





# THE

# Amateur Journal.

Vol. I.

February 1st, 1877.

No. 1.

## A Christmas on the Prairies.

The Overland Mail Coach was dragging its way slowly along through the blinding and drifting snow over the vast plains of Colorado.

It was Christmas eve, and the passengers were anxious to reach the end of their journey.

It had reached a point or ranch known as Pole Creek Ranch, situated upon the southern bank of the Platte River, perhaps forty or fifty miles above Fort Sedgwick.

When it halted darkness had fully set in.

The ranchmen came out with their lights, and the weary passengers were about to leave their cramped position, when that terrible sound, the war-whoop of the Sioux, broke the stillness of the night, and, in an instant after, fifty dusky forms were seen dashing to and fro, brandishing their bloody tomahawks, and striking down all who came in their way.

The coach had been crowded with passengers, about one half of whom were women. There were also two infants in the party.

Fathers fought desperately, but they fell, although they sold their lives dearly.

The guard appeared almost invincible; but they were but two in number, and they did not long survive.

The ranchmen proved themselves no cowards, but they, too, were soon numbered with the dead.

Then came the firing of the ranch, after barrels of whisky had been brought out, and one of those horrible scenes of revelry over the burning pile, and around the scalped dead followed.

For some time after the coach had left Fort Sedgwick Station, it had been closely followed by a team, consisting of a common wagon covered with canvas, which was drawn by a pair of small mules.

But as the road became heavier with snow-drifts, the small animals could not keep pace with the six fine stage horses, and so they were left in the back-ground.

This second team was occupied by three persons—a man of twenty-five, a woman who could not have been more than seventeen or eighteen years of age, and a young infant.

As they found that they could not keep pace with the stage, the woman said, and rather impatiently:

"I am sorry we must be left behind. We may lose our way, or be attacked by the savages."

"No," replied the man; "for although we are both strangers in this country, we couldn't have a better guide than the telegraph poles. And as for the Indians attacking us, they are a great deal more likely, in my opinion, to be on the look-out for the stage, and attack it."

"How much further do we drive to-day?"

"I can't well tell. But, from the distance we had to travel at noon, I should say that nine o'clock in the evening ought to bring us to Pole Creek."

"And three days more will bring us to my father's house in Denver. Good old man, weary of hunting, he builds a fine dwelling in the city, says it is for his children, and sends for us. I have not seen him since I was a child, but I am sure I shall love him."

It was something like an hour after darkness had set in that the lonely travellers saw the air becoming red ahead of them.

Brighter and brighter grew the light, until they could actually see the flames as they shot up into the snow-filled atmosphere.

Then a nearer approach revealed the true state of affairs; and to save himself and family, the young man at once turned the heads of his mules over the bluffs and away from the river.

Then came a weary ride of two hours, during which time a close look-out was kept for a light.

At length one was discovered, and, nearing it, the party found themselves at the base of a steep bluff, or mountain, which, unlike the other portions of the country, appeared to be thickly wooded.

(CONCLUSION IN NEXT NUMBER.)

# The Amateur Journal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
**HOF & LOWMAN.**

## SUBSCRIPTION.


One Year .....	\$0 25
Six Months.....	0 15


Payable in Advance. Postage prepaid by Publishers.


## ADVERTISEMENTS.


1 Column, one Insertion.....	\$3 00
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1 Square, " " .....	0 50
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## NOTICES.

 We will exchange with any Amateur paper that comes to us prepaid.

 Subscribers finding this notice marked will know that their subscription has expired. Please renew.

 All Advertisements must be in our office by the 25th of each month, in time for the next issue.

 All Communications to be addressed :

**THE AMATEUR JOURNAL,**

No. 62 WEST NINTH STREET, CINCINNATI, O.



## TO THE PUBLIC.

We send copies of our paper this month to our friends and patrons who have not yet subscribed, besides specimen copies to many others whose addresses we have obtained, and hope you will all be sufficiently pleased with its appearance and contents to invest in a year's subscription. We shall strive to give you a paper that shall at all times please you in every way, and we hope you will lend us your aid by subscribing and inducing your friends to subscribe. In order to succeed, and establish the Journal on a firm financial basis, we must have the pecuniary support of our friends and the public in general. Subscribe, reader, and enable us to make many contemplated improvements, which will be made as soon as our subscription list warrants it. We shall not send out any more specimen copies after this issue (except to new addresses) and none but regular subscribers will receive the Journal in the future. We shall strive to make our paper well worth the subscription price, and think those who subscribe will never regret having done so.

— The enlarged December number of the "Canada Beaver" has reached our Sanctum. It is a large, well conducted paper, full of interesting reading, and very ably edited by Mr. R. Reums. We hope that the paper in its new form will continue to succeed, which it undoubtedly will do.

— We have received a copy of Mr. FRANK S. LUSK'S CATALOGUE OF COINS. The prices seem to be as low as the lowest, and we would advise all our readers, who contemplate buying coins, to purchase them there, feeling confident that they will be fully satisfied with their trial. Notice the advertisement.

— Look out for the next number of the "Amateur Journal." Besides the conclusion of the interesting narrative "A Christmas on the Prairies," it will contain a choice selection of reading matter, which cannot fail to please. New subscribers supplied with back numbers.

— We want agents in every town and city in the United States, to take subscriptions for this paper. We shall allow 20 percent cash commission on all subscriptions. For further particulars address the publishers.

— To those who receive this copy we would say, look over our paper; carefully examine its contents; and if you are well pleased with it, send us your subscription, and we guarantee you will never regret it.

— This month we send our paper to a large number of persons who are not subscribers. We hope they will all find it worth the small sum asked, and subscribe at once.

— We have received a copy of the "Pacific Journal." It is a large illustrated paper, well printed, &c., and does credit to the amateur press.

— In our next issue we will probably have a list of the more reliable Stamp dealers of the United States and Canada.

— Editors receiving a copy of this paper will please exchange.

— Patronize our advertisers

— Subscribe !!!

## POSTAL STAMPS.

### NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

#### INDIA.

The values and colors are: Nine pies, violet; six annas, bistre; 12 annas, mauve.

#### TURKEY.

The new series for this country has at last appeared. The stamps are larger than those of the last series. The inscriptions are in Turkish and French. The stamps are printed in two colors on white and perforated. Ten paras, black and rose; 20 paras, brownish violet and green; 50 paras, blue and yellow; 2 piastre, black and orange; 5 piastre, red and blue; 25 piastre, carmine and rose.

#### PERSIA.

The set with the portrait of the Shah has appeared. It consists of: One Shahi, black and lilac; 2 Shahi, black and gray; 5 Shahi, black and rose; 10 Shahi, black and blue.

#### DANISH WEST INDIES.

Five cent, gray and green; 10 cent, brown and blue.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND.

Same as brown seal. Five cent, blue, rouletted.

#### MONTSERRAT.

Antique stamps surcharged. Montserrat in black. One penny, red; 6 pence, green.

#### JAPAN.

Two new postal cards. 5 sen, orange; 1 sen, light blue.

#### HONGKONG.

The 30 cent stamp comes surcharged; 28 cent, in black.

#### PERU.

Similar to the last 2 cent stamp. 10 cents, red.

#### FRANCE.

Same type as present issue. 20 cents, brownish red; 75 cents, carmine; 1 franc, green.

#### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

A stamped envelope. 5 centavos, red.

#### WURTEMBERG.

The 5 and 10 pfennig stamps have been imprinted on the remainder of the 1 and 2 kr. postal cards.

#### CANADA.

A 3 cent stamped envelope is announced.

#### VICTORIA.

A provisional of the value of 8 pence has been made by surcharging that value on the 9 pence red-brown stamp.

#### ROUMANIA.

The 5 bani stamps are now printed of a very dark bistre.

## LETTERS.

### A SPECIMEN COPY.

(Monthly Chronicle.)

The following is a sample of the letters sometimes received by our stamp dealers:

NEW YORK, Nov. 3, 1876.

Deer surs:—Enklosed finde sum stamps and i want you to send me sum reel Hard wuns for em. I want a set of onium ilands and a fue new Kalerdonys & liberas and a united staits 90 cents, with a red and black linkums hed onto it & sum envellups cut hull large & squar & yu can thro in sum rair stamps an a sampel sheat uv al the decalcimines and bost pickshures an gem kromuses wot you hev & enny uther goods wich you keep & i will cend you a nuther lot jest like these so I kan git sum mor from you. O i forgot also cend me wun of all yure surklers wat yu ever made sause bill smith sed you giv a hard stamp with eech wun I want to git all them hard stamps & if yu cant find the surklers send the stamps for i dont kar so much for the surklers as I do for the stamps & I got licked in skule for makin a spit ball of a surklur & hitten tom Jones into his eare with it an I want them stamps rite awa dont cend any torde wuns I aint got no more time so good bigh this time yours ankshusli for them hard stamps.

Jon PeerS.

P. S. Send awl so I kan hav them tomorra or ile puplish you in all the papers as a old phrod, mi a dress toda is nu jursy yures with luv

J. p.

Nuther p. s. Im gon awa from nu jursy so dont send em there. I hav rit enuff and you orter to kno whar I be now. Send lots of hard stamps if you aint a phroad.

J. P.

— Cleveland young women write comments on the margins of the library volumes they read. One emotional creature writes: "The pangs of love is grate, i have been there my self."

— A newspaper folded and worn under the vest is said to warmer than a fur coat. Now is the time to subscribe.

"Pa, are boys allowed to sit in Congress?"

"Why, no. What makes you ask so foolish?"

"I read in the papers this morning they laid Washburne's Bill on the table."

## A REQUEST!

In answering to the Advertisements of this paper please say:—"Saw Advertisement in the Amateur Journal."

## A Fair Count!

OF

100 VARIETIES FOREIGN STAMPS. ALL DIFFERENT, including Finland, Luxembourg, Russia, &c., 28 cents post paid.

Address: A. W. KOCH,  
50 Ninth Street, Cincinnati, O.

## Fifteen Foreign Stamps

With new price list sent free for 3 cent stamp, or apply for price list by postal card. Stamps sold at lowest prices.—  
G. A. KNOCK, Kansas City, Mo.  
Publishers insert above and this and receive 25 cents.

## Coins and Curiosities.

New descriptive Catalogue of Coins, issued January 10th. Price, 20 cents. Price List, 3 cent stamp.  
FRANK S. LUSK,  
694 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

## Postage Stamp Collectors!

FOR 25 CENTS you can get the "Philatelic Monthly," an eight page paper for one year, and a 52 page Descriptive Price Catalogue. Specimen copy of paper, list of packets, albums, &c, free. An immense assortment of genuine stamps at low prices. Address:  
L. W. DURBIN,  
105 South Fifth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

## The Card Journal,

(16 pages monthly) one year. 60 Tinted Visiting Cards, ten Acquaintance cards, one Album Chromo, one pack Age cards, 3 Photographs, one GOLD PEN, all for 15 cents.  
STAR CARD CO., Chicago, Ill.

## The Great Rebellion!

No American should neglect to purchase the neatest relic of our Country's darkest hours. We offer complete sets, 9 varieties Confederate Notes, 1864 issue, containing 50c., \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$500, for only 60 cents. Postage and revenue stamps cheap.  
Catalogues 15 cents. Circulars free.  
Address: C. H. BECHTEL, 79 Nassau st., N. Y.

## Coins Bought and Sold.

I can furnish all dates for Silver Weddings, or as mementoes of year of birth. Either in dollars, halves or quarters.

### Also the Confederate Cent of 1861.

The only coin ever designed for the Southern Confederacy.  
PROOF GOLD DOLLARS OF 1876, "CENTENNIAL YEAR."  
J. COLVIN RANDALL,  
114 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

## \$1.00 BOOK FOR 10 CENTS.

A newly bound volume (XV.) of the "Boys of England" will be given to each of the three first persons sending ten cents for Charles D. Raymer's Amateur Almanac for 1877. Full of fun!  
RAYMER & HOAN,  
Box 837, Grand Rapids, Mich.  
Editors insert above and this for one copy.

## An Acknowledged Fact.

### "THE AMATEUR TIMES"

Is acknowledged by the press and public to be the King of Canadian Amateurs, although in its first half year, it had more subscribers and advertisers than any other Canadian journal. As we do not insert professional "ads" it is readable from beginning to end. As an advertising medium it is unequalled, all we solicit is a trial to insure mutual satisfaction. Send a 3 cent stamp for sample copy—mention this paper. Address:

THE AMATEUR JOURNAL,  
Box 782, Toronto, Canada.

Editors will please insert above "adv." in lieu for our old one, and receive a pro rata in the Times.

## Cheap Foreign Stamps

75 varieties of used and unused, SOME VERY RARE, Bolivia, British Guiana, Ecuador, Peru, Hanover, Prince Edwards Island, Queensland, Barbadoes, Mauritius, Japan, Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, Shanghai, &c., for 25 cents and stamp.

See our 10 cent sets of Buenos Ayres, head of Liberty, 5 var.; Paraguay, 3 var.; Cashmere (circular) 3 var.; Cashmere (oblong) 6 var.; Shanghai, 8 var.; St. Domingo, 5 var.; St. Christopher, 2 var.; Angola, 3 var.; Java, 4 var.; Danubian Steam Navigation Co., 4 var. Hamburg locals, 150 varieties, 25 cents. U. S. locals, 25 varieties, 15 cents.

Price lists sent to any address free.

Letters answered by return mail

### THE ATLAS STAMP CO.

P. O. Box 4763, New York City.

Amateur Editors, Notice! All editors inserting this "ad." and sending it to the above, will receive the amount due by return mail.

## VISITING CARDS.

25 beautifully printed in gold or silver, and sent post paid, for 30 cents. Send stamp for Price List and agents terms.  
M. L. MORRIS, Box 64, St. Vincent, Fla.  
Publishers who will insert this and the above for 35 cents may do so and send marked copy.

## TEN DOLLARS

Will be given to the person who first sends us a correct solution of our CENTENNIAL ANAGRAM. Send 10 cents for a copy to J. F. PACKARD, Bridgewater, Mass.

It answering this advertisement please state that you saw it in this paper. Publishers inserting the above and this will receive pay at their regular rates.