is however, authentic. Mlle. Felicie Maxy, who lives on the farm of Pentacote, on the Belgian frontier, was on the point of being married, when she received a letter from an old suitor asking her to reconsider the matter, and send him an immediate reply. A postage stamp was gallantly inclosed to defray the cost of transmission. The answer duly written, Mlle. Maxy applied the stamp to her fair lips; but hardly had she done so when she felt a sharp pain in her tongue, and in less than no time that interesting member became horribly elongated and inflamed and covered with noisome sores. The disconsolate one, Alfred Camin by name, a farmer at Pichon, in the Nord, has been arrested; but he declares that he used no noxious drug, but simply moistened a corner of the stamp with his own lips—a delicate way of stealing a kiss. Such is the state of the case at present, but the tale carries its own moral.

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WORD HUNT.

The following prizes are offered by us for the largest number of words, spelt from CHRISTIANSSUND.

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All lists must be arranged alphabetically to secure attention, and be sent in before July 15th, 1879.

WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR APRIL

1st Prize.—J. W. Dowling, Jr., New York, 259 words.

2nd Prize.—Frank E. Brewer, Gilbertville, N. Y., 254 words.

3rd Prize.—Henry L. Gilbert, Gilbertville, N. Y., 233 words.

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NOTES.

If you receive this Journal, and are not a subscriber, it is sent to you as a polite hint to become one.

If you receive more than one copy of this Journal, and have no further use for this one you will oblige us by giving it to some Stamp Collecting friend, and letting him have the benefit of it.

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Any one sending us 4 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year.

Any one sending us 8 subscriptions, will receive this Journal free for one year and 25c cash, or 30 cents worth of stamps.

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Specimen copies sent on receipt of stamp.

SPURIOUS AUTOGRAPHS.

FORGING THE NAMES OF GREAT MEN FOR SALE.

From the London News, May 15.

Readers of "Vivian Grey" will remember that among the hero's accomplishments was the art of forging autographs. He was equally ready to purvey a receipt for some unheard-of punch, or to supply the signature of Mr. Disraeli, Sir Walter Scott, or Mr. William Wordsworth. *Mr. Grey* may have succeeded in imposing his autographs on lady collectors, but he would have failed to take in an old hand who was paying large sums for the scraps of paper he fancied. Some more crafty and professional scribe managed, however, to delude the late Baron Heath, whose library and albums of autographs have lately been sold at auction. Baron Heath had some very rare and remarkable autographs, among others a gossiping letter from Rabelais to his patron, Cardinal Du Bellay. The epistles of Rabelais, if they could only be found, would certainly be full of fun and full of secret history. If he wrote to his patron, we may be certain he wrote in the style Robinet, and Loret, and the other ingenious scribes whose letters to their patrons were society journals in manuscript. When a noble or a cardinal kept a wit, he expected the wit to do something for his living, to make jests at dinner and write brief chronicles of the time. The epistle of Rabelais in the possession of Baron Heath was a chronicle of this kind. It was written from Italy, on the 21st of April, 1538, and contained a good deal of political news. Now it seems that Rabelais was not in Italy at all in that year, but in Montpellier. Either the ordinary chronology of the humorous physician's life is wrong or the letter is a forgery. The latter was the view of an earlier proprietor of the epistle than Baron Heath. This astute person compared the handwriting with authentic examples of Rabelais hand in the University registers at Montpellier, and he resolved to part with his priceless treasure for a consideration. The French collectors, who knew all about this, did not compete with the English buyer, who offered £5 for the

spurious curiosity; and it would be satisfactory to know that Rabelais' letter had followed that of Marie Antoinette, which one belonged to Gilbert de Pixerecourt. The "Shakespeare of the Boulevards," as the French call him, was a collector, and he possessed a neat epistle written by Marie Antoinette on the eve of her execution. The characters were traced with an enfeebled hand, and the tears of the Queen had blistered the paper, and the water-mark was all right. To Pixerecourt's horror, an exact fac-simile of this document appeared at a sale; he bought it, rushed home, and compared it with his own treasure, and was unable to tell which was the genuine article. He therefore imitated the French Academician, who, being obliged to vote for the admission of one of two friends into the academy, knew not which to prefer. The Academician shuffled the ballot papers, tore up one, put the other into the box, and so was unable to say for which of his acquaintances he had voted. Pixerecourt, in the same way shut his eyes, tossed the two letters of the French Queen in the air, picked up one at random, and burned it. A less scrupulous man would have sold it in Russia or America. If Rabelais' letter has been burned, so much the better for collectors at a distance, who in any case will do well to "accept this imitation."

The artist who victimized Baron Heath did not confine himself to reproducing the signature of Rabelais. Royal signatures were common dress with him, and he scarcely condescended to the autographs of mere men of letters, who usually write a good deal and so make themselves cheap; whereas Kings, and for very good reasons, did not write if they could help it. The signature of King Chaka to a grant of land shows that his Majesty had some skill in random cross-hatching, but can in no sense be called a specimen of writing. The European Kings of old were not always better educated than Chaka. It is a singular thing that French imitators have not ventured to reproduce the rarest and most valued of literary autographs, that of Moliere. The great comedian has scarcely left a scrap of writing

paper behind him. He appears to have had a rooted dislike to signing his name, and when it does appear, it is either attached to a receipt for money or commits him to nothing more than being a witness to a marriage in a parish register.

A WONDERFUL WALL.

A DISCOVERY IN VIRGINIA WHICH INTERESTS ANTIQUARIANS.

A singular wall has been discovered in Virginia, on the line of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, and is 67 feet 10 inches long, 15 feet high, 18 inches thick at the top, and 2½ feet at the bottom. It runs Northeast and Southwest, and is situated at the lower end of a slight elevation, which ascend gradually. The position of the wall and all its environments precludes the idea that they could have been buried under the accumulations of sands conveyed by the rains from above. The stones of which the wall is composed are of common white, flinty quartz. They are irregularly shaped, but as flat and smooth as if designed for the ordinary purposes of masonry. The cement or clay when first exposed to the air is of the consistency of putty, but soon indurates to a degree that it may readily be cut in any shape with a pocket knife. It has no obvious affinity with the soil that lately enclosed the wall, and nothing similar can be found in a radius of miles. It is imbedded in a micaceous sandstone, requiring both grub-hoe and pick to extricate it. The stones are adjusted with the accuracy of square and plumb.

Now, as to the history of this unearthed wonder. Fifty or sixty years ago, when the land was covered with forest, and being surveyed by a Mr. Huddlestown, then the owner, the surveyor observed such a deflection in the needle of his compass as indicated the presence of metal. It was thought that gold bearing quartz was near. An excavation was made, but no gold-bearing quartz being found in the rock further search was not prosecuted. Professor Campbell, of Lexington, who has not seen the wall, but from the accounts of it which he has read thinks it is one of the geological dikes

[common in some places] and not the work of man. But on the other hand a gentleman of great intelligence, including some geographical acquirements, who has made a thorough examination of the wall, says: "The coup d'œil, as well as an examination of the component parts, proves beyond peradventure a wall made with human hands, and of great antiquity. In connection with the late discoveries in Ohio, it tends to establish the truth of the theory that a higher order of civilization preceded the Indians on this continent. It is a study for antiquarians, not geologists."

EDITORIAL.

Our paper is the largest Philatelic Journal now in existence, in the United States and Canada; its circulation being in the thousands, is much more than double seven-eighths of the others, and yet we charge but half as much as a very large majority of them. We do this in order to place the benefits of advertising within the reach of every one, and to assist them in becoming successful business men, in a similar manner to Dr. Hill, as is shown in the following clipping from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

A VETERAN ADVERTISER.

"Dr. Hill, you are one of the great advertisers of the country; will you give me the benefit of your experience? Does advertising pay?" "Well," said Hill, smilingly, "For years past I have expended as high as \$30,000 per annum, and I wouldn't and couldn't do it unless it paid. I find that when you have a really meritorious article to present to the public you never lose a dollar in making the fact known as far as possible. It must be meritorious, though, or your success will be short-lived and evanescent. You must treat the public honestly if you would make a permanent success. Take "Joshua Whitcomb," for instance. It cost years of time and thousands on thousands of dollars to bring it before the public. But what has been the result? Success so great that unless you saw the books you could hardly believe the figures. I took a page of the Chicago *Times*

on one occasion, and people thought I was mad. I got my money back with handsome interest, though, and, of course that satisfied me. I took a whole page of the *Boston Herald* one Sunday, paying \$500 for the same, and every man, woman and child in Boston and vicinity was set to talking about Denman Thomas and Joshua Whitcomb, and the result was that the theatre in which he performed could not hold half the people that presented themselves for admission. I offered \$1000 for the first page of the *New York Herald*, provided the "ruling" would be omitted. I did not get it, though, for Bennet was in Europe, and there was no one in authority in the office who could take out the rules.

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EXCHANGES.

We have received the following Philatelic Journals, since our last went to press:

The Philatelic Monthly, The Deutscher Briefmarken Zeitung Union, Trifits Monthly Circular, The Southern Philatelist, The Wienerillustrirten Briefmarken Zeitung, L'ami des Timbres, The Ohio Philatelist, 519 John St., Cincinnati, O., Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger Salzgrasse 8, Dresden.

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ANOTHER PONY EXPRESS.

From the Daily Tribune, for a copy of which we are indebted to an esteemed correspondent in Denver, we learn that a pony express was started on Saturday, April 5, to run between that city and Leadville. The charges are 50 cents per letter and \$1 per pound for papers. No stamps have as yet been issued. * * The P. M.

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Diggs saw a note lying on the ground, but he knew it was a counterfeit, and walked on without picking it

up. He told Smithers the story, when the latter said: "Do you know, Diggs, you have committed a very great offence?" "Why, what have I done?" "You have passed a counterfeit bill, knowing it to be such," said Smithers, without a smile, and fled.

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The Department of State has informed the Post Office Department of Canada that "an order of Council has passed admitting periodicals and pamphlets to come in by mail, and be delivered free of Customs duty, when not for trade purposes." Publishers in the United States will thereby be relieved from much inconvenience.

The collection of autographs is something that should be encouraged. The enormous sums, too, paid for a single name seems almost incredible.

ERRATA.

By a typographical error in our last issue the heading of R. W. Turner's advertisement appeared misspelled as "stationary." It will be noticed that we have made the correction in the present number.

Also by a mistake on the part of the printer, J. M. Paine's advertisement appeared with the address "East Kingsly" instead of "East Killingly, Conn."

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