

SAPPHIRE

THE

Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

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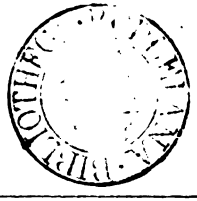

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POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

'Have you a yellow Saxon?' 'I want a Russian.' 'I'll give a red Prussian for a blue Brunswicker.' 'Will you exchange a Russian for a black English?' 'I wouldn't give a Russian for twenty English!' Such were the exclamations that saluted our ears two years or so since, when waiting for an interminable line of vehicles to break sufficiently to allow us to cross Cheapside. The singularity of the conversation attracted our attention and excited our curiosity. The last phrase particularly surprised us, and we turned round in expectancy of seeing some sallow foreigner's countenance, but found the remark, so disparaging to our national vanity, proceeded from an unmistakeably English face, on the neck and shoulders of a true John Bull of a boy, one of a score or more youths just poured forth from a noble educational institution in the neighbourhood. Now we had heard of fair Saxons, but never of yellow ones, and of the then celebrated black Brunswickers of the Royal Academy, but a blue one was a strain upon our imagination.

Having an objection to trust ourselves under the horses' legs, or be jammed between two carts, we had abundance of leisure to take note of what was going on, and found each of the juvenile locutants was provided with a small book studded with dark patches, which a closer examination discovered to be postage stamps of all nations.

Further inquiries initiated us more deeply in its mysteries, and a very brief time saw us regularly enrolled as a votary of what a special English appellation is wanted for, but which the Belgians and French appropriately term Timbromanie.

The now prevalent,—we had almost written fashionable,—*furore* in question, is of by no means such modern growth as many suppose; for, some eight or nine years since, we re-

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member being asked to search among our old letters for the black English postage stamp; and we have at times contributed a stray specimen towards the store of a young lady, who had been even then some time collecting, and we are frequently inclined to wish our said friend and her stamps at the place whence we are impatiently expecting an importation, viz., Hong Kong, —for, albeit we never seemed to take any interest therein, we must have imbibed the seeds of a malady which has entailed on us a frightful amount of trouble, excitement, and anxiety.

The *timbromanie*, or stamp mania, has long prevailed in Belgium, Germany, and France; originating, as we have been given to understand, in the former country; and though, as we have just intimated, by no means unknown here, it is within the last two or three years only that it appears to have taken a firm root in the metropolis, extending its ramifications to all parts of the United Kingdom. An individual in Brighton boasts of being the first to introduce it generally into England, and was, we believe, the primary commercial speculator in what may be termed a new trade. Twelve months ago not a stamp could be purchased in London at any shop, whereas there are now a dozen or more regular dealers, and numbers of private individuals make a pretty tolerable profit out of the coloured rectangles launched into circulation, with no purpose of that kind, by Sir Rowland Hill.

The (now, alas!) surreptitious 'Change in Birchin Lane and its alleys,—where from fifty to a hundred individuals used to congregate in the evenings of last spring,—was an interesting epitome of its typical *congener* in the neighbourhood. Buying, selling, and exchanging were then carried on with spirit and pleasurable excitement; all ranks (we have seen one of her Majesty's ministry there) and all ages (ourselves were blandly told by X 149, that we were old enough to know better) taking part in the traffic. We have occasionally seen ladies, album in hand, on the scene; of whom one contrived to effect a highly-advantageous exchange of a very so-so specimen for a rarity, with a young friend of ours, who salved his greenness with the apologetic remark, that he could not drive a hard bargain with a lady.

The variation in prices was right noteworthy:—a stamp fetching sixpence or a shilling one evening, the next realising but a penny or twopence; some merchant's clerk or office-boy, with an eye to business, having rummaged to some purpose for a packet of old letters laden with the stamp in demand. We have seen a set of the Nevis stamps the same evening pass from hand to hand for four, six, and eight shillings successively, and even at the last price bought to sell again at a profit.

A similar scene is of daily occurrence in the gardens of the Tuileries at Paris, though Sunday afternoons attract the larger attendance; but there the fair sex decidedly predominates, and groups of amateurs may be observed sitting with their albums on the chairs under the trees, busily earnest in exchanging. The same, on a minor scale, might be witnessed in the gardens of the Luxembourg, on Thursday evenings.

Marvellous to a degree is the ignorance of the uninitiated respecting the various kinds of postal stamps. We heard a gentleman, who had travelled through the United States, confidently affirm there were no purely local stamps there,—the actual number being *then* something like a hundred. Again, inquiring of a Spaniard if he could procure us some specimens of the old issues of his country before 1854, he pertinaciously insisted there had been no postage in Spain till after that period, and it was only by producing one of our own collection dated 1850, that he could be convinced of his erroneous idea. A Spanish gentleman, of our acquaintance, had never heard of the nineteen-cuartos stamp of his own country; and a West-Indian merchant of Jamaica, through whose hands the stamps of that island must have passed for years, had never observed the difference between them and the English.

Last year we applied at several minor offices, and even at the general post in Paris, for the *chiffre-taxe* stamp—showing one as a pattern—and were assured by one and all that it could not be French. This will be less surprising on observing the general ignorance prevailing as respects our own higher-priced

envelopes. Before we ascertained whence to obtain them, we tried at several post-offices, —among others, at the principal district-office at the West End,—and were confidently informed they were not in use then, if they ever had been, which was doubtful. Not two months since we used a fourpenny one in part payment of a registered letter, at Lombard Street, which created quite a sensation among the officials there, who had never seen one before.

Something more excusable was the ignorance of a servant where we were residing, who, remarking our *penchant* for such items, good-naturedly volunteered the information that her aunt had received a letter from her brother in the West Indies, with a very extraordinary stamp on it. Thinking to draw a prize, we rushed into the city, mounted one of the endless staircases of a seven-storied warehouse; penetrated the sanctum of the housekeeper, narrowly escaping a broken head from the low roof; and, after waiting till a miscellaneous store of treasures was ransacked for the coveted epistle, were duly rewarded for our enterprise by the sight of the wondrous stamp, which disclosed itself to our eager eyes in the shape of a common penny head stuck cornerwise!!

RISE AND PROGRESS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

SIR ROWLAND HILL deservedly claims credit for the introduction,—we may say, invention,—of the adhesive postal stamp; but we cannot congratulate the designer of our penny and twopenny stamps on the display of any taste. Compared with some since issued, they are simply hideous. Those of other denominations are a shade more tasty, but poor in colour; and our envelopes are handsome, though not comparable with the Baden and some others. The newly-issued Antigua is extremely like the first English, but immeasurably superior, being well designed and exquisitely engraved.

Zurich appears to have been the first adopter of the new system, as some of its stamps bear the date of 1843. Half-a-dozen years later Belgium and the French Republic made simultaneous issues; the former libeling the really handsome countenance of King Leopold, which the too liberal use of cancelling ink tends further to uglify, and the latter imaging the frail but beautiful daughter of Eve, whose effigy realised the ideal goddess of liberty of the first revolution.

About the same time appeared the now rare local Madrid stamp, bearing the arms of that city impressed in bronze. The next year (1850) launched the general Spanish (of which more anon), the Thurn and Taxis, Baden, local Saxon, Wurtemburg, and Prussian. The first and last of these bore the heads of their respective sovereigns, but the German minor states contented themselves with the useful, if unornamental, design of a large figure, denoting the value of the stamp. These, however, with the exception of the Thurn and Taxis, which retain the *chiffre*, now carry the impress of their various armorial bearings.

It would be tedious to individualise the gradual but rapid enrolment of the other continental states, and, in fact, every part of the known world, under the system. The most recent adopter is Nicaragua; the stamps of Hong Kong, though made some time since, being not yet issued; and Turkey having but lately decided upon a postal emission.

Our own penny and twopenny, with slight variations, have existed three and twenty years, while Hanover, Brazil, and others have issued three; Oldenburg and Prussia, four; the colony of Victoria, six; and Spain no fewer than eight impressions, bearing the same value. The latter country, indeed, for four successive years varied her Catholic Majesty's profile annually, made use of the Spanish arms for a twelvemonth, then settled on the sovereign's face again; and, strange to say, the Queen of Spain looks much younger (on the stamp) at this present year than she did thirteen years ago. The first four years' issue comprehends the rarest and most *recherché* specimens extant, many being almost unattainable. These are far from attractive in appearance, but the emission of 1854 (armorial bearings) comprehends a series beautiful in colour and finely engraved. For richness of hue, how-

ever, and exquisite design, the stamps of Greece stand pre-eminent, unless Nova Scotia be allowed to dispute the palm.

The most prominent postal pattern is the reigning sovereign's head; witness our own domestic and colonial stamps, and some of the continental states. Next in favour follow the arms of the country, as in the modern Prussian, Danish, Swedish, Russian, and others. An emblematical device signalises some states, as the figure of Hope, for the Cape Colony; a swan for Western Australia, where the *rara avis* of the Latin poet first offered itself to modern eyes; Britannia, for Trinidad, Barbadoes, &c.; and a ship for British Guiana. Under the same category fall the elegantly-designed stamps of Nevis and Liberia, and the very quaint impressions of Monte Video and the Argentine Confederation.

More than forty changes have been rung on Queen Victoria's portrait, represented in so many ways, and in about a dozen shades of colour. After the queer shilling Victoria and the South Australian, our British penny would get the prize for ugliness; for the old penny and tenpenny Van Diemen's Land, and the curious native Mauritius impressions, have a sort of barbaric simplicity; while the Ceylon envelopes and the Nova Scotian adhesives claim pre-eminence in beauty.



Except the Swiss, whose different cantons formerly issued divers patterns, the colonies of Canada and New Brunswick exhibit the greatest diversity of design, each imaging six devices, including the effigy of one of the postmasters, whose harmless vanity cost him his appointment.

Impressions are usually in black on coloured or in colour on white paper, with the exception of two of the Mexicans, which show colour on colour; but the Russian and some of the disused Swiss, and one or two others, sport two colours on the same stamp. The local Spanish stamp, alluded to previously, and one of the Sardinian, are printed in bronze; one of the Western Australians and a few of the local New Yorks in gold. A different hue is generally employed to distinguish each value, except for the now obsolete Neapolitans, which were all of the selfsame colour and bore a similar device, but within diversely formed scrolls; and the Newfoundlands, six of whose stamps were of the same pattern and closely approximating hue, till the last emission, when a darker shade was employed to distinguish the values most closely allied.

The Peruvian Steam Navigation Company's (of which we give an engraving), Liberian, and very rare old Brazilian stamps, are among the largest; and Brunswick and Mecklenburg-Schwerin issue the smallest stamps. Those of the mysterious town of Bergedorf are note-worthy, as varying the dimensions in accordance with the values of its stamps.



Some of the Natals are truly singular, being simply rectangles of thin coloured paper, impressed with a hand stamp.

Postal stamps most usually have their value more or less conspicuously marked, but the obsolete Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Mauritius, and current St. Lucia and Ionian stamps, are distinguishable only by their colours.

The lowest money value is borne by the one centime of France and Belgium, being not quite two-fifths of a farthing; and the highest (16*s.* 8*d.*) by the four-dollar Californian Pony Express. These are also of lower denominations, and below them rank the five-shilling New South Wales, the one-scudo Roman, the ninety cents of Hong Kong and the United States, and the three lire of Tuscany and Sardinia; but the more usual values range from the equivalent of an English penny to a shilling.



The rarest stamps in actual use are those of Nicaragua, the Philippines, and the Sandwich Isles; yet these are, of course, comparatively attainable, and will become commoner as the demand increases. But the long-disused emissions of Reunion and New Cale-

donia, and the earliest issues of Spain, Portugal, the Italian Duchies, Moldavia, Van Diemen's Land, Cuba, and British Guiana, are by far the most difficult to be met with, are daily becoming rarer, and will soon, some of them, be virtually unattainable.

Essays, or trial stamps, are much sought after, though not strictly admissible in a postal catalogue, not having been adopted by the respective governments for which they were designed. Such are the New Brunswick, alluded to above, the curious stamps intended for the kingdom of Paraguay (a specimen of which we engrave), some for Peru, Denmark, and the French Republic, of different colours, and our own three-halfpenny, which ought to have come into circulation, the present rate of postage to Russia and California requiring something of the kind, as we are not permitted to adopt the clumsy contrivance of cutting a penny stamp diagonally to serve for the odd half-penny, as was the practice in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Other essays are simply black impressions of the pattern approved, as those of Greece, Lubeck, British Guiana, Sardinia, South Australia, Victoria, &c.



Some specimens are exceedingly rare in consequence of their paucity, arising from having been in circulation but a limited period, as those of the revolted provinces of Schleswig-Holstein and Romagna, and the provisional governments of Naples, Parma, and Modena. Another cause of rarity arises from a temporary issue, as those of the Cape of Good Hope; the low values of which having been exhausted, and the supply from England failing, some native artists tried their hands, and successfully too, at a wood impression of the current stamps. Of these the red fourpenny and blue penny are excessively rare, the latter almost unprocurable.

Local stamps, *i.e.*, those employed for transmission of letters or newspapers in the same limited circuit, seldom exceed unity; but the free town of Hamburg has used something like three dozen, and the city of New York perhaps a hundred and fifty. These latter, issued by hosts of private companies, exhibit vast ingenuity of design and diversity of pattern, are very much sought after at present; and, notwithstanding their very low commercial value—seldom exceeding two cents—fetch high prices. The novel issues of the various Confederate States are also eagerly collected by amateurs. But we must not weary our readers with more of these desultory remarks, as we propose in future numbers—taking *Brown's Manual* as a text-book—to glance at anything noteworthy in postal relation to the various countries, in the same order as therein enumerated; touching upon the essays, fictitious stamps, and chief rarities (of the more remarkable of which we purpose subjoining engravings), supplying omissions, and noting newly-issued individuals.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE collection of Postage Stamps is recommended as inducing the study of history and geography, and there can be no doubt that it does so, if properly pursued. But many collections and several catalogues have been arranged and published in alphabetical order, or, in other words, by the initial letter of the countries which issue them; this, I think, must appear, to every one who considers the subject, a method of arranging the stamps which can never conduce to the object desired;—an arrangement in which the Granada Confederation, for example, is made to precede Great Britain, and Greece to follow, seems as odd a jumble of confusion as can need enter a person's head. I know that it is said that the plan is followed because it is more easy to refer to the name of the country when so arranged, than when placed in geographical groups. This may be so to some, if the collector pays no attention, and takes no interest in geography or history. But, to a person who is interested, and has made some advance in the study of these two most important branches of science, then the arrangement of the countries which are related to each other in position, govern-

ment, and language, will certainly be the most easy of reference. We use a dictionary to find out a word we do not understand, and a scientific treatise when we want to learn any subject we think worthy of study.

Collectors who arrange their stamps in alphabetical order, and even authors who print catalogues of them according to that plan, seem to feel that it is not a good one. I do not know a single collector or catalogue compiler who completely carries out the system. They generally place the colonies of France, Spain, Denmark, &c., under the head of France, &c., consequently under F, S, and D; thus these catalogues perform their proposed purpose so imperfectly, that they think it necessary to have a large number of cross references, or have an alphabetical index to help their arrangement; and it is to be further observed, if they are so arranged, why are not the colonies and dependencies of Great Britain to be placed under the head of the mother country? It is no use saying that it is because the colonies of France, Spain, and Denmark are few and, like those of the mother country, bear the head of the king or emperor of the country, for that is equally applicable to most of the English colonies. I do not, therefore, see any reason why Cuba, in the alphabetical catalogues, should not be placed under C instead of S, if Antigua is under A.

It appears to me that whatever plan is adopted for arranging stamps, to be useful, it ought to be uniform, and carried out completely and to the letter, or it is more apt to mislead than to instruct.

If I had a considerable number of stamps, I think it would be more easy and natural to divide them into British, Continental, and American, than according to the letters of the alphabet by which their names happened to commence, especially as many of them do not bear the name of the country that issues them.

The stamps of England and her dependencies all have the inscription on them in the English language, and most of them are embellished with the portrait of our Queen. The dependencies of the British Crown naturally group themselves into Indian, Mediterranean, African, Australian, North American, and West Indian possessions. The continental stamps naturally divide into groups, each marked by the language of the country they represent, and the portrait, arms, or other emblems they are illustrated with. Those belonging to countries such as France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, &c., all use a language which is a modification of the Latin tongue. Then those marked with a Grecian inscription. The countries of the German races easily divide themselves into those issued by South Germany, as Austria and Bavaria, and use the *kreuzer;* and those for Northern Germany, as Prussia, Brunswick, Saxony, &c., which use the *groschen;* those issued by the Hanseatic towns of Lubeck, Hamburg, and Bremen; and then follow the Scandinavian kingdoms of Denmark and Sweden, and the Sclavonic empire, that use the *kopec*; and the Eastern Principalities, that use the *para*. It is to be observed that in this list I have taken the countries as they lay from west to east.

The stamps of the American Government as naturally and as easily separate themselves into three groups, ranging from the north towards the south of the continent—first, the Northern States, that bear English inscriptions, and use the *cent;* then the Brazilian, marked with the Portuguese *reis*; and, lastly, those governments that use the Spanish language. I am inclined to think, when I see a collection arranged geographically and historically, it is one that the possessor has made for study and instruction; whereas that arranged alphabetically is likely to become useless, and set aside as soon as the fancy passes away.

SOMETHING ABOUT THURN AND TAXIS.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

PEOPLE are as much, if not more, puzzled about Thurn and Taxis than the Zollverein; and one may search through gazetteers and geographies without obtaining any solution of the inquiry, so often propounded, 'What is meant by Thurn and Taxis, and where is it?' Thinking that some little explanation may be interesting, I have availed myself of

information obtained direct from Germany, and which will, doubtless, not only throw some little light on the obscurity that envelopes the term, but show that even a single postage stamp, when thoroughly studied, may impart much information.

Thurn and Taxis (in French, *de la Tour et Taxis*; Italian, *della Torre e Tassis*) was formerly an independent house in Germany, originally from the Milanese territory. The oldest authentic historic ancestor of the family is considered to be Martin I della Torre, Lord of Valsassina, who accompanied the Emperor Conrad I. in his crusade, and died a prisoner of the Saracens in 1147. Since 1259, eight della Torres were, one after the other, lords of Milan, until Guido the Rich perished in a feud with the Visconti family. Martino della Torre was one of the popular leaders, and appointed *anziano* or elder of the people of Milan. Such was his power that he sequestrated the property of the see, and forbade the archbishop elect to appear at Milan; for which he was excommunicated by the Pope. His successors continued to enjoy the popular favour for some time, until one of them was suspected of aspiring to sovereign power, and Ottoni Visconti, the archbishop, seized this opportunity for striking a decisive blow. A combat ensued in which the Torriani were defeated, and Visconti entered Milan a perpetual lord. So much for Thurn or Torre. One of the sons of Guido the Rich, Lamoral I., settled in the territory of Bergamo, and took from the mountain Tasso (one of his possessions there) the name *del Tasso*, and afterwards *de Tassis*. His great grandson inherited the possessions of his predecessors, united their titles, and was known as Roger I., of Thurn and Taxis. This personage was knighted by the emperor Friederich III., in 1450, and founded the fame of his house by the establishment of a post in Tyrol. The emperor Leopold I. granted to Count Engen Franz von Thurn und Taxis the dignity of Prince of the Empire. The grandson of the latter obtained the office of Imperial-General Hereditary Post Master, held in fee from the empire. In 1785 the prince Karl Anselm bought the independent lordships, Friedberg, Scheer, Bassen, &c., which were raised, in 1786, to a princely countship of the empire. As restitution for the loss of the post in the Austrian Netherlands and on the left bank of the Rhine, the Thurn and Taxis family received, in 1803, other lordships. In 1819 it received from Prussia three domains in the province of Posen, which, with the family possessions in Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Bohemia, &c., &c., comprised more than thirty-four and a half square miles, with about one hundred thousand inhabitants, and a revenue of eight hundred thousand florins.

The first trace of a German post is in the latter half of the fifteenth century, when Roger I., Count of Thurn and Taxis, established the Tyrol post. At the request of Maximilian I., in 1516, Roger's son formed a post from Brussels to Vienna. In 1522, on account of the war with the Turks, an imperial post was established from Nuremberg to Vienna, which ceased on the return of peace. On this, Charles V. ordered Leonhard, Count of Thurn and Taxis, to establish a permanent post, which went from the Netherlands through Treves, Spires, &c., to Wurtemberg, Augsburg, and Tyrol, to Italy. In 1543 he created the Count Oberpostmeister of the German empire. About the end of the sixteenth century the Thurn and Taxis post, shaken by disturbances in the Netherlands, and oppressed by debt, fell into disuse, but rose again under the favour of Emperor Rudolf II. But the Palatinate, Wurtemberg, Saxony, Brandenberg, Mecklenburg, and other states of the empire, formerly included under Thurn and Taxis, had in the meantime established posts in their own states, and refused to recognise the validity of the office. Upon this, Lamoral, Count of Thurn and Taxis, was raised to the rank of Baron of the Empire, and received the imperial post in fee for himself and male heirs, which was subsequently extended to his female descendants. Various states have at times shaken off or purchased the monopoly: thus Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Hanover, Saxony, Baden, Oldenburg, Luxemburg, &c., have now their own postal arrangements. But the Thurn and Taxis family still possesses, as a fief of the empire, the posts in Nassau, Saxe

Weimar, Schwarzburg, Rudolstadt, &c., &c. In the free cities of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, they possess *some* of the posts; but the general direction of the Thurn and Taxis office has had its seat, since 1811, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, where the Thurn and Taxis posts are *exclusively* used.

It is hoped that this long detail will at least enable every collector of postage stamps to give a satisfactory answer to any query about Thurn and Taxis.

A CHAPTER ON THE PENNY POSTAGE STAMP.

We confess to harbouring something like a tender affection for those little parallelogrammic portraits of Her Majesty in red, which, costing us only a penny each, yet frank our letters to any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. A packet of them in the corner of one's porte-monnaie, even though that handy receptacle should contain little else, always has a welcome look, not so much for the trifling pecuniary value they represent, as from the really marvellous power they consign to their possessor. A single one of them guarantees you the despatch of a missive for a distance of five hundred miles, if you like, with the speed of the carrier pigeon and the punctuality of clockwork; and will thus perform for its owner a feat which would cost him twenty pounds or so to execute in person, and which, had he existed a century ago, he could not have accomplished with a mine of wealth.

Personally, our regard for the pennypostage stamp owes something to certain memories of the times when no such things were to be had—when a letter from home cost tenpence on delivery by the postman—and correspondence, which is the dearest solace of absence and separation, had to be restricted by considerations of economy. In those days we remember that while Parliament was sitting, and tenpences were rather scarce with us, because employment was difficult to obtain, we used to haunt the lobby of the old House of Commons, and intercept the members as they came up the stairs, in order to solicit the favour of a frank. The first of them whom we found courage to address was a tall, round, ruddy-faced man, with an eye that used to laugh and sparkle, and a mouth that smiled habitually, with a touch of sarcasm about it, and who wore a light buff-coloured suit and a white hat. 'Come along,' said he, 'I'll give you a frank, and two if you like.' He led the way into that little closet that used to stand open at the left of the door-keeper's, and wrote, in a firm legible hand, the name of William Cobbett.

We got a little enlightenment on the subject of franks before long. People who had a good share of assurance, it seemed, rarely paid postage for anything, but got everything franked. They did not wait till their letters were written, but bought blank half-sheets, which they folded as envelopes, and got them endorsed by the members, dozens at a time. We used to wonder at their consciences, especially as some of them, to save themselves trouble, would leave a packet of envelopes with some seedy lounger of the lobby, and give him a small gratuity for getting the whole of them franked. To be sure, what a number of autographs some of the good-natured old gentlemen would make before the claimants would allow them to pass on to their places in the senate. We cannot remember a single instance of refusal, certainly never encountered one ourselves; the reason may have been that all the claimants were supposed to be constituents, whom it would not have been policy to refuse a favour which cost but a stroke of the pen. Rumour said that most of the franks were made use of by the ladies: how that may have been we do not know; but certainly one met with far more ladies in the lobby then, than it is customary to see there now.

The Penny Post, and the appearance of the miniature Queen's head, put an end to the begging of franks from members of Parliament. Even Government servants now use the red stamps on their letters, with the exception (though perhaps that is not the sole exception) of the members of the Cabinet, who have a round red stamp of their own, bearing the word 'Paid,' and no Queen's head.

When the Penny Postage system was first resolved on, the authorities issued a prospectus, offering a reward of £500 for the

best design and plan for a stamp. The conditions, which were widely circulated, stated that the chief desiderata were simplicity and facility in working, combined with such precautions as should prove effectual against forgery. It is said that upwards of a thousand different designs and plans were sent in; but it does not appear that any one of the competitors tendered anything so simple as the stamp which was eventually chosen. It is likely that the precautions recommended against forgery—and which it was not foreseen would be unnecessary—led to a complexity in the plans, which was found, on consideration, incompatible with their adoption. About the same time, a prize was offered for the best design for an envelope, which was gained by Mr. Mulready, R.A., and was tolerably familiar to the public, by whom it was, however, far from being generally used.

Let us now look at a sheet of penny postage stamps, and, in default of any professional or official knowledge, of which we cannot boast, see if we may not extract from it its own tale. The Queen's head, delicately engraved, is relieved by a dark back-ground formed of finest lines, resembling, on a very minute scale, those traced by the engine-turner on the back of a gold watch. On either side of the head rises a narrow slip of carved trellis-work. In the two upper corners are a couple of square studs, with the word 'Postage' between them; and at the two lower corners are two white hollow squares, each containing a letter of the alphabet. But in a sheet of 240 stamps there are no two of them found which have the same letters, but the whole sheet contains such changes as may be made by the use of two alphabets—the changes being regularly made thus: B A, B B, B C, etc.; D A, D B, D C, and so on to the last letter. This change of the letters it is which is supposed to constitute the check to the forger; but there has never been, and probably never will be, an instance of the forgery of postage stamps. The reason, it cannot be doubted, is that there is not sufficient inducement to the crime; or, in other words, it would not pay. Stamps cannot be passed like notes; and though they do often circulate as representatives of coin, it is generally in small amounts, and for the most part among persons known to each other. Moreover, the forger would have not only to engrave his punch or die, and cast his blocks, but to make his own paper; for, on looking at the back of the sheet, you will see that every one of the Queen's heads falls on a regal crown, impressed in the water-mark of the paper in process of manufacture. And, lastly, he would have to compound his own ink—the ink with which postage stamps are printed differing from all other printer's ink, not only in its hue, which is nearer rose-coloured than vermillion, but in being soluble in water, which is not the case with ordinary printer's ink.

Looking closely at the Queen's heads, you will see, on comparing them severally with each other, that all are evidently struck from a single die, and each block is therefore a fac-simile of every one of the others. This is evident from the situation of the diminutive white specks which are scattered over the whole surface, and appear between the carved crossings of the trellis-work at the sides. If separate punches had been engraved and used, there *must* have been some small deviations in the position of these infinitesimal dots, but there are none. What is remarkable about the printing, is the sharpness and clearness of the head and back-ground, looking to the fineness of the lines and the diminutive spaces between them. We gather from this fact, that not only is the material of the blocks of the highest quality, but that the blocks themselves are subjected only to a limited number of impressions, and, when that number is worked, are replaced by new ones.

After the printing comes the process of gelatinizing the back or unprinted side of the sheet, to render the stamps adhesive.

Very different is the next and finishing process. This consists in puncturing the interstices between the several stamps on the sheet with innumerable small holes, in order that, without being at the trouble of using knife or scissors, the user may tear the stamps asunder in a moment. Four thousand pounds was paid to the inventor of this drilling ceremony—a very large reward for

what seems at first view a very inconsiderable service. The task, however, was more difficult than it looks : the numerous holes are not mere punctures such as a printer might make with a series of small points, but are, on the contrary, complete circles, from which the small discs of paper have been cut cleanly out. The grand difficulty to contend with must have been the extremely narrow space between the stamps ; had there been a wide margin, the printer's joiner could have supplied the means of partially dissevering the stamps in the act of printing, without having recourse to an additional process.

Let us glance now at the possible destiny of a postage stamp, and see what may be in reserve for one of these little Queen's heads. From the printer it has found its way to the Stamp Office, and thence it has migrated to the shop of the stationer or the district postmaster. There it may lie in a drawer or figure in a window for weeks, or it may be torn from the sheet to-morrow, and consigned to the pocket-book of the private customer. It is by no means certain that it will leave its owner's custody on the special mission for which it came into the world, for it may pass through the post once and again as the representative of small change—in payment of newspaper subscriptions—in discharge of a trifling debt—on an errand of charity—or as a substitute for pocket money to an absent child. The advertising columns of a newspaper will show us fifty other functions which the penny postage stamp is made to perform. 'Send seven postage stamps,' says one, 'and in return you will receive a (German) silver spoon,' a sample, of course, of an elegant service of cheap plate, which the advertiser wants to recommend. 'Send a dozen stamps,' says another, 'with a specimen of your handwriting, and I will disclose to you the mysteries of your own mind and temper, and put you in a position to make the most of the faculties you possess, and to guard most effectually against the temptations that beset you.' A third benefactor inquires if you are in want of money, and kindly adds, that you have only to send him a few Queen's heads, when, in return, you will receive a secret, the possession of which will put you in funds for the remainder of your life. A fourth, in return for thirteen of them, will remit you an infallible recipe, which he professes to have won by the sad experience of years of personal suffering, for the cure of nervous disorders, hypochondria, indigestion, and a long train of ills besides. Of all which professions, however, you need not be too credulous, seeing that the stamps, once out of your possession, will not come back again, and that which does come in their place is not likely, to say the best of it, to prove a monument of your prudence and discrimination.

Such are some of the incidental functions of a postage stamp, and the list need not close here : we have seen the Queen's heads pass instead of coppers, when the copper coin ran low—over the counter in shops—to book a parcel at the receiving house—and even, sometimes, to pay an omnibus fare. But the destiny of all stamps, at last, is to be stuck, like a limpet on a rock, on the envelope of a letter ; and now it is that its travels in the world are sure to begin in right earnest. Its outset, however, is not very complimentary to its royal countenance, for the first salutation it meets with, on making its *début* in active life, after being fished out of the receiving-box by the district postmaster, is a violent blow in the face from an inky die, which smudges its rose-coloured beauty with a couple of huge blotty figures, and annihilates its comeliness for ever. Then it gets a ride in the postmaster's wallet to the chief office of the district, where it is pitched and tossed about hither and thither under the hands of the sorters, with a celerity that gives to the whole ceremony the aspect of some reckless frolicking game, and finally gets packed in a parcel, and tossed into a bag along with hundreds of others which have shared the sport. In the bag it rattles at a headlong pace, in a red box mounted on high wheels, helter-skelter along a mile or two of bustling streets, until it arrives at the railway station just as the mail train is ready to start. It is no sooner bundled into the mail van than the start takes place, and off it rolls on its mission—say to some small village in Northumberland. All night it goes thundering along the iron road, and just as the dawn is

glimmering in the east, it finds itself suddenly jerked out of the window of the carriage, with its companions, without the train stopping for an instant, and caught in the arms of a man in a red jacket, who was standing alone on the silent and solitary platform, on the look-out for it. The man is the village postmaster, who, having secured his charge, walks off with it to his humble cottage, and, unpacking the letters, begins to arrange them in the order of their delivery—having accomplished which, he sets out about seven o'clock upon his round.

But our Queen's head happens to be affixed to a letter which is directed 'to be left till called for,' and, beyond the name of the Northumbrian village, bears no other address. So the postman, knowing nothing of the owner, follows his usual course of proceeding in such a case, and sticks the letter, with the address outwards, into the casement of his little office, that if any friend of the person to whom it is addressed should pass that way and happen to see it, the news of its arrival may reach him. In wild, out-of-the-way places, letters thus exhibited are known to remain in the postmaster's possession weeks and even months together. Perhaps the correspondent is a farm servant, who, having changed his employer and moved to a distant spot, has no time to spare to look after letters; or, he may be a navvy, in course of continuous migration from one place to another, whose letters are few and far between, and, if they reach him at all, reach him by devious and uncertain routes. But there is an end, sooner or later, to the delays and circumambulations even of such a letter as this, and it reaches its destination and falls into the owner's hand at last. And now, you will say, there is an end to the career of the little Queen's head.

Perhaps there is; but also, perhaps there is not. It is true that hundreds of millions of postage stamps are annually destroyed, and meet with the fate of waste paper; but the whims of a certain class of people, who like to exercise their industry on trifles, have decreed that vast numbers of stamps shall be rescued from the ordinary fate that awaits them, and be appropriated to a useful, if it may be so called, or a quasi-ornamental purpose. As there are collectors of almost everything old under the sun, so also are there collectors of old postage stamps. These antiquaries beg old stamps wherever they go, and amass them by hundreds of thousands, for some cherished purpose of their own, on the accomplishment of which they have set their hearts. Now it is to line a work-box or a trunk, or the interior of a closet or a cabinet; and sometimes their ambition takes a still higher flight than this, and their grand design is to paper a room with the defaced Queen's heads. This has indeed been done by persevering people, and that in more instances than most persons are aware of, and is, we have reason to believe, continually in process of completion in various parts of the country. It is said that a room thus papered, when the affair is managed with skill, and the walls cleverly varnished afterwards, has a very agreeable aspect—the walls appearing to retire considerably from their actual position, and thus giving the effect of larger space in the apartment. This result is due partly to the minuteness of the pattern, and partly to the complete blending of the red, black, and white hues, and to the fact that they have lost their positive colour by the unavoidable wear and tear of their previous career.

So the stamp on the letter of our unknown Northumbrian may chance to get into the hands of a collector, and continue its existence as a permanent fixture, after its day of locomotion is gone. In this case there is no knowing how long it may continue to show a face to the world; the entire living generation may pass away and leave it still fixed to the wall, an infinitesimal fraction of a monument of industry and pertinacity.—*The Leisure Hour.*

STAMPS LATELY ISSUED.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

WE engrave in the present number three postage stamps very recently brought into circulation; a new French, anticipated in Mount Brown's Manual; the local Bavarian, erroneously described therein, from hearsay,

as blue; and the new French 15 centimes à



percevoir, issued on New Year's Day. The first of these, two centimes in value, intended for franking *feuilletons*, &c., as well as the 4 centimes, has been expected some months; and, we understand, delayed, in consequence of an accident to the plate. It is coloured a rich brown, which the French call *marron*, like the 1-lepton Greek, and is an exquisite specimen of engraving; we opine, either by Albert Barre, whose beautiful essays of the republic were in the late International Exhibition, or by Hulot, the engraver of the faultless Grecian stamps. The design is dissimilar from that of the other French, the emperor's head being, in our idea, disfigured by a laurel crown. Imitating in this, as in other respects, his great predecessor, he forgot that what exactly suited the noble classical outline of the first Napoleon's head, does not at all accord with his own pointed beard.

We wonder the French have so recently adopted the clever invention of perforating their stamps—having done so for two or three months only; although Susse, of the Place de la Bourse, has for a considerable time obligingly had those sold at his own establishment perforated for the benefit of his customers.

The 15 centimes à percevoir will be, like its *congener*, the 10, employed when local letters in the provinces are insufficiently, or not at all, prepaid. These stamps are only with difficulty obtainable, and by great favour, at the post-offices, as the officials cannot legally sell them to applicants; and we know a zealous collector, visiting a provincial town, who, wishing to procure a quantity of the tens to take back to England for exchanging, wrote a letter to himself every day, dropped it into the letter-box unpaid, and received it duly ornamented by the coveted 10 centimes à percevoir!



Of like use is the Bavarian stamp alluded to, the legend of which, in plain English, is, 'Bavarian Postage, 3 kreuzer, payable by the receiver.' These last mentioned stamps, though homely in appearance, strikingly contrast with their gaily-coloured companions, and form an interesting addition to a well-arranged page.



We may here remark that the whole of the Bavarian stamps, as well as those of most of the German States, have lately been changed in colour—following in the wake of the Prussians; and those stamps nearest in value to the English penny, twopence, and threepence, are now respectively tinted rose, blue, and pale brown; the various colours thus readily announcing their values to the postal officials.

We are in time to note, as just issued, the following stamps:—a blue Sardinian, of similar pattern to the current series, but with the hitherto unused value of 15 centesimi; and a Brunswick ½ groschen or 5 pfenninge—device like those in use—black on green paper. There are also envelopes printed but not yet issued for France. New stamps are in preparation for Norway, and a third emission has just made its appearance in Wurtemburg.

REVIEWS OF NEW WORKS, ETC., ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. By MOUNT BROWN. 3rd edition. London: F. Passmore.

MOUNT BROWN'S Manual, lately published, claims our notice as a carefully-written, well-arranged, clearly-printed, and exceedingly useful compilation; at present deservedly ranking as the text-book of the English amateur. But, as Dr. Johnson says, 'The business of a poet is to examine;' and, remarks some one else, 'The business of a critic is to find fault:' so, with all the venom of a sucking-dove, here goes.

We object, primarily, to its shape which renders it with difficulty coaxed into a breast-pocket, at the risk of tearing the flimsy covers to pieces each time of putting in or taking out. We would advise the purchase of the bound copies, both as likely to last out three of the others, and for the con-

venience of annotating on the blank leaves. We have little else to complain of in the work. There are a few clerical errors, and some omissions, which we purpose noticing in future. We think the arrangement of the numerous United States local stamps under the heads of their respective towns would be a great improvement; and we hope the present edition will be so speedily exhausted as to call for a fourth, with the requisite emendations.

A Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps, for the use of Collectors. By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Ph. D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., of the British Museum. London: Robert Hardwicke.

'O fortunatam natam, me consule Romam!'—

A SPECIMEN of the poetry quoted by the acute Latin satirist, as emanating from the pen of the most eloquent of orators, to prove that none should expect to be universally pre-eminent; for, as he pithily remarks, 'If Cicero's prose had been of the same calibre as his poetry, he would have died with his head safe on his shoulders.'

The manual of the talented Dr. Gray falls under the same category as the learned Roman's poetry. The doctor stands among the foremost in so many other branches, that one cannot be surprised at his failure in the natural history of postage stamps. His work is clearly printed, but the proofs should have been revised, as doubtless the mistakes in spelling some of the German and Spanish words are not the author's. The compilation must have cost much trouble and research; but the descriptions are too vague, and the inaccuracies and omissions too numerous, to utilise it generally. * We think the English newspaper stamp, and the ridiculous travesties of Leech, &c., should be rejected from a collector's album, rather than the black essays, or trial stamps; for although it is true that these were unused for postal purposes, neither were the coloured ones for Paraguay, Denmark, and numerous others, which are inconsistently admitted, while the former are ignored.

Such rare stamps as the six-baj. Romagne, and the sevenpence-halfpenny currency of Canada are unrecorded, and the two buff local Stockholms are amalgamated. Many non-existing are adduced, as six of the Buenos Ayres, three or four Monte Video, one Mecklenburg, &c.; yet, as the author seems to have had access to some very choice collections, many individuals being introduced that have never fallen under our observation, as the green paper Guiana, &c., we may labour under an erroneous impression.

Omitting all mention of colours in description (except in reference to the St. Lucias, Ionians, and others whose hues are the sole guides to ascertain the value), we think injudicious; and the choice of the penny English red adhesive,—valne one shilling! on the cover, an error of judgment. We have to thank the learned doctor, however, for the first notice of the Nicaragua stamp; but we are surprised at his adopting the bear's-grease label, which figured as a rare postage stamp in Brown's first edition only.

Aids to Stamp Collectors. By FREDERICK BOOTY. Brighton: H. and C. Treacher. Third edition.

WE cannot say much in favour of the Brighton publication, albeit the appearance of a third edition would seem to prove an extensive circulation—we are almost inclined to add—of ignorance. We may perhaps expose our own by avowal of never having heard of such stamps as the 1200-reis Brazilian; sixpenny square Newfoundland; fourpenny Natal envelope; eight-skilling Norwegian, &c.; and the 140-cent of Monte Video, one-kopec Russian, one-lepti Greek, one-grani Neapolitan, and un-centavos Venezuelan, may be misprints; but we are astonished an Englishman should have fallen into the continental error of quoting a halfpenny Newfoundland, and the halfpenny and twopenny of Vancouver's Island. The United States locals are more hopelessly jumbled together than in Brown's publication, who does not profess to eliminate them; and we are so obtuse as not to comprehend how one of the Baden three-kreuzer can be, at one and the same time, blue, and P.B.W., which we are told to interpret as 'printed in

* Since the above was written, a new and revised edition of this Catalogue is announced, which, no doubt, will be greatly improved.

black on white'! We trust the author is preparing a fourth edition, free from former blemishes.

Illustrations du Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste, de J. B. MOENS. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

'LES ILLUSTRATIONS' of Moens, the prince of Belgian stamp authorities, are highly-finished lithographs of the various types described in his 'Manuel de Timbres-Poste,' and designed as supplementary to that work. They are, in fact, so well executed, that we would caution tyros not to be misled into purchasing some of them as essays, or black varieties of the original stamp. The former edition of the Manuel was very deficient in notices of our colonials; but the present is far superior, and almost faultless as regards continental stamps, though still not unpardonably incomplete in cataloguing the impressions of the British colonies.

The Postage-Stamp Collector's Pocket Album. London: Johnson and Rowe.

THIS portable and elegant album is admirably adapted for the reception of duplicates for exchanging; or for a limited, but not a complete, collection, as much of the space would necessarily be rendered unavailable, unless the pages were indiscriminately filled, regardless of locality.

Postage-Stamp Album, Illustrated with Maps. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Paris: A Lenègre.

JUSTIN LALLIER'S album is an elaborately designed and useful acquisition, variously priced, to suit the pockets of all classes, and an ornamental addition to any drawing-room table; a separate page, sometimes two or more, being devoted to each country, the stamps described, and spaces lined off for their reception; but, like all prepared albums, labouring under the disadvantage of excluding any stamp not launched into circulation at the time of its publication, unless placed in an anomalous position, or far removed from its kindred in the extra leaves.

THE priced catalogues of Stafford Smith and Smith, Swaysland, Perris, and numerous others,—the first-mentioned being illustrated with several good cuts of rare stamps,—are of great utility as affording a ready means of ascertaining the marketable value of desiderata, but do not of necessity pretend to any completeness; being designed merely as lists of those particular specimens offered for sale by their several issuers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PERUVIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—For the information of many of your readers, allow me to make the following remarks upon the different varieties of Peruvian stamps:—In most catalogues and collections these stamps are arranged under one type, and only mentioned as differing in the colour of the disc, and the lines of the frames. They belong to three very distinct types; the blue *dinero* stamp, having laurels on the side of the arms, and the red *peseta* one, two flags on each side of the arms; and each of these stamps differs from one another in the form of the upper wreath, the size of the letters, and the disposition of the shading; and the red one especially also in the size of the flags as compared with one another. In most of these stamps the value is in the lower margin; but in the *medio peso* it is on the right side of the stamp.

Yours truly,

British Museum. J. E. GRAY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C. W., Lansdown.—Mulready's envelopes were the first adopted; but there were others previously proposed, much more elegant in design.

A. F., Islington.—The rarest English stamp is the black official, with V. R. on the upper corners.

COLLECTOR asks how many Hamburg Boten there are. We have seen upwards of fifty.

A. F., Clifton, wishes to know where to procure a Nicaraguan stamp. We sympathise with him.

K. T.—The Hamburg Boten are postage stamps, equally with the local United States' labels.

INQUIRER, Clapham.—An album capable of containing all the known postage stamps, covers, envelopes, and their varieties, would require a hundred leaves. Our own contains eighty; but some pages are overcrowded, and room is required for more local Americans and Boten, for the expected Turkish and Hong Kong issues, and for probable additions.

TYRO.—Your stamp is not a genuine Argentine. The cap of Liberty is wanting.

EMMA.—The threepenny English essay differs from the current stamp, in having the white ground of the latter filled with lines.

Q. Q., Bristol.—The only known triangular stamps are those of the Cape of Good Hope, and the green Newfoundland.

C. T., London.—There *is* a green one-franc of the French empire. We possess it, but believe it was an essay; though one has been seen that has passed the post. It is not noticed in any catalogue.

J. J. R., Bayswater.—The new Caledonian stamp is obsolete, as is also that of Reunion. Three of the latter are noted in a recent catalogue, but we opine erroneously. Both stamps are exceedingly rare.

We often see, as replies to correspondents, such notices as the following:—J. R.—Received. C. T.—Yes. F. G.—No. J. W. is mistaken. J. J.—We will inquire. Celia.—We do not know.

The above would serve special inquirers only; but as our magazine professes to afford general information, we intend always publishing the question as well as answer, or shaping the latter so as to be comprehensive of the former. If not prepared with the required information, we shall decline publishing our ignorance, and retain the query for satisfactory elucidation.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

Just published, New and Revised Edition, Third Thousand,

Stafford Smith and Smith's Descriptive Price Catalogue of Many Hundred Varieties of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Illustrated with Fac-simile Engravings of Rare Stamps. Price 4d.; post free, 5d.

Greatly Reduced in Price,

Stafford Smith and Smith's Improved Adhesive Labels for Postage-Stamp Albums. Being a Set of upwards of 80 Titles, printed in Blue and Gold, with Ornamental Borders. Published at 2s. 6d. The remaining Sets now selling at 1s. each; post free, 1s. 1d. Entered at Stationers' Hall.

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124, Cheapside, London, and all Stationers and Booksellers.

Price List of Unused Postage Stamps on receipt of a Stamped Envelope.

Notice.—A New Edition of Dr. Gray's Hand Catalogue, for the use of Postage-Stamp Collectors, is now ready, thoroughly Revised, with the colours of the Stamps and much new matter added. Price 1s.; or, with Double Interleaving, Gilt Edges, and bound in Roan Elegant, to hold Stamps, 2s. 6d. London: ROBERT HARDWICKE, 192, Piccadilly.

Just Published, Price One Shilling,

The Third Edition of 'Aids to Stamp Collectors,' Revised, Augmented, and Enlarged; containing an Accurate Description of all British and Foreign Postage Stamps. By F. BOOTY, 21, Grenville Place, Brighton. Post free for 13 Stamps.

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*** *The next number of the* STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE *will contain an important Addenda to the last edition of Mount Brown's Catalogue of Postage Stamps.*

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Our Friends will be glad to learn that the demand for the first number of the Stamp Collector's Magazine has far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. We would, nevertheless, urge our readers, not only to continue their support, but to endeavour, as far as possible, to increase its circulation, by gaining new subscribers among their acquaintances. We may add, that no exertion on our part shall be spared, to make the Magazine all that it should be to meet the requirements of the Stamp Collector.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.—II.

BERGEDORF,—WHERE IS IT? WHAT ABOUT IT?

Not wishing to be too didactic and *dull*, we will premise with Lord Dun*dreary's* last,—for all we know to the contrary. 'W-why is B-b-berged-dorf like Lord B-b-byron? W-w-why, w-why, b-b-because they b-both b-begin with a B-b-b, to be sure;—and yet, someh-how, B-b-byron s-seems to b-begin with more of a B-b-b than B-b-bergedorf; Let's s-see w-what S-sam s-says—S-s-sam's a c-clever f-fellaw. Oh-h! w-wrong again! —B-b-because t-they b-both woke up one m-m-morning, and found themselves f-famous. W-w-what m-made them f-famous? Oh-h! p-p-poetry and p-p-postage stamps. Ah-h! very good—how c-c-curious—B-byron and B-b-bergedorf b-both b-begin with a b-b, and p-p-poetry and p-p-postage stamps b-both b-begin with a p-p-p!!'

His lordship, or rather his lordship's brother Sam, is right. By the bye, how is it that Sam was not a lord as well as his *younger* brother? Byron and Bergedorf both started into notice suddenly. How few ever heard of Bergedorf before it issued postage stamps; and how few even now

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know of its exact whereabouts! As far as we can make out ourselves, it is like the Irishman's bird—in two or three places at once. On collating the best gazetteers, we find that it is on the river *Bille*, and that it is seated at the confluence of the *Rille* with a canal that joins the Elbe. It is nine miles E., ten miles E.S.E., twelve miles E., ten miles E., twelve miles E.S.E., and twelve kilomètres S.E. of Hamburg. Putting that and that together, we come to the satisfactory conclusion that it is somewhere, albeit *where* nobody seems exactly to know. It has, however, five excellent representatives in some thousands of postage-stamp albums; and very curious specimens they are of the ingenuity and originality of their designer; exhibiting half of the Lubeck eagle bursting out of the Hamburg castle, having swallowed up, or knocked down, half of it in his hurry. They are the only stamps known, of which the size, as well as the inscription, denotes the value.

We recommend any enterprising dealer to write to a town called Ritzebüttel, Ritzbuttle, or Rützenbuttle; which is, like Bergedorf, a free town, under the joint jurisdiction of Lubeck and Hamburg, but more populous, and deriving great importance from its harbour of Cuxhaven. We do not see why it should not have started a post office on its own account.

Like the other anomalies of Bergedorf or Bargedorf—for it has two spellings—our second question, which one would suppose more difficult, is more easily answered than the first. We give a short summary of our gleanings on the subject.

In 1387, Margaret, the Semiramis of the North, wearing already the crowns of Denmark and Norway, received that of Sweden. Albert, the deposed and imprisoned king, was recognised only by the island of Gottland and the city of Holmia, the then capital. John of Mecklenberg, his father-in-law, was besieged in that city; and the magistrates of Rostock and Wismar issued an edict, allowing all pirates and predatory brigands, who should attack and capture any sea or land convoy appertaining to the queen's party, free access to their ports, and ready means for disposal of plunder. The numerous predatory bands of that lawless period, glad of any excuse for exercising their profession, plundered the villages, and, under the pretext of revictualling (*ravitailler*) Holmia, called themselves, *Vitaliens*, or victuallers.

After this war ceased, the Vitaliens, satisfied with their lucrative calling, were by no means inclined to resign it; and the people of Rostock and Wismar, who had made peace with the queen, finding it impossible to lay the fiend they had raised, united with Hamburg and the other Hanseatic towns, in occasional crusades against their former allies. This desultory hostility continued some years; and, in 1410, Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, obtained an undertaking from the Counts of Oldenburg, who doubtless had private reasons satisfactory to themselves—in the shape of tribute-money for their patronage—to withdraw the protection hitherto afforded the Vitaliens. These latter were by no means disposed to succumb, and allied themselves with other brigands, then known under the designation of *chœnapans* and *flibustiers* (whence the modern American fillibusters).

As the cave of Adullam, ages before, afforded refuge to every one that was distressed, or in debt, or discontented, so, among other strongholds of the period under notice, did the castle of Bergedorf, which now makes its appearance on the scene. This was peculiarly adapted to the romantic purposes of a robber's den; possessing a subterranean passage leading from its vaults, with an outlet at a considerable distance in the forest. Thence the marauders issuing, seized upon and plundered travelling merchants and others; and, if not satisfied with the booty obtained from their persons, blindfolded, and bore them off to the dungeons of Bergedorf, till they could procure ransom from their friends. They were supposed to be privately protected by Duke Henry of Saxony—under whose jurisdiction their retreat then was—for reasons, most probably pretty *weighty*, best known to himself; as he never exerted his influence to quell the nuisance, notwithstanding repeated petitions were addressed him by the authorities of the surrounding cities.

At length, the burgomasters of Hamburg and Lubeck, with two thousand foot, and eight hundred horse, and a crowd of volunteer citizens, made a regular attack on the town of Bergedorf; which, yielding after a brief resistance, was pillaged and burnt. The brigands, however, retreated to the castle, which was strong enough to withstand for some days the arquebuses and cannons (not Armstrong's) of that time. On the fifth day the besiegers collected and fired a quantity of combustibles;—the stifling smoke of which, compelling the defenders to retire from the walls and windows, they made an escalade, and the garrison surrendered, on condition of being allowed to depart with whole skins. In 1430, it was agreed that the Duke of Saxony should abandon for ever, to the towns of Lubeck and Hamburg, the castle of Bergedorf, with its *appanages*; and for more than four hundred years, has it remained under the joint protection of those cities, each claiming the alternate nomination of a bailiff, or governor of senatorial rank—at first appointed for four, afterwards for six years—and supplying an equal number of soldiers to garrison the castle.

MY NEPHEW'S COLLECTION.

MY nephew is a victim of the last new mania.

Harry is not a bad sort of fellow, being neither rebellious, saucy, unsteady, nor priggish. For his age I thought him wonderfully quiet and studious, given to more serious pursuits than most other juveniles. He brought with him, from Dr. Trimmeboy's establishment, a thick square strong-bound manuscript, entirely filled with a series of sums, ranging from simple and compound addition (with the lines ruled with red ink), through cube-root extraction, tare and tret, interest for various terms and at various rates per cent, timber-measuring and land-surveying, and concluding with a mild foretaste of trigonometry: showing how to calculate the height of a steeple—all transcribed in his own handwriting, with corrections, passim, by the head usher. It was (for it is no longer) an autograph volume of which any ciphering master in the land might boast.

His aunt Rebecca (my maiden sister) and myself, after close inspection of the manuscript, were duly edified—so duly, in fact, that I believe we never opened it afterwards, until the occasion I am about to relate. But what subsequently excited our approbation was the constant reference which Harry made to his model ciphering-book. He would lay down the *Times* to recur to its perusal. When I opened a light chat on the City article, he would take up his book, as a help to a clearer comprehension of the topic. If, alluding to the Court of the Vatican, I mentioned the intrigues of the ex-King of Naples, he replied perhaps, consulting the book again, 'Ah, yes; I have it.' If I wondered whether Hesse would make it up with Prussia, 'Let me see; unluckily, no,' was his answer, after a glance at the oracle. He never parted from the book. He thought more of the book than Abernethy did of *his*. It was his handy book, his vade mecum, his manual, his companion by day, and his bedfellow, I believe, by night. Beholding this strong attachment to figures, vague thoughts came over us of his being destined to succeed the astronomer-royal, or to rival the fame of Bidder and Babbage.

At the same time he seemed to become strangely and even unpleasantly inquisitive respecting our own private affairs. Neither Rebecca nor myself receive letters that contain deep secrets, political or family. We do not correspond with Garibaldi, Mazzini, or the Count de Chambord. We hold no communication, in cypher or otherwise, with any foreign government. Still, we like that the few letters we do receive should be regarded with respectful reverence—should be touch-me-nots, scarcely to be looked at, handed in on a waiter. We even thought of starting the fashion of having them covered with a napkin besides. Instead of which, Harry at once took to answering the postman's knock, although Mrs. Price, our housekeeper, always did so before his arrival. Not only that: we felt aware that the outside of every letter was scrupulously examined while he closed the hall-door as slowly as possible, and returned to the

breakfast-room at a funeral pace. Newspapers sent by absent friends—three distinguished families on our visiting list were then enjoying a continental tour—were subjected to the same inspection. Every cast-off envelope was carefully but silently secured, for the sake, as we thought, of studying and comparing the handwriting. We noticed also that, young as he was, more letters arrived for him than for us, the contents of which he never communicated. Strange, and slightly impertinent!

Yesterday, Rebecca's forbearance could hold out no longer. At the postman's rap, Harry jumped up as usual, before Mrs. Price years ago—could get to the door; and he—who is not so active as she was twenty returned with two letters, one half hidden in the cuff of his sleeve, while he devoured the direction of the other with his eyes. We had long been expecting that letter. It contained, we knew, an expression of thanks and safe arrival in Queensland, from a penniless but hard-working young woman whom my sister believed she was really patriating, while expatriating her, at her own expense. In truth, the girl's sweetheart had purposely gone out before her, with an understanding, and was ready for the reception of his well-beloved. We wished this little romance, in which Rebecca was an accomplice, to be kept as snug as possible.

'That is *my* letter, sir,' observed my sister, sternly; 'and I should be glad to have it, and others for the future, brought in directly, without being quite so closely examined. In my time, young people did not take such liberties.'

'Because in your time——' stammered Harry, not daring to finish.

'Because why, sir? I insist on knowing.'

'Because in your very, *very* young time, aunt, there were no such things as postage stamps. They are a magnificent invention of modern times. Here is the letter; but pray do give me the envelope.'

'For what? What interest or right, sir, can you possibly have to inspect the postmarks of my correspondence? And, now we talk of correspondence, I should like to be informed what is the nature of yours. It may be all right and proper, and I dare say it is; but, until you are one-and-twenty, and we are relieved of the responsibility of your guardianship, I may observe that your uncle and myself ought to be made acquainted with its nature, and to have some idea of the persons with whom it takes place.'

Rebecca uttered this little lecture with all the dry decision she could muster, looking at me, at the close of her speech, to second the motion. Then, as she really loved her nephew, and was too kind-hearted to feel easy while administering reproof, she made a retreat and avoided further discussion by breaking the seal of her letter and becoming absorbed in its perusal. I said nothing. Harry blushed, not a guilty blush, but a blush as it were protesting against unjust treatment. He soon left the house—as he afterwards confessed, to make private arrangements with the postman.

During his absence, and while Rebecca was making out her multi-crossed epistle, breathing a satisfactory 'Ah!' at intervals, I went upstairs to my room, to look out of window with my hands in my pockets, as my wont is when anything occurs to puzzle me. *His* room door stood ajar, suggesting the possibility of finding a clue to the correspondence of which Rebecca disapproved. In a snug corner of his bookcase was the well-worn ciphering-book, which would not have invited further attention but for its bloated appearance, so to speak. It had grown plethoric, abdominal, and fat. It seemed to have taken in more good things than it could well digest. It was filled to repletion, witness sundry cracks, in spite of the extra binding duly charged in the school bill. I took it down, really hoping to find a further triumph of my nephew's mathematical abilities, and supposing the additional thickness to arise from logarithmic calculations of excessive profundity. The sums, no doubt, would be overlaid with algebraic corollaries and commentaries. I opened the volume, half-fearing to behold an increase of figures, ascending vertically or descending transversely, and garnished with scales of red ruled lines.

Next the cover were loose letters, evidently not, as Rebecca dreaded they were, from any young person of the gentler sex. 'Your last favour duly received,' 'on the 30th ult.

we had the honour to forward,' would hardly be the forms in which a fair one would avow her susceptibilities. There was mention of 'France, 1848,' 'France, republic, presidence,' 'private offices,' 'scarce envelopes,' and 'local correspondence,' which could have reference only to business or politics. Was my nephew in secret training for the foreign secretaryship? But on turning over the once arithmetical pages, a wonderful transformation met my eye, explaining the obese condition of the book. It was not exactly a palimpsest manuscript, but had been effaced by linings of paper mosaic. Each page was neatly ruled with blue ink into small square divisions quite irrespective of the sums upon it, and nearly each division was occupied by a postage stamp of some nation, colony, or community, whose name was hand-printed on a smart label pasted at the top of the page. A few old postage envelopes were honoured with a broad-margined page to themselves.

Beside the volume were three or four pamphlets, in French and in English, of Parisian, Belgian, and British publication, the happy authors of which could boast their second editions, revised, corrected, and enlarged, with reproduction forbidden and every right reserved. I beheld *Aids to Stamp Collectors; being a list of English and Foreign Postage Stamps in circulation since* 1840. I beheld *Catalogue des Timbres-Poste, créés dans les divers Etats du Globe.* Further, I saw *Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste, ou Nomenclature générale de tous les timbres adoptés dans les divers pays de l'Univers;* as if the author, Monsieur J. B. Moens, were on intimate terms with postmasters residing in the planets Venus and Jupiter. He assures us that the stamp-collector may apply to him in all confidence; for the correspondence which he has with the stranger enables him continually to supply the generality of all the stamps (of the universe?). And then there was a severe libellus, of ninety-seven pages, *Timbres Poste*, without preface, commentary, or peroration, but an index only, 'on sale chez Lapante, Dealer in Postage Stamps for Collections, 1, Rue Christine, 1, Paris.' This last looked about as light reading as a list of fixed stars, or the astronomical portions of Dietrichsen's Almanack. Besides, and on the same shelf, were ranged grammars and dictionaries of foreign tongues, picked up at book-stalls; tables of European coins, weights, and measures, and, backing and supporting all, like a substantial buttress, a solid tome, entitled *Manuel du Négotiant, Traite, théorique et pratique des Sciences Commerciales.* For this learned treatise the name of the author, L. Rothschild, inspired me with a certain awe. I left it untouched, and turned over with bewilderment the pages of the metamorphosed arithmetical record.

While so doing, a light step bounded upstairs. It was Harry, who thus caught me in his sanctum, rummaging his private shelves, and surrounded by his precious documents tossed about in disorder. The boy looked astonished, but not in the least abashed or ashamed. He stood his ground like a man. After the first surprise at seeing me there, he seemed flattered rather than otherwise by the curiosity I was manifesting.

'And how did you come by all this rubbish?' I asked.

'By exchanges with correspondents, uncle,' was his reply, in justification, 'and also with my pocket-money.'

'You were at liberty, certainly, to spend it on this, as well as on any other harmless nonsense; still it is a pity to throw money into the street.'

'I beg your pardon, uncle; it is not thrown away at all. I have made a good investment. My stamp album is worth twenty pounds, if it is worth a single shilling.'

'When you have proved that it is worth a shilling, I will believe that it will fetch twenty pounds.'

'That is easily done. You know, uncle, there are two sorts of collections of stamps, the maculate and the immaculate. Maculate stamps, or such as have passed through the post, are marked, to prevent their being used again. I do not claim any value for those, because you, perhaps, will not admit that they have any value.'

I nodded my perfect assent to this.

'And yet I have a Neapolitan stamp—here it is—of the late King Bomba, which I

would not part with, for five shillings. Besides, as each country has different postage stamps, so has each a different mode of defacing them. Just look, uncle. England does it by black bars, Hesse Darmstadt by concentric circles, France by a number of little black spots. Now, as it is possible that the rarity of certain discontinued stamps will tempt forgers to imitate them, if they commit any error in the mode of defacement, they will be caught most assuredly. Therefore an authentic postmark on a stamp confirms its genuineness and increases its worth——'

'Which I ignore.'

'I must tell you a true story, which I heard at the lycée. A maid-servant, who made use of a postage stamp for the first time in her life, had noticed that all the letters she took in for her master were dotted with black over the stamp, like this head of the Republic. She supposed it was done to make the stamps stick better, and imitated it as well as she could with a pen. At the post office, it was at first suspected that some one had used an old stamp, to cheat the government. Inquiries were made, and learned "experts" set to work, who proved the girl's innocence of intentional wrong. She got off with an admonition, lucky enough to escape further trouble.'

'Is it possible she could have been so stupid?'

'There are more stupid things done than that. Among the curiosities found in letter-boxes are unstamped letters in considerable quantities, and mingled with them, though not exactly in the same proportion, single loose postage stamps. There are people ignorant enough, after they have written and directed their letter, to buy a stamp at the office, and then, instead of sticking it on the letter, to throw it into the box at the same time with the letter, supposing *that* to be the mode of prepayment. The clerks do the best they can to distribute justice, in the shape of stamps, amongst the unprovided letters; but their utmost impartiality may not prevent some letter writers from reaping what they have not sown.'

'Beautiful simplicity! But you were to prove that your album is worth a shilling.'

'Instantly, uncle. My collection is, for the most part, maculate, consisting of old stamps. I am not rich enough to procure unused stamps of all the countries in Europe —not to speak of the colonies—nevertheless I have a few. Now you must acknowledge, uncle, that unused stamps are worth their cost price. Here is a Würtemburg stamp for six kreuzers; here, a Swiss one for forty rappen, a Belgian one for forty centimes, a Norwegian one for eight skilling, and a Prussian one for four silbergroschen, all unused. Their joint value is more than a shilling English.'

'I don't know,' I demurred, speaking the truth.

'Again, here are French immaculates for eighty, forty, twenty, ten, five, and one centime, respectively; that's more than a shilling. And here are English ones for sixpence, fourpence, threepence, twopence, and one penny. Do they make a shilling? Eh, uncle?'

'I suppose they do, and that you have the best of the argument.'

'Yes. And I am in hopes, uncle, that I shall be able to make you entertain a higher opinion of postage stamps. They are a great discovery; and if so their history is well worth studying. The man who invented them deserves as much honour as he who invented coin for cash transactions. By sticking a bit of paper, with a government mark, on a letter, you command its delivery, as soon as may be, at any place you choose to name. All the formalities and delays of money payments are avoided, including those connected with the money exchange of the foreign countries which a letter may have to traverse.'

'That is you mean to say that postage stamps are a simple and convenient form of paper money?'

'I beg your pardon. Postage stamps are not paper money; they are much more than, and superior to, paper money. Paper money supposes moneyed capital of the precious metals, and, to have any worth, must be backed by a bank with bullion in it sufficient to pay them off whenever required. The bullion may run short, be spent, or stolen; the bank may fail, and the paper be good for

nothing but to light a cigar with. Postage stamps represent not cash to be paid but a service to be rendered; the only capital they suppose is the existence of human limbs and brains and the continuance of civilised society. So long as European nations endure, and people have a mutual interest in knowing what is going on in other places, a postage stamp can never fall to the level of a bank note issued by a broken bank. Perhaps even, one of these days, we shall have stamps to prepay other services besides the letter-carrying.'

'Your imagination is running along, my boy, faster than I can follow it.'

'Not at all, uncle; for the scheme is already put in practice to a limited extent. Did you ever hear of a ticket for soup?'

'I think, Harry, I have. But what has that to do with it?'

'A ticket for soup (about which so many jokes have been made) is a promise, by charitable persons, of a gift to be made. The soup received is the fulfilment of the promise, is it not? Applying the same principle to business, there are restaurants in Paris who sell you packets of dinners. Instead of paying for your board by the month (and paying for nothing whenever you are asked out to dinner), you keep the tickets in your pocket-book, and, whenever you want to dine, you present one; exactly as, when you want to send a letter, you stick upon it the proper stamp, and put it into the letter-box. The restaurant's ticket is a dinner stamp; it prepays the butcher, the cook, the wine-merchant, the rent of the dining room, and the use of the dinner things, all through the agency of the head of the establishment, who is always there to supply the meal contracted for whenever called upon to do so. Subscription to the opera is something of the same kind. All I say is that we may carry the stamp system further, applying it perhaps to medical attendance.'

'We will ask the doctor what he has to say to it. Meanwhile, I begin to think that your time and money may not have been spent on mere unmeaning bits of coloured paper. To convince me thoroughly, can you stand an examination in the contents of your own stamp-book?'

'I believe so, uncle. Please begin wherever you like.'

'How does a native Hanoverian spell the name of his country?

'With two *ns*; *H*, *a*, double *n*.'

'What does Sverige mean?'

'Sverige is Sweden.'

'What is a Freimarke?'

'A Swedish Freimarke, an Austrian Post-stompel, a Hanoverian Bestellgeld-frei, a Dutch Post-zegel, a French Timbre-poste, an Italian Francobollo, a Hamburg or Lubeck Postmarke, are all and equally postage stamps.'

'What is the shape of a Cape of Good Hope stamp?'

'Triangular. The French fellows at our lycée, when I showed them the beginning of my collection, were struck most of all with the number and extent of the British possessions. I told them they might have the same, if they only had the perseverance to go and settle in foreign lands. But they are a too stay-at-home people for that. Wherever they go, they are always thinking of their village steeple.'

'What are the stamps with a crowned lion holding a shield, marked nine grazie and six grazie?'

'Ah! those are Tuscan, beginning to be rare and valuable. A collector sets a value on a postage stamp in inverse proportion to the stability and prosperity of the state by which it is issued. Those of the overthrown Italian Duchies, Tuscany, Parma, and Modena, never very numerous, are now scarce, and will soon be priceless. The stamps of transitional governments, like the last French Republic, are eagerly sought, for the same reason. I am thinking of investing a trifle in Roman Pontifical stamps. When the temporal power has come to an end, those stamps will command anything in the way of exchange.'

'What are—I can't make them out myself—those very pretty stamps, with oval medallions, green, red, and blue, in the midst of drapery of a different colour?'

'Those are Russian, for thirty, twenty, and ten copecks each. I cannot read the legend or inscription, because I have not yet been able to set myself up with a Russian

alphabet, and a grammar and dictionary to follow.'

'Your aunt and myself will manage that between us. Let us now go and see whether she has finished her letter.'

'You have been a long while up-stairs,' observed Rebecca, as we entered, returning her spectacles to their case, and handing me her Australian epistle to read. 'She is quite well and happy. She has had a little boy, and is expecting another. She sends her duty and some Queensland bird-skins by the next mail, hoping that you and I are the same.'

'I am glad of it, though the news is a little confused. Harry has been showing me his correspondence. You may give him the envelope, or he will be content with the stamp alone.'—*All the Year Round.*

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.



NOT always does reality answer expectation; but the long-desired stamps of Hong Kong (one of which we engrave) were well worth waiting for, as faultless in design and execution. They are of seven values:—2 c., brown; 8 c., buff; 12 c., blue; 18 c., lilac; 24 c., green; 48 c., rose; and 96 c., black. In the four corners they bear the Egyptian (miscalled the Grecian) pattern; the name Hong Kong at the top, and the value below; on the right and left Chinese characters,—from which we may treat our young readers to a gratuitous lesson in the difficult language of China. It is pretty generally known that Chinese is written neither from the left to right, like European, nor from right to left, like most of the Eastern languages; but in perpendicular columns, as is well exemplified in the specimens before us. On the right side stands the Chinese words, Hong Kong, and on the left the numerical value of the stamp. In that of the lowest denomination, the top characters stand for *two*, and the middle and undermost are the equivalent for *cents*. In the next there is a character for *eight*, and the same two for *cents*. In the blue will be noticed, a cross standing for *ten*, a couple of strokes for *two*, making *twelve*, and *cents* as before. In the lilac, the cross again for *ten*, the same characters as on the buff for *eight*, making *eighteen*, and *cents* again. In the green, the pair of strokes for *two*, the cross for *ten*, meaning *twice ten*, and a very curious character for *four*, *twenty-four*. The rose-colour sports the same queer mark for *four*, the cross for *ten*,—four times ten, and the sign for *eight*, *forty-eight*. The highest denomination has a character for *nine*, the cross again, and a mark for *six*,—*ninety-six*, followed by *cents* as before. It will also be remarked that the characters for *two* on the 2 c. are more complicated there than the *two* in the 12 c.; which would make them appear rather the equivalent of a pair or a couple, than the simple word, *two*.

The Turkish stamps of which there are four, printed in black, on coloured paper, are noticeable rather for singularity than beauty. They bear the sign-manual of the Sultan, above the crescent, the Koran forbidding the representation of the 'human face divine.'



On the rose-coloured one, from which the engraving is taken, will be seen the character for *five*, in a circle below the crescent; and in the top corners and underneath, we cannot help imagining that the artist was thinking of the Turkish bow-string when he designed the ornamentation.

We can scarcely expect ever again to note the first issues of two countries in the same number;—and now proceed to instance a few additions to existing stamps, as the red Antigua penny, which we engrave;—and the 1 c. of Luxembourg, orange-coloured. There is also a local stamp for Italy, started on new-year's day, similar in purport to the Baden Land-post, of delicate design, yellow on white, inscribed, 10 c. Segna Tassa. We have never seen but one, and intend giving an engraving of it in our next, together with the forthcoming envelopes of Norway. We hear of, but have not yet seen, a new green Russian stamp. We purchased, a few days



since, what were accredited to us as stamps purporting to carry letters or parcels from California to Los Angelos, and other places, by the Mexican mail. There were nine, various, printed on paper of different colours, all bearing the same value, 2 reals. Should they turn out to be forgeries, we can only give the concocter credit for more impudence than honesty.

A new issue of Italians is beginning to appear. What we have seen are somewhat similar to the earliest Sardinians,—colour on white.

The blue dos centavos Nicaragua, which, as yet, has been noticed in Moens' third edition only, has just fallen into our hands. We propose to give an engraving of it next month.

'WHAT'S THE USE OF THEM?'

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

'That weakest and most puerile of manias, Postage Stamp Collecting, has found a literary organ in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, *which is announced for appearance on the first of next month.'*—EVENING PAPER.

WE are highly indebted to the journal from which this is quoted, for the gratuitous insertion of the above advertisement; and think the sneer, emanating from a party publication avowedly opposed to all progress, an unintentional compliment. Right glad were we to get so apt a motto for our proposed paper. *'Cui bono?'* is ever the cry of prosaic utilitarians, when a pursuit presenting no apparently positive fruits falls under the distorted sphere of their observation. We do not presume to range the subjects treated on in this unpretending publication among those meriting serious or undivided attention; but we will vindicate the claim of our gaily-coloured pieces of paper to be redeemed from the charge of futility and frivolity.

They may be termed historic, geographic, artistic, and statistic; inasmuch as they tend to the study of history and geography; exercise and develop the æsthetic taste of their designers; and exhibit the various monetary denominations of their respective governments.

No mean historical value bear they even at present, comparatively short as has been the time of their circulation; the heads of the successive sovereigns of Austria, Saxony, and Portugal being accurately pourtrayed; though in the far-looming period of Macaulay's New Zealander, we must venture to anticipate considerable confusion and endless discussion amongst the antiquarian literati of the day, should they try to collate the accredited records of the succession of Spanish monarchs by means of the postage stamps of the country, carefully preserved in albums; for the former will prove there must have been but one queen from 1850 to 1863 and afterwards; whereas the latter will show the imagery of seven profiles so discordant as to be almost incapable of indentification.

This sole exception to our assertion of their historical value proves the rule; for,

'Cum multis aliis, quæ nunc perscribere longum est,'

the essays for Paraguay will testify to the abortive project of erecting that republic into a kingdom; the stamps of the period will be indelible records that Parma, Modena, and Tuscany, once had independent rulers of their own; they will mark the revolts of Schleswig-Holstein, and Romagna; exhibit the transfer of Luxembourg from Holland to Belgium:—



when North and South America are parcelled out into kingdoms, like Europe in our days, they will testify to the pre-existence of New Granada, and the Argentine Confederation, &c., as republics;—show the phases of French government, from republic to presidency, and thence to empire;—and record to remotest generations that the Grecian islands owned in days long past the sway of the British Queen Victoria; for postal amateurs are already on the *qui vive* in anticipation of another series of Ionians, under a change of *régime*.



Tasso's beautiful simile of the sweetened physic-cup (borrowed from Lucretius), is exemplified in postage stamps smoothing geographical asperities. Nevis, Liberia, Corrientes, and Reunion, would have

been little likely to attract the attention of juveniles, apart from their postage stamps; and Thurn and Taxis, now familiarised by our talented contributor in the former number, was formerly equally a *terra incognita*, as was the Zollverein before the first Great Exhibition.

In an artistic point of view, we have already, in a previous paper, animadverted on the comparative taste, or want of taste, displayed by postal designers; but, not being owls enough to think our own bantlings the prettiest, we will not again so unpatriotically call attention to deficiencies; hoping some day to congratulate our readers on a penny postage stamp worthy the world-wide fame of England.

Our ingenious Gallic neighbours, with their ready appreciation of a fashion likely to prevail, have designed postage-stamp scarf-pins. Last summer we noticed in the Palais Royal, the stamps of England, Prussia, Russia, France, Cape of Good Hope, &c., elegantly enamelled on fine gold, and perfect fac-similes of the originals, but, of course, of reduced size; and, in a window of the Rue de la Paix, we counted no fewer than thirteen various imitations.

Here we could, but need not, expatiate on the scope for display of taste in the arrangement of specimens; for a much abler pen than our own has already afforded a paper on that subject; but the prejudiced opponents of such *fantaisies* as we are treating upon, cannot be too cogently argued with, and too deeply impressed, that the habits of order, neatness, industry, patience, and research, requisite for, and superinduced by, an earnest collection of postage stamps, will, most probably, accompany their youthful possessor, and materially accelerate his career in after life.

'*What's the use of them?*' has been the remark of many an individual, in wonderment at the trouble bestowed and interest taken in our own collection; but full oft has a palinody been sung,—for no fewer than half-a-score can we enumerate who have been eventually drawn into the fascinating vortex; and a young friend of ours, who used to ridicule the fancy, and who has since twice visited the antipodes, confessed to us, a few weeks ago, that he would walk twenty miles any day, to obtain a good postage stamp!

THE SYDNEY STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

IN most catalogues the Sydney stamps are regarded as one type, offering three different values of different colours. If they are carefully examined, it will be found that each value present a very different type, each having variations, according to the different issues.

These stamps are peculiar. It is a view of the sea coast, with a church in the distance, and a group of figures in the foreground, in a circle surrounded by a band inscribed, *Sig. Nov. Camb. Aust.*; and on the lower part of the circular disc, under the view, is a motto. This motto has been a difficulty,—as it is rarely to be seen distinctly on the stamps as they appear in our collections. Lacroix, in his catalogue, gives it as, *Sic fortis curia crevit*, which it certainly is not. In my catalogue, I read it, *Sic fortis et rudis crevit*, which is also incorrect. I believe it is a line of a Latin poet, '*Sic fortis etruria crevit.*'

I. In the red one penny stamps the frames on the sides are double, the letters are white, and the motto is in two lines, and the spandrils, or angle between the circle and the oblong frame, are granulated. Of this I have seen three variations.

1. Has the inner frame with large pale reticulations, and the outer frame is formed of narrow red and white oblique bars.
2. The inner frame of smaller reticulations, and the red bars of the outer frame are nearly horizontal and wider. *Camb.* in the inscription begins at the right-hand angle of the left lower spandril.
3. Like 2, but *Camb.* in the inscription begins rather above the middle of the left lower spandril.

I have been informed there is a stamp of this type with horizontal lines in the spandril, and should like to see one, if it occurs in the collection of any reader. It shall be faithfully returned if desired.

II. The blue twopenny stamps. The frame

on the side is single and formed of oblique engine-turned spiral lines. The motto is in three lines, the letters are white. Of this type I have seen four varieties.

1. The stamp very badly executed; the spandrils white.
2. Like No. 1, but the spandrils with distant irregular perpendicular lines.
3. The stamp much better executed; spandrils with close perpendicular lines.
4. The stamp like No. 3, equally well executed, but the spandrils are shaded with close straight and waved horizontal lines.

III. The olive-green threepenny stamps are like the blue twopenny ones in many respects. The frame is single and the motto in three lines, but the letters are dark on a pale ground, and the side frames are formed of engine-turned transverse oblong lines.

I have only seen one kind of this stamp, which has the spandril shaded with close rather waved horizontal lines, but I have reason to believe there are others, and shall be glad to receive any that may occur to any collector of the stamps, to be examined.

P.S.—In a note from Major Christie, the postmaster at Sydney, he says the *picture stamp* is the first stamp that was used in the colony. It was an imitation of the great seal of the colony, with its motto, *Sic fortis etruria crevit.* They are no longer used.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS, BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

Antigua.

SINCE the publication of Mr. Brown's work, the anticipated 1d. (of which an engraving will be found in the present number of this magazine) has appeared.

Argentine Confederation.

There is a 5 c. lilac, as well as rose.

Austria.

COMPLEMENTARY LABELS.

We regret we cannot throw any light on the *vexata quæstio* of these stamps. We were told of one being seen with a post-mark, and we find they are attached to the sheet of the Lombardy series, as well as the Austrian. The blue specimen is the only one noted in the catalogue as perforated; but, except the issue of 1850, we have never seen them otherwise.

Austrian Italy.

It is singular that *after* the 5 soldi red of the new issue (larger head to right) appeared, the black of the older series (small head to left) was superseded by a green of the same sort for a short time; but this, as will be seen in the appendix, now gives place to the new issue, as do also the 2, 10, and 15 soldi.

Baden.

UNPAID LETTER LABEL.

This stamp, as noticed in the appendix, was soon followed by the 1 kr. and 12 kr. of similar design.

Bahamas.

The 1d. carmine did not appear till 1862. The 4d. rose (which remains unchanged) and the 6d. grey came out in 1861.

Barbados.

A green on blue, and a rose on white paper, with no indication of value, also exist.

Bavaria.

Our collection contains the old black 1 kr., *post-marked*, of two evidently different impressions; the figure and letters in one being smaller than those of the other. We have also the photographed copy alluded to in the preface. We possess also a 3-*kreuzer* black essay.

UNPAID LETTER LABEL.

This stamp, engraved in the first number, is printed in black on *white, not blue*, as we remarked before.

Belgium.

Dr. Gray mentions a 10 c. grey, with head of Leopold, laurel-crowned, as a trial stamp.

We have just obtained for our own collection an accredited essay of the series of 1849, 20 c., black on yellow. It came from Bruges, where a very few of them were discovered among some old papers in a college.

Bergedorf.

In another paper we give a slight notice of this *terra incognita*.

Brazil.

Dr. Gray, with his usual close perceptive powers, has remarked a light and a dark series of the 1861 stamps, and we have noticed the same difference both in the italic and in the large issues.

Bremen.

The postmaster of Bremen obliged us with information of the various destinations of these stamps, but we cannot at present lay hands on his letter. Each stamp is for particular countries. The green is employed for England.

British Guiana.

We possess both a red and a brown of the 1854, and a light and a dark brown 1 c. of the 1860 issues; the 2 c. is vermillion, not red, and there are a light and a dark-green 24 c. A black 1 c. appeared also in 1862.

NEWSPAPER LABELS.

The patterns squaring the stamps are various. We have two sorts of 2 c., and there is a 1 c. on rose-coloured paper.

Brunswick.

In the preceding number we noted the addition of the ½ gr., 5 pf., black, on green paper.

Buenos Ayres.

We own a 4 ps. blue of the old (steamship) series.

The new 1 p. is rose-coloured.

The 1-real, M. C., from Corrientes, a province of La Plata, and which has now passed into our possession, is almost unique. A few weeks since a second, *value not specified*, made its appearance. This latter may prove to be an essay, and our stamp genuine.

Canada.

Canada Packet Postage, 12½ c., blue.

Cape of Good Hope.

We understand the wood-block varieties were printed in the colony, during a deficiency of the usually-employed stamps, the ship bringing them from England having been delayed on her voyage. Except the 1d. rose-coloured (not red), they are rare; the 1d. blue, and 4d. rose-coloured, particularly so.

Ceylon.

With the exception of the 10d. and 1s. 9d., which would seem to be going out of use, the stamps of Ceylon are now perforated.

Chili.

There is a brown, as well as a red 5 c., on white paper.

China.

HONG KONG.

2 c., brown; 8 c., buff; 12 c., blue; 18 c., lilac; 24 c., green; 48 c., rose; 96 c., black.

Confederate States of America.

MOBILE.

This stamp is not rose, but blue on white.

Denmark.

Some of the Continental catalogues mention an obsolete Danish stamp, and a friend of ours saw a very curious one in an old collection some years ago. It may have been an essay or a forgery.

The Mercury's head essay is 1¼, not 1½ sch. c. There are two quite distinct impressions, both of this and the king's-head essays.

(*To be continued.*)

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps, for the use of Collectors. Second edition, revised and enlarged. By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Ph. D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., of the British Museum. London: Robert Hardwicke.

THE value of the work is very considerably increased by the addition of the colours to each stamp, and other emendations and improvements. This edition may also be purchased elegantly bound in roan gilt, with gilt edges, and doubly interleaved with good paper for making notes and additions, or for the purpose of being used as a portable album. We understand the author has a

third edition in preparation, with a supplement including the numerous and interesting local Americans, and other generally-acknowledged stamps.

Manuel de Moens. Third edition. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS edition contains a supplement with very numerous additions, both of stamps lately issued, and of others unnoticed in his former editions. Mr. Moens still persists in retaining the mythical Newfoundland halfpenny, and in noting *six* of that colony's stamps as having been recently changed in colour, having probably copied the same error in Mount Brown's Catalogue; whereas *three* only, the 4d., 6d., and 1s., are now lake instead of vermillion. The anecdote in his preface relative to the traveller, the postman, and the maid of the inn, is correct, if we substitute the name of Samuel Taylor Coleridge for that of Rowland Hill.

Leisure Hour. No. 579. London: Religious Tract Society.

THIS useful and deservedly-popular publication contains a well-written paper on postage stamps, by Mr. Henry Whymper; and a page of engravings so well executed by his father, that we have commissioned him to engrave for us in the present and future numbers.

Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue. By EDWARD A. OPPEN. London: Benjamin Blake.

HAD the compiler of this album employed a competent person to revise it, the publication would have been really valuable, as it is clearly printed on good paper, and wears a handsome appearance; but such mis-spelled words as *Parmenti, Modonensi, corale, Paraquay*, for, Parmensi, Modonesi, locale, and Paraguay, detract somewhat from its excellence. The omission of Antigua is a great oversight. The *current* stamp for Algeria, and the French West-Indian colonies, of which we give an engraving, is called the *former issue*, and the duffers made by soaking 10 c. and 20 c. French Empire in some liquid, figure here, as in other catalogues, as the present issue. The 5d. Newfoundland is called violet, and the 1d. one, brown, though both are exactly of the same colour; and the 2d. and 8d. Newfoundland are misrepresented as being crimson. The insertion, in most cases, of the date of the introduction of stamps into each country, and the historic, geographic, and numismatic information diffused throughout the volume, are, however, sufficient to counterpoise more shortcomings than we can discover.



CORRESPONDENCE.

OLLA PODRIDA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Among the curious facts elicited by the collecting of postage stamps, it is worthy of remark that the French stamps with the President's head were first issued, or at least were first in general use, in September, 1852, only three months before the 'coup d'état' of December in that year. Again, only two of the stamps, out of six then in use in France, were changed, viz., the 10 c., circulating in Paris and other great towns, and the 25 c., used between Paris and the departments. Is it an unfair inference, that the present emperor then already meditated a revolution (for his four years of office as President were just expiring), and wished to accustom the French nation to the sight of his portrait as the *head* of affairs? I believe I am correct in stating that the effigy of Louis Napoleon on these stamps as President is identical with that on the stamps of the French Empire. 'Coming events cast their shadows before them.'

I am inclined to agree with the writer in your Magazine for February, who gives the palm of beauty among adhesive stamps to the present Nova Scotian series. I am sorry to add that not to our own engravers, but to our trans-atlantic cousins, is this praise due; for these stamps were engraved in New York, and were exhibited by the American Bank-note Company, along with many of their bank-notes, in a large frame, in the American corner of the International Exhibition, where probably very few saw them. The Canada ½d. also formed part of the same display.

A word as to some spurious stamps. I believe that I possess the only *known* genuine Zurich 4 and 6-rappen stamps of 1843. They are essays, I am nearly certain, and therefore are not the first stamps used out of England. As far as I know, the earlier Finland 10 and 20-kop. stamps are some of the first, if not the first, issued by any other country than our own; at all events they were *discontinued* in 1850. These 1843 Zurich stamps, then, were shown by me to Mr. Brown, who placed them in his list, but without a very particular description; which, I regret to say, has enabled those mercenary Swiss ('*point d' argent, point de Suisse*') to make *several sorts* of counterfeit 1843 Zurichs; not knowing, however, where to place the date, some have put the figures 1 8 4 3 at the four corners, and others at the two lower angles, thus,—18 43. All that I have seen of these 'soi disant' 1843 Zurich stamps, have been copied in other respects from the later issues, and are all equally spurious. My copies were given

by the postmaster of Zurich, *some years since*, to the friend of a personal friend of mine, then resident in Switzerland; they were the only ones the postmaster had left. The word 'Zurich' is absent from these stamps, but they have a *general* resemblance to the later 4 and 6-rappen stamps.

Touching that very rare stamp, the ½ tornese 'arms' of Naples, and also the ½ tornese with cross of Savoy, it is to be noted that the former is evidently the *identical* ½-grana Bourbon stamp, with the G changed into a T. The Provisional Government of Naples, being, perhaps, anxious *at once* to give some ocular proof of their being in possession of the post, changed the colour to *blue;* but why they in such a hurry issued a coin and stamp of a different denomination I know not. The ½ tornese with cross of Savoy is, again, the *same die* with the centre erased (a process well known to engravers), and the cross engraved over it; the deeper parts of the older stamp appear on most genuine copies.

I will wind up this rambling letter with the mention of some new stamps, which I had not heard of until I received them from the Federal States, about three weeks since, nor have I yet met with them elsewhere. I believe them to be Government stamps, and intended to supersede all the local posts. They are rectangular and perforated, with head of Washington in an oval; at top, *U. S. Inter. Rev.* (Internal Revenue ?); at bottom, *Express*; and on the two sides, *one cent*, and *two cents*. The 1 cent is brick red; the 2-cent stamp I have in orange and in blue.

Since writing the above, I have received from Nicaragua the *two* kinds of stamps used there (in the interior, but not at Greytown), viz., the 2 centavos and 5 centavos; the former is printed in blue, the latter in black.

I remain, yours obediently,

Feb., 1863. W. H. H., Jun.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. D. J., Lowndes Square.—The 1½d. English essay is correctly described in Dr. Gray's Catalogue, as is also the envelope stamp bearing the same value.

A. B., Crow Hall.—The stamps you forwarded, 1, 2, and 3 florins in value, are Austrian bill-stamps.

J. S., Birmingham.—The higher-priced English envelopes can be procured from Somerset House, at the cost of their intrinsic value, the usual fee, the proper paper, a great waste of time, much trouble, and a considerable amount of patience.

The 1½d essay (alluded to above) can only be purchased, and that very rarely, when a collection is broken up for sale.

It would not be right to divulge the components of any preparation calculated to obliterate the defacing marks on stamps.

There are no 2d. or ½d. stamps for British Columbia. They are a myth of the continental collectors, like the yellow Nova Scotia, &c.

C. B. PLOWRIGHT, North Wooton.—The black official V. R. is the rarest of the English stamps that have been circulated. There are a few, but very few, in collectors' albums.

H. H. H. HUTCHINSON, Brooklands, Uppingham.—The stamp you allude to emanated from a Glasgow firm wishing to introduce an universal ocean postage, and distributing circulars promulgating their views, impressed with one of those prettily-imagined effigies.—The Sydney stamps, so called from bearing a view of Sydney, are known also under the name of 'Gold Diggings.' They have been long disused. A full account of them is given elsewhere by an able hand.

X. Y. Z., Manchester.—Your query is answered above.

NESTOR, Dublin.—Search among your hundreds of black penny postage stamps for the V. R. official. A dozen of them would be worth more than all the rest.

R. COWLEY SQUIER, Dover.—We should imagine parties *knowingly* selling forgeries would be indictable in the county court; but we fear it would be difficult to prove a guilty knowledge. We think the names of such postal swindlers ought to be published.

A CORRESPONDENT sends a stamp, black on blue paper; angels supporting a shield; Hamburg Boten, the superscription; but, no value being specified on it, the stamp may probably be a mere parcel label.

P. S. D., Brighton.—The *dated* Spanish official, of which we give an engraving, is a fac-simile of the postage label of the same year, but printed on coloured paper, and specifying the *weight* allowed by, not the value of, the stamp.



P. W. THACKWELL, Guernsey, wishes to know the value of a Vancouver's Island, and a Venezuelan stamp, and the best place to procure them. We forward him a price-list accordingly.

W. C, ALLEN, 20, Bootham, York, sends a drawing of 'Langton's Paid Pioneer Express,' received on a letter from California. We have never heard of it. He has forwarded us the original, which we will engrave in our next number, that collectors generally may have an opportunity of inquiry. In reply to his second query,—*lepton* is the singular, and *lepta* the plural, of the Greek coin, rather lower in value than a French centime. It is a pity the names of the foreign coins are not more correctly spelt in catalogues.

F. K., Worthing.—Your query about the Ocean Postage stamp is answered above.

E. W. G., Torquay.—The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps are, or rather were, local, and used by the Company exclusively. We say *were*, as we understand they are now obsolete.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Common English postage stamps, defaced, are now valueless.

PLYMOUTH POST.—The 3 kreuzer, *dark* blue, is the only Thurn and Taxis stamp of any rarity. The varieties are all noted in Brown's Catalogue.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

Nicaraguan Stamp.—Will be ready in a Week. A beautiful proof of the Nicaraguan Stamp (equal to the original) will be sent for 13 postage stamps. Only 75 proofs of this will be taken, each proof will be numbered, and then the block burnt. An early application is really necessary, 25 Copies being already sold. Address, NICARAGUA, 20, Canterbury Place, Lambeth Road, S.

Collectors sending Duplicate Stamps to R. Pegg, 11, Holles Street, Dublin, will receive the value by return of post. Stamps exchanged.

Stamp and Co., 6, Ruperra Street, Newport (Mon.), Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps, and Commission Agents. Send stamped envelope for List.

Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps.—A great variety of Foreign and other Postage Stamps (used and unused) offered for Sale, at low prices, by W. LINCOLN, jun. (at W. S. Lincoln & Son's), 462, New Oxford Street, London, W. C. Priced List sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

D. Mc Corkindale, 70, George Square, Glasgow, will send his February List of 600 Stamps, on receipt of stamped envelope.

Mr. J. Hooper, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E. C. Foreign Postage Stamps bought, sold, or exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealer in London. A List of 1000 varieties sent on receipt of a stamped envelope.

N. Short begs to thank Collectors for the reception the former editions of his Shilling Stamp Album has received, and informs them that he has been compelled to raise its price to 1s. 3d. Some misunderstanding having arisen between agents and purchasers since the alteration in price, N. S. hereby declares that the proper price of his Album is now 1s. 3d.

Wholesale Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps should at once procure Fleet & Jackson's List, the cheapest Price List ever issued, by enclosing stamped envelope to O. FLEET, Peckham, Surrey. N.B.—Collections of any number made up to order, clean or used. Discount allowed as per Price List.

Jas. J. Woods, Olive Street (late Regent Street) Hartlepool, Dealer in Postage Stamps, Wholesale and Retail. List sent on receipt of two stamps. Wanted to purchase, Colonial Stamps by the dozen.

W. A. M., Box C 3, Post Office, Man-chester, executes all commissions in buying or selling Foreign Stamps. Postage paid on all orders over 1s.

J. G., 14, Phœbe Anne Street, Everton, Liverpool, can supply almost every variety of Foreign Postage Stamps on Reasonable Terms. His Stock includes those of Wallachia, Newfoundland, Venezuela, Nevis, Antigua, Monte Video, Chili, Buenos Ayres, Liberia, United States (Envelopes and Local), &c., &c. Price List sent on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. J. G. also buys very Rare Stamps.

Postage Stamps.—Several Hundreds of the above for Sale at greatly Reduced Prices :—Bergedorf ½ s., 2d. ; Lubeck ½ s., 2d. ; Mecklenburg ½ s., 2d. ; and numerous others, at equally low prices. Printed List on receipt of stamp. Address, A. B., 7, Charles Street, York.

Every Stamp Collector should purchase Short's 1s. 3d. Album. Post free 1s. 5d. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

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Stamps.—Robert Harley, 14, Gloucester Street, Glasgow, sends his March List of upwards of 600 varieties, on receipt of stamped-directed envelope.

Albums, 1s. 3d.; the Best of the kind published. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

Stamps ! Stamps ! Stamps !—H. Hutchin-son, Brooklands, Uppingham, has large numbers of Rare Stamps (several hundreds unobliterated) for Sale. Nevis and Antigua, from 9d. ; Ionian Islands, from 4d.

H. G. Smith, 44, Rumford Street, Man-chester, can obtain all kinds of Stamps and Coins. Lists on receipt of stamped envelope.

The 'Ne plus Ultra' of Cheapness.—Post-age Stamps supplied by VICTOR, 30, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent, at mere nominal prices.

Stamps.—C. T. E. has just got a Fresh Stock of Rare Stamps, and will sell them at greatly reduced prices. Send list of Stamps wanted, and a stamped envelope, to C. T. E., 153, Cheapside, E. C. N.B.—Collections made up.

Fifty Agents in the United Kingdom sell SHORT'S 1s. 3d. Album.

Send Two Stamps to John M. Lennard, jun., Middlesbro'-on-Tees, for his new List (fourth edition). He has a large quantity of the following :—China, Ceylon, from 1d. to 2s., used and unused ; Old Spanish Dated ; Sicily, Naples, Ceylon, and Mauritius Envelopes, &c.

James Shelton, Grimsby, will send his List of 500 Stamps, on receipt of two stamps. J. S. also buys Stamps.

C. H. Hill, 425, Argyle Street, Glasgow, sends his Price-lists of 600 Rare Stamps, on receipt of stamped envelope.

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'Regio Capito,' 149, Howard Place, Han-ley, Staffordshire, have a large quantity of Foreign Stamps, which they are prepared to sell at remarkably cheap prices, including Bavaria, Hamburg, Saxony, Italy, Hanover, Malta, India, Bremen, Russia, &c. Enclose stamped envelope for printed List.

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Jackson and Barker, 77, Canning Street, Liverpool, and St. Stephen's Road, Norwich, can supply, in any quantity, the following and many other scarcer Stamps :—Nevis, Antigua, Bahamas, Venezuela, British Columbia, &c. Stamped envelope to accompany every communication. Agents for Continental Dealers.

Mount Brown's Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Third Edition. Price 1s.; Post free, 1s. 1d. Interleaved, and Bound in Morocco Cloth, 2s.; Post free, 2s. 2d.

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W. Diamond, Dealer in Postage Stamps since June, 1857, has for Sale nearly every known stamp; Buys and Sells Collections; Exchanges *scarce* Stamps; also purchases the same. Any one having such to dispose of are requested to communicate with him, at Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, London, W. Copy the address, and send it to your friends, or, what is better, recommend them all to take in *regularly* the *Stamp Collector's Magazine.*

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Mr. George Prior, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., has large numbers of Foreign Postage Stamps for Sale, comprising several hundred varieties. A very large and entirely new Price List forwarded on receipt of two stamps (no envelope required), containing an immense assortment of clean Stamps now out of use. An early application is requested.

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'Forged Stamps: How to Detect them.' By Thornton Lewes and Edward Pemberton. Containing accurate accounts and descriptions of all Forgeries. Post free, 1s. 1d. All orders to be sent to E. PEMBERTON, Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Nearly ready.

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This Magazine will be forwarded regularly every month, to any part of the world, on receipt of the annual subscription of Four Shillings; which may be remitted in unused postage stamps current in the country whence the order is received.

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Ese Almacen sera envia o cada mes á todos los partes del mundo por los publicadores á la receta del precio anual (20 reales), en sellos del correo nuevos del pais del qual sea llepato el orden.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Dieses Journal wird jeden Monat nach allen Ländern der Welt von den Herausgebern befürden werden, nach Empfang des jährlichen Betrages, (1½ thaler), welcher in ungebrauchten Briefmarken von dem Lande, von welchem die Order gekommen ist, entrichtet werden kann.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

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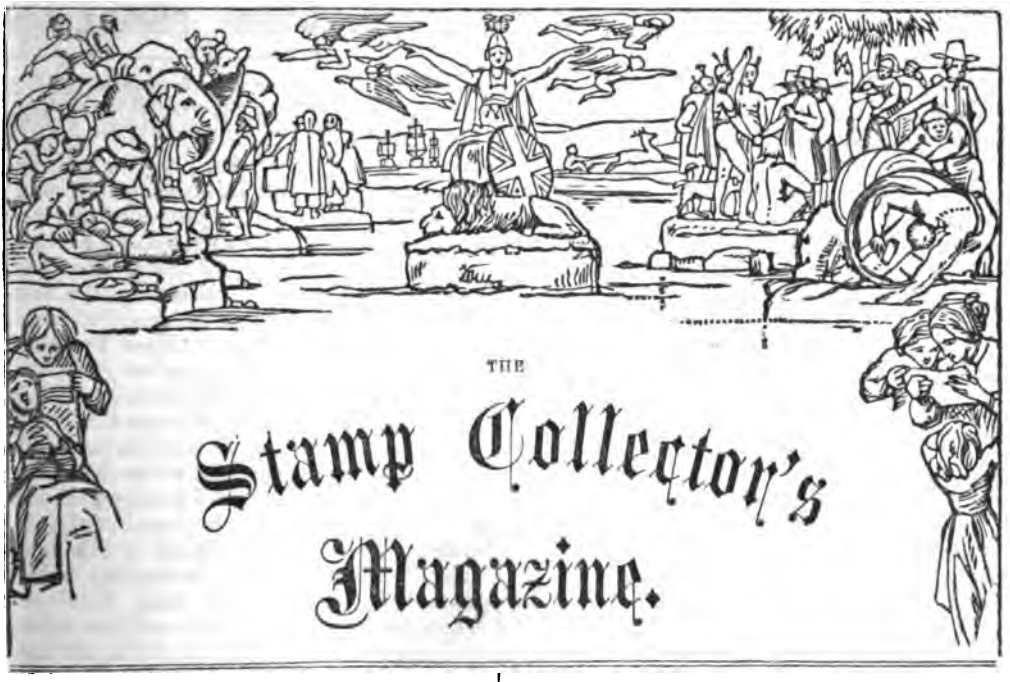

THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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IMPORTANT TO OUR READERS.

We have much pleasure in informing our Readers that arrangements are being made which will enable us to *give away* an unobliterated Foreign or Colonial postage stamp with each of the succeeding numbers of the Stamp Collector's Magazine. We trust that, by thus augmenting the value of this periodical, our friends will do all they can to increase its circulation.

A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

INTRODUCTION.

PART I.—TOASTED CHEESE.

'Ill-fated mouse, alas! what sad mishap!
Caught in a treach'rous, but too-tempting trap.'

A writer should not be otherwise than on the most familiar terms with his readers, and therefore I do not mind confessing that although I really think no small,—but that expression does not reach the mark of this refined age;—I mean that a speculative friend of mine (of whom more anon) often takes the liberty of telling me he should think it an excellent investment of spare capital, to purchase me at the public valuation, and dispose of me at my own. Be that as it may, I must plead guilty to some small share of human weakness; and one of my foibles is—toasted cheese.

My said friend's landlady has the knack of concocting this dainty dish in exact accordance with my palate, and I frequently drop in upon him in sufficient time before supper to allow of the requisite preparations,—pretty certain of the delicate morsel turning

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up hot, well buttered, peppered, and mustarded (oh! shade of Johnson!), in a silver dish, with the appropriate representation of a mouse-trap, accurately modelled, on the top of the cover as a handle. Although my friend is the least bit of a bore, being always taken up with some strange hobby, he is a good fellow in the main, albeit rather given to blurt out unpleasant truths in all unconsciousness.

I seldom go by appointment, but not long since received a note from him to the effect that, having just had a present of the richest toasting cheese, would I——? Would I not! I stopped to read no more, but rushed out of the house, to get through all the avocations of the day as speedily as possible, that nothing might be left requiring attention in the evening, as I thought I ought to go early, and afford him the sunshine of a little more of my company than usual, in return for his hospitality.

I found him, as I had expected, busily occupied with his last mania, the collection of postage stamps. Some of these he was carefully arranging in an album; and on the names and colours of them, and the trouble he had taken to obtain some of them, he expatiated for two mortal hours, totally regardless of the patent fact that I was gaping three times a minute, widely enough to swallow toasted cheese, silver dish, mouse-trap, and all; too intent was he on his darling stamps to look at *me*. I was obliged to listen to keep myself at all awake, and, although I could scarcely comprehend a word of the soporific lecture, I suppose the words, by some incomprehensible process, made an impression on that wonder of wonders, the brain; but,

'Come what may,
No night so long that never leads to day.'

The entry of the servant to lay the cloth necessitated the, alas! temporary withdrawal of the precious tesseræ, lest some of the provender should be capsized and bring them to grief. I am afraid, if such a consummation had taken place, I should have found it difficult to put on the woe-begone countenance adapted for the requisite condolence. When all was ready,

'Like Homer's heroes at the feast we sat,
But not like them, who wisely left the chat,
Till fully sated with the lean and fat;'

for my companion rattled away on the eternal topic. 'What an exquisite colour!' taking off the cover;—'just like the new Segna Tassa I was showing you.' I cordially echoed the ejaculation,—it *was* a rich colour, though without comprehending the comparison; of course it was some confounded postage stamp he meant. 'Have you heard from your sister yet?' She had just sailed, no, steamed (I like to be correct), to join her husband in India; and I was thinking it very friendly of him to take an interest in her safe arrival, especially as he had never set eyes on her, although I grudged the time it took to make the expected reply, for toasted cheese ought to be eaten in a liquid state, before it has time to curdle; but the secret of the sympathy soon oozed out. 'You know you promised to ask her to look out for the red half-anna India for me.' Sinner that I am, I had totally forgotten the promise, though I suppose I must have made it. However, I adroitly managed to change the conversation to something else. But,

'Though I called another, Abra came.'

Like Cato's speeches, which always ended with a denunciation of Carthage, never fell a sentence from my entertainer's lips, unadorned with a postage stamp. After a slight lull, I was bending low in adoration of a second supply, 'all hot.' 'Do you know you have a bald place in your head, just the size of an old Finland envelope stamp?' Rather too personal; yet I managed to gulp it down with a delicious mouthful, as soft as butter, and a glass of first-rate foaming bottled stout. 'Ah! that's some of Barclay's best. Sensible people they are at Barclay's, they collect postage stamps.' I prudently forbore ignoring the *sequitur*. 'The pattern of your waistcoat reminds me of the reticulations on the old Hanover stamps.' 'Your tie is just the colour of the half-baj. Roman.' *Et cetera*, and so forth, *usque ad*——.

Well, the banquet over, we neared the fire, each with a stiff nightcap by way of digestive. Time was when we should have

wound up the evening with a nice game of crib, écarté, or even double dumby, but no chance of that now. *I* think the black and red of a clean pack of cards worth all the postage stamp colours in the world;—*chacun à son goût.* I had remarked several times in the course of the evening that my host seemed on the point of saying something, and checked himself, as if uncertain of the opportunity. Out it came, at last, with a vengeance. 'You know, my dear fellow, you can write on any subject.' I think the reader will perceive I have no mock modesty, and consequently my disclaimer was drawn very mildly. 'The first two numbers of our magazine have sold wonderfully, and the publishers want a tale written for the third number, but the liberal introduction of postage stamps is a *sine quâ non*, and I was thinking you are quite the man we want to write it.'

I was just putting the glass to my lips, when the cool audacity of this proposition tallied so ill with the hot gin and water, as to cause such a convulsive start that the liquid went the wrong way; and much was the mopping of the eyes, and many friendly pats on the back were needful to set me to rights again. 'My good little man,' rejoined I (I have the advantage of nearly half an inch over him), 'what can you be thinking of? I know no more of postage stamps than a tom cat.' 'Not after all the pains I have taken to explain all about them? Look here, now.' And he fetched the blessed album from the other end of the room, where I had fondly hoped (short-sighted mortal!) it would take up its resting-place for that night at least; and for another clock hour I had 'the dose repeated,' till I was fain to fairly give in at last, and, like the man who married a wife to get rid of her, pretend a sufficient conception of my lesson, and agree to do the best I could for the 'mag,' as he called it. The fact was, I was getting sleepy, which my crafty friend knew full well. I believe nothing but sheer violence would have ensured my exit till breakfast time; so pertinacious is he with an object in view.

PART II.—THE CONSEQUENCES.

'The ancient Nox, at Indigestion's call,
Summons a lurid courser from her stall:
Then on the panting breast, with savage force,
Resistless treads that phantom female horse.'

'Home to the sylvan shades of holy John' I got at last, after a four-mile walk, having outstayed the last omnibus, and not choosing to afford myself a cab. I was really dead beat, and never threw myself upon my bed with greater pleasure; but whether I had bustled about too much all day, or indulged too plentifully in the toasted cheese, or the last glass of grog was too strong, or the night walk too long, or, which was more likely, the din of the postage stamps had muddled my brain, or from all these causes combined, not a wink of sound, refreshing, digestive sleep could I get all night. I slept, it is true, but what a sleep! I should have stated that my friend had trusted me with a sheet of postage stamps of different countries, to assist my memory, as he phrased it, that I might make no mistakes in the subject of my tale. I was not allowed to put these in my pocket, or to fold the sheet, so had to carry the things all the way daintily in my hand. Oh! how strongly I was tempted to chuck them into the gutter; but I bravely resisted the evil one, and laid them down carefully on my table. If they would only have stayed there,—but no!—all the live-long night the creatures were flitting around my head,—my poor aching head!—sometimes singly, sometimes in clusters, dancing, talking, and singing. When an uneasy start woke me up from this, and I dropped off again, I became a little schoolboy, standing up to repeat a lesson I knew nothing about, and my friend, swollen to a gigantic size, and flourishing a huge whip, was talking me blind.

How marvellous are the workings of the brain! how wonderfully that more than magical faculty 'ignores' both time and space!'

'How long a dream the busy mind conceives
In the brief fragment of a broken sleep!'

In the midst of my tossings and tumblings recurred to me the experience of the

drowning man, quoted, if I mistake not, by Abercrombie, as instancing the well-nigh incredible power of concentrating a life's events in a few moments of time; and the amusing eastern tale of the sultan, who, discrediting the legend, related to him by a learned and pious dervish, about Mohammed, who, having been conducted by an angel through the courts of heaven, and shown all the glories of paradise, found, to his great amazement, on being re-transported to his chamber, that all the water had not yet run out from a vessel which he had upset in his hurried exit with the angel. The story runs, that the holy mollah, offering to give the incredulous sultan undeniable proof of the possibility of such an occurrence, in the presence of the assembled courtiers, requested his highness to plunge into a large bath of water which he had ordered to be prepared. No sooner had the sultan done so, than he found himself, to his great amazement and indignation, suddenly transported to the sea shore of a region perfectly novel to his eyes. To condense the circumstances as much as possible, I must merely add, that he found his way, with much difficulty, through a barren region to the nearest town, in a pitiable condition, after being attacked and stripped almost naked by some robbers, for the sake of his regal robes; was hospitably received by a tradesman of the place; entered into his service; eventually married his daughter; on the decease of the old man, succeeded to the business; but, misfortune still pursuing him, lost his wife and children by the plague; became bankrupt; was driven from the town in a state of destitution; and, exactly fourteen years after he had quitted it, reached the same sea shore; recognised it; in a transport of despair threw himself into the sea, 'to end at once his sorrows and his life,' and instantaneously found himself in the midst of the dervish and his courtiers, who, one and all, solemnly asseverated that he had not remained under water but one single instant!

In such wise, each hasty snatch of sleep epitomised the events of months, aye, years; and the memories of the past, the facts and fancies of the present, occurrences actual, but long forgotten, and things that had, or might, could, would, or should have been, in heterogeneous jumble offered themselves before my busy imagination, till ever and anon

> 'Night's leaden courser
> pressed on my chest with such redoubl'd force,'

that I started, woke, and turned; again to doze,—sleep it might not be called.

How I anathematised posts and postages, from Cyrus, the inventor, to Palmer, the improver, and Rowland Hill, the perfecter and generaliser. The only post I could have welcomed with any complacency would have been a pillar one, to dash my head against; my pillow, although a lodging-house article, not being *quite* hard enough for the purpose.

'It is a long lane that has no turning,' and at length, like the previous evening, the night came to an end; and, following my accustomed doctrine of making the best of everything, I tried to eliminate from the nocturnal recollections, matter as groundwork for the promised tale, which lay nearly as dead a weight upon my mind as the nightmare itself had upon my body. From such a hash of remembrance, vision, and imagination as could only have been induced by the combined influences of agents so potent as postage stamps, indigestion, incubus, and toasted cheese,

> 'Forth springs, like Pallas from the cloven head
> Of father Jove, omnipotent and dread,'

THE TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

In honest truth, I am indebted to my friend for the narrative of some of the events attempted to be pourtrayed, who *can* talk sense at intervals, albeit, as some cooks flavour everything (you may see I am a bit of a gourmand) with garlic,—I fancy they do violence to their feelings by withholding 'just a *soupçon*' from fish, tart, pudding, and jelly,—all his talk, at present, is interlarded with the ever-recurring———you must supply the gap; I am weary of the words.

When the tiresome imps were dancing round my distracted head, and with voices like the tinkling of little bells dinning in my ears, some of them (I suppose they were of the adorable sex) seemed to out-talk the rest, and make themselves heard by dint of

sheer pertinacity. A very beautiful female head—goodness knows the owner of it—chattered away, as 'who should say, stop!' but the one whose prattle chiefly attracted, and whose experiences most deeply rivetted my attention, I found, on referring to the label thoughtfully affixed by my friend, mistrusting my apprehension of his pets' names, bore the proud designation of the Cross of Savoy.

(*To be continued.*)

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS, BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

France.

REPUBLIC.

There are three distinct colours of the 1-f. Republic: lake, or rather brownish red; carmine; and dark vermillion. The latter is exceedingly rare, and we imagine it must have been the earliest issue, as the cancelling mark is the *gridiron*, not the *dots* which later stamps have.

The 20 c., black, has two varieties,—one printed on *white*, the other on *tinted* paper; and the 25 c. is both *dark* and *light* blue,—the former bearing the earlier, and the latter the later cancel.

PRESIDENCY.

The two stamps under this head both show below the neck a very minute B, the initial of Barre, the engraver's name.

EMPIRE.

The 25 c., blue, which is also both light and dark in shade, was in use seven months only, and the 1 f. little more than a year, being superseded by the 20 c. and 80 c. respectively. The 2 c., *café au lait*, described in our first number, is to be added, but we understand the expected 4 c. will not be issued. Envelopes have been made, but are not yet circulated. They are very like those of Canada, which, we are informed, were taken as models. The French stamps are now perforated by government. A private firm used to adopt this useful practice for the benefit of customers. They may be easily distinguished from those now in use, by the comparatively large size of the punctures.

ESSAYS.

One f., green (*Empire Franc.*), head of Emperor. The essays of 1858 must have been ordered before the Empire was declared. They are most exquisite specimens of engraving, and were exhibited in the French department of the International Exhibition. By a peculiar process, patented, we believe, by the engraver, they are slightly indented at the back, which gives a fulness to the portrait. Besides these essays, there is another issue in carmine, blue, and other colours, with no name, date, or value, but merely the head of Liberty. The curious essay of 1862 was pronounced too troublesome for adoption.

The 15 c. *à percevoir*, noticed in the first number, must be added to the list of French stamps.

FRENCH COLONIES.

Our letters from the French West Indies to the present date, say that the 20 c., blue, and 80 c., rose, are not yet issued. The 10 c., orange, and 20 c., indigo, of many catalogues, were fictitious stamps, made by immersing the stamps of the empire of those values in some liquid. There is an essay for Cayenne, but it is exceedingly rare.

Germany.

NORTHERN STATES.

The 1 s. gr. of the earliest issue is printed on three differently coloured papers,—grey, light blue, and deep blue.

The ½ s. gr., orange; the ⅓ s. gr., green; and the 1 s. gr., rose, have appeared of the anticipated series of 1862.

SOUTHERN STATES.

For the 3 kr., *pale lavender*, read *light blue*. The 1 kr., yellow, of the 1862 series, is not out.

Granada Confederation.

We regret the meagreness of our collection in these rare stamps, fourteen only, prevents our annotating on what is so well explained in Mr. Brown's book.

Great Britain.

A knowing young member of the stamp-exchange sold us very cleverly, by offering to dispose of a government stamp, *not noticed in Brown's book*, which had been in circulation many years, but would soon be out of use, for the moderate sum of twopence. Thinking to get something choice, we made the required investment, and received the common English penny Queen's head. On reference to the catalogue, we found, to our great surprise, no indication of what may be called the present representative of the progenitor of postage stamps.

Most collectors and all catalogues ignore the existence of a *twopenny* black English stamp. Such a stamp lies before us in our own album, and we have seen several others. It has lines above and below the head, but may be merely an essay.

We have seen the sixpenny octagon stamp, *green*, like the shilling, in some collections.

The one penny, with letters in each angle, is not yet out.

ESSAYS.

There appear to exist many not hitherto described in any catalogue. We possess one we cannot identify as noticed elsewhere.

Large oval device, in white relief on blue ground. Engine-turned border, enclosing smaller oval, containing, *Post office*, in curved line, rather above the centre. This is headed by a crown, between *V. R.* Underneath stands, *one penny, half oz.*

There is a series, of which one is described in Dr. Gray's hand-book,—queen's head to left in very high relief, on variously coloured grounds; oval-shaped, with engine-turned oval frame; no value specified, but simply *paid* on the upper rim of the border.

Also, an embossed stamp for envelope. Profile of queen, in embossed, white-lined oval frame, with flower below, in a second frame, inscribed, *Postage, One Penny, half oz.*, rose; *Postage, Twopence, one oz.*, blue. 1838.

We hope to give an engraving of one of the English essays in our next; a detailed description of a very rare green envelope; and specify some varieties of those already described.

The stamps of private firms are recognised by many of the continental collectors, and therefore ought not to be totally ignored in catalogues; and although, of course, not admissible in an album for postage stamps solely, the Custom House impressions may be adduced as models of beauty, both in variety of design, and artistic execution.

NOTE.—By an error in our last, the 1-real M. C. Corrientes was appended to the notice of the Buenos Ayres stamps. It should have either remained, as in Brown's manual, under the heading of the Argentine Confederation, or obtained the dignity of a separate paragraph—Corrientes and Buenos Ayres being both provinces of that anomalous region.

(To be continued.)

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.—III.

PARIS 'CHANGE AND CHANGERS.

BY H. M. EISENBERG, OF PARIS.

IT may possibly give amusement to many readers of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* to learn a little of the buying, selling, and exchanging postal traffic in the French metropolis; to which end I beg to contribute a slight sketch. It is generally known that this collecting mania had a much earlier existence in France than in England, though for some time confined to a few rich amateurs, till its ranks have been successively filled by juveniles of both sexes *en pension*, whose attention to their collection-books during the vacations, attracted first the notice and afterwards the emulation of the elder branches of the family.

I may observe that the prices now given for specimens are very far below what were bestowed two or three years ago; almost fabulous sums of money having been paid for stamps which can now be obtained for twenty-five or fifty centimes; and, strange to say, most of the English colonial stamps actually sell now for less in Paris than in England.

There was formerly a place of meeting for exchanging stamps in a room in the Boulevart Sebastopol, which has, I believe, been given up, since amateurs have taken to assemble in the Jardins des Tuilleries for that purpose. There was a moderate traffic carried on on Thursday evenings, especially in the gardens of the Luxembourg, but it is nearly extinct. In the former place of meeting, Sundays and Thursdays attract the

largest crowd, although a sprinkling of collectors may be seen most fine days. Chance passers are often drawn to the groups of exchangers, who had, perhaps, never given postage stamps a thought before, but who were soon inoculated with the fancy, and became zealous collectors. I am myself acquainted with a gentleman, who, walking near the crowd of people one Sunday afternoon, with his wife and child, stopped a few moments to gaze at the (to him) incomprehensible *échanges*, exclaiming, at the same time, '*Quelle bêtise!*' Being a collector myself, I felt rather annoyed, and took the liberty of addressing him some remarks, to the effect that, perhaps, if he were a little more enlightened as to the matter, he might not think it so stupid a pastime, and might allow others to enjoy what he himself stigmatised as an absurdity. All this he took very good-naturedly, and left me with the promise of looking over his old letters, to see if he could find any republics, &c. This took place six months ago, and at this present moment the same individual not only collects for himself, but actually deals in stamps, and enjoys much patronage, as being more polite and reasonable than most of the Parisian stamp merchants.

At the present time, new—I mean unobliterated—stamps are all the rage with amateurs; specimens which are almost valueless if defaced, fetching very good prices if clean and unused.

Selling is strictly—and, I must confess, justly—prohibited in the gardens of the Tuilleries; there are still, however, many respectable people who manage to gain a few occasional francs on the quiet. Last summer, while busied in exchanging specimens, I was very much annoyed by an insolent gendarme, who suddenly rushed upon me and an English friend, and ordered us to leave the gardens. As he was at the same time dispersing the rest of the assemblage, we were naturally inclined to follow them in the direction of the Champs Elysées, but he would not allow us, and on our asking him why, having no reason to give, he contented himself with saying he did not want us there. This we thought rather a stretch of authority, and laughed at him, which infuriated the poor fellow to such a degree, that he obliged us to retire the way he wished, and ordered the guard at the gate not to admit us again. My friend made a formal complaint to the general, who signified in reply, that the man had exceeded his duty, and that nothing but selling was prohibited in the Tuilleries. Since that circumstance, I have never been interrupted, and remain a constant frequenter of the 'change.

Many are the petty annoyances attendant on the stamp trafficker's steps. In the first place, you are very much tormented by ladies, old and young, entreating you for '*un petit*,' and if you yield to one you are safe to get a dozen more applicants. Again, nothing but the choicest stamps will be accepted in exchange for anything really worth having; but what worries me worse than all, is the interference of a certain class of people, who seem always determined to meddle with other peoples' exchanges, and just as one is on the point of obtaining some long-desired example for one's book, an individual of this class is sure to be at hand, and tip the wink to the other not to give the exchange. I can say for myself that many a good change have I lost through one of these meddlers, although he professes great friendship for me. I used to be struck by the appearance of three men in blue blouses, who were regular attendants, and though from their dress evidently of the lower orders, would never condescend to sell, but confined themselves exclusively to exchanging desiderata.

The stamp dealers of Paris would form a curious study of character, so various are their tempers and manners as well as their charges. What one will sell for half-a-franc, another will charge you four times the sum for; and the same dealer, perhaps, takes a few centimes for a stamp valued by the other at a franc. There is one who is ready to show you the door unless you expend at least thirty or forty francs with him; another, who abuses his wife for the same reason; and a third, who calls his wife to abuse you. One is sure to be at breakfast or dinner whenever you go to his rooms; another has to be fetched from a neighbouring *cabaret* or *café*. The dealers on the Quais are the cheapest to deal with, and those in the Rue

Rivoli and elsewhere, who sell the duplicates of gentlemen collectors on commission, are the dearest; and it is these latter who get from certain customers those almost fabulous prices we hear so much of.

I noticed lately, at one of the *bals masqués de l'Opera*, a curious instance of the popularity of postage stamps. A gentleman became 'the observed of all observers,' in a costume covered with postage stamps, many of them quite new. His cap, which was entirely composed of the 10 *centimes à percevoir*, bore the words, '*Pas assez affranchie*,' inscribed in front in large gilt letters. This costume, which must have been very expensive, created a great sensation, and, to myself, was the most interesting in the building.

In concluding, let me advise any party forwarding stamps by post, either for the purpose of sale or exchange, to afford the expense of registering the letter, or enter into an arrangement with his correspondent, in case of real or pretended loss; as it strangely but frequently happens that letters containing postage stamps, get strayed or stolen. In such cases, I think the loss should be borne equally by the *soi-disant* sender and receiver, and that also positive proof of the loss should be given, which, in some cases that I could specify, appears something more than doubtful. Another symptom of the lack of honesty in postal dealings, is the quantity of fictitious stamps now in circulation. Some twelve months or so ago, we might have been taken in by many or all of them, but are now rather more wide awake, and repudiate the deceptions.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.



WE here present our readers with an engraving of the new Nicaraguan stamp referred to in our last number. Mr. H. Whymper (see advertisement) has for sale a few proofs of this really beautiful work of art. We have one now before us, and think it is admirable. Collectors unable to procure the original stamp, would do well to provide themselves with one of these fac-similes.

We are now enabled to afford a more specific notice of the new Turkish stamps. They are of four different values; the one figured by us, printed on rose-coloured paper, being the highest, viz., 5 piastres; that on blue paper is 2 piastres in value; there is a dingy violet-coloured 1 piastre; and a yellow one, 20 paras, or half a piastre. This last is also printed on brick-coloured paper, and usually makes up what is called the set of five; but our own album contains *all* the four denominations, printed on the same peculiar tint of light red. We have no information as to whether these latter are essays, or were issued for government use or otherwise. At first glance, the patterns on the four stamps appear similar, but a slight inspection will show that not only the devices in the upper corners, and that below the crescent, but even the framework, are different, and, of course, the characters denoting the monetary values. We may add that about 107 piastres go to the pound sterling. All the stamps bear, as we said before, the Sultan's sign-manual *above*, and the words, 'Ottoman Empire' *in* the crescent. The four extra stamps on the red paper are in other respects alike their congeners of equivalent value. In a complete sheet, the stamps are printed foot to foot, and between each stamp runs a narrow band of some strongly contrasting colour, which is by some means partially extracted so as to exhibit an inscription in Turkish characters of the same colour as the stamps themselves.

We do not know who was the designer of the new series for North Italy, of which one only (see engraving) has yet been issued, but



we cannot say much in favour of his production. The essays of Messrs. Bradbury, exhibited in the British gallery of the International Exhibition, if adopted by the Italian government, would have been much more ornamental to the pages of a stamp-album. The 5 c., 10 c., 40 c., 80 c., and 3 lire, will not appear till the present issue of those values has been exhausted. Our engraving is supposed to be blue on white. In the third edition of M. Moens' catalogue, he says the 5 c. will be green; the 10 c.,

brown; the 40 c., orange; the 80 c., rose; the 3 lire, violet: the new values, 15 c., green; and the 30 c., blue; but as he is wrong in the only one of the series that has come out, he may be so in the rest, especially as he incorrectly foreshadowed them as bearing the royal arms.



The Segna Tassa (the promised engraving of which we insert) is orange, on white.

Hamburg, so fruitful in novelties, has again favoured us with a set of new Boten, prettily designed, in ten various colours, which will be fully described in our next number in their proper place.

That most capricious of all islands, the Mauritius (we marvel how it chanced to be named after a *man*), has again added to our collections. The sixpenny envelope is no longer *violet*, but *brown*, and a one shilling yellow, not yet catalogued, appears. It is oval; queen's head to left; *Mauritius postage*, above; *one shilling*, underneath; in white relief on yellow ground. The shilling green adhesive, of the same type as the actual penny, twopenny, &c., but having the value inscribed in a minute oval on each side of the portrait, like the green sixpenny and yellow shilling, is also to be added to the Mauritian list; and, moreover, a sixpenny slate-coloured, of the Britannia group.

Two very beautifully engraved stamps have just come into our possession. They are from Bremen. One is scarlet and the other rose-coloured; but we forbear giving a detailed description of them yet, in the absence of official information.



We here give a representation of the original essay for Sicily; not as a new stamp, but as totally novel to most of our readers.

The expected Helvetia, 20 c., orange, is out at last; as are also the ⅓ s. gr., green, and the 1 s. gr., rose, of Thurn and Taxis, north.

The Indian mail has just brought a New Zealand *threepenny*, brown.

We expect to describe the emissions of a state hitherto unrepresented, in our next number.

ON POSTAGE-STAMP CATALOGUES.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE catalogues of postage stamps were first prepared and printed in France and Belgium —countries where everything assumes an official, and not an individual character. The idea that first presented itself to the mind of the author, consequently, was to arrange the stamps of each country under the date of the *ordonance* by which they were issued; putting together all the stamps, whatever might be the difference of their type, that were issued at the same period.

Thus, in the first catalogues—those prepared by M. Alfred Potiquet, and published by Lacroix—the French stamps are arranged under those issued 1st January, 1849; August, 1849; December, 1849; 1st July, 1850; 30th July, 1850; and 12th September, 1850, and so on.

The Belgian catalogue, which followed shortly after, and which Lacroix says is nearly a copy of his list, adopted the same plan; and the English catalogues that followed—as those which appeared under the name of *a Stamp Collector*, at Brighton, and by Mr. Mount Brown, in London—are little more than translations of these French and Belgian works: they adopt without any change the official unscientific classification.

The French and Belgian compiler of these catalogues, and their English translators, were at a loss when they came to describe the stamps of Great Britain and her colonies, which form so large a proportion of all collections of stamps, as we are not in the habit of issuing ordonances in the official papers when new stamps are issued; and, therefore, the date of issue is left blank, or the date of the publication of the catalogue is only inserted, showing that the stamps were then in circulation.

As only a very few postage stamps—as, for example, the old stamp of Spain, those of British Guiana, and a few other places—carry on their faces the date when they

were issued, consequently, it is impossible to determine, by the examination of the stamp, the exact time when they first came into use; though we are enabled, by the effigy they bear or by the inscription, sometimes to define the chronological sequence in which they followed each other.

It occurred to me that it would be better to arrange the stamps in my collection according to the design and inscription, without attempting to define the exact time of their issue; and this plan has the advantage of separating several stamps of different types, which were clustered together in the French and Belgian catalogues, and the translations of them, because they were over-looked when issued under the same ordonance and at the same period.

In fact, I made a catalogue of the stamps in my collection, and of those which I had seen in other collections, for my own use, on the same plan as I had been in the habit of making catalogues of shells, butterflies, and other natural objects, arranging the stamps according to the device or inscription on them; giving a short description of each type, and a short character of the variations from the original which each variety of the type presented.

On the publication of this list in *Young England*, Mr. Mount Brown, struck with the improvement in the description of the stamps, asked my permission to copy some of them for his new edition; I granted him permission to do so, and the alterations and improvements made in his third edition are derived from this source; but still he arranges the stamps as they are in M. Moens' Belgian catalogue—according to the date of issue—lumping several stamps under the same head. Thus, for example, the eight Sydney stamps I have described, belonging to three distinct types, are regarded as only three different values of the same stamp; and it is the same with the Peruvian, and many others.

At the solicitation of some friends, I printed this catalogue in *Young England*. My collection of stamps having greatly increased, and my knowledge of the subject being extended, I was induced to revise that catalogue, and I gave the MSS. of the improved list to Mr. Hardwicke, who printed it, and sold an edition of one thousand copies in the course of eighteen or twenty days. I then, at his request, prepared a second edition, with large additions,* adding the colours of the stamps, on which collectors appear to place much greater importance than I at first, or even now, think it deserves.

In this catalogue an attempt was made to introduce the collector of stamps to the use of a systematic arrangement, such as naturalists have found so useful, thus trying to introduce into the collecting and arranging of stamps the same habit of accurate observation and careful comparison which the study of natural history has been found so successful in introducing, and which are so useful in all the affairs of life; which renders the study of natural history, and any other study that is conducted on the same principles, so useful as a branch of education; and thus attempting to convert the collecting of stamps from a mere pastime to a useful employment of time.

I am sorry to say, I still find many collections of stamps arranged in a promiscuous manner, so that it is difficult to make a comparison between the stamps that are nearly allied; and hence many varieties that are very distinct have been overlooked. Other collections are only arranged as ornaments, placed in formal figures; or some are mounted on coloured paper before they are inserted in the book; and others placed on pages that are so ornamented either with tawdry flags, arms, or complicated inscriptions, that the stamps are lost in the frame ornament with which they are surrounded.

I should recommend collectors who are satisfied with this kind of arrangement of their collections, to study the *Petit Manuel de l'amateur des Timbres Postes, par Fois V****, who prepared engravings showing how stamps may be arranged according,

Firstly, to a *Classification Genealogique ou ordre chronologique des emission de chaque*

* It is stated in the last number that I am preparing another edition, to which I mean to append the private stamps. I have no such intention; for I have not the means of knowing the towns in which the local American stamps are issued, and without such information, I regard a catalogue of them as of little use.

timbre. The plate showing them arranged on the stump of a tree, like a genealogical table.

Secondly, a *Classification Heraldique, d' apres les armoires et les effigies des Souvrains de chaque etat.* Also arranged on the stump of a tree, with effigies on one side, and the arms on the other.

Thirdly, a *Classification Systematique, groupant les timbres suivant les colours pour leur etude comparative*, where the stamps are arranged in a heraldic shield, in quarterings according to their positive colours.

In other respects this catalogue is inferior to the other French and Belgian ones, and about equal to the German catalogue published in Leipsic.

For young collectors figures are very useful; and the comparison of the stamps with the figures is also a useful exercise of the comparing powers. M. Moens, the Belgian dealer, is now publishing a very beautiful series of figures of the different types noticed in his catalogue; but this work is extensive, and consequently costly, though published at a cheap rate, compared with the beauty of its execution. Eight or nine parts have appeared, and it was supposed that it would be completed in twelve shilling numbers, but I hear that it is now proposed to run it on into a few more parts.

Mr. F. Booty, of Brighton, has published a *Stamp Collector's Guide*, which contains upwards of two hundred figures of stamps, representing the more prominent peculiarities and the chief forms. They are not first-rate as works of art, but they are sufficiently good to be always recognisable; and Mr. Booty is to be praised for his industry, as I believe that the text and drawings are all the labour of his own hands; and this has enabled him to publish the catalogue at so moderate a price as to be within the reach of most collectors.

Several papers have appeared in the cheap periodicals, as *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*, the *Leisure Hour*, &c., which are illustrated with woodcut figures, but they are generally only few in number. The best figures of this kind are those given in Mr. Whymper's paper, in No. 579 of the *Leisure Hour*. There are at least two monthly periodicals devoted to the subject, and several catalogues, issued by dealers in stamps, which give good and useful figures of rare or new stamps.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Le Timbre-Poste; Journal du Collectionneur. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

This *feuilleton*, the second number of which is just published, emanates from the well-known continental *timbre* merchant, and will be devoted solely to postal information for collectors. We give our readers a translation of part of the leading article in the first number, which will afford a good idea of the merits of the publication. It is entitled,

POSTAGE STAMPS, IN AN ARTISTIC POINT OF VIEW.

'On considering the crowd of stamps, so diverse in form, colour, and design, one is quite struck with the relation that generally exists between the degree of civilization of each country, and the more or less taste displayed in the execution of its postage stamps. Thus, without paying the smallest attention to their politics, and in judging them only by their stamps, should we be far from the truth in saying, that the Argentine Republic, Monte Video, Mexico, and Moldavia, must be less advanced, for instance, than the United States?

'After the stamps we have just cited, come, in order of merit, those of Italy, Piedmont, Modena, Parma, Naples, Tuscany, &c., which are but poorly executed. It would seem that Italy, once the mistress of the arts, must henceforth find it impossible to produce an engraver of any talent, incapable as it is of giving itself a stable government. Certain countries, as Bremen, Tour and Taxis, Luxembourg, Russia, and Sicily, are distinguished by the superior artistic execution of their postal impressions.

'Some countries affect whimsicalities. Such are the Cape of Good Hope stamps, whose triangular shape is so appropriate to the place they represent; the Swan River stamp, symbolizing the colony by a beautiful swan; the early Nova Scotians, lozenge-shaped; and, lastly, the Newfoundland threepenny, which is also, we know not why, triangular.

'The stamps best deserving notice, and which, much more eloquently than historians, show us the march of time, are, without contradiction, those of Honolulu. What would Captain Cook say, whom the subjects of Kameamea the Third's grandfather so miserably massacred, if he could return to earth, and see [on the postage stamps of the Sandwich Islands], in gold-laced coat and epaulettes, the grandson of the great Kameamea the First, whose full-dress uniform doubtless consisted of some fish-bones stuck through the cartilage of his nose.

'The German stamps are all well executed, but exhibit little or no originality.

'Some of the effigies of the United States stamps, as those of Washington, Franklin, and Lafayette [which are these latter? We search in vain for the name, in Moens' Manual], are of incontestable merit, and rank amongst the most beautiful. Besides these, the hundreds of different types met with there, vie with each other in insignificance. The fault is not in the execution, for they are usually well engraved, but we seek in vain among this host of vignettes, for any design, idea, or figure, bearing the imprint of artistic talent. It would be straying from the intent of this magazine, to seek the cause of this want of taste which characterises the North American; let us be content to say, that, devoted exclusively to the worship of the almighty dollar, he knows nothing of the arts, not even the meaning of the word.'

We think Mr. Moens rather hard upon our transatlantic cousins. He could not have been aware, when he penned his criticism, that the queen of stamps was engraved by a North American. Our own album contains upwards of a hundred and sixty individuals of local United States stamps, filling five pages; and a very cursory glance at them would remark very great originality and marvellous variety of design. The Philadelphia and Boston stamps, and Winan's city post, are great oddities.

'The French stamps are a combination of simplicity and elegance. Those of the Republic are distinguished by a truly republican severity of style; especially the 20 c., the black ground of which well shows out the features of the goddess. [We always thought the ground of this stamp was white, but bow to better authority]. Holland has stamps of great merit. [It is as well to be on good terms with one's neighbours.] Nicaragua has very pretty stamps; we possess some really magnificent ones.

'All national vanity apart, it must be agreed that Belgium possesses certainly the most beautiful stamps in the world; in design and engraving England alone has surpassed them.'

As there are some of the finest collections in the world in Belgium, that country certainly possesses the most beautiful postage stamps. If the author simply means to allude to the Belgian issue, those few favoured individuals who have been fortunate enough to see an undisfigured stamp of Belgium, can form their own judgment.

'At last we turn to the stamps of Great Britain and her colonies. If we have left them till the last, it is that they are of a merit so transcendent, and so vastly superior to other stamps, that they deserve a special mention, and all the concentrated attention of amateurs.

'Certes, the engraving tool of the English has been celebrated in all time. It is England that has produced those magnificent engravings, those splendid illustrations, to which the continent, that still denies Great Britain the possession of artistic inspiration, has never yet produced an equivalent. But who could have imagined that the talent which easily displayed itself in engraving, would have alike displayed itself in minute vignettes, whose microscopic dimensions might have seemed to exclude it? Can anything be seen, in effect, more poetical, anything better imaging that sweet beauty which is the *apanage* of the daughters of Albion [Ladies of England, we suggest your immediately setting afoot a subscription, for a testimonial to your Belgian admirer!], than those delightful effigies of Queen Victoria, on the stamps of Canada, Nova Scotia, and Tasmania? Never, perhaps, has the engraver's art created aught more lovely in so circumscribed a space; and it is only to be regretted that these little master-pieces must ever be outraged by the cancelling-mark.'

Union Review. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

WE think the following notice of Dr. Gray's handbook, extracted from the March number of the above magazine, will amuse our readers:—

'The history of collections and collectors, whenever it comes to be written, will almost always add another curious chapter to the curiosities of literature. Postage stamps and postage-stamp collectors have now arrived at the dignity of a history and a literature of their own. Dr. Gray, of the British Museum, has become their historian; and though his own book, *A Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the use of Collectors*, might have seemed exhaustive of the subject, he tells us of upwards of twenty other works and pamphlets devoted to the pursuit. Without any depreciation of postage stamps, we should like to recommend, to such of our readers as are addicted to them, a new hobby 'for the use of collectors,'—turnpike-gate tickets. There is much in their favour; they afford a growing antiquarian interest, and are rapidly becoming a thing of the past, while postage stamps are still of vulgar daily use. They are already, at the least, in a transition state: turnpike roads falling out of use, turnpike gates as an institution, and turnpike-gate tickets with them, will soon also necessarily become extinct. Postage stamps, we are told by their historian, 'teach geography;' and not 'geography' only, but the very niceties and specialties of topography. Country history and parochial legislation are among the lessons to be learnt from a complete collection of turnpike tickets, and the study of their annals. So deeply, too, have they entered into our national life, that much of our proverbial philosophy—that garnered wisdom—draws thence its pithy phrases. 'Bilk the pike,' 'What's the ticket?' 'Pay your toll,' 'Plain as a pike-staff,' are all examples;—'pike' being per syncope for turnpike, and having no relation to bayonets, but expressing by a bold metaphor what lies in one's very road. Then, again, how interesting are the great historical

gates! Mile-end gate still exists, a terminus for 'busses; but where is Kensington? Nay, which is more and worst of all, as Lord Justice Crew says, when he asks where are now the extinguished Plantagenets,—'more and worst of all,' where is Tyburn? It has left its name, indeed, to a district richer than a Roman province; but a Tyburn gate-ticket, with all its memories, will, we fear, remain as a gold Allectus among coins, the crux of turnpike-ticket collectors. Think, too, how many social and political questions, how many moot points of economics the collection we suggest would elucidate. Dr. Gray complacently believes that he first suggested postage stamps; we claim the merit of suggesting turnpike gate tickets. In our intended collection, how many a question of cause and effect, moral and material, is opened up by, *e.g.*, the difference between a threepenny toll and a fourpenny. The Rebeccaites of Wales, and agrarian outrages, proletarian insurrections, and socialistic problems, would all be among the episodes for illustration. But, in this kindred subject, we have almost forgotten Dr. Gray and the postage stamps. His *Handbook* is an added proof that earnestness will gild the dullest occupation, and a warm, tender enthusiasm give worth to things worthless; making the most trivial work respectable, redeeming from oblivion the harmless foible of a weakness for postage stamps, and raising them in the social scale as an innocent recreation.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—An interesting letter in your last number, signed W. H. H., jun., containing some observations on the false Zurich stamps of 1843, reflects somewhat upon the *description* of the true ones in my catalogue, characterising it as 'not very particular,' and implying that collectors are indebted to my vagueness for the Swiss forgeries. I trust I may be allowed to defend myself from this imputation, for the main excellence of a good catalogue is that the classification and description should be clear and well defined. In truth, the fault lies more with the bitten than the biter. The chief distinction between them is that, whilst the genuine marked stamp has 'no name,' the false stamp has. Now, whenever the name of a country is impressed on a stamp, I invariably record it; and any collector, who refers to the catalogue, will find, 'Figure *and words* (which are wanting in the falsification) expressing value,' &c., but not a syllable about name. Again, the true dated stamp bears the word 'rappen;' the false one [being only a modification of the 1850 issue] has only the figure indicating value, and no denomination of currency. To show this clearly, rappen is placed between parentheses. It is therefore evident that the description, as it stands in the catalogue, is sufficient to enable the merest tyro to detect the imposition.

A few words about new stamps. Those recently issued by the Turkish government, viz., 20 paras, yellow; 1 piastre, lilac; 2 piastres, blue; and 5 piastres, rose, are all repeated in a sort of brick-red. These last are for use in the metropolis only, but the former for the whole of the Ottoman Empire.

I have recently received proofs of the stamps about to be adopted by the republic of Costa Rica, which are even superior to those of Nicaragua in beauty and execution. The centre of the stamp is occupied by a view of the headland in Nicoyo Gulf, and two vessels. Overarching this are five five-pointed stars, surmounted by a wreath; the whole enclosed in an ornamental scroll frame supported by standards. At the top of the stamp is, 'Porte ½ real correos de Costa Rica;' at the bottom, 'Medio real.' Shape, rectangular; impression, coloured on white paper. This value (½ real) I have in two colours, green and blue; as well as the 2 reals, in scarlet. I am informed it will be a month before the colours are determined upon and the stamps themselves issued.

There is also a very rare stamp of the Confederate States of America. Superscription [C. S. A. postage]; bust of—somebody—to left, in oval. Coloured impression; rectangular. Two cents, green.

Should these few remarks be deemed of any service to your readers, they are quite at your service.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

124, *Cheapside, London.* MOUNT BROWN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. C. ALLEN.—We append the fac-simile of the stamp you sent, and shall be glad if any of our readers can afford information thereupon.



J. DEANS, Melbourne, Derbyshire.—The first-issued English blue adhesive, without white line, fetches sixpence or more.

D. R. A.—The red ½-anna India is a genuine stamp. We should like it.

CANTAB., Trinity College.—The word 'Freimarke,' literally 'Free-mark,' is simply the German equivalent of postage stamp. We do not identify the stamp you allude to, but suppose it must be a receipt or bill stamp. Can you forward one for inspection?

A BEGINNER will find an answer to his query in our last number.

J. B. LAMB, Paisley.—An unused black English stamp would be highly valued by an amateur collecting clean specimens solely; otherwise it bears no particular worth.

A NAMELESS CORRESPONDENT asks the value of a red and blue Mulready envelope. We have never heard of, and should much like to see one, if he will forward it. The old shilling English octagon is common enough.

H. SABINE.—The Turkish are fully described in the present number. There are many forgeries about of Buck's Richmond Confederates. The example you write of must be one of them. Our own copy is plainly 1 *cent.*

J. W. K., Clerkenwell.—The 3-cents essay of the United States is vermillion. It bears the bust of Washington, surrounded by rays, in the centre; in the upper corners, *U. S.*; and in each of the lower, the figure denoting the value.

A LADY COLLECTOR wishes information about the Austrian Complementary Stamps. All the lady and gentlemen collectors we have ever met with, are in the same

unsatisfactory predicament. Some will have it they are not for postal purposes: if not—why not? All we know of them with certainty is that, from their strongly contrasting colours, they fill a very gay page in our album, and that they are found appended to the sheets of the Austrian Proper and Lombardo-Venetian postage stamps. The Germans generally are not given to take trouble for nothing, and we cannot think the white raised dots can have been placed so regularly for a meaningless purpose. We shall esteem reliable information on this moot point a great favour.

O. FLEUSS.—Our own penny block-print Cape is a crimson red, your scarlet red may be a variety.

L. M.—Some of your described stamps appear to be simply faded or discoloured specimens. The 2d. sage-green Ceylon must be one of those saved from the wreck of the 'Colombo,' which disaster proved a source of profit to many young vendors, the stamps having been much changed in appearance by their soaking in the sea. The ½ tornese of the Neapolitan provinces we have in the two colours you mention; as also the 12 and the 24 öre Sweden, the slate-coloured 6d. Tasmania, and the two colours of the 5 c. and 24 c. United States, both of the late and present series.

POSTAGE SWELL, Sydenham.—You can procure one of the postage-stamp pins at Walker's, 68, Cornhill.

NESTOR, Dublin.—Your stamp is an Austrian bill or receipt stamp. The Jamaica 3d., with arms and supporters, is also for receipts.

E. W. GOSSE, Torquay.—The presence or absence of the perforations will easily distinguish the Prussian and Austrian adhesives from the envelopes. Even when the latter are cut out oval, as is the foolish custom of some, they may be identified from having no sticking matter on their backs. The device on the left of the 1d. Bahamas is some tropical fruit, which we do not recognize. The Bremen 'post-amt' is for local postage. We have the envelope complete. The figures on the Nevis stamps symbolise 'Benevolence.'

J. S., Great Grimsby.—We believe the 1d. Victoria you mention, as like the green in device, but black in colour, to be the latest issue. The other stamp you allude to must be the old un silbergroschen of Luxembourg.

A. T., Brighton.—The envelope concerning which you inquire, can be procured from almost any dealer in stamps, either used or unused.

JAMES SHELTON, Grimsby.—Many collectors accept the stamps of private firms.

ALPHA, Uppingham.—The Ionian Islands may have a new issue when united to Greece, or adopt the stamps of that kingdom.

W. C. M.—The chief firms employing private stamps, are the trio of Smiths, viz., Cornhill, Strand, and Bath; the *Home News*, *British Workman*, &c.

FRANK B., Trent.—The sixpenny St. Helena is noticed in every postal catalogue deserving the name.

R. H. OLDERSHAW, Nottingham.—The 1-lepton Greek is of two colours,—buff, and marone brown. The 2-lepta is a yellow buff.

TIMBROMANIAQUE, Dublin.—The red 1d. temporary Cape of Good Hope is not rare,—the light and dark blue of the same issue much more so; but the *red fourpenny* is exceedingly scarce, and the *blue penny* almost unattainable.

Now Ready,

Nicaraguan Stamp.—A very beautifully engraved Proof (an exact fac-simile of the original) of this Stamp will be sent on receipt of 13 postage stamps. Only 75 Proofs taken. Address, NICARAGUA, 20, Canterbury Place, Lambeth Road, S.

CONUNDRUM.

Why is the Tuscan lion like the British Empire?



*** A genuine 1 dollar Pony Express stamp of the Rocky Mountains will be given to the *youngest* collector sending the correct solution of the above conundrum. Replies, stating name, age, and address, to be sent to the Editor, care of the publishers, Stafford Smith & Smith.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

Foreign Postage Stamps.—Collectors should send a list of ther requirements to E. C. Hall and Co., Foreign Stamp Dealers, Hartlepool. Bahamas, Ceylon, Grenada, Hong Kong, Nevis, Spain (Old, with date indicated), Kanton Bern, &c. Enclose stamped envelope.

Woods & Pemberton, Dealers in Obsolete Postage Stamps, Olive Street, Hartlepool. List sent on receipt of two stamps.

Stamps.—James Shelton, Grimsby, sends his priced list on receipt of stamped envelope. J. S. wishes to purchase Ionian and other stamps.

Albums, 1s. 3d. N. Short, Green Hill, Grantham.

The 'Ne plus Ultra' of Cheapness.—Postage Stamps supplied by VICTOR, 30, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent, at mere nominal prices.

Western Australia Postage Stamps.— Several dozens of these rather uncommon stamps to be sold at moderate prices. Apply to C. L. M., 9, Roxburgh Grove, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W., enclosing a stamped-directed envelope for a reply.

Short's 1s. 3d. Album is Good.

A Collection of 710 Postage Stamps to be disposed of, at 4d. each; handsomely bound in a red morocco album; many of them are unused. Address, M. A., 1, Cholmoley Villas, Ditton, Surrey.

Important.—William Frederic Cooke, Buckland, Dover, has for Sale a magnificent Collection of upwards of 900 specimens; price 25 Guineas.

Short's 1s. 3d. Album is 'Ne plus Ultra.'

H. G. S. 10, Chestnut Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester, sends his wholesale and retail Price Lists of Stamps or Coins on receipt of stamped envelope. Stamps or Coins bought or sold on commission. Collections of 100 Stamps, 5s.; 200 ditto, 14s.

W. Diamond, Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, London, W., Dealer in Postage Stamps of all nations. Foreign Stamps sent per post on receipt of uncut penny postage stamps. Collections purchased. Any communication requiring a reply must contain a stamp.

Short's 1s. 3d. Album se transmis a aucune partie du monde, en recevant le prix et le port au livre en timbres postes. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

Alpha, 34, Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berks, has some Rare Stamps for Sale, at moderate prices. Send a stamped envelope for List

For Threepence you will stand a chance of getting one of Short's 1s. 3d. Albums, Six of which are to be drawn for on April 7. N. Short, Grantham.

Scarce, Obsolete, and New Stamps.— Examples: Bavaria, Greece, Brazils, Confederate States, Ionian Isles, Naples, Parma, Russia, &c, at the lowest prices. List (just printed) sent for stamped envelope. W. TATE, 77, Woodville Terrace, Everton, Liverpool. Note—Antigua, 6d. each.

The Princess Alexandra Postage-Stamp Album. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham. Post free, 1s. 8d.

Important to Collectors.—A very large and varied stock of Stamps for Sale at half the usual prices. A Price List sent on receipt of stamp by R. PEGG, 11, Holles Street, Dublin. Stamps bought. Album to hold 800 stamps, post free, 1s. 2d.

If this should meet the Eye of any one who wants a good and cheap Album, let him send 17 stamps to N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

D. Mc Corkindale, 70, George Square, Glasgow, will send his Spring List on receipt of stamped envelope. His prices are very low:—set of 10 Scheerenbecks, 1s. 2d.; Nova Scotia 3d. and 6d., each 4d.; 1d. and 1s., each 8d., &c.

Everybody should Buy Short's Album, 17 stamps, free. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

To be Raffled for, on May 2nd, a Col- lection of 300 Stamps, mounted in Lallier's Album, many unused, by 60 Members at 1s. each. Unused Stamps bought. J. G. OXLEY, 6, Hewitt Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester.

If you have already Purchased an Album, you still ought to have Short's Album for spare stamps; 1s., post free. N. SHORT, Green Hill, Grantham.

William Cooke, Esq., Buckland, Dover, has 2000 Obsolete Stamps, including Parma, etc., on hand. Selections sent for inspection on application.

Collectors sending Duplicate Stamps of Liberia, Antigua, Hong Kong, Moldo-Wallachia, Nevis, Cuba, Lucia, Prince Edward Island, Sierra Leone, and Western Australia, to M. GUSTAVE LEGLISE, Dunkerque, France, will receive their value in unobliterated French Stamps, by return of post. Communications to be written in the French language, if possible.

Mr. J. Hooper, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C.—Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealer in London. J. H. has just published a new edition of his Priced Catalogue, containing about 1000 varieties, and will forward it on receipt of a stamped envelope.

Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps.— A great variety of Foreign and other Postage Stamps (used and unused) offered for Sale, at low prices, by W. LINCOLN, jun. (at W. S. Lincoln & Son's), 462, New Oxford Street, London, W. C. Priced List sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

Monte Video, 60 c., 6d. each; Russian Env., 5 k., unused, 8d each; Argentine Con., 5 c., 8d. each; Old Saxony, 6d. each; ditto 3 pf. red, *figure*, 2s. 6d.; Old Belgium, 10, 20 c., 4d. each; Buenos Ayres 1 p., 8d. each; and an immense assortment of Rare Stamps at same low rates. Price List, 4th edition, now ready, sent as usual on receipt of stamped envelope. This List is the cheapest published. H. R. VICTOR, Ormeau Terrace, Belfast.

Jackson and Barker, 77, Canning Street, Liverpool, and St. Stephen's Road, Norwich, can supply, in any quantity, the following and many other scarcer Stamps:—Nevis, Antigua, Bahamas, Venezuela, British Columbia, &c. Stamped envelope to accompany every communication. Agents for Continental Dealers.

1s. 3d. Albums. N. Short, Green Hill, Grantham.

All kinds of Rare and Old Foreign Post- age Stamps, amongst which are St. Lucia, Nevis, Pony Express, Confederate States, Local American, and Greek, singly or in sets. French Colonies, 1 c., 5 c., and 10 c., 6d. each, and 40 c., 9d.; Ionian Islands, 1s. per Set of Three; all clean. Address, Mr. F. E. MILLAR, 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N. E. N.B.—Price List forwarded on receipt of two stamps for postage, &c.

Mr. George Prior, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., has large numbers of Foreign Postage Stamps for Sale, comprising several hundred varieties. A very large and entirely new Price List forwarded on receipt of two stamps (no envelope required), containing an immense assortment of clean Stamps now out of use. An early application is requested.

Wanted to Purchase a Collection of about 800 Stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depot, Bath.

C. W. Deadman, 26, Adelaide Square, Windsor, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps. List sent on receipt of one stamp.

Foreign Postage Stamps.—Collectors and Dealers are recommended to send for W. W. W. DOUST's Price List by enclosing two stamps. They are also recommended to send for Stamps on approval. Good, clean, and rare Stamps cheap. W. W. W. DOUST, High Street, Peckham, Surrey.

Short's 1s. 3d. Album is Unsurpassable.

Stamps! Stamps!! Stamps!!!—C. G., Acomb House, near Manchester, has several thousands of the above (unused) on Sale, at the following rates per dozen:—Antigua 1d., 8s.; Belgium 1 c., 3d.; Ceylon (Env.) 1d., 10s.; ditto 2d., 10s. 6d.; France, 2 c., 6d.; Hanover, ½ gr., 1s.; ditto Bestelgeld, 1s.; Helvetia, 2 c., 6d.; ditto 3 c., 8d.; ditto 5 c., 1s.; Honolulu, 5 c., 10s. 6d.; Mecklenburg, ½ s., 6d. Hong Kong, 2 c., 9d. each. Collections Sold at following rates:—100 varieties, 4s.; 200, 12s. 6d.; 500, £3 3s. List sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope.

R. P. Harley, 18, South Hanover Street, Glasgow (formerly of 14, Gloucester Street), Dealer in Stamps of all kinds. Printed Price List of about 800 varieties will be ready on the 1st of April (3rd edition), which will be sent on receipt of stamp (no envelope being required). R. P. H. also wishes to correspond with parties resident on the Continent, as he has large numbers of British Colonies for Exchange.

Charles Decroix will send a selection of Stamps (at reasonable prices) on approval on receipt of stamped envelope. Bazaar, Dover.

Foreign Postage Stamps.—Thomas Smith, Hutchinson's Coffee House, Coleman Street, London, E. C., has a great many of the above for Sale. He has all kinds of Continental and Colonial for Sale, very cheap. A great many Maltese Halfpenny, at 1s. 3d. per dozen; and Ionian Islands, at 1s. 6d. per set of three. Collectors sending a list of Stamps required will have them returned, with prices marked thereon. Stamped-directed envelopes must in all cases accompany all communications.

J. J. H. Stockall and Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps, both used and unused, have now on hand a large stock of Stamps. Price List, describing form, value, colour, date of issue, &c., of about 1000 varieties, sent on receipt of two postage stamps. Greece, 1 and 2 lepta, 3d. each, or 2s. per dozen; 5 lepta, 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen; French chiffre taxe, 10 and 15 centimes, 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen; Portugal, 5 reis, 2d. each, or 1s. per dozen; Hamburg Boten, Set of 10, 1s.; *all unused*. Not less than one dozen of each supplied at the wholesale prices. Orders under 2s 6d. to contain stamp for reply.

W. Young, 1, Kent Street, Glasgow, has for Sale a great many Stamps. Ionian Islands, Yellow, 3d.; Blue, 4d.; Set of Three, 1s. 3d.; H. Scheerenbeck's Local Hamburg Stamps, 1s. 3d. per Set of Ten; Lubeck and Bergedorf, 1s. 4d. per Set; Mecklenburg, ½ sch., 1d. each; Bergedorf, Hamburg, Lubeck, ½ sch.; Denmark, 2 sk.; France, 2 c.; Germany, ½, ⅓ gr.; Hanover, 3 pf.; Malta, ½d., 2d., each. *All* these are *unused*. List sent, on receipt of stamp for postage. W. Y. also buys Stamps.

'Omega,' Everton, Liverpool, will send his Price List of Foreign Postage Stamps to any address on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. Collectors will find that their requirements can be supplied on very reasonable terms; as this is one of the cheapest and most comprehensive lists published. It comprises many hundreds of varieties, including all the Continental Stamps now in use, such as Greece, Ionian Islands, Wallachia, Papal States, Austrian Italy, &c., &c.; and several clean sets of the old issues of Hanover, Oldenburg, &c.; besides an extensive assortment of Colonial and other Stamps.—Antigua, Bahamas, Barbadoes, British Columbia, British Guiana, Buenos Ayres, Canada, Ceylon, Chili, Grenada, India, Jamaica, Liberia, Malta, Mauritius, Monte Video, Natal, Nevis, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Granada, New South Wales, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, St. Helena, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sandwich Islands, Sierra Leone, Trinidad, United States (both local and envelopes), Venezuela, Western Australia, &c. N. B.—'Omega' has just issued a wholesale List, which he will forward to any Dealer on receipt of one stamp.

Forged Stamps: How to Detect them. By Thornton Lewes and Edward Pemberton. Containing accurate accounts and descriptions of all Forgeries. Post free, 1s. 1d. All orders to be sent to E. PEMBERTON, Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Third Edition, revised, augmented, and corrected.

Catalogue of Postage Stamps,—British, Colonial, and Foreign. By Mount Brown. Containing an accurate description of the form, colour, date of issue, and value of 1600 varieties; and an account of fictitious and counterfeit Stamps, and how to detect them. Price 1s.; Post free, 1s. 1d. Bound in Morocco Leather and interleaved for Collectors, 2s.; Post free, 2s. 2d. Address, Mr. BROWN, care of Mr. Passmore, Bookseller, 124, Cheapside, London. ⁂ New priced List of unused postage stamps just issued; Post free, 3d.

To Stamp and Crest Collectors.—Just published, beautifully printed in Colours, 1s., or emblazoned in Gold and Silver, 1s. 6d. each sheet; by post, one extra stamp. Sheet 1, Arms of all Nations; 2, Arms of all the Counties in England; 3, Arms of all the Colleges of Oxford; 4, Flags of all Nations; 5, English, French, and Russian Orders; 6, Arms of all the Cambridge Colleges (publishing). London: GEO. MUSGRAVE & Co., Turnham Green, W.

To Foreign Stamp and Crest Collectors.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Monthly Circular for April will be sent gratis and post free to any address on application.

New and Revised Edition. Third Thousand.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Descriptive Price Catalogue of many hundred varieties of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Illustrated with Fac-simile Engravings of Rare Stamps. Price 4d.; post free, 5d.

Beautifully printed in Colours.

Stafford Smith and Smith's New and Complete set of Postage-Stamp Album Labels. Comprising upwards of 130 Titles, geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., of the British Museum. Will be ready on the 1st of May.

Important to those about to Collect.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Five-Shilling Packet of Foreign Postage Stamps. Containing 50 varieties of Foreign Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free, 5s. 1d.

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Stafford Smith and Smith's One-Shilling Packet of Arms, Crests, Monograms, &c., comprising upwards of 50 varieties; Relief stamped in Colours. Post free, 1s. 1d.

The Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, 13, George Street, Bath.

This Magazine will be forwarded regularly every month, to any part of the world, on receipt of the annual subscription of Four Shillings; which may be remitted in unused postage stamps current in the country whence the order is received.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Ce Magasin-ci se sera transmis tous les mois, à toutes les parties du monde, en envoyant aux Messieurs Smith la souscription annuelle (5 francs), en timbres-poste neufs du pays d' où vient l' ordre.

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Questo Magazzino sara trasmiso tutti i mesi, in ciascuno parte del mondo dagli autori, ricevendo il presso annuale (5 lire), in franchi bolli non segnati del paese dove arrivi il comando.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Ese Almacen sera enviado cada mes á todos los partes del mundo por los publicadores á la receta del precio anual (20 reales), en sellos del correo nuevos del pais del qual sea llegato el orden.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Dieses Journal wird jeden Monat nach allen Ländern der Welt von den Herausgebern befürden werden, nach Empfang des jährlichen Betrages, (1½ thaler), welcher in ungebrauchten Briefmarken von dem Lande, von welchem die Order gekommen ist, entrichtet werden kann.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

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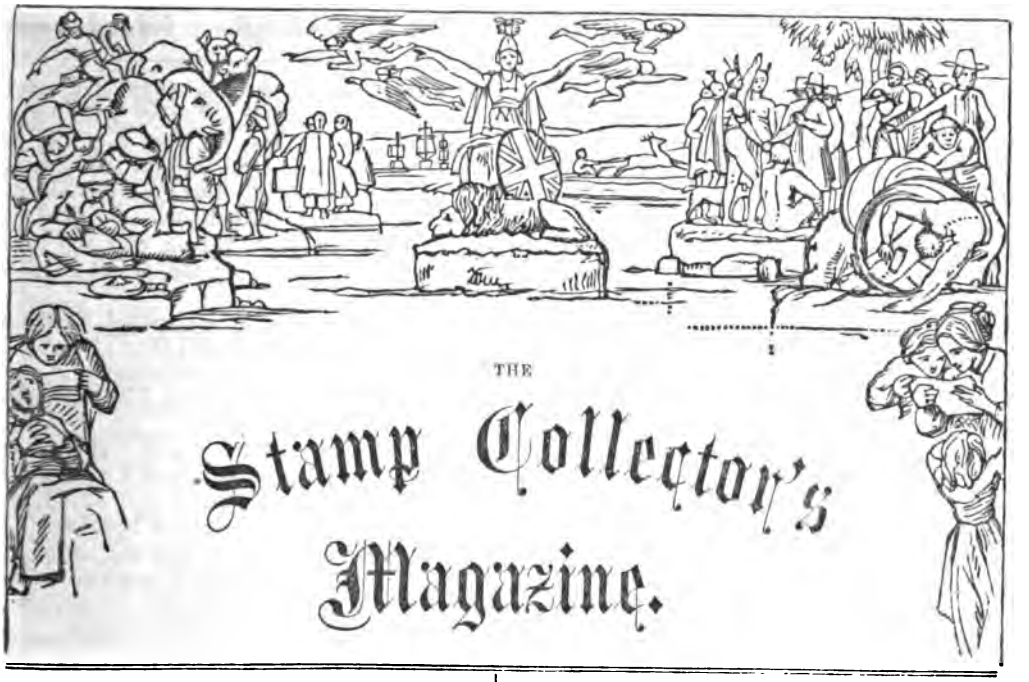

THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

(*Continued from our last*).

DOZE THE FIRST.—PART I.

THE CROSS OF SAVOY.

'Twice seven ages pass away,
Since Italia own'd the sway
Of a king!
Twice seven ages in his grave,
Resteth Odoacer brave,—
Her last king!
Joyful now again her face,—
Victor comes, of Savoy's race;
Hail him king!'

'My native place,' commenced the postage stamp, 'is Florence—Florence the beautiful—and I am proud of it. I have heard it said, "See Florence, and die!" *I* say, See Florence, and live there. Lovely is the climate, pure the air, kind are the people. What noble piles of building rear their tops between the hill of Fiesole, covered with villas and pleasure grounds, on one side, and the Belvedere fort and gardens of Boboli on the other! Were not the bare tops of the Apennines an occasional resting-place for the eyes, they might ache from the contemplation of such an accumulation of delights.

'Cathedrals, in all their variety of architectural grandeur, tower in every city of Europe; but the Duomo of Florence may vie with the noblest. I could expatiate on the Museum, Library, and Chapel of the Medici, the Palazzi Vecchio and Pitti, and "the statue that enchants the world;" but if you have seen Florence, you do not need my description; and if you have not, I should despair of impressing you with a full appreciation of it.

'There, then, was I ushered into being. But before I proceed with my adventures, I ought to afford you some information [afford *me* information! but I had nothing for it but

No. 4. May 1, 1863. Price Fourpence.] **[Registered for Transmission Abroad.**

to grin and bear] about the glorious badge I am privileged to wear, and the noble house it represents,—a princely house when you foggy islanders were just beginning to emerge from barbarism! [an impertinent little jackanapes!].

'Shall I tell you of our brave progenitor, Humbert the White-handed of Maurienne?—of that Amadeus, who earned the appellation of "Candatus," by refusing to attend the levée of the German Emperor Henry unaccompanied by his retinue of nobles;—of his successor, who first bore the title of Count of Savoy;—of the conqueror of the Chablais and Aosta;—of the Great Amadeus, who, defending the Christian Rhodians against the Turks, assumed the sacred white cross I bear?—look at it!——'

'And look at mine, too!' briskly interpolated another of the little phantom flutterers, 'I do not see why Peter should be forgotten,—Peter, who obtained the Pays de Vaud,—*my* country,—and in whose honour *I* claim the Savoy Cross. He was the uncle of one of your kings, and lived in the Savoy Palace, built for him on the banks of your Thames.'

'Well,' continued my former interlocutor, evidently annoyed at the interruption, 'if you have quite finished, I may proceed. I was about to mention Amadeus, the "Green Count," who planted the White Cross of Savoy on the walls of Gallipoli; and who, splendidly entertaining the Emperor Charles in his passage through Chamberry, in token of fealty, allowed five of the banners of his tributary dominions to be laid at the feet of his suzerain, but would not permit *my* white cross to be lowered like the others,—exclaiming, that it never yet had been, nor ever should be, please God!

'I sadden at the name of Nice, acquired by his son, the "Red Count," now, alas! for ever alienated from our inheritance. Then follows that romantic compound of prince and priest,—that amalgamation of luxury, piety, and chivalry;—in marvellous succession, first Count, then Duke, then Hermit, and then Pope!

'The more modern history of our House exhibits us ever brave, and ever successful, too; maintaining our ground amid all the turmoils and revolutions that distracted Italy; until, by their gallantry and perseverance, our Dukes became enrolled as kings among the regal families of Europe. The culminating point of our glory is almost reached. Victor Emmanuel of Savoy is King of all Italy, in name; and the time approaches for realising the proud appellation.'

'Not yet,' hurriedly interposed a stamp effigying a tiara and crossed keys; 'the Holy Father still holds the patrimony of St. Peter,—by the gift of heaven, his inalienable inheritance to all time.'

'Right well and truly put,' chimed in chorus two youthful heads, and a coronetted queen; 'the Virgin Mother will afford her protection to the vicegerent of her Son.'

'Till I withdraw *mine*,' was the imperious dictum of a laurelled head, marked unmistakeably with the attributes of decision, energy, and indomitable perseverance.

'Really! gentlemen—and lady,' rejoined, with offended dignity, my pertinacious little friend, 'I pronounce these interruptions most uncourteous. I am attempting to instruct as well as entertain this man;—not that he seems properly to appreciate my endeavours, or he would not turn and toss about in so inelegant a manner——.' Here incubus and indignation had a strong tustle for victory; but the former triumphed, and I could *not* wake.

PART II.

'WHICH WILL CONQUER?'

'Spirit of good, and spirit of ill—
Ever controlling the wavering will!
That, uplifting to realms of light;
This, debasing to gloomiest night.'

'THE day of my first appearance in public life,' resumed the stamp, 'was a busy one in Florence. When the imperial originals of the two heads who have just had the impoliteness to interrupt me, meeting at an obscure town of the Mincio, terminated their war quite as unexpectedly as they had undertaken it, by the treaty of Villafranca, and recognised the real essence of peace,—non-intervention,—they simply consolidated the advantages already virtually secured by the successful insurrections of Modena, Parma, Bologna, and Florence.

'Nevertheless, the recognition of their independence by most of the great powers of Europe was accepted with gratitude by the cities of Italy; and the lively Florentines, proud of the interest taken in their openly or tacitly acknowledged king, made holiday whenever himself, or even any of his ministers or generals, passed through their city.

'Great, then, was the excitement prevailing on the announcement that Garibaldi, the "hero of a hundred fights," would sun the Tuscan capital with his presence for a few hours, and receive an address of welcome from the magistracy, nobles, and citizens, at the Pitti Palace.

'Brighter shone the sun, and more intensely blue appeared the sky, to the expectant eyes of the happy multitudes thronging the streets, from the Porta San Piero to the Porta San Gallo.

'As usual on such occasions, hours before the welcome visitor could possibly arrive, every spot of 'vantage ground was occupied with eager claimants for the best view. Soldiers, peasants, artisans, citizens, and beggars jostled indiscriminately together; and the curiosity incidental to human nature attracted from the close walls of the monasteries a fair proportion of monks, many of whom, however, not altogether satisfied with the change of government, and feeling a dim impression of the incompatibility of freedom and papal priesthood, wore on their brows something besides, and rhyming with, their cowls.

'Join with me a group in the Via Romana, opposite the garden of Boboli. There was I, having been just purchased from the post office by my then possessor. Shall I ever see him more? I was fascinated at first sight, but could not tell then, nor can I now, whether he most attracted or repelled me. I felt not the sharp scissors that cut me from my fellows on the sheet, gazing and wondering at the form of a prince invested in garments of bare mediocrity; was dropped into a purse containing but a very, very scant supply of coin; and instantaneously, at the contact of his hand, became the sharer of his inmost thoughts, the witness of his aspirations, his jealousies, his love, and his hate.

'Sad was the expression of his noble countenance, as, with an artist's eye, he contemplated the crowd assembled to welcome the hero.

'"I grudge not his fame; well has he merited it," was his internal ejaculation, "but why was *I* not vouchsafed opportunities for signalising myself, too? *I* might have been courted, admired, extolled! *She* would not have been denied me; and *he*——"

'I was startled at the vehemence of his internal emotion. The face was that of an archangel still; but an archangel fallen.

'"Santa Apollonia bless thee, my son!" uttered a passing nun, noting the wild expression. Something in the address, by a rapid association of ideas, seemed to act as balm on his ruffled feelings, and he regained his self-control; and, spite of bitter thought, could not but feel interest in the conversation held around him.

'Garibaldi was naturally the universal theme; and an old sailor, once the dependant, then the partaker of the fallen fortunes of his father at Nice, the hero's birth-place, was enrapturing his attentive audience with reminiscences of his early life. He told of the escapade of the youthful adventurer; how, with the persuasive powers which he turned to such an extraordinary account in after years, he induced some of his school-companions to venture with a few provisions in an open boat to seek their fortunes. The old man expatiated on the mortification of the boys, on their little barque being overtaken by their young captain's father, and their ignominiously entering the harbour in close custody. He told how, a quarter of a century ago, in the guise of a peasant, he escaped, at seven in the evening, a proscribed man, from the gates of Genoa;—how the first appearance of his name in a public gazette was coupled with a sentence of death!

'*I* can tell you something about him, too,' cried a queer-looking stamp with nothing but figures on it, twice the size of any of the others. 'I was not in being at the time; but I have heard my compatriots talk of his kindness to the Brazilian prisoners of war; and of his generously refusing the valuable diamonds offered under mortal terror.'

'And I,' broke in a stamp of Buenos

Ayres, 'can tell you how, sailing on the La Plata, and wanting fresh meat, in default of a landing-boat, he and one of his sailors launched the cabin dining-table, reached the shore in this novel skiff in all safety, procured the provision, fastened it to the upturned legs of the table, and, after narrowly escaping an upset, reached their vessel amid the joyful shouts of their hungry companions. And how the traitorous Rosas, forbidding him to leave Gualaguay (whither he had gone for surgical aid, after a severe wound received in his first battle), as soon as the partial recovery of his health allowed, he escaped; but, pursued and brought back, tied hand and foot on horseback, and exposed to the stings of mosquitos for a journey of four-and-fifty miles, he was cruelly beaten and tortured by the governor, because he would not divulge the names of the parties who had furnished him with the means of escape.'

'And my grateful people,' interposed an outlandish-looking individual, appearing to represent the rising sun, 'talk of the time when, his sole possessions being his sword, carbine, beloved, devoted, and heroic wife, and the infant boy that he often carried across rivers wrapped up in a handkerchief tied round his neck, he nobly fought for their independence. From our place, some fifteen years since, Garibaldi, with the remnant of the Italian Legion, embarked for Europe, to brave the armies threatening the early struggles of the Italian Republic.'

(To be continued.)

A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE ENVELOPES, LABELS, AND EMBOSSED STAMPS SUGGESTED BEFORE THE ISSUE OF THE VIGNETTE MULREADY ENVELOPE.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THERE can be no doubt that the real origin of the postage stamp—in England at least, where a cheap uniform postage prepaid by stamps was first used—was derived from the duty stamp upon newspapers, affixed to obtain a revenue, and also probably to diminish their circulation by making them dear; as in after time it gave the paper that bore it free circulation through the post. It was natural that it should lead to the idea that letters with stamps might also have free circulation; and thus that which was done to confine information, as in many other cases, has become one of the great means of spreading education, information, and social intercourse among the people at large. From newspapers the transition to letters was easy and natural. The printer and bookseller seem first to have suggested that the same facilities should be accorded to all printed matter,—see evidence of Mr. Charles Whiting, in *Report on the Select Committee on Postage*, Vol. iv., p. 391, where he states he suggested this plan to the post office and other establishments in 1830; and by Mr. Charles Knight in 1834, which is the year that I also recommended that a uniform postage prepaid by stamps should be used for letters.

About this period great attention was paid to the post office; and fortunately there was a postmaster-general—the Duke of Richmond—in office who seemed desirous to give every facility to the public; and the Government had appointed a Royal Commission which were industrious in obtaining the best information, and which put forth a succession of excellent reports, each tending to increase the usefulness of the establishment. With these previous proposals of the use of stamps, it is curious to observe that Mr. Hill, in his first pamphlet that he circulated amongst his friends in 1837, marked 'private and confidential,' does not refer, or in any means suggest the use of stamps for prepayment of letters; but proposes that the money should be paid over the counter of the receiving office, when the letter has been weighed by the receiver; and it was only when he was called before the Royal Commission on the post office, about the middle of February, 1837, that he first mentioned the 'second method' of collecting of the postage by envelopes or stamps. The evidence there given is reprinted in the second edition of the pamphlet on postage reform—the first that he published—which was issued in March, 1837. It is to be specially

observed that it is the adoption of the stamp, and not the uniform system of postage, that most foreign governments have used; and that it is the collection of taxes by stamps that this government has brought into such general use; and yet many persist in calling this the extension of Mr. Hill's plan to other purposes.

The Royal Commission, in their ninth report, published in 1837, recommend the trial of the envelope and stamps; but state that they could not recommend the enforcement of prepayments. They appended to their report specimens of the envelopes that had been recommended and met with their approval. At first, envelopes seem to have been the favourite; but the opposition of the stationers and paper makers, who seem to have feared a monopoly, led to the recommendation of adhesive stamps, or, as they were then usually called, 'labels,' and what Mr. Whiting called 'Go-frees.'

The following are the different envelopes, labels, and stamps, which have occurred to me. They are now very difficult to be procured.

I. The Royal Commission on the post office, in their ninth report, published in 1837, recommended that the system of postage envelopes should be tried; and they issued with their report two patterns of envelopes which had been prepared and recommended by Mr. Dickinson, the paper maker.

1. A nearly square sheet of paper, folded as an envelope in two forms; covered with a printed engine-turned pattern, with a circular engine-turned frame round the centre, with three engine-turned ovals at each corner, containing *V. R.* and a *crown* in a white, oval, central disc;—the alternate discs with *One penny,—Not to exceed one ounce;* the two others, with *London district post* in the lower oval frames. Printed in buff-coloured ink.

2. A sheet of paper of foolscap size; nearly covered with an engine-turned printed pattern, with a central, broad, marginal frame, leaving an oblong white centre for the directions; with *V. R.* and a *crown* in each corner, and *London district post* in upper, and *To carry not to exceed* 6 *ounces* in the lower, corners; with *Post-office cover*, in an oblong frame, near the lower edge of the outer frame of the sheet of paper. Printed in green ink.

II. The following envelopes, labels, and embossed stamps were suggested by Mr. Whiting, and submitted to the Government and the Mercantile Committee, and were circulated during the agitation that followed the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners for what was called the 'Hill plan,' between 1838 and 1840:—

I.—ENVELOPES.

3. Sheet of white paper, foolscap size, with an oblong, engine-turned, printed centre, on the outside, for the direction; with an oval engine-turned frame within the outer oblong; one with *V. R.*, in a small oval-framed disc, in the middle of the upper margin; *Post-office permit*, in label, in upper corners; *Price one penny,—Matter not to exceed in weight* $\frac{1}{2}$ *ounce*, in lower margin. In pale green ink. Circulated by the Mercantile Committee, on printed papers, and also printed in the *Post-office Circular*, No. 12, for April 30, 1839.

4. Envelope, with an oblong, transverse, white centre, with the angles truncated for the address, surrounded by an enriched scroll and foliate ornamented frame, with a group of female figures at the upper angles, and surrounded by a sub-marginal narrow wreath of foliage and fruit, inflected so as to form an oblong label, and doubled so as to form an elongated, transverse label beneath, with a cherub between the upper edge of the label and the space for the direction, all on a minutely engine-turned ground, and surrounded by two lines, forming an external frame. Blue ink, on white paper.

4 A. Like the last, with the two labels and the centre filled with a uniform coloured ground. Printed in blue ink on white paper.

5. Envelope, with oblong space for directions, surrounded by three oblong, transverse, concentric frames, with a circular shield at each angle, two being inscribed *V. R.*, and the other with a nosegay of the three emblems, and with *Harwood's* in the upper, and *Envelope* in the lower, edge. Inscribed:

Specimen of envelope and adhesive label suggested by Charles Whiting to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, as exemplifying his suggestions for carrying out the mechanical acquirements of a cheap postage. Printed in rose or brown ink.

On the back there is printed the small two-coloured stamp, with a crown, inscribed, *Principle suggested*, and an embossed profile of the Queen, in double frame, with *Paid* in upper part of outer one.

6. Envelope, with an oblong space for direction, with the angle truneated, surmounted by a double frame, with parts of the segment of a circle above and below, and oblong on the sides, all engine-turned and enriched with scrolls, and with scrolls at the angles; all enclosed in an oblong, transverse frame, and engine-turned all over the disc and frames. Printed in two colours, and inscribed in the disc, *Printed by Charles Whiting, Beaufort House, Strand, London*, for protection against forgery. This was also published in the *Art Journal* for 1848.

6 A. The Mulready envelope design with the oblong space; above and below the design entirely occupied by the two unequal halves of an engine-turned pattern, surrounded by a double engine-turned frame; the upper part of the lower smaller half inscribed, in paler large capital letters, *Postage;* the inscription on the right side commencing with *Price of Stamps*, and *For Weights;* and on the left side, *It is required*, &c.

There are two forms of this envelope; one with the bar between the inscriptions on the sides solid, and the other engine-turned. There is no inscription *Postage One Penny* on the lower side of the design, as in the one that was used.

II.—ADHESIVE PRINTED LABELS OR STAMPS.

7. A large label, with 1 *Penny* in an oval, engine-turned frame, inscribed, *Post office*, in large italic coloured letters, with *V. R.* on its outer sides; in an oblong, erect, outer frame; with white triangular spaces at each angle, inscribed, *Not to exceed half an ounce.* Printed in black, blue, or red ink, with the inscription in red, blue, or green letters.

8. A large label. ½ *ounce*, 1*d.*, on a small, red, circular disc, in oval, black disc, surrounded by three close concentric engine-turned frames. The middle frame inscribed, in pale letters, *Post-office permit*, above; *To carry matter not exceeding in weight*, below. All enclosed in a square, engine-turned, printed, outer frame. Printed in black ink, on white paper, with red, blue, or green unequal blotches across the oval frames. These labels are those first recommended by Mr. Hill, who says, 'They are made of some paper difficult to imitate, and, like *medicine stamps*, printed from complex plates, with various colours in the same impression.' They were circulated attached to the left upper angle of the letters by the Mercantile Committee.

9. A middle-size label. Crown in a white oval disc, surrounded by three concentric oval frames; the inner and outer with white engine-turned pattern; the middle one narrowest; dark, inscribed, *Principle suggested, Beaufort House*, in white letters, all in an oblong, erect, outer frame, with *A B C D*, in square dark spots, at the angles; and *V. R.*, in oval, white disc, at the sides. Printed in blue ink.

10. Like the former, but printed in two coloured inks, viz., blue, with four radiating lanceolate, and four triangular, red blotches. These were issued at the back of 'Harwood's Envelope,' and also in the *Art Journal* for 1848.

11. Small label. 1*d.*, italic type, in a small white, transverse oval, surrounded by two concentric, oval frames; the inner with white, engine-turned lines, the outer one coloured; inscribed, in white letters, *Post-paid*, above; *Beaufort House*, below; all in oblong, transverse, outer frame. Printed in black ink, with four lanceolate, and four triangular, red blotches.

III.—EMBOSSED STAMPS.

12. Embossed white profile of the Queen to the right, without any tiara, and with a dependent curl behind, in two oval concentric frames, with engine-turned, white, embossed lines; the outer frame interrupted at the upper part by a white-lined label, with *Paid*, in white, embossed, capital letters.

Printed in red, green, blue, and other coloured inks, on a white and coloured note paper, at the left upper corner of envelopes, and on card, and at the back of 'Harwood's Envelope.'

13. Like the former (No. 12), but surrounded with a third outer concentric frame, and with the label on the upper part of the second or middle frame, without any letters, and dark. Printed in black ink, on paper and on card.

14. A small stamp. Embossed white profile of the Queen to the left, with tiara, and without any pendent curl behind, in oval frame, with engine-turned embossed lines and outer edges, without any inscription. I have seen two forms of this stamp, the oval being rather wider, and the profile more in the middle of the disc.

15. A small stamp, like the former, but the upper half of the frame with *Postage one penny*, inscribed in the embossed lines, in small, dark, sunken, capital letters. Blue ink, on card and on paper.

16. Small stamp, like the former, but the upper half of the frame uniformly dark, without any embossed lines, and inscribed, in embossed white, capital, letters, *Postage one penny*. Blue, brown, and red ink, on card and on paper.

17. Large stamp, like No. 14, but enclosed in a second oval frame, with white, embossed, engine-turned line, inscribed, in large, white, coloured-edged, capital letters, *Postage one penny;* and with a spreading group of the rose, shamrock, and thistle in the middle beneath. Printed in dark or pale blue and rose-coloured ink, on paper and on card; generally surrounded by a coloured ring, showing the size of the die.

18. A large stamp, exactly like the preceding, but the outer frame interrupted at the upper half, and the plain coloured label inscribed, in smaller white, embossed, capital letters, *Postage one penny*. Rose-coloured ink, on paper or on card, and generally surrounded with a blur of coloured ink, showing the size of the die.

19. A large stamp, exactly like the preceding, but the group of emblems below is more condensed, and the upper part of the outer frame is plain, dark coloured, without any embossed white lines; inscribed, in white raised capitals, *Postage* 1*d*. *Half ounce*. Red, blue, or brown ink, on card or on white or coloured paper.

20. A small stamp, with embossed white profile of the Queen to the left, with a tiara, and a dependent curl behind, enclosed in an oval frame, with white, raised, engine-turned lines. Black, blue, and red ink, on paper or on card.

21. A small stamp, like the preceding, but the frame inscribed with *Postage one penny*, in dark, sunken, thick, capital letters, as wide as the frame. Blue, brown, or red ink, on card or on paper.

22. A small stamp, like the preceding, but *Postage one penny* in rather smaller and thinner, sunken, dark, capital letters. Black, blue, brown, and red ink, on card or on paper.

23. A small stamp, like the preceding, but *Postage one penny* in small, thick, sunken, dark, capital letters, not half the width of the frame. Blue, red, and black ink, on card or on paper.

24. A larger stamp, like the preceding, but in a double, oval, concentric frame; the outer frame with the rose, shamrock, and thistle below; the upper half dark, sunken, without any embossed lines, and inscribed, in moderate-sized, white, embossed capitals, *Postage one penny*. Red, brown, and black ink, on card or paper.

25. A circular stamp, with a white, embossed profile of the Queen to left, in her tiara, and dependent curl behind; and of Prince Albert, behind, in a circular coloured disc, surrounded by a double linear, raised, ring-edge. Embossed on the angles of envelopes. An inscribed frame could have been added if it had come into use.

26. A large stamp, with oval disc, and a crown between *V. R.* above; with *Post Office*, in a curved band, rather above the centre; and *One Penny*, *Half Ounce*, below; all enclosed in an oval, embossed, lined frame. Printed in blue ink, on card and paper.

AMERICAN POSTAL STATISTICS.—During the year ending June 30, 1861, no less than 211,788,518 stamps, and 26,027,300 stamped envelopes, were issued and sold in the United States of America.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS, BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

Great Britain.

(ESSAYS CONTINUED).

THE able hand of the fortunate possessor of a well-nigh unique collection of these beautiful essays, having minutely described them in another part of this number, we content ourselves, for the sake of uniformity, with a bare mention of those not specified in Mr. Brown's work.

The Mulready envelopes, black and blue, are each printed in two forms,—one for covers, and another for envelopes;—and also with a close engine-turned design, nearly covering the reverse, in lieu of the band stamped with *postage*, &c.

The very elaborate envelope in blue on white, and also on blue; and, we believe, in other colours.

Harwood's envelopes, as suggested by Charles Whiting; colours, brown and pink.

Charles Whiting's, in multifarious colours, for the prevention of forgery.

The fourth essay mentioned in the catalogue as *green and red, blue and red*, is also red and blue, black and red, and otherwise.



The next (of which a figure is given) is black, with light and dark red.

Something similar to these are the Beaufort House specimens; scarlet and green on white, and blue on white; and a smaller sort, *Post-paid, One Penny.*

There is a brown, as well as the black and blue, of 1838; a pale and a deep pink, in addition to the light green next mentioned; and a black, similar in all respects, with the exception of *Paid* on the top.

The following are not represented in the catalogue :—

White head of Queen, in cameo, on dark blue; the same, with *Postage One Penny;* the same, slightly varied in design; ditto, on brown.

White cameo head, engine-turned border, *Postage One Penny*, on a ground of light blue, dark blue, and pink; a variety of these on dark blue also; and another diversity in blue, black, and brown.

The heads of the Queen and Prince Albert together on an envelope, like the coins of William and Mary, and

The very elaborate specimen represented in the *Art Journal.*

Greece.

We have but to remark that we have never seen the figured values on the backs of the 1862 impressions in the 1 l. or 2 l; that the 40 l. is violet on a pale blue ground; that there is a variety of the 10 l. with the spandrils scarcely distinguishable, owing to greater fulness of the pattern; and that the dark brown 1 l. seems to be giving place to the lighter colour.

Grenada.

A 4d. was expected, but has not yet appeared.

Hamburg.

Besides the red, there is a rose-coloured impression, on white paper, of Hamer and Co's envelopes.

We are given to understand that there is no firm in Hamburg owning the name of Lafrenz; and that the 10 l schilling, and the same number of ½ schilling stamps, purporting to be issued as '*Verein Hamburger Boten, Th. Lafrenz,*' emanate from the combined 'honesty' (?) and ingenuity of an enterprising engraver, willing to reap a harvest from the credulity of collectors. We shall be most happy to contradict this on *proper authority*, the more so, as the expulsion of them from our collection as cheats and impostors will leave a *hiatus valdè deflendus.* There is another set of C. Hamer's Boten on rose, blue, and buff paper, with the representation of a *commissionaire* carrying a letter; date 1861; 3 schlg., rose; 6 schlg., buff; and 8 schlg., blue, rose, and buff.

We have seen other stamps, purporting to be Hamburg locals, in collections; but not

being able to vouch for their authenticity, forbear description for the present.

Hamer and Co. having cast their mantle upon Scheerenbeck, he has discarded the Hamburg Castle from his stamps, and just issued a new series of stamps, value not specified, smaller than his former. They are upright oblong, bearing the figure of a *commissionaire* carrying a letter, in the oval centre of a garter inscribed with his name, and again encircled by an oval band, bearing the legend, *Institut Hamburger Boten.* In each of the four corners is a sealed envelope. The colours are not precisely the same as the former series; being stone blue, azure, light grey, flesh-drab, brown-drab, rose-lilac, violet-lilac, ochre, yellow, and green. An engraving of one of these is appended.



Hanover.

We have elsewhere ventured an opinion in favour of the authenticity of the 1 gutengroschen, blue, and may add that we possess a variety of the one-fifteenth thaler, issue 1858, on tinted paper.

Holland.

There is a variety of the 10 c. red on rose-tinted paper.

DUTCH GUIANA.

We heard of one of these curious and rare stamps coming on a letter from Java.

India.

There is a peculiarity hitherto unnoticed in the old 4 annas; the blue head being evidently stamped separately from the frame. This will be readily seen from the comparison of a few individuals; the head being sometimes in the middle, and sometimes encroaching on the upper, and frequently on the lower, part of the frame.

We have never identified the ½, 1, or 2 annas on blue paper: our orange and our rose varieties of the latter are both on white paper; and the 4-annas stamps are printed on white, bluish, and also yellowish tinted paper.

Italy.

We have seen the 40 c. of the impression of 1852 on buff-coloured paper; and possess an essay of the 1856 issue of the same stamp in black. The stamps of the latter date are now perforated; although, strange to say, that improvement is not adopted in the new issue of the present year. We have the 10 c. in four perfectly distinct shades of colour.

The 15 c., blue, similar to the stamps just mentioned; the 15 c. described and figured in the last number of this magazine; and also the 10 c. Segna Tassa, are to be added to the list of Italian stamps.

NEAPOLITAN PROVINCES.

The ½ tornese is issued in pea-green, and dark grass-green; and the 50 grana in light grey, and dark lavender,—almost blue.

Jamaica.

There are two shades of the 1d., blue, and the 6d., lilac.

(*To be continued.*)

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

We have just received some warranted genuine specimens of the *old* issue of Monte Video. They are very similar to the stamps in actual use, but more coarsely executed, as if the work of a 'prentice hand. The letters and figures of the inscription are much larger, as is also the face of the sun. Besides the 180 c., green, and 240 c., scarlet, there is the 120 c., blue.

We believe the curious *Diligencia*, or Express stamps of the Argentine Confederation, are as yet undescribed. In pattern these are like the labels of Monte Video; but, similar to the Argentines, they are upright rectangular; and the value is in centavos, not centesimos. They are printed in red, green, and blue, on a white ground; having the word *diligencia* on the top, a small Greek or rather Egyptian pattern at the sides, and the value beneath. The red is 1 real; the green, 80 centavos; and the blue, 60 centavos. Of one of these curious impressions we think of giving our sub-

scribers an engraving in the June number of the magazine.

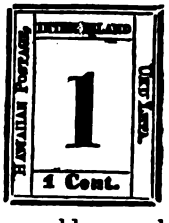
Portugal has just afforded an addition to the stamp collector's album, of which a portrait is subjoined. It is, like its congeners, in white relief, on a very rich orange-yellow ground; *Correio*, above; and 10 *Reis*, beneath, and on each side.



A very large number of novel United States local stamps have appeared since the publication of Mr. Brown's catalogue; but we forbear describing any of them until their place comes in due order. We have to notice a new Confederate, printed in blue on white; rectangular, upright; 5 *Cents* in a narrow oval, circumscribed by an oval band, with the inscription, *P. O., Charleston, S. C.*, [Southern Confederacy] *Postage Paid*: the figure 5 in each of the four corners.

The last mail from Queensland brought the penny stamp changed to a brick red; and we have just received from New Brunswick the 5 cents of what is called the new shade of green, very different from the old impression. The same change has also taken place with regard to the 10 centavos of the Argentine Republic.

In allusion to the appended engravings of two of the *genuine* stamps of Honolulu,





we would remark, on authority, that the figures on the 13 cents and 5 cents represent King Kamehameha the Great; and that on the 2 cents, Uka Leta, the present sovereign Kamehameha the Fourth; that these three stamps are printed in the United States; and the 1 cent and 2 cents, numerical figures, are done in the island.

The expected 3, 6, and 9 kr. of Würtemberg and the ⅓ s. g., green, and ⅔ s. g., drab, Thurn and Taxis, north, have now come into use,

A FEW WORDS ON THE ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

TRANSLATED FROM 'LE TIMBRE-POSTE; JOURNAL DU COLLECTIONNEUR.'

POSTAGE stamps, according to Mons. E. Fournier, are quite a modern invention, dating only from the 23rd of March, 1823, when G. Treffenberg, a Swede, proposed to the chamber of Peers of his country, the issue of a stamped envelope for letters; which proposition was rejected by a large majority.

The following official notice, however, preserved in the archives of the Imperial Library of France, and cited by Mons. d'Auriac in his *Historical Anecdotes of French Industry*, would seem to throw back the invention to the seventeenth century:—

'August 16th, 1653. This is to give notice to all who wish to write from one quarter of Paris to another, that their letters, notes, or bills, will be faithfully and carefully carried to their respective addresses, and a prompt reply returned, if they fasten to their letters a ticket marked *Post-paid*, because no money is allowed to be taken. This ticket will be attached to or folded round the said letter, or transmitted in any other convenient manner, provided always that the *commissionaire* may observe and easily take it off.

'The date of the day or month on which it is sent will be filled in. The head *commissionaire* at the palace will sell these post-paid tickets at a stamped sous each; and people are advised to buy a sufficient number according to their requirements, that they may have so great a convenience at hand whenever they want to write.'

This notice declares that the ticket may be obtained at the palace, at the turn-tables of the nunneries, from the porters of the colleges and convents, &c., and the gaolers of prisons. The price was fixed at a sous stamped with the King's effigy; and 'parties engaged in law-suits were advised to give a certain number of these tickets to their lawyers and notaries, that they might get frequent information of the state of their affairs; and fathers also to give them to

their children at school or in convents; and likewise employers to their workmen.'

The notice closes thus :—

'The *commissionaires* will begin to carry letters on the 8th of August, 1653.* This date is fixed that plenty of time may be given for obtaining the tickets.'

We find the following passage also in Pelisson, treating of the same innovation :—

'In 1653, an officer of the Court of Requests, named De Velayer, had obtained a privilege or boon from the King, for the sole establishment of boxes in divers quarters of Paris; and had afterwards set up an office at the palace, where were sold, at one sous a-piece, certain tickets stamped with a peculiar mark. These tickets contained nothing but *Post-paid, the day of* 1653 *or* 1654. To make use of these, it was necessary to fill up the blank with the date of the day and month on which you wrote; and afterwards, you had only to twist this ticket round the note you wrote to your friend, and throw them together into the box. There were people who had orders to open it three times a day, and carry the notes to their addresses. Besides the post-paid ticket attached to the letter for payment of porterage, the writer, if he desired a reply, took care to enclose another postpaid ticket in his letter.'

Pelisson does not state whether this Velayer was the inventor of this system of franking; we can therefore only notify the circumstances, without attributing the invention to its legitimate author.

Thus we see that pillar-boxes, post-paid envelopes, and 'stamp for reply,' are of much higher antiquity than is generally imagined.

THE PENNY POST.

THE 10th of January, 1840, will be a memorable day in the history of civilization, as that on which the idea of a Penny Postage was first exemplified. The practical benefits derived from this reform, are so well known that it is needless to dwell upon them. Let us rather turn attention for a few moments to the remarkable, yet most modest man, whom his species have to thank for this noble invention. Rowland Hill, born in 1795, was devoted through all his early years, even from boyhood, to the business of a teacher. At the age of forty, we find him engaged in conducting the colonization of South Australia upon the plan of Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, for which his powers of organization gave him a great advantage, and in which his labours were attended with a high degree of success. It was about the year 1835, that he turned his attention to the postal system of the country, with the conviction that it was susceptible of reform. Under enormous difficulties, he contrived to collect information upon the subject, so as to satisfy himself, and enable him to satisfy others, that the public might be benefited by a cheaper postage, and yet the revenue remain ultimately undiminished. The leading facts on which he based his conclusions have been detailed in an authoritative document. 'The cost of a letter to the Post Office he saw was divisible into three branches. First, that of receiving the letter and preparing it for its journey, which, under the old régime, was troublesome enough, as the postage varied first in proportion to the distance it had to travel; and again, according as it was composed of one, two, or three sheets of paper, each item of charge being exorbitant. For instance, a letter from London to Edinburgh, if single, was rated 1s. 1½d.; if double, at 2s. 3d.; and if treble, at 3s. 4½d.; any—the minutest—inclosure being treated as an additional sheet. The duty of taxing letters, or writing upon each of them the postage, thus became a complicated transaction, occupying much time and employing the labour of many clerks. This, and other duties, which we will not stop to specify, comprised the first of the three branches of expense which each letter imposed on the office. The second was the cost of transit from post office to post office. And this expense, even for so great a distance as from London to Edinburgh, proved, upon careful examination, to be no more than the ninth part of a farthing! The third branch was that of delivering the letter and receiving the postage—letters being for the most part

* There is evidently here some confusion of dates. The tickets could not possibly have been procured eight days *before* the public notice of their issue.

sent away unpaid. Rowland Hill saw that, although a considerable reduction of postage might and ought to be made, even if the change rested there, yet that, if he could cheapen the cost to the Post office, the reduction to the public could be carried very much further without entailing on the revenue any ultimate loss of serious amount. He therefore addressed himself to the simplification of the various processes. If, instead of charging according to the number of sheets or scraps of paper, a weight should be fixed, below which a letter, whatever might be its contents, should only bear a single charge, much trouble to the office would be spared, while an unjust mode of taxation would be abolished. For, certainly, a double letter did not impose double cost, nor a treble letter three-fold cost, upon the Post office. But, if the alteration had rested there, a great source of labour to the office would have remained; because postage would still have been augmented upon each letter in proportion to the distance it had to travel. In the absence of knowledge as to the very minute cost of mere transit, such an arrangement would appear just; or, to place the question in another light, it would seem unjust to charge as much for delivering a letter at the distance of a mile from the office at which it was posted as for delivering a letter at Edinburgh transmitted from London. But when Rowland Hill had, by his investigation, ascertained that the difference between the cost of transit in the one instance and the other was an insignificant fraction of a farthing, it became obvious that it was a nearer approximation to perfect justice to pass over this petty inequality than to tax it even to the amount of the smallest coin of the realm. With regard to the third head, all that could be done for lessening the cost attendant on delivering the letters from house to house, was to devise some plan of pre-payment which should be acceptable to the public (so long accustomed to throw the cost of correspondence on the receiver of a letter instead of the sender), and which, at the same time, should not transfer the task of collection to the receiving-office, while it relieved the letter-carriers attached to the distributing office; otherwise comparatively little would have been gained by the change. This led to the proposal for pre-payment by stamped labels, whereby the Post office is altogether relieved from the duty of collecting postage. Thus, one by one, were the impediments all removed to the accomplishment of a grand object—uniformity of postage throughout the British Isles.'

It necessarily followed, from the economy thus proposed, that the universal rate might be a low one, which again might be expected to react favourably on the new system, in enabling a wider public to send and receive letters. A brother of Mr. Hill had, a few years before suggested the *Penny Magazine*. Perhaps this was the basis of Mr. Rowland Hill's conception, that each letter of a certain moderate weight should be charged one penny. The idea was simple and intelligible, and, when announced in a pamphlet in 1837, it was at once heartily embraced by the public. Neither the government nor the opposition patronized it. The Post-office authorities discountenanced it as much as possible. Nevertheless, from the mere force of public sentiment, it was introduced into parliament and ratified in 1839.

The Whig ministry of the day were so far just to Mr. Hill, that they gave him a Treasury appointment to enable him to work out his plan, and this he held till the Conservative party came into power in 1841. Having been by them bowed out of office, on the allegation that his part of the business was accomplished, he might have shared the fate of many other public benefactors, if the community had not already become profoundly impressed with a sense of the value of his scheme. They marked their feeling towards him by a subscription which amounted to fifteen thousand pounds. On the replacement of the Whigs in 1846, he was brought back into office as Secretary to the Postmaster-General; in which position, and as Secretary to the Post office (to which honour he attained in 1854), he has been duly active in effecting improvements having the public convenience in view. Of these the chief has been the organization of the Money-Order Office, by which upwards of thirteen millions sterling are annually transmitted from hand to hand at an insignificant expense. Twenty-

two years have now fully proved the virtues of the Penny Postage, under favour of which the number of letters transmitted by the Office annually has advanced from 77 to 545 millions, with an addition of outlay or cost on the part of the public amounting only to fifty per cent. Nor has England alone to thank Rowland Hill, for there is no civilized country which has not adopted his scheme. It was surely by a most worthy exercise of the royal power that the inventor of Penny Postage received in 1860 the dignity of Knight Commander of the Bath. —*The Book of Days.*

POSTS, AND THEIR ORIGIN.

'POST,' as we all know, denotes the despatch of a courier or letter-carrier, made by changing horses from time to time. The horses are *positi* (placed, posted, or disposed) from distance to distance.

The origin of posts is ascribed by Herodotus to Cyrus or Xerxes; but those were no more than couriers. It is evident that they owe their origin to the policy, or rather the diffidence, of Louis XI. of France. He appointed them by an *ordonnance* of the 19th of June, 1464, in order that what passed on in his own kingdom, and in the neighbouring states, might be sooner published.

From France the institution propagated itself by degrees through the various parts of Europe. In Germany (as we are informed by Hornigk) *posts* were first settled by the Count de Taxis, in acknowledgement of which the Emperor Matthias, in 1616, gave him the office of postmaster. In England posts were instituted as early as the time of Charles I.

In the year 1660, a law was passed in the House of Commons which gave to members of Parliament the liberty of franking letters. These franks continued to be used till this century, when the stamps, which are now put on all letters, were introduced.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Forged Stamps: How to Detect Them. By THORNTON LEWES and EDWARD PEMBERTON. Edinburgh: Colston & Son.

THIS much-required and valuable publication amply realises the promise of its title page. The descriptions, both of the genuine specimens and their attempted counterparts, are so marvellously accurate as to preclude all possibility of misconception. The authors recommend the use of a magnifying glass, for testing the genuineness of postage stamps: we think their own eyes must be compound microscopes, so infinitesimal are some of the peculiarities distinguishing the real from the fictitious individuals, which these painstaking gentlemen carefully discriminate.

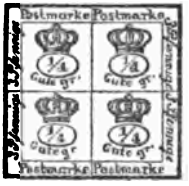
We would refer particularly to the discrepancies noted between the legitimate and forged stamps of the Sandwich Islands, the Denmark essays, the Confederates of America, and some of the Swiss.

The work is divided into three parts; of which the first treats of forged imitations of real stamps; the second, of those wholly fictitious; and the third part alludes to a number which have been catalogued by various writers, although never professedly issued as postal. Under this last category comes the 10 rappen of Bern, the Jamaica receipt stamps, the *timbres d' instruction* of Bavaria, the Ocean Postage, Iceland, &c.

We cannot help, however, feeling slightly venomous at the ruthless decimation of our collection, if the critical authors are quite right in their estimation of many accredited stamps—and we fear they are;—but we are inclined to show fight for the credit of the double Geneva stamp (of which an engraving is annexed), as a friend of ours has had them sent from Geneva by a party who took no interest in postage stamps, certainly never purchased any, and professed to send those only which he found on old letters. If this stamp were entirely fictitious, how comes it that the small squares were known to collectors so long before the perfect stamp was seen? Last year, in many continental collections, we observed one of the small 5-c. Genevas, with its companion and the band of junction drawn in pencil or pen and ink, as a token of the existence of the perfect double stamp, which seems at that time not to have been met with. Is it likely that the



double stamp would have been forged as a great rarity, and then partially spoiled by being cut up? That the small squares are marked *Port Local*, and the whole stamp *Port Cantonal*, is rather a proof of the authenticity of the production than not; as the former might have been used for local purposes, and the latter for over-weight cantonal letters. The annexed engraving of the well-known Brunswick stamp will serve for an illustration of the custom of employing a stamp, either whole or of separate pieces, according to the monetary value required. The small Mecklenburg is used in a similar manner.



The 1-gute groschen Hanover, blue, is objected to by our fastidious critics, chiefly on the score of the difference of colour between it and the one-fifteenth thaler of the same year. We beg to say that the two stamps in question in our own collection are precisely alike in colour. Our 10 cents, blue, of the United States, came direct from an *employé* attached to the American minister's legation in Paris, who disposed of all the loose envelopes in the waste basket.

With regard to the Paraguay essays, they could never have been brought into use; inasmuch as that country has not yet attained the rank of a kingdom. The initials on them are those of the Parisian engraver; and the pale variety mentioned as unmarked, and which we also possess, was most probably the work of some apprentice or clerk who surreptitiously got hold of the original plate, and struck off a few copies for filthy lucre's sake.

The two stamps supposed to be Turkish, and noted in Moens' catalogue, we have ourselves seen in the collection of their fortunate possessor in the neighbourhood of Deynze, in Belgium, to whom they were given by the Turkish ambassador as postage stamps. We shall visit our friend next summer, and will take a drawing of them for engraving in the magazine, as he objects to trust them out of his possession.

Although the very few semi-critical remarks we have taken the liberty of making take up a space disproportionate to our almost unqualified approval, we wish to be understood as recommending the work as absolutely essential to the postage stamp collector, and hope a rapid sale of the present edition will necessitate a second, with a more copious notice of the United States locals; the Pony Expresses, the forgeries of which are not alluded to at all; and the stamps of San Francisco.

We may conclude by hinting that amateurs *may* fall into the opposite error of rejecting specimens undoubtedly genuine. One of our most notable collectors refused one of the latest issue of Spain, when it first appeared, as an imposition. We were the first to introduce here the 2 pesos, blue, of Buenos Ayres, given us by the *Chargé d' Affaires* of that country in Paris; but could with difficulty prevail upon any collector to credit its authenticity. Sundry specimens of the present issue of that place, procured by us direct from the post office, were returned as forgeries! and the stamps of the Ionian Islands, obtained from Corfu, sent back to us from Boulogne under the same stigma!

Stamp Collector's Manual. A. C. KLINE, Philadelphia, U. S.

APPEARS to be chiefly a transcript of Brown's first edition, preface included; but not copying the unique style of printing adopted in that catalogue; which, from the variety of type employed, renders his descriptions more readily available than those of most other writers on the subject. Mr. Kline's book is of value as naturally affording a more elaborate index to the United States locals than European catalogues could afford, but otherwise it is many months in arrear for postal information. It is amusing to see his heading the Confederate stamps as the 'So-called Southern Confederacy.'

Petit Manuel de l' Amateur des Timbres Postes. Par F. V., Paris.

THE introductory letter-press (filling nearly half the volume) affords a good deal of information, and contains pertinent hints on the arrangement of specimens. There are also three diagrams as patterns for either a

chronological, heraldic, or systematic colour-grouping; but the list of stamps is both defective and redundant.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I am not yet a collector of postage stamps, although several of my friends are. Whether the disease is catching I know not, but I am afraid I shall soon become a victim of the *Timbromanie*, such is my eagerness in assisting my friends to collect, characterise, and arrange their stamps. And so great is my interest in them, that I feel quite annoyed if they are not arranged properly.

The collection of one of my friends is an especial grief to me. It is a nice little collection, consisting of about two hundred and fifty varieties, but very badly arranged. In one part of the book we find ourselves at Portugal; turn over a page, and we are in Russia; another, and we are back again at Spain; in a different part we go from Tuscany to the Sandwich Islands, and then back to Luxembourg,—all in two or three steps.

This may be worse than the generality, but I think that very few arrange their stamps as well as they might; and fewer still gain as much knowledge from the collecting of them as is possible. A great many, I believe, place their stamps on one side of the book, and leave the opposite page vacant. With a little trouble this empty page might be filled with the most useful and interesting information.

The printed albums, I believe, contain descriptions of the stamps; when first issued; their colour; and everything, in fact, about them. This may be well enough for the collector, but I cannot see what interest a non-collector can take in such a description, when he has the stamp itself before him. Even the collector hardly requires it in an album; for most likely he has a printed catalogue by which to recognise the stamps. This being the case, how much better would it be to fill the vacant space with a short account of the country itself, than with a description of the stamps appertaining to the country. There are few people, I think, to whom such information as this I speak of would not be pleasing, mayhap instructive; but at any rate it would show them that their friend, in collecting his stamps, aimed at something more than the mere acquisition of the printed and coloured pieces of paper called stamps; and that he endeavoured to derive a lasting benefit from this apparently frivolous pursuit.

For example: the Argentine Confederation stamps,—the first on a catalogue arranged in alphabetical order. Would people in general rather read about the cap of Liberty, and all that, than that the Argentine (or La Plata) Confederation is a republic, consisting of thirteen provinces (formerly fourteen, Buenos Ayres having seceded in 1853); that this country was discovered by the Spaniards in 1515, and settled by them in 1553; that it formed part of the great vice-royalty of Peru until 1778, when it became that of Rio de la Plata; that it contains 900,000 square miles, and that for this vast surface—seven and a half times the extent of the British Isles,—there are only 874,000 inhabitants (not quite one for a square mile); that the names of the country and its river (which is rather an estuary than a river), as indicating the presence of silver, are misnomers; that the rearing of live stock is the great business of the country; and so on? Such knowledge as this is easily attainable; and as writing anything down is a sure way of retaining it in the memory, why not copy it in the postage-stamp book, where it may benefit others as well as one's self, which would not be the case if merely written in an exercise book?

This is my plan; I do not know whether others have thought of the same, but it appears to me quite feasible; and in the execution of it many a spare moment might be employed, when the collector would otherwise be only idly turning over the pages of his album, lamenting deficiencies, or inwardly congratulating himself upon the recent acquirement of some new and rare stamp.

A good many schoolboys collect stamps; and I should imagine this to be a capital way for them to acquire knowledge. It would occupy some of their time in the holidays (a great boon to mammas and elder sisters), and not being a regular lesson, they would be ready to pay more attention to it than if they were learning out of a geography book, and would reap as much benefit from this as from other modes of learning.

This might be profitable in another respect too. I mean in this way. If papa saw his son desirous of making his collection of use, would he not be very happy to afford him the means of obtaining a long-coveted 'Pony Express,' 'Nevis,' or 'Sandwich Island' stamp, which otherwise he would have to wait for until the desired amount was reached by the saving, for a month or more, of his weekly sixpence? I commend this plan, therefore, to schoolboys, as being profitable; and if older persons think it worthy of their attention, let them adopt it; and although it may not always answer, I need scarcely remind them, that as old Horace says, *Est quadam prodire tenus, si non datur ultra.*

Ventnor. H. S.

MOENS' ILLUSTRATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—There are now eleven parts of this work issued, containing lithographs of 399 varieties. The first three numbers gave great pleasure to all who had the opportunity of seeing them; for, as beautiful and accurate specimens of engraving, they fully equalled the original stamps. It is this very accuracy in copying which raises the doubt in the minds of many collectors, whether Mr. Moens has the right to the title of 'Prince of Belgian stamp authorities,' which was bestowed on him in the first number of your magazine. If Mr. Moens, by his knowledge of the subject, *had* this right, how is it that in seven instances he has engraved from forged specimens? He has copied them so faithfully, that any one at all conversant with the subject would see at once that his originals were not genuine stamps. In the illustration of each of the seven cases mentioned below, the differences from the genuine stamps can be seen as readily as in the forgeries themselves.

On plate 18, the Basle 2½ rap. must have been engraved from a forgery; because in the real stamp the ground is *not* of one uniform colour, but is composed of alternate dots of greenish-blue and white.

On Plate 19, No. 8 is not like a Geneva 5 c. port local, and the inscription on it is 'Port *tonal*,' and the engraving itself is more like the *forgery* of that stamp than the *original*.

On the same plate, No. 10 (5 c. Vaud.), No. 9 (5 c. Neûchatel), No. 13 (2½ rap. Winterthur), Nos. 11 and 12 (Zurich 4 and 6 cents), are exact counterparts of the

forgeries of those stamps which are sold by Wilhelm Georg, of Basle.

Had a tyro on the subject of stamps done this, it would have been commented on sooner; but it would have been more excusable in such a one than in Mr. Moens,—the compiler of a catalogue, the author of a work on false stamps, and the great Belgian authority on the subject. Has Mr. Moens never seen genuine specimens of the stamps (specially) mentioned, that he should be so easily deceived by them? It is really rather curious, that these seven stamps should be described (*very* vaguely I admit) in his work on the 'Falsification of Postage Stamps.' Beyond these forgeries, there is no fault to be found with the work. The engravings are exquisite. It is scarcely fair to say that any one of them is better done than another; but the best specimens in the series are, in my opinion, N. Germany, Bremen, 10 grote, Russian and Polish, Bahamas, Brazil, Natal, and Confederate States. The latter are particularly noticeable; for one can see at a glance that they are taken from real specimens, and not from any of those wretched imitations which are sold in New York. The series of illustrations of the Special Companies and Private Offices (of the dis-United States) is good: there are 100 examples copied.

The second Buenos Ayres, on plate 25, has the name engraved *Ruends* instead of 'Buenos;' a carelessness which spoils the appearance of the page.. But, to conclude this rather lengthened letter, the next best thing to having a collection of postage stamps would be to have this series of illustrations; for the manner in which they are got up, and their appearance as a whole, is very beautiful.

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE MULREADY ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As in none of the catalogues or magazines treating on the subject of postage stamps, that I have yet seen, have I found the covers or envelopes designed by W. Mulready, R.A., and engraved by John Thompson, more than just mentioned, I thought that a fuller description would be somewhat interesting to many of your younger readers, and so will proceed to describe them without further preface.

If we take the excellently executed copy at the head of this magazine as a reference, it will be observed that Great Britain, symbolised by a figure of Britannia seated on a rock with a recumbent lion at her feet, is represented as being in the centre of the universe, and with extended arms hastening her winged messengers to the four quarters of the globe; the different peoples of the world being typified either by the people themselves, by their animals, or by their productions. Thus on the one side will be seen Chinese, Turks, camels, and elephants, for Asia and Africa; and on the other, Indians holding the hands of Europeans in the grasp of amity, the Laplander in his car, Americans, and the representatives of other nations, engaged in preparing their produce for commerce; whilst beneath these, and to the right and left, are represented figures reading letters received from their friends in far distant lands. The whole engraving is evidently intended to convey the idea of the advantages naturally accruing to all nations from a free enjoyment of postal communication with each other.

A blank space is left at the lower part of the parallelogram enclosing the engraving, to contain the address of the person to whom the cover is sent. The value of the postage for which the cover is free, besides being printed thus, *Postage One Penny*, *Postage Twopence*, is also shown by the colour of the ink used for the impression; the penny cover being in black ink, and the twopenny cover in blue. In an oblong on the lower flap of the cover is engraved the word *Postage*, in large letters formed of dots on a diaper of white lines on a coloured ground. There is also a peculiarity of make in the paper used in the manufacture of these covers, that for each value being different; thus, the penny postage cover has two horizontal lines of rose-coloured silk thread woven in the paper at one flap, and one line of blue silk through the other; and the twopenny cover has three horizontal lines of rose-coloured silk through one flap, and two lines of blue silk through the other. The various particulars as to rates of postage and prices of the covers are printed on the side flaps. Obliteration was effected by imprinting, with a hand stamp, a red cross patée over the figure of Britannia. The envelopes are of exactly the same design.

W. E. H.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SOLUTION TO CONUNDRUM.

Because it upholds the crown with dignity; and at the same time holds out a shield to all the world.

*** The only correct answer has been received from RALPH, who is, therefore, entitled to the promised Pony Express Stamp. Answers more or less ingenious have been forwarded by W. Turner, G. Elliott, C. Wade, William Henderson, E. Carritt, Asher Levy, James Hamilton, and J. H. Battye, who, if they will send a stamped-directed envelope enclosed to the editor, care of the publishers, 13, George Street, Bath, shall receive a specimen of the Tuscan Lion.

T. H. FIELD.—The corners of such stamps as those of Tasmania, Rome, Western Australia, &c., ought not to be cut off; nor should envelope stamps be left without a good margin. Continental collectors fix these latter in their albums uncut.

PLYMOUTH POST.—In the old issue of the Belgian stamps, the right epaulette is exposed: it is partially hid by the oval frame of the 1850 series.—The Portuguese stamps of the present reign have the head to the left. The 5, 10, and 25 reis are the only values out as yet.—The small Mecklenburg Schwerin is as old as the rest.—The green 1d. Victoria, without the devices in the corners, succeeded the other.—The 'Table Bay Harbour Commission' is not a postage stamp.

W. S. B.—The presence or absence of the remains of adhesive matter on the backs of the old 6d., 10d., and 1s. octagonal stamps of Great Britain, is the only way of distinguishing the labels from the envelopes of the same values.

RUGBÆIAN.—The old 6d. octagonal, *green*, of Great Britain, is extremely rare.

WILLIAM LOVELL, Jun.—At present the price of the Nicaraguan stamps depends upon the conscience of the vendor.

N. Y., Wimbledon.—The query about the Ocean Postage stamp has been already answered.

J. S., Birmingham.—Whiting's essay is fully described by Dr. Gray in this number.—A description of the Turkish was given in a former number.—No photographic stamp has ever been current.

G. AUSTEN.—The Western Australian stamps of 1862 appear to be extremely rare.

ENQUIRER.—The Hamburg Boten are certainly postage stamps, used in default of district offices.

F. R. C. HOPKINS.—Your stamp is the present issue of Guiana.—The 3d. New Zealand comes over both violet and brown.

MOUSE.—A dish similar to that described in the 'Tale' may be seen in the window of a silversmith's, in a street leading from Carey Street to Lincoln's Inn Fields.

LOUISA, Liverpool.—The old blue English stamps with white lines are very common. Those without are comparatively scarcer.

ALPHA.—The largest collection we know of contains about 1600 stamps, inclusive of locals, &c.—The American Inter. Rev. are postage stamps.—The Bremen 1 groten, orange or rose, are Custom House or bill-stamps.

CHURCH STEEPLE.—The black 1d. New Zealand stamp must be a dyed specimen; and the 7 sk. Hamburg an engraving.

H. C. TWISS.—We cannot give an opinion on the French stamp you describe, without ocular inspection.—The Sicilian stamps you allude to must be those that were adopted from the figured essay; the colours and values corresponding to what are usually called 'Bombas.'

NOTICE.—All purchasers of the present number of the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE *are entitled to receive with it an unobliterated Foreign Postage Stamp.*

STAMPS WANTED TO PURCHASE.

Letters, stating price and condition, to be forwarded to the Advertisers.

J COUPER, SWANSEA.

Brazil large 90; Slanting 90.
Cuba, 1856 Issue and Interinsular.
French Essays.
Whiting's and other English Essays.
Pacific Co., 1 real, brown; 2 reals, carmine.
Early Spanish (except 6 c.).
Naples (Bourbon Arms), ½ tornese; ½ grano.
Canada, 12 pence.
Tuscany (on blue), 1 quattr; 2 soldi.
New Brunswick Essay (Connell's Head).
Argentine, 1 real, M. C.
Parma, 10 c., *flesh*; 5 c., Provisional (2 sorts).
French Republic, 1 fr., vermilion; 1 fr., brown.
Schleswig Essay, 2 sch., blue.
Buenos Ayres (ship).
Luzon.
Reunion,
New Caledonia.
Modena, 10 c., brown; 15 c., violet; 49 c., blue; 10 c., Provisional.
India, ½ anna, red.
Zurich, 4 (lines across figures).
American Locals.
Austrian Complementary.
Essays of all Countries.

R. V. S., OFFICE OF THE 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE,' 13, GEORGE STREET, BATH.

Paraguay black, green, rose, blue, brown, red, violet, and yellow.
Argentine Confederation, 1 real, M. C.
Dutch Guiana, 10 c., rose; 10 c., dark neutral; 10 c., lavender.
New Caledonia, 10 c., grey.
Reunion, 30 cents.
Hanover envelope, 3 gr., yellow.
Cuba, ½ real and 2 reals, 1855; 1 real and 2 reals, 1856.
New Brunswick Essay, 5 cents, chocolate.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, THE FOREIGN STAMP AND CREST DEPÔT, BATH.

Confederate States, bust of Jefferson Davis, 5 cents, black.
Liberia Essay, 12 cents, lilac.
Cape of Good Hope, 1d., *blue*; 4d., *red*.
Lubeck Essay, 4 sch., black.
Van Dieman's Land, 1d., blue.
Saxony, 3 pfennige, *red*.
Holland Essay, 5 c., black.
Great Britain, 1d. black V. R. Official. [Five shillings are offered for this stamp.]
United States, Essay, 3 cents, red.
Victoria, Too late, 6d.
French Colonies, 20 c., blue; 80 c., rose.
Portugal, 5 reis, brown; 50 reis, green; 100 reis, lilac (Head of Queen Maria II).
Belgium, Essay, 10 cents, *blue*; 40 cents, *black*.
Wurtemburg, returned letter stamp.
Moldavia, newspaper stamp, 5 paras, black.
Hong Kong, 96 cents, obliterated.
Canada, twelve pence, black.
Sandwich Islands, 1 cent, blue.
Papal States, 1 scudo, vermilion

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

The Postage-stamp Collector's Pocket Album.—Containing a complete Table of all the Postage Stamps issued by each Country, State, or City, with spaces arranged for their reception. The whole in a neat and portable form, with flap and elastic band, and a pocket for surplus stamps. Roan, 2s.; post free, 2s. 1d.; morocco or russia, 3s. 6d.; post free, 3s. 8d.; morocco or russia gilt, 4s.; post free, 4s. 2d. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

Arms of the Queen and Royal Family, including the late Prince Consort, the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Alexandra, King of Denmark, King of Prussia, Duke of Cumberland, Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, &c., &c., &c. In two sheets. Relief stamped in colours. Price 1s. 6d.; post free, 1s. 7d. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

All kinds of Rare Stamps can be obtained from 'REGIO CAPITO,' Hanley, Staffordshire Potteries; and all parties, before purchasing, should send for his New Printed List, which he has considerably reduced, and which will be sent on receipt of two stamps.

'Alpha,' 34, Northbrook Street, Newbury, has a quantity of Rare Stamps for Sale. Send a stamp for a List.

Mr. Carder, Market Place, Dover, is able o supply Foreign Stamps at the lowest possible rates. Send stamp for Catalogue.

Stamps Given Away.—R. P. Harley and Co., 18, South Hanover Street, Glasgow, will give an unused stamp to every person applying for their May Price List (900 varieties). Sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope.

To be Raffled for, on June 2nd, a Collection of 300 Stamps, mounted in Lallier's Album, many unused, by 60 Members at 1s. each. Unused Stamps bought. J. G. OXLEY, 6, Hewitt Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester.

W. G. Diamond, Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, London, Dealer in Postage Stamps of all nations since 1857, Buys, Sells, and Exchanges *scarce* Foreign Stamps. Wanted to Purchase, a Collection of not less than 900 varieties.

E. M., Box A. 3, Post Office, Leeds, supplies clean French Stamps, one dozen and upwards at the following prices :—1 c., 2d. per dozen; 2, 4d.; 5, 9d.; 10, 1s. 3d.; Chiffre Taxe, 10, 1s. 9d.; 15, 2s. 3d.

Stamps of Antigua, Chili, Granada Confederation, Liberia, Mexico, Modena, Parma, or any other country, for Sale by JAMES SHELTON, Grimsby. Priced List or Stamps for inspection sent on receipt of stamped envelope. Ionian, 1s. the Set; Wallachia, from 1s. each.

W. Young, 1, Kent Street, Glasgow, has a large number of Stamps for Sale. Baden Land Post, 1 kr., 1d.; 3 kr., 2d.; Ionian Isles, 1s. per Set. List; sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope. W. Y. also buys *Rare* Stamps. Agents wanted.

Addresses of Continental Stamp dealers for Sale. Apply to W. YOUNG, 1, Kent Street, Glasgow.

Genuine Presents. Mr. Frank E. Millar, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N.E., begs to inform his numerous customers that his monthly Price List for May is now ready, price, post free, two stamps, and that with every List he will give, *gratis*, a very rare English *Private* Postage Stamp, which is now in use.

Gratis! Gratis! Gratis! Mr. George Prior, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., has just issued his May Price List, and will send the same, with a very rare Envelope Stamp, free, to any address, on receipt of two penny stamps.

Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps.— A great variety of Foreign and other Postage Stamps (used and unused) offered for Sale at low prices, by W. LINCOLN, jun., at W. S. Lincoln & Son's), 462, New Oxford Street, London, W.C. Price List sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

D. Mc Corkindale, 70, George Square, Glasgow, will send his May List on receipt of stamped envelope. Specimen of Prices,—France Republic, at 5d., Presidencies, at 9d.; Nova Scotia, 3d. and 6d., at 4d. each. All, in short, are cheap.

J. B. Barker and Co., 77, Canning Street, Liverpool, have on hand the following and many other scarce Stamps,—Antigua, Bahamas, British Columbia, Ceylon envelope, 1d., at 7d; 2d, 9d.; Canada envelope, Grenada, Nevis, St Lucia, Turkey, Venezuela, &c. Stamped envelope to accompany every communication.

W. S. Robinson, 115, Church Street, Everton, Liverpool, can supply all sorts of Stamps, on very moderate terms. Prices quoted, and stamps sent on approval, on receipt of stamped envelope.

John Ross, 136, West Graham Street, Glasgow, will send his New List on receipt of penny stamp The prices defy competition.

Cheap Stamps! Ionian Islands, 1s.; Lubeck and Bergedorf, 1s. 3d. per Set; 1d. St Lucia, 6d; Venezuela, 1s. 6d. per Set; Confederate States, 8s. 6d. per Set of 15; 1d. Nevis, 6d.; Luxembourg, 2s. 6d. the Set of 9, &c. F. G. JONES, 87, Roscommon Street, Liverpool. Stamps bought to any amount.

Stamps! Stamps! Stamps!—H. Whittaker, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Dealer in all kinds of British and Foreign Stamps, will send his April List on receipt of stamped envelope. Collections of 100 different stamps, 4s.; 200, 13s.; 300, 28s. Stamps bought.

The Shilling Album is a neat and serviceable Book, strongly bound in cloth, and ruled to contain 1400 stamps. Post free, one stamp extra. R. W. PEGG, 11, Holles Street, Dublin.

A. B., 2, Bartholomew Street, Newbury, will send his List of Foreign Stamps on receipt of stamped envelope.

Woods & Pemberton, Dealers in Obsolete Postage Stamps, Olive Street, Hartlepool. List sent on receipt of two stamps.

H. Squier, Arcade, Dover, has quantities of Stamps for Sale. Sweden 3, at 3d.; Modena 5 c., 1s., or 9s. per doz.

Wanted to Purchase, a Collection of Foreign Postage Stamps, comprising upwards of 1000 varieties, to the price of £40. All offers, and at the same time a catalogue of the Collection of the different varieties, to be made, post free, to Monsieur OSCAR BERGER-LEVRAULT, Libraire a Strasbourg, France.

The Cheapest Foreign Stamps at W. Johnson's, Market Place, Dover. List of Prices sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

C. B. Jeeves, 46, Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich, S. E., has a large number of used and unused Stamps for sale, very cheap, including Chili, Buenos Ayres, Pony Express, clean Prince Edward's Island, &c. A Price List sent for two stamps. A number of Inter. Rev. Certificates, and other American stamps, for Sale, cheap.

English Essays, Turkish, Argentine (15 c.), Spanish (1851), Antigua, Sicily, Confederates, New Granada, Denmark. Proof Impressions of above, by Whymper, 6d. each, by post, 7d., of E. UPJOHN, Bookseller and Stationer, 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, W.C. Others preparing.

An Agency for Purchase of Post Stamps is required. Post-paid offers, with lists of the wanted stamps and their prices, to Mr. T. BOERICKE, jun., Glauchau, Saxony.

The 'Ne plus Ultra' of Cheapness.—Postage Stamps supplied by VICTOR, 30, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent, at mere nominal prices.

Mr. Cooke, Buckland, Dover, supplies Stamps, particularly obsolete issues, at prices that defy competition. Selections sent for inspection on application.

E. Hine, Mr. Lockhart's, Dunstable (in connection with M. DERE), Buys, Sells, or Exchanges Obliterated Stamps. Stamps sold on commission.

C. G., Acomb House, Manchester, can supply Dealers and Collectors cheaper than any other Dealer. Examples (unused) at the following rates per doz. :—Helvetia, 2c., 6d. ; 3c., 8d. ; 5 c., 1s. ; Honolulu, 5 c., 10s. 6d. ; Hanover, ½ gr., 1s. ; Spain, 2 c., 1s. 6d. ; Hanover—Bestegeld, 1s. ; France, 2 c., 6d. ; Belgium, 1 c., 4d. ; Lubeck, or Bergedorf, ½ sch., 1s. ; Saxony, 3 pf., 9d. ; ½ gr., 1s. ; United States (envelope), 1 c., 3s. 6d. ; 3 c., 6s. (two kinds); Bremen, 2s. 6d. the Set of 6. Fifty different private Americans, at 6d. each, or 5s. per dozen (unused). Price List forwarded on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. Ten per cent off all orders above 5s. A Collection of 625 varieties on hand. Collections of 100 varieties, 3s. 6d. ; 200, 12s. 6d.

'Omega,' Everton, Liverpool, begs to call the attention of Collectors of Foreign Postage Stamps to his new List, which will be forwarded to any address on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. The following will suffice to show the nature of the prices in general :—Antigua, 1d., 4d. ; Bahamas, 1d., 4d. ; 4d., 9d. ; Baden, 1 kr., 1d. ; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d. ; British Guiana, 1 c., 2d. ; Canada (envelopes) 5 c., 6d. ; 10 c., 9d. ; Greece, 1 lept., 1d. ; 2, 1½d. ; 5, 3d. ; Liberia, 6 c., 1s. ; 12 c., 1s. 3d. ; Luxembourg, 1 c., 1d. ; Nevis, 1d., 4d. ; 4d., 9d. ; Newfoundland, 1d., 4d. ; 2d., 5d. ; New Granada, 5 c., 1s. ; Papal States, ½, 2d. ; 1, 2d. ; Prince Edward Island, 1d., 4d. ; 2d., 5d. ; St. Lucia, red, 5d. ; blue, 10d. ; green, 1s. ; Venezuela, ½, ½, 1 c., 5d. each, or 1s 2d. the Set of 3 ; Wallachia, 3 paras, 6d. ; 6 paras, 9d ; Western Australia, 1d., rose, 6d. ; 2d., blue, 1s ; 4d., red, 1s. 6d., &c., &c ; all unused.

Mr. Herbert Barber, Deptford, S.E., will issue his seventh Price List of several hundred *Rare* Stamps—among which are unused Hawaiian Islands (2, 5, and 13 c, and 1 c., interinsular), Liberia, Hong Kong, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Canada (envelopes), Antigua, Nevis, St. Lucia, Granada Confederation, Venezuela, and rare Parma and Modena stamps, and unused Mulready envelopes ; all of which are warranted genuine,—and will forward it to his friends and collectors on receipt of one stamp.

Mr. J. Hooper, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C.—Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealer in London. N.B.—Unused Ionian Islands, 10d. per Set of Three. All other stamps at equally low prices. J. H. has just published the fourth edition of his Price Catalogue, describing form, value, colours, date of issue, &c., of 1000 varieties. This is the cheapest and most comprehensive yet published. Sent post free on receipt of a stamped envelope.

Now Ready, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of W. Miller's Sheets of Unused Foreign Postage Stamps. No. 1, containing 23 good specimens, post free, 3s. No. 2, containing 24 rarer specimens, post free, 6s. No. 3, containing 8 expensive varieties, post free, 4s. 6d. These sheets are calculated in an eminent degree to meet the first wants of all new Collectors, and, if the system is found to answer, other varieties will be rapidly introduced at similar prices. W. MILLER, Derringham House, Hull.

Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps should at once send stamped-directed envelope for Fleet and Jackson's List of Clean Continental Stamps. Address, O. FLEET, Peckham, Surrey.

To Stamp Collectors. To be sold a Collection of 650 British, Foreign, and Colonial postage stamps, containing several exceedingly rare stamps, and nearly 150 unused, neatly arranged in book, with flags, arms, and printed names of the countries. Offers and questions concerning the collection can be made to R. B. S., Glebe Villa, Lee, S.E.

E. Bolton, 16, Spring Street, Hull, has a large number of Continental and Colonial Stamps. The following are samples of prices per doz. :—Luxembourg 1 c., at 6d. ; Nevis 1d., at 4s. ; and Martinique 1 c., at 1s. 6d.

Foreign Postage Stamps. A large quantity of the above for sale—some very rare. Send stamp for list. A beautiful engraved fac-simile (equal to the original) of the Granada Confederation 10 c. will be sent *post free* for 7 stamps. As only a limited number will be issued, and each numbered, orders should be sent early. Address, E. C. HALL & Co., Foreign Stamp Dealers, Hartlepool.

Jas. J. Woods, Olive Street, Hartlepool, has a rare Collection for sale, price £35, containing 600 stamps (300 of which are *unused*). J. J. W. will send his List for May on receipt of two stamps.

Stamps. For sale an Album containing 200 varieties, including many of the rarest current and obsolete stamps in existence ; for List, &c., send stamp to C., Post office, Park Road, Clapham, London, S.

Wholesale Dealers of Stamps, and Collectors having Stamps either for Exchange or Sale, are requested to send lists, or, if possible, the stamps on approbation, to R. COWLEY, 21, Sngrgate Street, Dover Cheapness is the main point. All communications must contain a stamp for reply.

C. W. Deadman, 26, Adelaide Square, Windsor, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps. List sent on receipt of one stamp.

Colonials and Continentals of all sorts sent for inspection on receipt of stamped envelope. A large stock of Rare Stamps on hand at moderate prices. Obsolete Spanish, Portuguese, Mauritius, Saxon, &c. Common Stamps sold wholesale. A. B., 57, York Place, Edinburgh.

Cheap Foreign Postage Stamps.—'Beta,' Barlow Street, Ardwick, can supply Collectors and others with every kind of Stamps. Examples : Collections of 100, 4s. ; 200, 13s ; 300, 28s. ; 500, 80s. ; all different kinds ; Chili, 4d. each ; Greek, 2d. each ; Hong Kong, 6d. each ; Venezuela, 7d. each ; Old Belgian, 4d. each ; Old Spanish. 1850, 1, 2, 3, 4, at 1s. 6d. each ; Helvetia, 7d. per dozen ; 2 cent French, 6d. per dozen ; Oldenburg, 1s. 2d. per dozen ; ½ Hamburg, 1s. per dozen ; Bergedorf ½, and Lubeck ½, each 1s. per dozen ; Set of each, 1s. 3d. ; ½ Mecklenburg, 6d. per dozen ; 1 cent Belgian, 3d. per dozen ; Antigua, 1d. (unused), 7s. per dozen ; American 1 cent envelope (ditto), 2s. per dozen ; British Guiana, 1 cent (ditto), 2s. 6d. per dozen. Apply at once. BETA also buys stamps. P.S.—Stamps sent on inspection.

Decroix & Squier, Bazaar, Dover, beg to announce that on receipt of two stamps they will forward their new List of Stamps, the prices of which they trust will give universal satisfaction They will also, on receipt of an extra stamp, forward a selection of stamps on approbation. Decroix and Squier also purchase stamps (obsolete) if prices are reasonable. Letters requiring an answer must contain stamp.

H. G. Smith, 12, Chestnut Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester, supplies Stamps at very low prices ; *e. g.*, Helvetia 2 c., 6d. ; 3 c., 9d. ; 5 c., 1s., per dozen, unused. French 2 c., 8d. per dozen ; and others in proportion. Collections of 100 different stamps, *some unused*, 4s. Fourth edition of Price List forwarded on receipt of stamped envelope. Coins bought and sold.

Cheap Stamps.—S. Davis, 18, Granby Street, Leicester, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps, will forward his Price List of stamps on receipt of stamped envelope.

Important Announcement.—To be Disposed of, by 100 Members at 2s. each, a Rare Collection of Stamps, value £12. Tickets forwarded on receipt of 2s. 1d. If the lots are not all taken by June 1st, the money will be returned. VICTOR, 80, Biggin Street, Dover.

To Stamp and Crest Collectors.—Just published, beautifully printed in Colours, 1s., or emblazoned in Gold and Silver, 1s. 6d. each sheet; by post, one extra stamp.

Sheet 1. Arms of all Nations.
2. Arms of all the Counties in England.
3. Arms of all the Colleges of Oxford.
4. Flags of all Nations.
5. English, French, and Russian Orders.
6. Arms of all the Cambridge Colleges.

London: GEO. MUSGRAVE & Co., Turnham Green, W. Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depot.

Ready in a few days, Fourth Edition, revised, augmented, and corrected.

Catalogue of Postage Stamps,—British, Colonial, and Foreign. By Mount Brown. Containing an accurate description of the form, colour, date of issue, and value of 1600 varieties Price 1s.; post free, 1s. 1d. Bound in Morocco Leather and interleaved for Collectors, 2s; post free, 2s. 2d. Address, Mr. BROWN, care of Mr. Passmore, Bookseller, 124, Cheapside, London. *** Priced List of unused and rare stamps, post free, 3d.

Forged Stamps: How to Detect them. Post free, 1s. 1d. Containing accurate descriptions of nearly 200 False Stamps. May be had from either of the authors, THORNTON LEWES, 4, Duncan Street, Drummond Place, Edinburgh; or EDWARD PEMBERTON, Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Postage-Stamp Album Titles.—Will be ready on the first of May, beautifully printed in Colours. A new and complete Set of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums. Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., of the British Museum. Price 1s. 6d.; post free, 1s. 7d. London: E. MARLBOROUGH & Co., 4, Ave Maria Lane; Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street; and all Booksellers.

W. Young, Aintree, near Liverpool (late of J. J. H. Stockall and Co., Broad Green), has on hand large quantities of used and unused Foreign Postage Stamps, which he will sell, both Wholesale and Retail, at the most reasonable prices. His stock consists of a large variety of Stamps of *all nations*; and he gives the following example of his moderate prices:—Antigua, 1d., 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen; Austrian Italy, 2 and 3 soldi, 3d. [illegible]; Belgium, 1 c., 3d. per dozen, the set 1s.; Bergedorf, [illegible]d. each, or 10d. per dozen, the set 1s. 3d.; Bremen, [illegible]d. each, or 1s. per dozen, the set 1s. 3d.; France, 2c., [illegible] or 6d. per dozen; French Colonies, [illegible] 3d. each, or [illegible] per dozen; Germany, ½ and ½ s. gro., 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen; Hamburgh, ½ sch., 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen, the set 3s.; Hanover, 5 c., 2d. each, or 1s. 8d. per dozen; [illegible] sch., 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen, the set [illegible] 2d. each, or 1s. per dozen; Mecklenburg, [illegible] each, or 6d. per dozen; New Brunswick, 1 c., 3d. each, or 2s. 3d. per dozen; Norway, 2 sk., 2d. each, or 1s. 6d. per dozen, the set 1s.; Portugal, 5 reis, 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen, 50 reis, 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen, the set 2s.; Spain, [illegible] 2d. each, or 1s. per dozen; 4 cuartos, 2d. each, or 1s. per dozen; Sweden, 3 ore, 2d. each, or 1s. 8d. per dozen; United States envelopes, 1 c., 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen; 3 c., on white and buff paper, 6d. each, or 5s. per dozen; Venezuela, the set 1s. 6d.; France, chiffre taxe 10 and 15 c., 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen; Nevis, 1d., 6d. each, or 4s. 6d. per dozen; St. Lucia, 1d., 6d. each, or 5s. per dozen; Liberia, 6 c., 1s. 3d. each; 12 c., 2s. each; 24 c., 2s. 9d. each. *All the above stamps are unused.* Other kinds equally low, for which see Price List, giving description of form, colours, &c., of over 800 varieties, which will be sent on receipt of two stamps. All orders, &c., to be addressed as above, to W. YOUNG, Aintree, near Liverpool, when they will receive prompt attention. N.B.—All communications, except orders over 2s. 6d., must contain stamp for reply. Not less than One Dozen of each kind of stamps supplied at the wholesale prices.

To Foreign Stamp and Crest Collectors.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Monthly Circular for May will be sent gratis and post free to any address on application.

Third Thousand.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Descriptive Price Catalogue of many hundred varieties of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Illustrated with Fac-simile Engravings of Rare Stamps. Price 4d.; post free, 5d.

Now Ready, Beautifully printed in Colours,

Stafford Smith and Smith's New and Complete set of Postage-Stamp Album Labels. Comprising upwards of 130 Titles, geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., of the British Museum. Price 1s. 6d.; post free, 1s. 7d.

Important to those about to Collect.

Stafford Smith and Smith's Five-Shilling Packet of Foreign Postage Stamps. Containing 50 varieties of Foreign Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free, 1s. 1d. [illegible]

To Collectors [illegible], Postage Stamps.

Stafford Smi[illegible] Smith's Two-and-Sixpenny Packet of [illegible] Postage Stamps. Containing 20 varieties of Colon[illegible] Foreign Stamps, all unused. Post free, 2s. 7d.

New Packet of Postage Stamps.

Stafford Smith & Smith's Five-shilling Packet of Local American Postage Stamps. Containing 20 varieties. Post free, 5s. 1d.

Now Ready.

Stafford Smith and Smith's One-and-Sixpenny Crest Album. Bound in cloth, and ruled in 800 divisions. Post free, 1s. 7d.

Arms, Crests, &c., for Albums.

Stafford Smith and Smith's One-Shilling Packet of Arms, Crests, Monograms, &c., comprising upwards of 50 varieties; Relief stamped in Colours. Post free, 1s. 1d.

The Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, 13, George Street, Bath.

This Magazine will be forwarded regularly every month, to any part of the world, on receipt of the annual subscription of Four Shillings; which may be remitted in unused postage stamps current in the country whence the order is received.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Ce Magasin-ci se sera transmis tous les mois, à toutes les parties du monde, en envoyant aux Messieurs Smith la souscription annuelle (5 francs), en timbres-poste neufs du pays d'où vient l'ordre.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Questo Magazzino sara trasmiso tutti i mesi, in ciascuno parte del mondo dagli autori, ricevendo il prezzo annuale (5 lire), in franchi bolli non segnati del paese dove arrivi il comando.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Ese Almacen sera enviado cada mes á todos los partes del mundo por los publicadores á la receta del precio anual (20 reales), en sellos del correo nuevos del pais del qual séa llegado el orden.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Dieses Journal wird jeden Monat nach allen Ländern der Welt von den Herausgebern befördert werden, nach Empfang des jährlichen Betrages. (1½ thaler), welcher in ungebrauchten Briefmarken von dem Lande, von welchem die Order gekommen ist, entrichtet werden kann.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE FIRST CONTINUED.—PART III.

THE HOME OF THE ARTIST.

'What need of luxury to those
Whom calm contentment gives repose;
Or what externals dull the smart
Arising from an aching heart?'

Half offended at the frequent interruptions, but somewhat pacified by the homage bestowed on its hero, the postage stamp resumed its narrative.

'At length the patience of the expectant crowd was rewarded with the desired sight. First a distant hum, next the distinct shouts of the *vivas*, signified the approach of the cavalcade. Every eye was strained, every neck stretched forward for a glimpse, every mouth ready with a cry of welcome; and Garibaldi rode slowly by, his noble countenance at once betokening the bravery of the man, and the feeling heart of the boy, who is represented as weeping for hours over a grasshopper, whose leg he had unwittingly torn off, while amusing himself with putting the poor little thing in his hand, and watching it hop off on the grass.

'The procession of nobles, military and civil dignitaries, and burghers passed on. The gazers gradually dispersed, and my owner sadly and slowly "wended on his way," passing through the Boboli gardens, and reaching by a circuitous route the Costa San Giorgio, as the better way of avoiding the crowds still lingering in front of the Pitti Palace. Thence through a narrow and tortuous alley he gained his lodging in the Via dei Bardi.

'It was the very house, and his apartment, mayhap, the selfsame room long since the chamber of the beautiful Dianora; whose romantic tale, depicted in an unfinished copy of the celebrated picture by Benedetto Ser-

No. 5. June 1, 1863. Price Fourpence.] [Registered for Transmission Abroad.

volino, wanted but a few last touches by the young artist, for such he was, to rival the original. It stood forth, in truth, a perfect fac-simile, save in the portrait of the damsel, whose face, equally as, or even more, beautiful than its supposed prototype, evidenced that the painter, perhaps unconsciously, had been tracing lineaments other than those of the original model.

'You may not have seen the painting, or heard the story I am alluding to. The former you may observe in one of the rooms opening from the Tribune in the Uffizi at Florence, and of the latter I can favour you with the narrative.

'Like the Romeo and Juliet of Verona, Hyppolito and Dianora were youthful members of two noble families at deadly feud in Florence. In conformity with the wonted behests of Cupid,

"Who laughs to scorn all shackles but his own,"

they met, and met to love. After the first chance meeting and avowal of affection, a stolen glance in church or other place of common resort being ill-sufficient to satisfy their ardour, an appointment was made by the friendly contrivance of an old nurse, who agreed to allow an interview in her presence.

'The lover, provided with a rope-ladder, hurried to the blissful rendezvous; but the night-patrol, unfortunately observing the still hanging means of descent, awaiting their opportunity, seized on the luckless Hyppolito as a burglar, and dragged him off to prison.

'Rather than tarnish the fair fame of his beloved mistress, the gallant youth allowed himself to be arraigned and condemned as a housebreaker, under the accusation of the rival faction, too glad of an opportunity to humble their foes by the ignominious death of one of the noblest representatives of their race.

'In those days, short was the interval between condemnation and death; and Hyppolito would have silently and heroically borne his fate, had not the tidings of the fatal sentence reached the ears of Dianora, who, disdaining the conventionalities of society, with self-devotion worthy her adorer, rushed into the judgment-hall, and boldly avowed the truth.

'The story goes, that the judges were so struck with the self-abnegation of the amorous pair, that they unanimously freed the accused; and a meeting of the heads of the hostile houses being held, it was agreed, in acknowledgement of their appreciation of the well-observed faith of the lovers, to cement an alliance by means of their lawful union.

'The apartment of the artist was large, bare, and, as regards furniture, comfortless; the remains of former splendour, evidenced in the elaborate carvings about the doors and windows, and the tarnished, coppery appearance of parts once richly gilded, tending further to contrast with the meagreness of the fittings, and generally poor quality of the scantily-supplied conveniences for daily use.

'From a recess, to which it had apparently been made to fit, had been dragged forth into the room a heavy side-table, contrived so as to form a substitute for an easel; most unwieldy to manage, but placed in the best possible light. A smaller table, holding the implements of painting, a few mis-matched chairs, a magnificently-carved but worm-eaten old chest, a few minor articles of utility, a small but choice assortment of books on some shelves of common wood, a footless and curtainless pallet in one corner, and a smaller one in another, pretty well comprehended the contents of the domicile.

'On the latter was reclining a delicate, intellectual-looking little fellow about eleven or twelve years of age, intently occupied in gumming some postage stamps in a small book.

'"Lorenzo, caro mio fratel," cried the boy, too interested in his occupation to hear us till we entered, "how glad I am you are back. Have you brought me one of the new stamps you promised me?"

'"Yes, dear child, I have it for you; but have you been staying in all day? I thought you were coming to meet me and see Garibaldi's entry."

'"I meant to, fratel carissimo, but I thought I had better put our room to rights while you were away. I can never do it

when you are at home painting, because I should be interrupting you, and the dust would fly about and stick to the wet colours. Look, now, see how nicely I have dusted all the books, and set everything in order quite ready for you when you want to go on with your picture."

'"And so, fratellino caro, you have deprived yourself of the pleasure of witnessing the gay sights of to-day, to stay all alone at home and try and make me comfortable! You are a good, dear little companion; and I wish I could do more for you than I am ever likely to be able."

'"You let me live with you, and that is all I want," said the boy: "when my dear mother died, and that bad uncle of mine turned me out of the house, I might have been starved in the streets, if you had not taken me home with you; and I should be ingrato, ingratissimo, if I did not do all I can to please you!"

'"Well, dear child, you must be hungry. You can have had nothing to eat since the morning. It is a gala day; you shall go to your favourite café, and have a treat."'

PART IV.

ADINE.

'The casket rich, but richer far
The precious treasure held in store:
A face and form of beauty rare;
A heart and mind beyond compare:—
Mortality an angel wore.'

'OFF we set—we!—towards the Ponte Rubaconte, whence they took boat to the Ponte Santa Trinita, and landed near Doney's. There they seated themselves by an open window, looking out on the Arno, in the only room where smoking was allowed; and while Lorenzo afforded himself but a moderate supply of edibles, on the feigned plea of having previously dined, the plate of the boy Carlo was sedulously and abundantly furnished.

'Soon despatching his own frugal meal, and calmly supplying the deficiency with a full pipe, my possessor goodnaturedly watched his young companion's eager enjoyment of the feast. When his hunger seemed fully appeased,—

'"Well, Carlino dear, you are forgetting your stamp; here it is; and I have bought a few more for you of those now out of use. They will look better in your little book than the marked ones."

'"Mille grazie, Lorenzo caro," replied the delighted boy, "what a nice, bright-coloured, yellow lion!"

'Yes,' interposed another occupant of the sheet, 'I am the identical stamp you are alluding to! I remember the circumstance very well; and Carlo said he thought we were much prettier than the new pattern. Poor child! I can tell you something about him by and by that will make your heart ache.'

'*Your* turn *in* turn,' was the rejoinder of the Cross, neither pleased with the interruption, nor the reminiscence of the compliment paid the other in depreciation of itself, which, forsooth, I had not been intended to hear, 'allow me to proceed.'

'When the cats—or lions, or whatever they may be—were carefully re-deposited by the child in his protector's purse, Lorenzo proposed walking slowly home, by the bank of the silvery Arno, and they left the café accordingly.

'Near the door was standing a poor beggar; one half-starved-looking child clinging to her side, and an emaciated baby in her arms. The generous-hearted Lorenzo immediately emptied his purse of all the small coin which would have purchased what he had just denied himself, and was hurrying off with Carlo, in avoidance of the benedicites showered after him by the grateful woman, when a stately coronetted carriage, emblazoned with armorial bearings, and glittering with silver, attended by servants in rich liveries, drove past.

'The occupants were four;—a noble-looking, grey-haired old man, a younger one, an elderly female, and a vision of such surpassing loveliness as is often thought of and described, but so seldom seen. The boy observed them first, and, having some idea that the rencontre would not be agreeable to his friend, tried, but in vain, to withdraw his attention. He caught sight of the young man, and the same demoniac expression that had so startled me in the morning, and a like quivering of the whole frame, seemed, as it were, to change his identity.

'The purse lay still unclosed in his hand :—

'"Vendetta," hissed a voice in his ear, "my uncle!" cried Carlo, as he clung closer to his protector, in terror of the ill-looking ruffian on the other side. The whole passed in less time than I take in recounting it. A galloping horse caused a current of air, which wafted me from the open purse, unnoticed by my owners, and deposited me in a few seconds on the coat of the object of Lorenzo's jealousy and hate.

'"There's one of your beggar-brat's playthings," said the brute, as he contemptuously tossed me into the lap of his lovely cousin, for so she was; "you had better take care of it for him."

'With that momentary touch, my quick capacity for comprehending character gave me an insight into one without a single redeeming quality. Proud, heartless, greedy, unprincipled, cowardly, and licentious, Bernardo del Garbo, early deprived of the admonitions of a father, foolishly spoiled by a doting mother, with sufficient art to hide his most glaring faults from the eyes of a partial grandfather, had contrived to persuade the old noble to regard him as the accepted suitor of his granddaughter Adine, heiress of the vast wealth of her mother, a German princess.

'Adine was of too sweet a disposition to resent the taunt, and never, indeed, otherwise than tacitly evinced her distaste for the connexion; but, whatever her secret and, even to herself, scarcely acknowledged feelings in another direction, she patiently and trustfully relied on the influence of her paternal aunt, the abbess of Santa Apollonia, should matters come to a crisis; who would only have been too glad to avert the dreaded match, by receiving her niece and her large revenues into the convent of which she was the principal.

'The abbess and the old marquis were too intent upon a religious disquisition to notice the rude sneer of their relative; and Adine quietly took me up and deposited me in her ivory portemonnaie, inlaid with gold, and adorned with rubies and diamonds. On rolled the carriage, and frequently had I the welcome chance of gazing on such a combination of loveliness as seldom falls to the share of mortality. The face, the form, the *tout ensemble*, of the adorable Adine, were a rare embodiment of heart and soul. Feature and expression, grace and simplicity, modesty and dignity, united to produce perfection. The purse was ever open in her hand; the numerous beggars, as well as the members of the poorer convents, being on the watch for the passage of the well-known carriage, and certain of receiving a handsome gratuity from so liberal a hand, enhanced by a glimpse of the angelic countenance of their benefactress.

'The ducal palace was the destination of the party; where an assembly in honour of the day's event had been appointed by the powers that were. Through the stately rooms, and amidst the brilliant company, "observed of all observers," passed the marquis and his granddaughter, who, hanging on his arm, had quietly contrived to leave the abbess to the escort of Bernardo, who followed with gloomy brow, fully alive to the tacit avoidance of his society.

'His ill-humour was far from dissipated by his companion's discourse,—well inclined to avail herself of so good an opportunity of giving her nephew a gentle lecture on the renunciation of the vanities of the world; perfectly unconscious of the pride of family—by no means incompatible with high religious feeling—evinced by herself in her general haughtiness of bearing, and in the superb and almost priceless diadem of brilliants confining her black veil, and managed at once to denote her regal descent and sacred profession; being formed of large single stones raised on points of invisible Berlin iron-work, so as to resemble the halo conventionally depicted round the heads of saints and martyrs.

'Bernardo was by no means popular with the *élite* of the Florentine nobility. His arrogance was unbearable in the eyes of youths ranking equally with himself; and their ill-disguised enjoyment of his evident discomfiture almost maddened him. At last, taking advantage of his aunt's rencontre with the prior of Santa Maria, he managed to escape such uncongenial company, and hurried from the palace to prepare for an

appointment more in unison with the sombre tints of his disposition.

'Though I am fully cognisant of all that transpired after parting company with my young friends, Lorenzo and Carlo, as the yellow cat—I beg his pardon, lion—must have accompanied them home, if he tells truth, he may as well relate what occurrences he witnessed, which will give me a little rest, and spare me the annoyance of interruption.'

The yellow lion, nothing loth to avail itself of the hint, shook its mane, settled the crown on its head, and, gracefully resting one paw on its shield, thus took up the narration of the Cross.

'Far different was the scene in the abode of the artist, after we reached home, from that so graphically described by my worthy but uncourteous comrade just now. Poor little innocent Carlo lay crouched in terror at the farthest corner of his humble pallet, ever and anon regarding with tender affection his friend and protector, and longing to try and relieve the agony apparent on his countenance, but fearing to approach nearer his dreaded uncle, who was lounging in a large chair, smoking, sneering, and taunting, the very model of Mephistopheles tempting Faust; while the unhappy Lorenzo, sometimes wildly pacing the apartment, sometimes throwing himself on a seat, and burying his face with his hands on the table, was now striving with all his better nature to combat the arguments of the fiend at his elbow; and now, with all the fervid temperament of the children of the South, goaded by pride and passion, was gradually succumbing to the powers of darkness, and yielding to the dark suggestions of a base revenge.'

(To be continued.)

THE RATIONALE OF A POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM.

BY THE REV. HENRY H. HIGGINS, M.A.

SAYS a high authority, 'In all labour there is profit.' Now, without drawing invidious comparisons with other occupations, the collecting of postage stamps has, it will be generally allowed, been followed by very many of the junior members of the community with a zeal which has not a little astonished their elders; and, at all events, the maxim above quoted may lead us to look for some good results from a pursuit which has called into exercise so much diligence.

These prospective benefits seem likely to be of various kinds; some may, perhaps, arise from an examination of the stamps as works of art. The hundreds of kinds which adorn a well-stocked album afford opportunities for discrimination, in judging of the skill and good taste displayed in their execution. They are, of course, in this respect inferior to coins; but comparatively few young collectors can hope to obtain many of the higher specimens of art in coins or medals, the best of which are generally the most expensive, whilst in stamps the reverse of this is more commonly the case. The young connoisseur who has expended but a trifling sum in these productions may have learned that an elaborate design, or a showy combination of colours, or a grotesque singularity of pattern, may be found in a very inferior stamp, badly executed, and devoid of any real merit. He may also have learned the very useful lesson, that true excellence is not confined to any single style or model, but attends every careful and skilful application of the rules of art to practice. For example, the full-faced portrait of our Queen on the Nova Scotian stamp is totally different in style from the head of the Emperor of the French on a stamp recently issued; yet as works of art both are truly admirable.

A further amount of good may be derived from the arrangement of a collection, whether it be done geographically or territorially.

The geographical arrangement brings together the stamps of countries situated in the same great natural divisions of the earth's surface; a plan which may well serve to help the memory, especially in such instances as the islands of the West Indies, or the states of the continent of North America. The situations and other circumstances of countries of less note, may, in the same way, be impressed upon the memory. We all know the interest with which we

learn of an incident connected with any place we may have lately visited : something of this kind follows the acquisition of a stamp which has been obtained with more or less difficulty. Many young collectors have probably been induced to make themselves acquainted with the position and natural features of Nicaragua, simply because they either have, or hope to have, its rare stamp.

In the territorial arrangement the stamps of settlements and colonies are in each instance made to follow those of the mother country. The instruction conveyed by this method is obvious, and by no means unimportant.

A far more extensive field for inquiry is opened by the devices which distinguish the stamps of various countries. The possessor of an album must be of a singularly apathetic disposition, if he is not incited to make some investigations into the history of the personages whose portraits are so often before him, or into the significance of the emblems which in many stamps supply the place of portraits ; nor is the information thus to be acquired either scanty or dry ; in fact, so many points of interest are associated with the designs borne by these little locomotive amulets, that a well-read lecturer might deliver an extensive course of highly-instructive lectures, taking a postage-stamp album as his text-book.

The analogy between the groups into which it is found convenient to distribute a series of postage stamps, and the families, genera, species, and varieties recognised in zoology and botany, is so manifest, and the method of identification of species, &c., by description is so much the same in the one as in the other, that a collector who had honestly made out his stamps for himself, and had arranged his book accordingly, would have no small advantage in commencing the study of classification in any branch of natural history.

So great is the influence upon the study of natural history exercised by the acquisition and possession of specimens, that probably few would apply themselves to zoology or botany if they had to confine themselves to books upon these subjects. Now, within the geographical and historical range occupied by postage stamps, it is hard to find anything else at all supplying the place of specimens, except coins, which are too expensive to be obtained by many. In this relation between these trifling bits of stamped paper and the facts of geography and history, lies in all probability the true source of a movement which has affected a very large number of the rising generation throughout Europe and even in America. That hundreds of juvenile collectors are innocent of any philosophical considerations, in trying to make up their books, must be admitted ; still, if the pursuit had been a mere fruitless occupation it never could have become so prevalent.

Nor are benefits of an intellectual class the only good results that may be hoped for, when a young collector takes up the pursuit in a proper spirit. He will naturally seek for opportunities of exchanging his duplicates, and in so doing he will have to place confidence in others, and to be strictly careful not to abuse confidence placed by others in himself. He will soon learn the need of avoiding those mean and disgraceful ways of grasping at an unfair advantage in exchange, following which the possessor of the finest collection in the world would only be a fellow to be shunned ; and he will learn to keep unspotted that sense of honour, even in trifles, cherishing which a lad will grow up into a *gentleman*, even if his postage-stamp album remains not quite full.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

THE ½-onza *correo oficial* Spanish has been changed from yellow to straw colour; and the Prussian envelopes now have the inscription crossing the stamp, which rather detracts from its beauty.

The rare and curious stamp of the province of Corrientes, described in a former number, is now replaced by one of similar appearance, value 3 centavos, instead of 1 real, M. C.

The Belgians, who would not presume to dream of anticipating the French in any improvement, are about to follow their example by adopting the perforating system.

The 9 kreuzer, brown, of Würtemberg, has now come into use.

Four New Granada stamps are to be added to those notified in the third edition of Mr. Brown's Manual :—5 c., *yellow*, of the large series of 1861; 10 c., lavender, of the last issue but one; and 5 c., buff, and 10 c., *stone-blue*, of the present.



The appended engraving represents an essay of the United States 3 cents; the colour is the same as that of the stamp in use. There are also essays of the 5 cents in green, lilac, yellow, and other colours.

We are able to describe two very curious and beautiful essays from specimens in our own possession. One was for Canada : it is larger than most stamps : colour, two shades of mauve and white, forming a very minute pattern groundwork ; in an arched bend above, *Postage, Colony of* on the left, and *Canada* on the right hand ; *One Penny* below ; a large figure 1 in the centre ; and smaller ones at the two bottom corners. The second was for Nova Scotia ; more elaborate in design. The groundwork a minute pattern of white, and two shades of rose colour ; the figure 6 inclosed in an octagon in the centre ; *Six*, above ; and *Pence*, below ; *Nova Scotia* on the left and right sides ; and the figure 6 in each of the four corners.

The red una peseta of Peru is beginning to be superseded by the adoption of the type of the well-known essays, one of which is black on white, and the other on blue, paper; but the stamp in use is brown on white.

The Queensland twopenny is now light, in lieu of dark, blue.

We have seen a specimen of the forthcoming penny English. The only variation is the addition of letters in the upper corners. It is not expected to be issued for some time. Also several essays not hitherto noticed in catalogues ; *e. g.*, 12½-cent Nova Scotia, scarlet ; 3-pence Newfoundland, black, &c.

We wish to notice three very curious stamps just brought under our notice; hoping a description of them will draw forth some information from a qualified source. They are similar in value and pattern, but of different colours, and are post-marked. Upright rectangular ; medium sized; very coarsely executed ; an indistinct shield in the centre, on a groundwork of irregular horizontal lines. *Correos*, on the left side ; *Porte*, on the top ; *Franco*, on the right side ; and 10 *cents*, at the bottom. Yellow-brown on white ; madder-brown on white ; and vermilion on yellowish paper.

We have just received essays, five in number, of the new issue for Italy. They amply counterbalance the poverty of appearance observable in most of the Italian stamps, and reach, we may well nigh declare, the *ne plus ultra* of engraving. Before this notice sees the light, in all probability the individual chosen may be so familiar to the eyes of collectors that a description would be superfluous. The colours of our specimens are blue, green, black, lilac, and carmine on a white ground.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,
BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

Liberia.

WE have a 24-cents *olive*-green ; it is not an essay, having passed the post. We gave the United States engravers the credit of these beautiful stamps, but find that they emanate from Messrs. Dando and Co., of Gresham Street.

Lubeck.

There are impressions of these stamps on two sorts of paper ; and the old ½ sch. is not so brightly coloured as the new.

Luxembourg.

The 1 centime, orange, must be added to those noted in the third edition.

Malta.

Some collectors introduce into their albums the sixpenny and others of our stamps impressed with the word *Malta*, as denoting their employment for postal purposes in that island.

Mauritius.

Besides the smaller red penny with Greek border, there are three distinct varieties of those inscribed *Post-paid* on the left, and *Mauritius* on the right, side; a red, and also a brown, on bluish paper; and a vermilion, much better executed, on yellowish-tinted paper.

Of the old twopenny, blue, we distinguish five varieties of issue, besides the well-known stamp with Greek border. 1. Pairing with the last-mentioned vermilion penny, much better executed than the others. 2. Vertically lined. 3. With very close vertical, diagonal, and horizontal lines. 4. Something like it, but wretchedly printed, the inscriptions scarcely legible. 5. We have a very incomplete example of this; but it differs from the rest in having *Postage* at the bottom instead of the top.

The so-called magenta without value is red, like the one shilling of similar device. There are two singular varieties of this early issue; the green, with *Fourpence*, hand-stamped; and the violet, marked with *Eightpence*. We possess the former only.

Similar to the impression of 1861 are a sixpenny lilac, and a shilling green; slightly differing from the brown, blue, rose, and ninepenny, in having the value in extremely minute figures on each side of the Queen's head. Besides the sixpenny purple-brown of the Britannia issue, there is one slate-coloured, and this latter is perforated.

The oval yellow shilling envelope, described in a former number, is to be added to the ever-changing series of Mauritius stamps; and the colour of the sixpenny envelope has appeared of a rich red brown, instead of violet.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

The colour of the 3 schillinge varies from dark orange to pale buff.

Mexico.

We believe no variation has taken place with regard to these stamps for some time.

Modena.

Of the early issue there is a 10 c. violet, *not* brown; but we have never seen any 15 c. but the yellow. The 25 c. is not primrose, but pale ochre. We have the 15 yellow, misprinted *cetn*, like the 40 instanced by Mount Brown. There is a 20 c. lilac, as well as violet, of the Provisional Government.

Moldavia.

There was a tradition of an early issue of Moldavian stamps. Mr. Brown inserted one in his first edition, but cancelled it afterwards. We saw them two years ago in a Paris collection, and are now able to quote them correctly from genuine specimens. Inscription, *Porto Ckrncorn.* This partly surrounds a bull's head surmounted by a star: underneath is a bugle horn, in the volution of which the value is marked: the whole circumscribed by a plain ring, and hand-stamped on tinted paper: 54 paras, green; 81, blue; 108, blue on lilac.

There is a very finely-executed forgery of the 1861 issue, 5 par., *porto scrisorei.*

Monte Video.

Old issue, 240 c., red (see engraving).

There is no pink 60, but a brown, a dull lilac, and a drab. We doubt the existence of the 100 c., brown.



Natal and Nevis.

No change in the stamps of these places.

New Brunswick.

The colour of the 5 cents, green, is altered to another shade.

Newfoundland.

The fivepenny is now of a very red-brown colour. In 1862 the colour of the fourpenny, sixpenny, and one shilling, was altered from scarlet to lake; and this year the sixpence-halfpenny comes over of the latter colour. The twopenny has always been of a bright, and the eightpenny of a deeper, scarlet.

(*To be continued*).

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN POSTAL DEFACEMENT MARKS.

BY HENRY WHYMPER.

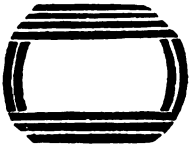


THE first mark we find on the Mulready envelope is a cross, printed in black ink. This continued to be used on the introduction of the one penny black stamp; but in some cases the black ink was found not to obliterate the stamp sufficiently, so was altered to red. Shortly after this change was made, the stamp itself was changed to brown; and the red mark, being again found not to obliterate properly, was altered to black. After this unmeaning cross was abolished, the first mark the central office in St. Martin's-le-Grand used was a number enclosed in a diamond-shaped figure, which was surrounded by parallel lines, forming an oval. The number in the centre was variable, beginning at a low number, such as 10, at six o'clock in the morning, and adding one on for every hour the office was open from that time: by this arrangement any official could, by a glance at the mark, tell the exact hour it was received. The same system of numbering is used now, but the numbers 84 or 85 are used as a starting-point.

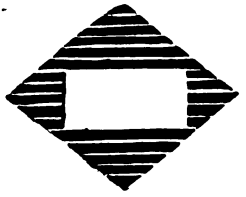


The outlying London offices, such as Finchley, Highgate, Richmond, or Hounslow, had the number of the office (as registered in the General Post Office) surrounded by a circle, which was enclosed by parallel lines, the whole figure being round. In all provincial towns in England and Wales, the mark was the number of the town, with four parallel lines at the top, three at the bottom, and two curved lines on either side. The only alteration which has taken place in the country mark was made four years ago, when the lines at the top and bottom were sloped away, so that the whole figure should form a circle.

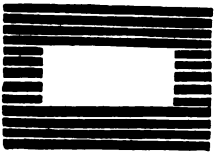




The first mark Irish offices used was the number of the town,* with six lines at the top, five at the bottom, and five short bars on each side; the whole being a diamond-shaped figure. Very recently, however, some towns have dropped one or more lines at the top, bottom, or sides: the shape has always remained the same.



The mark that was originally universally used in Scotland was the number of the town, as before described, with four lines at the top and bottom, and five short bars on each side. After a short interval a great number of towns used four bars, instead of five, at the sides. Some ceased using them altogether. Edinburgh took in their place a small star. In January of this year Edinburgh issued an entirely new mark. It was the Brunswick star, with a space cut out of the centre for the number (131). We only occasionally receive it on our letters.



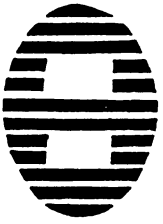


At the time when London was divided into postal districts distinguished by letters, the chief office changed to the mark before used by the suburban offices, and they in their turn took the chief-office mark.

* English—including Welsh, Irish, and Scotch—towns have each a separate numbering. No. 1, English, is Abergavenny; No. 1, Irish, is Abbeyleix; No. 1, Scotch, is Aberdeen. The arrangement was alphabetical at first; now, as fresh towns have post offices, they take the last number.

The annexed figure represents the mark used in the W.-C. district until December, 1862. The only difference in the district marks was in the number of horizontal lines; the shape was the same in all of them. In January of this year a much larger mark was used. The outer rim was done away with, and the lines made much broader. We think the only English mark that now remains unmentioned is that used in the Isle of Wight. It is somewhat similar to the last one described, but has only one space in the centre for the number of the office.





In America there has been lately great discussion and many proposals as to a new method for defacing stamps. We make the following extracts from the 47th annual report of the postmaster-general, and which relate to the postage stamps used as currency (not the greenbacks) :—

'Being ill-adapted for circulation, large quantities of them have become so defaced as to be inapplicable to legitimate use for the payment of postage; and evil-disposed persons have availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to put into circulation stamps once used for postage, from which the cancelling marks have been wholly or partially erased.'

'In pursuance of an Act approved July 16, 1862, the post office has endeavoured to punish and to prevent thereby, as well as by the attainment of a more effectual mode of cancelling, the fraudulent use or sale of cancelled stamps. The law, to be effective in its purpose, should absolutely prohibit the removal of cancelled postage stamps from the paper to which they are attached, *for whatever purpose*. Not being criminal in itself, it should be made so by statute, to prevent the evil consequence of the practice.

'Various new instruments and devices for cancelling postage stamps have been examined and submitted to a trial, and two machines are now in process of construction, which are designed to replace cancelling by hand at the larger offices.'

From these numerous proposals we select six of the most curious; they stand as Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, on the list.

No. 4. 'The simplest plan yet suggested, it seems to me, is that of gumming but half the stamp, allowing the other half to be torn off with facility. [Similar to the French, of which we give an engraving]. This plan is opposed by the assistant postmaster, Mr. A. N. Zevaly, but he says it is shortly to be adopted for the Internal Revenue stamps.'



No. 6. 'Let the defacing clerk place the letter upon some suitable support, and a single stroke with a *rasp or a coarse file* will obliterate the stamp beyond restoration.'—[And perhaps the letter as well].

No. 7. 'Would not an electric battery answer the purpose of perforating the stamp? for a medium battery would be sufficient to cancel two or three letters at a time.' [This has been tried; we have a stamp so perforated].

No. 8. 'A thread to underlie the postage stamp. This thread to protrude below the edge sufficiently far to allow of its being grasped by the fingers and ripped up through the stamp.'

No. 13. Another inventor has proposed, as he says, a very 'simple apparatus,' consisting of 'only one cutter; two springs; three gears for driving fly-wheels; and four fly-wheels for driving three or more circular saws, to scratch off the surface of the stamp.' An editor of a New York paper drily says: 'The thought suggests itself, that possibly a simpler combination than this might be devised. There are several of these defacement machines very profitably employed at the present time in sawing up boards.'

No. 14. The last inventor is highly original in his suggestion. He thinks that stamps ought to be marked in the same way as sheep. 'A small lamp should be kept burning, in which to heat a brand;' and this gentleman considers that a man could,

with proper diligence, deface a stamp in twenty seconds, or perhaps even four a minute. This improvement will be obvious to all our readers, when we inform them that an ordinary mailing clerk can deface from 150 to 160 stamps per minute.

The ordinary American defacement is the name of the issuing town, and the date. There was, a few months ago, a mark used that cut the stamp quite through; but this occasioned such an outcry from all sides, that it was thought proper to discontinue it.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A New and Complete Set of Postage-Stamp Album Titles. Geographically Arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., &c., of the British Museum. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Stafford Smith and Smith.

WE have received a hint to be impartial in our notice of this elegantly-designed, beautifully-printed, and extremely useful publication. This we understand as meaning we are to find faults in it; no criticism being considered as impartial if in unqualified approval. On carefully looking it over, however, we find considerable difficulty in noting aught deserving censure. The words Lübeck, Zürich, and Würtemberg might have had the proper accent over the *u*; and the *ci-devant* Isle of Bourbon had better have been given under its current appellation of Reunion. There are several blank borders which can be filled in at any time with countries not at present sporting stamps. The beauty and very moderate price of this tasty set of labels will, no doubt, command an extensive sale.

Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue. New and revised edition. By EDWARD A. OPPEN. London: Benjamin Blake.

THE rapid sale of the first edition of this tastily-designed album having necessitated a second, much care has been taken by the compiler to correct errors, and considerable additions have been made to the catalogue. It would still bear, we are obliged conscientiously to confess, some revisals, which we hope soon to see in a third edition; and, in the interim, would suggest the striking off of a page of emendations, which could with facility be appended, and render the work much more valuable. We have a great *penchant* for the beautiful stamps of Newfoundland, a correct notice of which has hitherto appeared in no catalogue, foreign or English; and as usual, they are greatly confused in the work under notice.

To juvenile collectors particularly we cordially recommend the work; the geographical, statistical, and other information contained therein, independently of its expressed purpose, being fully worth the outlay. The clever and caustic, but flippant criticiser of postage-stamp collectors, in No. 386 of *The Saturday Review*, might invest in a copy with advantage to himself, and get some information upon a subject upon which he appears at present *in nubibus*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I was thinking of replying to the different accusations contained in Nos. 2 and 3 of your publication, when No. 4 came into my hands, containing the critique on my *Illustrations*, which I am at present publishing, and to which I shall reply at the same time; begging you, sir, to be good enough to insert my reply in the next number of your valuable magazine.

The March number accuses me of having copied Mr. Brown's error in the first edition of his catalogue, on the subject of the Newfoundland stamps, among which he introduced a non-existing halfpenny emission. The author of the article forgot an essential circumstance,—the date of publication of the two catalogues. If he had done so he would have seen that *my* first edition appeared in January, 1862, while that of Mr. Mount Brown, if my memory serves me, did not see light till three or four months afterwards. So that, supposing there to be any copying in the case—the catalogues containing the same error—Mr. Brown copied mine.

The April number says I erroneously announced a new pattern with the royal arms for the kingdom of Italy. To convince this incredulous accuser, I shall refer him to the royal decree of May, 1862, creating a new type, replacing the stamps in use; the pattern, colours, and values according to the description in the third edition of my catalogue. If two stamps differing from those of the decree have been since issued, it does not prove me in error, but simply the slight attention paid to a royal decree in Italy.

With regard to No. 4, I beg to say that Mr. E. L. Pemberton is totally labouring under error in supposing that part of the impressions in my *Illustrations* had been made from fictitious stamps. The seven stamps he mentions as a faithful reproduction of the imitations, have been in my possession eight or nine years. I am myself fully persuaded of their authenticity, for, at the

time I procured them, there were comparatively few stamp collectors, and certainly no one had then thought of making counterfeits.

Some of the imperfections signalised proving to me, however, all the interest my reviewer attaches to my publication, I most sincerely thank him for the same. But those imperfections (which I must confess to) were caused by the confidence I had in my engraver, whose work was generally of irreproachable execution. I am willing to bear any justly-merited reproach.

The extreme care taken by your correspondent in comparing the engravings with authentic impressions, has only succeeded in detecting the omission of the almost-imperceptible dotting on the Bâle stamps; and I would ask if he thinks any engraver capable of producing two impressions of unmistakeable identity. He cannot but agree with me that it would be an impossibility. Nothing, then, proves that I have reproduced a counterfeit instead of an authentic stamp, since there must of necessity be always some difference.

Your correspondent also assigns me a talent I unfortunately do not possess, that of being able to copy stamps myself; if I had that ability, I should certainly not have committed the two mistakes in the inscriptions to which he alludes.

To hint a belief that such wholesale forgeries of stamps have never existed but in imagination, would be a slur on the ability of this acute critic. The want of rarity of the Buenos Ayres stamps will easily prove the non-necessity of employing a forgery in their case; the mistake in spelling the inscription as Ruenda, only taking place in consequence of a worn specimen having been sent the engraver, who took the *B* for an R, and the *o* for a d.

Mr. Pemberton remarks seven stamps being described (*rather vaguely*) in my work on the Falsification of Postage Stamps. If that gentleman would be good enough to give me the particulars of the stamps alluded to I should be much pleased, as, albeit author of the work in question, I own, in all humility, that I do not recollect noticing any stamps in particular. My astonishment was so great on reading this remark of his that, distrusting my memory, I wished to verify the fact by consulting a specimen, and not succeeding with one, I examined a number with equal want of success. At last, I found a fictitious Geneva stamp, but so entirely differing from the authentic ones (which are quite common), that Mr. Pemberton could never have paid me the ill compliment of fancying I could have made use of such a sorry imitation. It would, indeed, be droll were it to turn out that I described all these stamps, quite unconsciously, from individuals that Mr. Pemberton alone possesses!

To conclude, I would take advantage of the opportunity to thank most gratefully those parties who have been good enough to entrust me with stamps I did not myself possess, for the continuation of my *Postage Stamp Illustrations*; and I venture to trust that the possessors of the Van Diemen's Land tenpenny; the yellow 1 c. of the Confederate States; the Corrientes 1 real; the British Guiana 4 cents, red; and any Dutch Guiana, will be kind enough to lend them for the purpose of completing the fifteenth and probably the last number of my publication.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
Brussels. J. B. MOENS.

[Mons. Moens' insufficient knowledge of the English language, compelling him to rely on an imperfect translation of our own and Mr. Pemberton's critiques, has caused a misinterpretation of some passages, as will be readily perceived.—ED.]

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In the March number of your Magazine, I see mentioned, as a stamp not noticed in Mount Brown's Catalogue, a 'Canada Packet Postage, 12½ c., blue;' this, I suppose, is a stamp like the common 12½ c. in all respects except in colour; I should like to know whether any of your readers have seen a 12½ c. of this colour that has passed the post.

I have a 'maculate' 12½-c. Canada, *blue*, and also a 12½ c., *half of which is blue and half green*. It is a very simple thing to change the colour of the 12½ c. from green to blue, and I should like to know whether there is any proof of stamps having been *printed* of the latter colour.

I have no doubt that the colours of many stamps may be capable of being changed in this marked manner; though I should not advise any one with a budding taste for forgery to try experiments with any of his stamps, unless he be at least well grounded in practical dyeing: for he will probably find that most of the chemical reagents he may try, will either dissolve the colour off the stamps he puts in them, or gradually bleach them,—either of which results, if the stamps are of any value, is unsatisfactory.

I am in possession of a 20-c. Tuscan, issue of 1852, it is like the others of the same issue, but of a slate-grey colour; I do not find it mentioned in any catalogue; can you inform me if it is genuine, or whether it is probably made from the blue stamp: it has passed the post.

I possess also the following stamps:—1-anna Indian, red-brown; 1d. English, brown or blue; 40-c. French, brown; 40-c. ditto, yellow; 1-c. ditto, dark grey or lavender; 20-c. Belgian, blue-grey; 10-c. Dutch, magenta. The colours of all of which would entitle them to be considered as varieties, if they were genuine.

The above results of a few experiments of mine, will show how careful we must be in admitting any varieties in colour of stamps whose genuineness we consider proved by the accuracy of the engraving.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
Leeds. STEPHEN A. MARSHALL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I perceive that in your May number, the 'Diligencia' stamps are said to belong to the Argentine Confederation. This is a mistake, for I have all the three, and they are all stamped with the *Monte Video postmark*, by whose government they were issued.

Let me take this opportunity of informing your readers that upwards of two thousand four hundred designs were sent in to Government (in 1839) for the proposed envelopes and labels, so that collectors must not imagine those so carefully described by Dr. Gray to be all there are! The above fact was told me by the highest possible authority.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,
NEMO.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—May I be permitted to ask Messrs. Pemberton & Lewes, through the medium of your Magazine, for the proof of their statement, that no 10-c. Post Cantonal stamps have ever been issued at Geneva,—as I have direct proof that such stamps have been in circulation? I am curious to learn how two gentlemen, supposed to be so well versed in all matters relating to postage stamps, can have made such an egregious mistake.

Trusting that Messrs. L. & P. will give proofs in support of their assertion, and assuring you that mine shall be forthcoming at the proper time,

I remain, yours truly,

WILLIAM FREDERIC COOKE.

6, *Buckland Terrace, Dover.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. A. ARNOLD.—We have seen a genuine black one-penny New Zealand since our last.—Thanks for the correction, if correct.

DELTA, Paris.—Living in Paris, you can easily form your own judgment with regard to who are the best dealers.

H. E. W., Sandicroft.—The ocean postage, as we have said before, has never been used except with a current postage stamp appended to the envelope on which it was printed.—We do not like to set any value on stamps, as those rare at one time are comparatively common at another.

G. V. C., Cambridge.—A list of most of the publications on stamps may be seen in Dr. Gray's manual.—We have never seen a tenpenny English *without* threads. This, as well as the one shilling, green, were issued both as adhesives and envelopes.—The 8-sk. Norway, yellow, must be one of the chemical family, mentioned by our correspondent in the present number.—The portraits on the government stamps of the United States are those of Washington, Penn, Franklyn, and Lincoln.—The old franks are rather difficult to procure, as numbers of individuals have formed collections of them, but they may be often met with both from private friends and at curiosity shops.—We do not know of any dealer in postage stamps at Cambridge, but should there be a demand for them there, the supply will soon follow.

H. G. S., Manchester.—Unused *British* stamps cannot be sold without a license, and our own colonials may, perhaps, be in the same category. Our revenue officers cannot claim jurisdiction over the sale of foreign postage stamps.

CESTRIUM.—Your twopenny English, with *no* letters at any corner, must be an essay.—We have seen several of the penny envelopes perfectly colourless, and believe they were struck off to try the stamp.—The figure on the left side the Bahama 1d. will do as well for a shell as anything else.

SUBSCRIBER.—The Canton Berne stamp (which we engrave) is, we are informed, for bills or deeds; but the peculiar way of stamping it gives it the appearance of a used postage stamp.



TIMBROMANIAQUE, Dublin.—A tabular list of postage stamps and their countries published this month, would be incomplete the next, owing to the continued new issues.

PLYMOUTH POST.—There never was a penny blue English adhesive adopted. Lallier most probably had seen one of the blue penny essays.—The use of the Baden Land Post has been previously explained.—Your French stamp is one of those used by confectioners to denote the prices of their wares.—We shall be glad of a description of the Java stamp.

JOS. YOUNG.—There have been but *two* issues of the United States labels, but the five cents was *each* time printed in two colours, and the twenty-four cents of the later issue is also of two colours.

F. C. RICHARDSON, of New York.—You say, 'on good authority,' that the Inter. Rev. American stamps are *not* for postage, but are *all* for bills, receipts, bank cheques, &c. Will you kindly inform the ignorant why some of them are marked, 'Express,' and enlighten us by the description of an *express* bill or receipt?

BEGINNER.—All the individuals of the later issue of the United States have the letters U. S. in the lower corners.

BACHELOR OF ARTS.—The 'Ireland Private Office,' spaces in Lallier's Album, have ever been a mystery unsolvable by ourselves or any one else.

OCEANICUS.—We shall be glad to see the Barbadian stamps you mention, if you can forward them. We have never met with any answering the description.—The difference of the paper will readily distinguish proofs, such as Whymper's, from essays.—The latter term is never applied to any but those on *Government* approval, which would exclude the Ocean Postage stamp.

C. B. J.—There are numerous travesties of the Mulready envelope, such as you describe. They would not pass the post without an adhesive.—The second envelope you mention was one of the emanations of the advocates of an Ocean penny postage.—Your 60 kr. is an Austrian bill or receipt stamp.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

JAMES SHELTON, Grimsby, sends Stamps for inspection, or Priced List, on receipt of stamped envelope. Examples of wholesale prices, all unused, per doz.: Portugal, 5 rs., 10d.; 10 rs., 1/6; 25 rs., 2/6; Antigua, 1d., 4/; &c., &c. J. S. purchases any quantities of rare or obsolete stamps.

F. G. JONES, 87, Roscommon Street, Liverpool. Ionian Islands, 10d., Set; Luxembourg, 2/6, Set of 9; Lübeck and Bergedorf, 1/3, Set; Sandwich Islands, 5 cents, 9d.; Russian 10 kop., used, 4d. N.B.—Stamps bought.

PARAGUAY, ESSAYS, UNUSED, Price 1s. 6d. each. Complete Sets expected in a month. Colonial Agency, 10, Bridgewater Gardens, Barbican, London, E.C.

STAMPS RECEIVED AND SOLD (CHEAP) for Charitable Purposes. Contributions requested. List for one stamp. Agent, Mr. HUNN, Topsham, Devonshire.

Ready this day.

THE UNITED KINGDOM STAMP ADVERTISER. Price 1d.; post free, 2d. A clean unobliterated Stamp given with each number. For further particulars apply to LUXTON & GILL, Tavistock, Devon.

POCKET ALBUM for CRESTS, ARMS, and MONOGRAMS. Containing spaces arranged for 1200 varieties. Neatly bound, with pocket, flap, and elastic band. Roan, 2/; post free, 2/1: morocco or russia, 3/6; post free, 3/8: morocco or russia gilt, 4/; post free, 4/2. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Illustrated with Maps and Diagrams, and containing a full description of British, colonial, and Foreign Stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. Imperial oblong 8vo., cloth, clasp, 7/6; post free, 8/2. Bound in half-morocco, clasp, 10/; post free, 10/10. Bound in whole morocco, two clasps, gilt edges, 12/6; post free, 13/4.

'For the benefit of Collectors, Mr. JUSTIN LALLIER has just issued an admirable Album, which will be in extensive demand as soon as its existence is known. It contains a description of every known variety of *timbre poste*, so that a partially obliterated stamp may easily be recognised; and on the page opposite the description are spaces for mounting the stamps described, so that any Collector may, at a glance, see all his deficiencies.—*The Bookseller.*

E. DOBLE, 4, Upper Brook Street, Falmouth, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps, &c. Agents wanted. Price List for two stamps.

WOODS & PEMBERTON, Dealers in *Obsolete* Postage Stamps, Olive Street, Hartlepool. List for June sent on receipt of two stamps. Romagna, Set of 9, unused, *warranted genuine*, 45/ per Set.

A. B., 2, Bartholomew Street, Newbury, will send his List of Foreign Stamps on receipt of stamped envelope.

YOUR Time, Trouble, and Money will be saved, by sending for Stamps on Approval, to S. T., Post Office, Weymouth.

MESSRS. DECROIX & SQUIER, Bazaar, Dover, have a very large stock of Stamps, which they are selling off at moderate prices. On receipt of two postage stamps their List will be forwarded to any address. Stamps bought and exchanged. D. and S. will also send Stamps on approval; but stamped-directed envelope must be sent. DECROIX & SQUIER, Bazaar, Dover.

W. GREAVES, Arkley, Barnet, Herts, will send ten unused Foreign Stamps, post free, for 10d.; Sixteen unused ditto, 1/8.

NO STAMPS CHEAPER than those supplied by E. ENTWISTLE, Box W. 47, Post Office, Manchester. Send stamp for Price List.

S. T., Post Office, Weymouth, begs to inform his numerous Friends and Customers, that he continues to send out Stamps for approval on receipt of postage and list of requirements. All orders executed per return of post. Stamps bought or exchanged.

H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester, will send his Cheap Price List of upwards of 600 varieties of foreign Postage Stamps, used and unused, on receipt of stamped envelope. Collections of 100 varieties, 2/; 300 ditto, 10/; 500 ditto, 20/.

FOREIGN and COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS.—A great variety of Foreign and other Postage Stamps (used and unused) offered for Sale at low prices, by W. LINCOLN, jun. (at W. S. Lincoln & Son's), 462, New Oxford Street, London, W.C. Priced List sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

SEND IMMEDIATELY for Stamps on Approbation, and address, Mr. O. FLEET, Peckham, Surrey. N.B.—Must enclose two stamps.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. W. W. DOUST, High Street, Peckham, Surrey, has given over sending Stamps to order from List, but sends any amount of Stamps out on approbation, on receipt of two stamps. Collectors and Dealers should send for some, stating the class of stamps they wish, and how many of each sort.

WANTED TO PURCHASE, a Collection of Postage Stamps, comprising upwards of 1000 varieties, to a price not exceeding £40. All offers, and at the same time a catalogue of the Collection of the different varieties, to be made, post free, to Monsieur OSCAR BERGER-LEVRAULT, Libraire à Strasbourg, France.

J. I. COULTHARD (late Jas. J. Woods) has a large variety of used and unused Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps for Sale. List on receipt of two stamps. J. I. C. will also buy a cheap Collection. Queen Street, Hartlepool.

R. P. HARLEY, 14, Gloucester Street, Glasgow, will send his June List, and an unused Stamp, on receipt of stamped envelope. R. P. H. desires to correspond with parties residing on the Continent, as he has large numbers of Colonial Stamps for exchange.

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.—A Collection of 700 Stamps, of which more than half are rare, unmixed specimens; cost 25 guineas; to be sold for 10 guineas. A great bargain. Full description on receipt of stamped-directed envelope. Address, A. THORP, 2, Old Bond Street, Bath.

COMPETITION IN PRICES DEFIED.—JOHN S. ROSS will send his June List of 900 varieties of Stamps, including Parma, Modena, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Argentine Confederation and Republic, and many others too numerous to mention. Send stamped envelope immediately for List. Correspondents on the Continent wanted. Address, 136, West Graham Street, Glasgow.

SCARCE AND OBSOLETE STAMPS.—W. TATE, 77, Woodville Terrace, Breck Road, Liverpool, sends his new Midsummer List for two stamps. Note:—Bahamas, British Guiana, Barbadoes, Modena, Confederate States, Sweden, Mauritius, &c., at lowest prices. Portugal, Set of 5, 2/6; Russian 10 kop., 4d. each; Antigua, 3d. each; English 1d. black, unused, 1d. each; Saxony, old issue, 6d. each, &c., &c.

HALT! STOP AND READ THIS.—R. P. HARLEY & Co., 18, Hanover Street, Glasgow, still continue to give an unused stamp with their Monthly List. Sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope.

SEND a STAMPED ENVELOPE to W. H. C., York Square, Brixham, for List that defies competition; for instance, Antigua, 6d.; Liberia, 1/; and a great many others, at equally low prices.

STAMPS!! FIFTY VARIETIES, 5s., Free. R. EVANS, 20, Park Side, Knightsbridge.

OBSOLETE, RARE, and UNUSED STAMPS sent on Approval on receipt of stamped envelope. A. B., 57, York Place, Edinburgh, has on hand a large and varied stock of Colonials and Continentals, at moderate prices. Foreign Correspondents wanted.

ADDRESSES of CONTINENTAL STAMP DEALERS to be had at C. W. DEADMAN'S, 26, Adelaide Square, Windsor, at 2/6 each. C. W. D. will forward his Monthly List on receipt of stamp for postage.

WANTED, STAMPS of LIBERIA, ST. HELENA, Colombia, New Granada, Western Australia, and Sydney. If the prices are reasonable, a large quantity will be taken. Address, J. B. MORNS, Galérie Bortier, No. 7, Brussels.

THE CHEAPEST STAMPS are to be obtained of S. DAVIS, 18, Granby Street, Leicester. Stamps sent on Approbation on receipt of stamped envelope. A packet of 50 different Stamps, of which 20 are unobliterated, sent, post free, 5/. Price List, two stamps.

TO PARTIES SELLING OFF. H. G. SMITH, 12, Chestnut Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester, begs to inform those who are selling off, that he has a ready market for any number of Stamps at a moderate commission. Coin Department carried on as usual. Lists on receipt of stamped envelope.

MR. WILLIAM FREDERIC COOKE, Dover, will, on receipt of stamp, send selections from his magnificent Stock of Rare Stamps for inspection. For Sale, a Collection of 500. Immediate applications necessary.

THE SHILLING ALBUM is a neat and serviceable Book, strongly bound in cloth, and ruled to contain 1400 Stamps. Post free, 13 stamps. A Collection of about 450, many rare, in Lallier's Album, price £7 10s. Stamps sent on Approbation; also Bought. WILLIAM PEGG, 11, Holles Street, Dublin.

ALPHA, 34, Northbrook Street, Newbury, has a quantity of Rare Stamps for Sale. Send a stamp for List.

100,000 FOREIGN STAMPS to be Sold off, from 4d. a dozen! at H. BENDER'S, Foreign Bookseller, 3, Little Newport Street, Leicester Square, London. Foreign Stamps supplied at prices far below those usually charged. Collections completed at the shortest notice; and several, from a hundred upwards, on view. Colonial Stamps bought and exchanged in any quantity.

EDWARD UPJOHN, Bookseller, is now able to supply all kinds of Foreign Stamps at reasonable prices; also Proof Impressions of Rare Stamps, by H. Whymper. Stamp Publications, Catalogues, and Albums. Country orders promptly executed. 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

ADDRESSES.—Dutch Guiana, Costa Rica, Reunion, and Nicaragua, 2/ each; other places 1/ each. Colonial Agency, 10, Bridgewater Gardens, London, E.C.

CHEAP STAMPS. J. PARNALY, Dover Street, West Hartlepool, will send ten unused stamps for 1/. Send stamp for List.

W. DIAMOND, Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, London. Dealer in Postage Stamps of all nations. Foreign Stamps sent per post on receipt of uncut penny postage stamps. Collections purchased. Any communication requiring a reply must contain a stamp for that purpose.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have now on hand several rare Stamps to dispose of cheap; *e. g.*, Monte Video, 180 centesimos, green, 1/6; 240 c., red, 2/; *Diligencia*, 80 c., green, 1/6; 1 real, scarlet, 1/6; Argentine Confederation, 5 centavos, 1/3; ditto Republic, 5c., red, 1/6; 10 c., green, 1/8; Portugal, 10 reis, yellow, 2d. each, or 1/8 per doz.; United States, Envelopes, 1 c, 4d. each; 3 c, 5d. each. All the above are unused. The following are used:—Bahamas, 1d., 4d., and 6d., 6d. each; Buenos Ayres, 1 peso, blue, 9d.; 1 p., pink, 10d.; 2 p., blue, 1/; 2, vermilion, 1/; 4 reales, green, 9d.; France, Republic, 10 c., yellow, 10d.; 15 c., green, 10d.; 20, black, 4d.; 25, blue, 6d.; 1 franc, carmine, 10d.; Presidency, 10, yellow, 1/ each; 25, blue, 6d.; Empire (used only 3 months during 1854), 25 c., blue, 8d.; 1 franc, carmine, 1/9; Monte Video, 60 c., 5d. Price Lists of about 850 varieties forwarded on receipt of two postage stamps. All orders executed and forwarded per return of post. Remittances above 5/ to be made in P. O. O., payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool.

OMEGA, Everton, Liverpool, begs to call the attention of Collectors of Foreign Postage Stamps to his new List, which will be forwarded to any address on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. The following will suffice to show the nature of the prices in general:—Antigua, 1d., 4d.; Bahamas, 1d., 4d.; 4d., 9d.; Baden, 1 kr., 1d.; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d.; British Guiana, 1 c., 2d.; 4c., 3d.; Canada (envelopes), 5 c., 9d.; 10 c., 9d.; Greece, 1 lept., 1d.; 2, 1½d.; 5, 3d.; Liberia, 6 c., 1/; 12 c., 1/3; Luxembourg, 1 c., 1d.; Nevis, 1d, 4d.; 4d., 9d.; Newfoundland, 1d., 4d.; 2d., 5d.; New Granada, 5 c., 1/; Papal States, ½, 2d.; 1, 2d.; Prince Edward Island, 1d., 4d.; 2d., 5d.; St. Lucia, red, 5d.; blue, 10d.; green, 1/; Venezuela, ½, 1, 1 c., 5d. each, or 1/2 the Set of 3; Wallachia, 3 paras, 6d.; 6 paras, 9d., Western Australia, 1d., rose, 6d.; 2d., blue, 1/; 4d., red, 1/6; &c., &c.; all unused.

MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London, has on hand the following Stamps, at low prices. *Unused.*—Buenos Ayres, Set of three, 3/; Spanish Official (oval), Set of four, 3/; Moldavia, 5 paras, 2/; Ceylon, 1d., 2d.; 3d., 4d.; 4d., 6d.; envelopes, Set of ten, 14/; United States envelopes, Set of ten, 10/. *Used and Obsolete.*—French Republic, old Saxony, old Belgium, old U. S. Post Office, 5 and 10 cents; also stamps of Chili and Peru. Price List, post free, 3d.

ONE PENNY EACH.—Baden, 1 kr. (7d. per doz.); Bavaria, 1 kr.; Brunswick, ½ s. gr.; Bergedorf, ½ sch. (1/2 per Set); France, 2 c.; Germany, ½ and ½ s. gr., and 1 kr.; Hamburg, ½ sch.; Hanover, 3 pfen.; Lubeck, ½ sch. (1/2 per Set); Luxemburg, 1 and 2 c., (3/3 per Set of 9); Mecklenburg, ½ sch.; Portugal, 5 reis; Switzerland, 2 c., &c. Ionian Islands, 11d. per Set; Boten Institut, ten kinds, 11d.; Local American, 5/ per doz. Price List sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope, by C. H. CLARK, Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps, Liverpool.

GIVEN AWAY!!! Mr. FRANK E. MILLAR, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N.E., begs to inform his friends that his Monthly Price List for June is now ready, price, post free, two stamps; and that with every List he will give, *gratis*, one of his private English Postage Stamps which is now in use. Sample, from Price List, all clean copies:—French Colonies, 1 c., 4d.; 5 c., 6d.; 10 c., 6d.; and 40 c., 9d. or 2/ the four; Greek, 4/, Set of 7; Turkish, 4/, Set of 4; Hong Kong, 3 c., 6d.; Ionian Islands, 1/, Set of 3; Confederate States, from 6d. each; Local American, from 4d. each. All communications (excepting orders over 2/6) requiring a reply, must contain a stamp for that purpose. Address in full to Mr. FRANK E. MILLAR, as above. N.B.—All the German States Stamps at nearly cost price.

BETA, Barlow Street, Ardwich, near Manchester, can supply Collectors and others with every kind of Postage Stamps. The following will suffice to show the nature of the prices in general:—Collections of 100, 4/; 200, 13/; 300, 28/; 500, 80/; all different kinds, and good copies. Chili, 4d. each; Greek, 3d. each; Hong Kong, 2 and 8 cents, 6d. each; Venezuela, 7d. each; old Belgium, 4d. each; Spanish, 1850-1-2-3-4, at 1/4 each; old Brunswick, ½ and 1, at 3d. each; old Wurtemberg, 3d. each. The following are unused:—Hanover, 1 and 2, envelope, 3d. each; Brazil, 10 and 20, 4d. and 6d. each; American 1-cent envelope, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz.; French 2 c., 5d. per doz.; Oldenburg, 1/2 per doz.; Hamburg, ½, 10d. per doz.; Bergedorf, ½, and Lubeck, ½, 8d. per doz. Beta of Lubeck, 1/3 per Set. 1 and 1½ Mecklenburg, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz.; and others too numerous to mention. Beta also Buys Stamps and Collections. P.S.—Stamps sent on inspection on receipt of stamped envelope.

JACOB GEM, 71, Brunswick Road, Liverpool, has the following Foreign Stamps for sale:—Hanover, first issue, 1 g. gr., green, 5d.; 1-30, crimson, 1-30, red, 1-15, blue, 3d. each; 1-10, yellow, 5d.; second issue, 1 g. gr., 5d.; 1-30, 1-15, 3d. each; 1-10, 5d.; third issue, 3 pf., ½ gr., 1 gr., 1d. each; 2 gr., 3 gr., brown, 1½d. each; envelopes (old), ½ gr., green, 1 gr., rose, 2 gr., blue, 9d. each; Baden (old, figure in centre), 3 kr., yellow, 3 kr., blue, 3 kr., green, 6 kr., green, 4d. each; 6 kr., yellow, 9 kr., pink, 3d. each; Wirtemberg, first issue, 1, 6d.; 3, 5d.; 6, 5d.; 9, 6d.; Prussia, first issue, 4 pf., 9d.; 6 pf., 6d.; 1, 2, 3, 3d. each; second issue (plain ground), 1, 4d.; 2, 6d.; 3, 4d.; third issue (chequered ground), 1, 2, 3, 1½d. each; Mecklenburg Schwerin, 4-4, 2d.; Brunswick (old), ½, 6d.; Switzerland (new issue), 5, 10, 1d. each; Austria, first issue, 3, 6, 9 kr., 3d. each; Luxemburg (old), 10 c. (head), 9d. each; Oldenburg, first issue, ½, 6d.; 1-30, 4d.; 1-15, 6d.; 1-10, 6d.; second issue, 1 gr., 3d.; Saxony (old), ½, 6d.; 1, 3d.; 2, 3, 4d. each. All the foregoing are used, but in good condition. Collectors are respectfully solicited to send a stamped-directed envelope for a List, which embraces all the Continental and Colonial Stamps now in use.

JAMES ROBINSON, 153, Crown Street, Liverpool, has the following Stamps for Sale:—Antigua, 4d.; St. Lucia, 4d.; St. Vincent, 4d.; Grenada, 4d.; Prince Edward's Island, 4d., Portugal, 5 reis, 1d.; 10 reis, 2d.; or Set of 5, 2/; Greek, 1 and 2 lept., 1d. each; Ionian Islands, 9d. per Set; Turkey, 4/6 per Set; Lubeck and Bergedorf, 1/3 per Set; Luxembourg, 2/ per set. All the above are unused. Lists sent on receipt of two stamps. N.B.—Obliterated stamps bought.

FOR NOTHING!! Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., has just issued his June Price List, and will send the same, and one of his private Envelope Stamps, free, to any address, on receipt of two penny postage stamps. Extract from Price List:—Turkish, 4/, Set of 4; Greek, 4/, Set of 7; Ionian Islands, 1/, Set of 3; French Colonies, 1 c., 4d.; 5 c. and 10 c., 6d. each; and 40 c., 9d., or 2/ the four. All the above are unused specimens. Canadian Stamps of every description. Several thousand old and rare Stamps on hand, at very low prices. All communications requiring a reply (excepting orders over 2/6), must contain a stamped-directed envelope for that purpose. All the German States Stamps at about cost price. N.B.—Hong Kong, 2 cent, at 6d. each, clean.

D. Mc CORKINDALE, 37, Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, would call attention to his Summer List of Foreign Stamps. His prices are much cheaper than formerly; for example: 1d. Antigua, 5d.; French Republic, 40 c., 3d.; 10 c., 20 c., 25 c., 5d.; 15 c., 6d.; Presidency, 10 c. and 25 c., 8d.; Denmark, *old*, 4 R.B.S., 3d.; Hamburg, ½, 1d.; Saxony, *old*, 1, 2, 3, n. gr., each 3d.; old ½, 6d.; U. States, env., 1 c., 3d.; 3 c., 4d.; Venezuela, ½, 1, 2, rls., 6d. As he has all the stamps mentioned, no delay will be occasioned in replying to correspondents. D. Mc C. also buys Stamps.

ON RECEIPT of STAMPED ENVELOPE you will receive a List of Foreign Stamps at very low prices, from A. BENSON, Thrapston Street, Hartlepool. Also, Addresses from Abroad, for 18 stamps, which will enable you to procure stamps free of commission.

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A BARGAIN. For Sale, a beautiful Collection of upwards of 300 *rare unused* Stamps. Price only £5. For all particulars apply to S. B. WILSON, 25, Albion Street, Darlington.

R. ROSS, 68, St. Vincent Street, sends his List on receipt of stamped envelope. A few examples annexed:—Mauritius, 1d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 1/; Natal, 1d., 3d., and 6d.; Papal States, 7 and 8 baj.; Queensland, 1d. and 6d.; Van Dieman's Land, 4d.; all at 3d. each; New Brunswick, 1 cent, 3d.; *&c., &c.* Others equally cheap.

STAMPS.—Brazil, 10, 60, 4d. each; Greece, 1, 2, 10, 80, 3d. each; old Saxony, 4d.; Hanover, old, 1, 1-15, 1-30, 3d. each. Few sent for inspection for a stamped envelope. Cresta, 4d. per doz. EDWARD KETTLETT, 14, Kingsmead Square, Bath.

ROBERT MELDRUM, 229, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, will send his List of 800 different Stamps for one stamp. R. M. wishes to correspond with persons on the Continent, he having large numbers of British Colonial Stamps to change.

TO COLLECTORS.—To be disposed of, a Collection of 1030 different varieties of Stamps. It will be sold very cheap, as the Advertiser is going abroad. Offers, *&c.*, concerning it to be made to F. P. KELLYS, Post Office, Vigo Street, Regent Street, London, where a large variety of Stamps are always on view, at very reasonable prices.

JAMES GRANT, 29, West George Street, Glasgow, will send his Price List, consisting of 800 different Postage Stamps, all very cheap, on receipt of stamped envelope.

STAMPS! C. TAW, 57, Joy Street, Belfast, has a large stock of Stamps on hand, and is willing to sell at the lowest possible prices. Price Lists can be obtained by forwarding a stamp to above address. Along with every List a Foreign Stamp is sent free. Stamps sent on approbation.

C. A. M., 22, Upper Baker Street, Regents Park, London, N.W., will forward his printed Priced List on receipt of two stamps.

STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS! AMICUS, Gorton Street, Hyde Road, Ardwich, can supply Dealers and Collectors with every kind of Postage Stamps: the cheapest in the trade. Examples:—Chili, 3, Spanish 2 reals, 2d. each: old Brunswick, ½, and 1, 2d. each; 1 cent American envelope, 3d. each. 2/3 per doz.: French 1 and 2 c., 5d. per doz.; ½ Hamburg, 10d. per doz.; ½ Lubeck, 10d. per doz.; ½ Bergedorf, 10d. per doz.; 10 r. Brazil, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz.; and others too numerous to mention. P.S.—Stamps bought and sold on commission. Stamps sent on inspection. Agents wanted on the Continent and here.

MESSRS. HOOPER & FORWARD (Late J. Hooper), 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C. Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealers in the trade. N.B.—Unused Ionian Islands, 9d. per Set of three. All other Stamps at equally low prices. Just published, the fourth edition of their Price Catalogue, describing form, colour, value, date of issue, &c., of 1000 varieties. This is the cheapest and most comprehensive yet published. Sent, post free, on receipt of a stamped envelope.

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C. G., Acomb House, Manchester, can supply Collectors and Dealers in Foreign Stamps, at the lowest possible rates. Examples: (*used copies*) Buenos Ayres, 1 p., blue and rose, 6d. each; Chili, 5 c., 2d. each; Monte Video, 60 c., 4d. each; China, 2 c., 6d. each; Spain, old issues, at 1/3 to 1/6 each. *Unused* copies: Belgium, 1 c., 3d. per doz.; Bergedorf or Lubeck, ½ sch., 1d. each, or Set, 1/3; Bremen, 2/6 per Set of six; Canada (env.), 5 c., 3d. each; Chili, 1 c., ½d. each; China, 2 c., 9d. each; ½ c., 1/3 each; France, 1 c., 6d. per doz.; Hamburg, ½ sch., 1d. each; Hanover, Bestellgeld and ½ gr., 1d. each; 3 pf., 6d. per doz.; Luxembourg, 1 c., 4d. per doz.; 2 c., 5d. per doz.; 4 c., 8d. per doz.; Mecklenburg, ½ sch., 6d. per doz.; Wallachia, 3 p., 6d. each; 6 p., 8d. each; 30 p., 1/ each; Portugal, 5 r., 9d. per doz.; 10 r., 2/6 per doz.; Helvetia, 2 c., 6d. per doz.; 3 c., 3d.; 5 c., 1/; Turkey, 5d. and 1d. each. The above are only a few specimens; but Price List will be sent on receipt of stamped envelope. Collections of 50 varieties, 1/8; 100, 3/6; 200, 12/6; 500, £3 10s.; 600, £5 5s. N.B.—Collectors supplied; and Collections made up or increased.

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Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

NOTICE.—All purchasers of the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE *are entitled to receive with the May and succeeding numbers an unobliterated Foreign or Colonial Postage Stamp.*

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE FIRST CONTINUED.—PART V.

TREASURE TROVE.

'Child of sorrow, sin, or shame!
Lacking father, mother, name;—
To a hard, cold world he came.'

Short as had been the time expended by the Tuscan lion on the narration of what he had witnessed in the artist's room, the Cross was beginning to fidget about uneasily, impatient of any talk but its own. The other perceived this; and fearing he would not be allowed to proceed at all, if he did not succumb somewhat to his imperious co-mate, hastened to remark that perhaps it would give a clearer understanding of the conversation during the interview between Lorenzo and the ruffian, the substance of which he was prepared to recapitulate, if his worthy friend would render some account of the artist's early life, and other circumstances connecting him and the boy Carlo with the high-born family of the Marchese di Castiglione and the beautiful Adine.

Graciously acknowledging the politeness of the Lion, the Cross, nothing loth, availed itself of the opportunity of resuming its narrative.

'It is the old, old story:—a youth, ardent, aspiring, enthusiastic, rich in every endowment of all-bountiful Nature, with an artist's adoration of external, and a mental appreciation of internal, excellence, is thrown into the society of a paragon of perfection, and how could the result be otherwise?

"The dart of Cupid pierced the inmost core;
He look'd, and, loving, liv'd but to adore."

What to him was the vast chasm between himself and his idol! What if he was, so to say, obscure, friendless, virtually name-

less, with nothing to depend on but the wondrous talent of making the inanimate canvas live and glow !—did he not feel, in his inmost soul, that his own qualities far outweighed those of any or all of his numerous competitors! What was their love to his!

'Thus sings the poet :—

> "Man's love is of his life a thing apart;
> 'Tis woman's sole existence."

This holds not good in the fervent regions of the South; less so with such a temperament as Lorenzo's. With him, love *was* his existence. He felt capable of any daring achievement, any painful sacrifice, to win his mistress. Poring over the romantic, legendary lore of Italy, telling how fair damosels set their admirers well-nigh impracticable tasks before obtaining the guerdon of their favours, he felt no labour could be too difficult to endure, no adventure too hazardous to undertake, no enemy too formidable to encounter, could he but hope to win the prize at last.

'His was love indeed ;—such as is idealised in the Eros of the ancients, "Of the earth, earthy;"—not that celestial sentiment of self-abnegation, devoid of all aspirations but for the happiness of the object of devotion. *This* is friendship etherealized, religious affection, heavenly attachment,—what you will ; but it is not LOVE. Lorenzo would have nobly perished *with*, would have gladly died *for*, Adine; but he could not resign, he could not endure to think of her as another's.

'Some score of years before the opening of my tale, Carlo Verico, an old engraver, and his wife, dwelt in a narrow street in Florence, abutting on the Via delle Cantonelle. They had one son, Filippo, the villainous uncle of little Carlo, then a scampish, good-for-nothing ragamuffin, and a daughter, Paola, the boy's mother, ten or a dozen years older than her brother.

'The aged couple and their daughter were seated, one evening in the dreary month of November, over a scanty supper; for things went not too well with old Carlo, and, poor as he was, his readiness to assist the poorer ever prevented him from doing more than keeping the wolf from the door. As usual, young Filippo was "on the loose," lounging about in some café or casino.

'Passionately addicted to gambling, like many others of his countrymen, he was continually looking out for companions with the same propensity, and found only too many ready to consort with him in the excitement of cards or dice. His own small gains as office-boy in a merchant's counting-house not allowing him the means of staking as he could wish, and ever on the prowl after those whose pockets were more amply furnished, many a young son of an opulent trader, and sometimes even scion of a noble house—partly by luck, but still more by a dexterous and unscrupulous use of eye and hand—he contrived to ease of a considerable portion of his pocket-money, only to lose it in turn to older and greater adepts in knavery than himself.

'A knock was heard at the door.

'"That boy is come home at last; but no wonder he stays away from such poor fare," was the mother's exclamation, with a mother's excuse for her child. But she was mistaken; it was not Filippo, but an officer of justice from the Bargello, requiring the attendance of Carlo, to answer some interrogations respecting his son.

'The good old man placidly took leave of his weeping wife and daughter, and followed the messenger to the court of justice, where he found that Filippo had been apprehended on offering for sale a valuable bracelet composed of large beads of uncut emeralds.

'On the most rigid examination, and even after threat of torture—which Filippo was shrewd enough to be fully aware would not be put into execution under the paternal government of the Grand Duke—nothing could be wrung from him but that he picked up the jewel in the street, near the Basilica of San Lorenzo.

'Some of the emeralds being engraved with curious unknown characters or cabalistic devices, it was thought he had purloined it from his grandfather, to whom it might have been entrusted as a pattern for copying these mysterious emblems; and the old man had been consequently sent for to ascertain the facts of the case.

'On his disclaimer of all knowledge of the article, and its priceless value and peculiar appearance assuming the probability of a speedy recognition by its rightful owner, when it would be easily ascertainable whether it had been lost or stolen, the undertaking of the old engraver was entered into for the appearance of his son when requisite, and they were allowed to leave the court together; the valuable bracelet being, of course, detained the while, to be advertised for identification.

'Filippo soon contrived to give his father the slip, and escape the questions he did not choose to answer; and the poor old engraver was trudging slowly homeward, when, passing near San Lorenzo's Church, he was startled at hearing the feeble cry of an infant. Guided by the sound, he soon perceived the source whence it proceeded, in the shape of a little creature not more than six months old. The kind-hearted old man immediately stooped down, and gently taking it in his arms, was horrified at perceiving the poor little infant bleeding from a severe wound in its forehead.

'Being so near home, he decided on taking it to his wife, whose compassionate heart he well knew would not object to the trouble of attending the innocent sufferer. On reaching his dwelling, a few brief words sufficed to allay the women's anxiety; for Carlo Verico, much as he unwillingly mistrusted his son's principles, had sufficient confidence in his sagacity to be convinced that he could not have nefariously obtained the valuable piece of jewelry found in his possession, as it would have been hopeless to attempt turning it to account in that case without certainty of detection.

'While still listening to the hurried recital, the good woman and her daughter, with intuitive feeling of what was requisite, were washing the blood from its face, and fondly cherishing the strange baby. It was quite cold, and seemed to have been stunned by a fall upon the pavement, and only so far recovered as to give vent to its suffering by a feeble moaning. In fact, it was evident that if some of the blood from the wound had not slowly trickled down into its mouth, and thus revived it with its own warm life-fluid, the poor little creature would never have got over the severe blow it must have received from its fall upon the hard stones.

'After it had been well warmed and washed by its attentive nurses, and the cravings of nature satisfied with a little milk that fortunately remained from supper, the three heads were laid together to consult what was to be done next, when it was unanimously agreed that the babe must remain where it was, for that night at least.

'Scarcely had this determination been resolved on, than the truant Filippo returned, who, though not much given to betray emotion of any kind, started, and seemed much disturbed at the sight of the unexpected addition to the household. Nevertheless, he curtly evaded all inquiries by taking himself off to bed, soon followed by his relatives, the little interloper sharing the couch of Paola.

'Why was Filippo agitated at the appearance of the infant? A few hours since, he was passing a low casino in the Via dei Martelli. Owing to the time of the year, though not late in the afternoon it was already dark; and a female rushed out, bearing a bundle which she placed in his arms with a frenzied look of appeal, and hurried off, closely pursued by a man of colour, who had just caught sight of her, but had not observed her accosting Filippo.

'In great surprise at the occurrence, the youth walked on for some little time with the bundle, but was still further amazed at feeling it move, and found on examination it was an infant he was carrying in his arms. Then it was that his quick and greedy eye caught sight of the emerald bracelet, which was clasped as a necklace round the neck of the babe. This he eagerly seized; and happening that moment to be passing a dead wall near the Church of San Lorenzo, no witness being by, he dashed down his burden on the ground, and made off to try and dispose of his rich prize, with what success we have already seen.

'Who shall say if that blow on the head of the innocent infant had not some deleterious effect upon the delicate organization of the brain; and if all the swerving from rectitude in the future career of the man, might

not be attributable to the selfish brutality of Filippo towards the unoffending child?'

PART VI.

OHIMÈ!

'That one so low should dare aspire so high!
Why not? The smallest and the meanest fly
Ascends the proud cathedral's topmost tower:
The vilest insect seeks the fairest flower.'

'NOTWITHSTANDING the strictest investigation for traces of the deserters of the child, and repeated advertisements after the owner of the bracelet, no claimant appearing for either, the Marchese di Castiglione, one of the magistrates, on satisfactorily ascertaining the worthy character of old Carlo, offered to allow him an annual stipend for the maintenance of the little foundling, retaining the jewel for further inquiries; for, although Filippo carefully kept his own counsel, and ignored all knowledge of the baby, the magistracy could not avoid entertaining some notion of a connection between the animate and inanimate treasures.

'Such was the first introduction of the old engraver to the Marquis; and under his patronage, for some years comparative plenty blessed the household; albeit the charitable disposition of the old man, and the extravagance of Filippo, prevented any accumulation of this world's goods; and after the marriage of his daughter, and decease of his wife, who had been some slight check to imposition, though not to any relief of real distress, want was no unfrequent visitor in the now reduced household.

'The Marquis himself, at no time wealthy, was kept impoverished, like old Carlo, by the extravagance of his eldest son, the father of Bernardo,—the younger residing in Germany with his princely bride; and it was not until her decease—not long following that of her husband, who, as well as his brother, had died some time before the period of my story—that the large revenues of Adine, of whom he had been appointed sole guardian, enabled the old nobleman once more to resume the magnificent style of living commensurate with his rank, and the generosity of hand prompted by the benevolent dictates of his heart.

'Meanwhile the infant—whom his protectors had named Lorenzo, after the patron saint of the church near which he had been discovered, and Dolci, in honour of the celebrated artist, about one of whose paintings the engraver was then engaged—emerged from infancy to youth.

'Cradled in an atmosphere of art, and environed with models of excellence, both in form and colour, no marvel that Lorenzo grew up an artist. The child amused himself with copying the choice specimens scattered about the workroom of his padre, as he called him; and the youth was one of the most promising students of the Academia; the greater portion of his time being employed in imitating the marvellous *chefs d' œuvre*, so numerous in Florence; but he yet found time, under the instruction of a friend of his foster-father's, one of the sub-librarians of the Biblioteca Marucelliana, to imbibe a far more than superficial knowledge of the classic and modern tongues, and the historical and mythic deeds of saints and heroes.

'Previous to the marriage of his kind protector's daughter, and the decease of her mother—which followed a few years afterwards, when Lorenzo was about fifteen, and whose death-bed sufferings he alleviated with the most affectionate and unremitting attention, thus amply repaying the care bestowed upon his early childhood—the boy led a calm and happy life, the even tenor of which was broken only by occasional disputes with Filippo, between whom and himself there seemed ever a deep, if unacknowledged, antipathy; and who took every opportunity of annoying his younger companion, till the boy grew strong enough to offer active resistance to any bullying attacks, and the cowardice of the elder then prompted him to a tacit avoidance of his company.

'For some little time longer the trio resided together, ere "the silver cord was broken," and the good old engraver, full of years and virtues, was gathered to his fathers. Then, Filippo greedily seizing and disposing of all available property, which his

extravagance was not long in frittering away, Lorenzo was driven to seek that home for himself in which we first found him. About the same time arrived the orphan grandchild of the Marchese in Florence, and Lorenzo was engaged by the old noble to give instruction in painting to the youthful heiress.

'The result might be easily guessed. Long unaware himself of the real nature of his sentiments, it was not till the avowals of other admirers, and more especially of the unworthy Bernardo, that Lorenzo became conscious of the flame consuming him, and felt, however unwillingly, the utter hopelessness of his passion.

'Paola and her husband were carried off by a fever; and Filippo, with his accustomed love of greed, taking unceremonious possession of the little they left behind, in fact, if not in act, turned young Carlo out of doors. The boy naturally fled for refuge to Lorenzo, who as naturally returned to him the affection so unsparingly bestowed upon his own helplessness.

'Happy hours were they for both, spent in the library of the Marquis;—while Lorenzo engaged in the welcome duty of instructing the object of his then unacknowledged admiration, little Carlo, who usually accompanied him, amused himself with reading, drawing, or arranging his collection of postage stamps, the taste for which, long pervading central Europe, had but just partially penetrated as far as Italy;—a happiness clouded only by the ungenerous behaviour of Bernardo, who seldom entered the room without some pointed allusion to foundlings and beggars, which the gentle interference of Adine alone prevented from generating an unseemly altercation between her tutor and her cousin.

'At last came the bitter awaking from the pleasing dream. Unwitting of the sentiments of his mistress towards himself—for Adine ever treated him with the like unvarying sweetness of manner evinced towards all with whom she came in contact—and maddened by the increasing familiarity of Bernardo, too evidently encouraged by the Marquis,

"Prudence, all powerless, gave reluctant way;—
Despairing jealousy usurped the sway."

One unfortunate day, when Carlo, who might have been some check to his rashness, chanced to be absent, Lorenzo so far forgot himself as to pour forth his feelings with all the fervid eloquence of the sons of the South, regardless of the attempted interruption and evident terror of Adine, who had just caught a glimpse of her cousin at a distant door.

'He had indeed been there, and, divining the truth from the artist's gestures, though too far off to catch the words, had treacherously hastened to apprise the Marchese, who arrived to behold the lowly aspirant at the feet of his granddaughter.

'Sternly ordered by the indignant noble to quit the palace, and goaded to fury by the taunts of his triumphant rival, the unhappy youth, excited to offer him violence, was ignominiously expelled by the crowd of assembled menials.'

The scene seemed visibly represented before my eyes: I saw the unfortunate lover rudely handled, and vainly endeavouring to defend himself from his numerous assailants: and, like Mrs. Brown at the play, interfering where I had no business, or, as the pithy Spanish proverb humorously renders it, 'not sitting in my own shirt,' I aimed a blow with doubled fist at one of the foremost in the fray, and———awoke, to find I had dashed down my gold repeater from the watch-hook to the floor, smashed the glass, scratched the face, and grazed the skin off my hand!

(To be continued).

'A HINT TO NEGRO EMANCIPATORS.'

NOT long ago in the *Sémaphore* appeared a letter from a wiseacre of Marseilles, who thought his sapience had discovered a famous mare's nest. We give a translation for the amusement of our readers, and next month will insert a lengthened and clever reply from a Parisian amateur, which has been printed in Moens' magazine for last month, but for which we have not room in the present number.

'Every man engaged in business, or who is suspected of holding foreign correspondence, no matter where, cannot show himself without being pestered for postage stamps.

'Not only children of a small, but those of a larger growth, devote themselves now-a-days, with a perfect *furore*, to the collection of those little squares appended to letters in payment of their postage.

'These squares, representing sovereigns' heads, Phrygian caps, animals, and numbers of other emblems, are destined to figure away in an album, where they form a pretty strange piece of mosaic work.

'The pupils of our schools do not confine themselves, in our town, to begging for stamps from their parents or friends, but these young and zealous collectors repair to the streets leading to the post offices, and petition the merchants, whose well-known habit it is in our city, to open and read their correspondence in the streets.

'This mania for collecting postage stamps has arrived at such a pitch that the result is a considerable traffic, which, if we are to believe a Parisian journal, has aroused the attention of the post-office authorities.

'It has been found out, for instance, that French stamps already used are sent in shoals to Germany, and especially to England; and the question has been asked if it were really the case that stamp collectors absorbed these valueless stamps in such large numbers, and if some illicit traffic were not hid under this *timbromanie;* if, in short, these same ink-spotted and cancelled stamps were not the objects of a guilty speculation, and if, after a good washing, they were not a second time put into circulation.

'It is said that an inquiry has been instituted by the postmaster-general, to make a strict examination of this question, and take measures to prevent the fraud which might result from the reiterated employment of the same stamps.

'We are assured that an amateur of collections of this sort, hurt by this suspicion, has given the most satisfactory explanation respecting the postage stamps sent to England. According to him, the aim of collectors would not only be irreproachable, but laudable and even admirable,—for the produce of the sale of these postage stamps is destined to ransom an unfortunate slave, who thus by favour of stamps and stamp collectors will enjoy the blessings of liberty.'

The article closes with the *mot* we have used as a heading to this, 'A HINT TO NEGRO EMANCIPATORS.'

THE POSTAGE RATES.

IT is rather interesting to notice how the rarity of different foreign and colonial stamps depends on the proportion their values bear to the postage from their various countries to England. Of course, the kinds we consider most valuable are those which only circulate locally. But of the general stamps of a country, it is natural that by far the most common should be those which exactly cover the charge for letters and papers to this country. A capital example of this is Bremen. The green 5 grote of that city was prepared, it seems, expressly for the English postage, and consequently we hardly ever see any other values here.

On the other hand, the Prussian postage of 5 silber groschen is not exactly defrayed by any one stamp now current there, and so we have the 1, 2, and 3 silber groschen in about equal numbers.

The rate to and from the West Indies and the South African colonies has just been raised to one shilling, and we shall doubtless find the shilling stamps of the Cape, Jamaica, and Barbadoes becoming more common, while the sixpenny ones grow comparatively rare. Also, if the original price be not reverted to, we may look for the appearance of stamps of a new value from Antigua, Natal, Grenada, &c. The 10-cent Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia are almost solely used for letters from those colonies to the United States, and are all rather difficult to obtain here. So we see that the enterprising collector should keep his eye on all postal arrangements. T. H. F.

CONUNDRUM.

Why is the Penny English stamp like a newspaper?

Because it was first black printed on white, and then red (read).

ORIGIN OF POST-PAID ENVELOPES.

A PREVIOUS number of this magazine contained the French proclamation of August, 1653, relating to the establishment of a post. Mr. Henry Whymper having since furnished us with additional information on the subject, we here present it to our readers.

In a pamphlet by M. Piron, *Sous-Directeur des Postes*, published in Paris in 1838, and entitled, *Du service des Postes, et de la Taxation des Lettres au moyen d'un Timbre*, I find that 'the idea of a post-paid envelope originated, early in the reign of Louis XIV., with M. de Velayer, who, in 1653, established (with Royal approbation) a private penny post, placing boxes at the corners of the streets for the reception of letters wrapped up in envelopes, which were to be bought at offices established for that purpose. M. de Velayer had also caused to be printed certain forms of *billets* or notes, applicable to the ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns, with blanks, which were to be filled up by the pen with such special matter as might complete the writer's object. One of these billets has been preserved to our times by a pleasant misapplication of it. Pélisson, Mde. de Sevigné's friend, and the object of the *bon mot*, that "he abused the privilege which men have of being ugly," was amused at this kind of skeleton correspondence, and, under the affected name of *Pisandre* (according to the pedantic fashion of the day), he filled up and addressed one of these forms to the celebrated Mademoiselle de Scuderi, in her *pseudonyme* of *Sappho*. This strange *billet-doux* has happened, from the celebrity of the parties, to be preserved, and it is still extant, one of the oldest, we presume, of penny-post letters, and a curious example of a prepaying envelope.' I enclose a copy of this note: the words in printed characters are as the billet stood before being filled in, and the writing is M. Pélisson's own addition.

Mademoiselle.

Mandez-moy si vous ne sçavez point quelque *bon remède contre l'amour ou contre l'absence*, et si vous n'en connoisez point, faites-moy le plaisir de vous en enquérir, et, au cas que vous en trouverez, de l'envoyer à

Votre très humble *et tres-obéissant Seviteur*,

Pisandre.

Outre le billet de port payé que l'on mettra sur cette lettre pour la faire partir, celuy qui escrira aura soing, s'il veut avoir reponse, d'envoyer un autre billet de port payé enfermé dans sa lettre.

Pour *Mademoiselle*
Sappho
demeurant en la rue *au Pays des Nouveaux Sansomales*
A Paris
Par billet de port payé

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

ON the 30th of April was issued a new stamp for Bremen, of which, as we append an engraving, no description is necessary, except to note the colour,—orange on white.



Although professedly intended for local purposes, it may be used for English postage, as we had eight of them on one letter.

Scheerenbeck, of Hamburg, has again favoured collectors with two new series of local stamps; and we shrewdly suspect he will find it his interest to make many a change, as long as stamp collecting holds its ground. Collectors are beginning to hesitate about accepting these numerous varieties, and certainly H. Scheerenbeck's specimens at this rate will soon want an album all to themselves. As we have said, there are two distinct issues—black, on coloured paper, very poorly executed. One series consists of ten stamps with the figure 1, and ten more with $\frac{1}{2}$ in an oval, with circumscribed inscription, *H. Scheerenbeck*, beneath. Colours of each series—buff, yellow, rose, brown, light blue, indigo, pale pink, green, lavender, and violet.

The remaining series of Boten bear the figure of a commissionaire in the centre of an inscribed oval; *Hamburg*, over; *W. Krantz*, below; and value in cipher on each side. There are two sets, each containing five of the $\frac{1}{2}$ and the same number of the 1. One set, yellow, red, and violet, brown, blue, and green, on white; and the other, black, on yellow, light and dark brown, neutral, and pink, for the 1; and orange, grey, blue, and light and dark green, for the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling.

The anticipated 60 of the new issue of Switzerland proves to be printed in bronzed gold, not yellow. The 24 öre of Sweden, formerly yellow, is now orange. The colours of the two Finland adhesives are altered to a shade considerably lighter than before.



We may take this opportunity of replying to the letter of Nemo, that appeared in the last number, objecting to our placing the *diligencia* stamps among those of the Argentine Confederation, in preference to Monte Video. We had, we submit, convincing reasons for so doing. In the first place, as we believe nothing is known for certain as to the date of issue of the stamps in question, and as Monte Video is, or was, simply one of the seven provinces of the Argentine Confederation, they were just as likely to be used generally, as for Monte Video exclusively. Again, they are not the same shape as the stamps of the latter place, which are all horizontally, but like those of the former, vertically oblong. Moreover, and this we imagine a convincing argument in our favour, the stamps of Monte Video have the values marked in *centesimos*, whereas the diligencias, as well as those both of the Argentine Confederation and Republic bear value in *centavos*.

As specimens of the issues of the Confederate States of America, we give the accompanying engravings. We would at the same time caution stamp collectors against purchasing imitations of these stamps, offered for sale by certain unprincipled dealers as genuine specimens, but which are in reality manufactured in New York expressly for the European market.





The Prussian authorities have issued three new stamps, which we understand are strictly local for Berlin. They are coarsely executed, square, coloured impression on white. On the top, *Stadt*; on the bottom, *Express*; the value on the sides, and also in large figures in the centre. Carmine, $\frac{1}{2}$; lilac, 1; and green, 2.

We think of noticing a few hitherto undescribed curious English essays in next month's number.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. By MOUNT BROWN. Fourth edition. London: F. Passmore.

THIS revised, corrected, and augmented edition of our 'standard catalogue' is again an improvement on the previous improved impressions.

Although the paper is of a quality vastly superior to that used before, and the employment of a greater variety of type, which is of material service to the eye when searching out a reference, has materially increased the expense of printing, the liberal compiler still maintains the moderate price of one shilling; and, considering the vast amount of information on the subject treated, and the very superior style in which it is got up, we believe it may be pronounced the best and cheapest of the numerous tribe of manuals.

Many additions have been made to the stamps enumerated in the former editions, although we imagine, in a numerical point of view, fewer individuals are catalogued, in consequence of the unceremonious dismissal of the Würtemberg *timbres d' instruction*, so long considered as rare old issues; the impudent and unprincipled Lafrenz cheats; and the still-mysterious Austrian complementaries. A number of English essays, the oldest Moldavians, the beautiful Costa Rica stamps, those of Nicaragua, the Ottoman Empire, and no end of American locals, are the principal additions to the stock.

Plenty of novelties are already waiting for appearance (we hope before Christmas) in the fifth edition, as the new 2 grote of Bremen (of which we engrave a specimen), and the beautiful essays for Italy, to which we alluded in the last number (see engraving). These appeared in the interval between sending the sheets to press, and their printing off; and, of course, were not in time to be included.



We are glad to see the 10-c Parma, *flesh*,—vain inquiries after which we have had so often the trouble to answer,—restored to its normal colour; and we hasten to avow our error in supposing the non-existence of a 100-c Monte Video, *brown*, specimens of which we have since seen and now possess.

We would recommend Mr. Brown to expunge the 2d. and 8d. Newfoundland, *lake*, which never existed, and the 3 neu-groschen Saxony, *white*, which we are sorry to say a communication from Leipzig, received the very day of penning this, announces, on the best authority, to be merely a naturally or artificially-faded yellow specimen.

With this infinitesimal amount of carping, we take leave of Mr. Brown's manual for the present,—*jusqu' au revoir.*

Magazin für Briefmarken-Sammler. Leipzig: C. C. Zschiesche und C. E. Köder.

THE first two numbers of this new magazine for stamp collectors are now before us. It is a well-printed *feuilleton* of eight pages, on very good paper, containing descriptions of new stamps, sundry postal information, engravings, advertisements, &c.; and is a proof of the non-decadence of *timbromanie* on the continent. The publisher has honoured Mr. Whymper by transferring his engravings of the Hong Kong and Turkish stamps; and ourselves by an almost literal rendering of a large portion of our article on Bergedorf into German.

Catalogue of nearly Two Thousand varieties of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. By a COLLECTOR.

THIS is simply a *verbatim et literatim* transcript of the third edition of Mount Brown's manual, on inferior paper, not so clearly printed, and threepence dearer. We charitably hope the compiler could not have been conscious of the serious nature of his piratical appropriation of another party's brain-work; but little or no mischief will accrue to Mr. Brown, as it has been arranged that all existing copies of the work are to be surrendered to him for destruction. The printer of this publication is not perhaps aware that he has rendered himself liable to a heavy penalty for not appending his name,—a token that he, at least, is ashamed of his

share in the nefarious transaction. Mr. Brown has also taken precautions to prevent the introduction of Kline's American piracy of his catalogue into this country, and is prepared with stringent measures to resist any infringement on his rights for the future.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,
BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

[We propose continuing this Appendix to Mr. Brown's early editions, for the benefit of those who do not possess the fourth.—ED.]

New South Wales.

FOR an extended notice of what are usually termed 'The Sydney stamps,' we refer to Dr. Gray's paper in the March number of this magazine. The 1d., crimson, and 1d., vermilion, are first noticed in Mr. Brown's fourth edition.

The other issues of New South Wales comprehend many varieties recognised by some collectors, but not noted by Mr. Brown. We simply mention them, leaving amateurs to use their own judgment as to including them in their albums.

The wreath series has the threepenny in *two* distinct shades of green on blue paper; but not on white, as far as we know. We have a red and a brown penny, as well as the orange, on white paper. There are three unmistakeable, but scarcely describeable, impressions of the twopenny, besides the one on blue paper. One is on white and a second on tinted paper; this latter is, moreover, of a different shade of blue, and easily recognised on inspection. The third is lavender on white.

The issue with *South* on the top, has an orange in addition to the red and dark brown penny stamps. Of this series there are some curious-looking specimens, perhaps essays, which have a blank in place of both postage and value. We have them in red, blue, and green, answering to the 1d., 2d., and 3d.; as well as in mauve and orange, apparently for 6d. and 8d.; which values never appeared in this device.

The sixpenny slate-colour is added, in the fourth edition, to those of the large series (circle within hexagon), and the eightpenny yellow (circle within octagon).

New Zealand.

We have never ourselves met with a sixpenny on blue paper, and shall be glad of authentic, or, better still, ocular information on that point. In Mr. Brown's third edition he notes a sixpenny red, of 1860; in the fourth he calls it brown. We have both in our album, as well as the chocolate of 1862. The threepenny came out this year, both violet and brown.

Nicaragua.

The 2 centavos, blue, appears in the fourth edition, and we understand this value was first issued black, previously to its supersedure by the blue.

Norway.

The expected issue of envelopes by this country appears to be merely a *canard*.

Nova Scotia.

The 1d., 5 c., and 10 c., black, and 12½ c., red, essays of this colony, are added in the last edition; and we refer our readers to a detailed description of another choice essay in our own album, to be found in last month's magazine.

Oldenburg.

We have been shown several times a yellow ⅓ silb. groschen of the first issue, but cannot vouch for its not having been doctored. The ½ groschen of 1860 is not yellow, but a decided orange, and the ⅓ is not of the colour usually known as marone, but of a rich brown, like the ½-groschen envelope.

(*To be continued.*)

CANADIAN POSTAL STATISTICS.

DURING last year 32 new post offices were established and 9 offices closed. The number

of post offices in operation on the 30th of September, 1862, was 1,858. During the year there were added to the service 319 miles of new post route, and 137,463 miles of annual mail travel. The increase in the number of letters passing by post was comparatively greater in 1862 than has been observed for several past years. The number has exactly doubled since the year 1854.

The correspondence between Canada and Europe by the Canadian steamers continues to increase, the number of letters carried in the year 1862 having been 800,000, showing a comparative advance of nearly twenty per cent.

Five hundred and twenty thousand letters are estimated to have passed through the mails last year, being in excess of any previous enumeration. The number in 1856 was 35,000; in 1857, 150,000; in 1858, 450,000; in 1860, 480,000; and in 1862, 520,000. There are twenty-seven cases of alleged losses or abstraction affecting registered letters during the year 1862. In 1861 the number of such cases was thirty-seven.

The number of parcels forwarded by mail during the year, at parcel post rate, is estimated to have been somewhat over 5,000. This is an advance upon the result of last year.—*Postmaster-General's Report for the year ending September*, 1862.

STAMP STORING.

A PRACTICE has lately arisen among postage-stamp collectors, of laying up considerable numbers of obsolete, and even of current stamps. This practice is grounded on the assumption that the *Timbromanie* will continue in vogue for several years, and that before it goes out, many stamps now comparatively common may become rare and valuable to collectors. We are acquainted with several persons who are thus storing French, Indian, and other common sorts; and have even heard of one who is getting a thousand English penny heads, not to paper a room or a box, but to keep till our throne shall be occupied by Edward VII.

Without thus calculating on an event which we all hope may be very far distant, the idea naturally suggests itself, what a number of stamps would go suddenly out of use, were the gracious lady whose profile adorns our own stamps and those of some twenty-five of our colonies, to be prevented from longer holding her queenly office! Prussia's first issues bore the head of her then monarch; but the postal authorities there have avoided the necessity for further changes, by impressing their stamps with an eagle instead of the portrait of the new king.

Now, the prudent collector, having heard, for instance, of the probability of a new Italian issue appearing soon, buys up all the heads of Victor Emmanuel he can get,—the quindici especially, which was scarcely current for a month, and which, like the 2-c. Swiss of the last issue, is rare already, and will soon be almost unattainable.

But it is evident that if the storing system spreads, it will nullify itself, because the supply will for a very long time exceed the demand, and thus our hoarded treasures will be unavailable. To avoid this we would propose that collectors should put by only a few of each kind of stamps: *e. g.*, we have a correspondent in, say Chili, from whom we receive periodical supplies. If we reserve a quantity of Chilian stamps, and other of our acquaintance do so likewise with stamps of which they have, to a certain extent, a monopoly, we shall each be in a position to make profitable exchanges with future collectors.

T. H. F.

CURIOSITIES OF THE AMERICAN DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

LETTERS are daily examined in the Dead-Letter Office at Washington, for the purpose of selecting those with valuable enclosures. A clerk of inquiring mind, who had that duty to perform one day, ascertained at his leisure that there were only 375, out of 6,850, without a P.S., and some contained three.

Here are some specimens of the thousand-and-one ways in which correspondents terminate their letters:—

'Excuse my way of speling, for you now me.
'Your friend SAM.'

'David, if you don't get my letters, I don't want you to think I don't write to you. A kiss—and then I will leave you for this time. I love you as I love my own life. I remain your true lover until death.
'From MARY.'

'Blots excuse, mistakes forgive,—
Think of the writer as long as you live.
'MARTHA.'

'If I my trust betray,
I shall for ever die.
'Good bye.'

'The grass grows green around the stump—
You are a great big sugar lump.
'Believe me as ever your loving friend,
'ANNIE, Jr.'

'You are the rose of the mountain,
And the lily of the West;
You are the only companion—
You are the one I love best.
'Don't let any one see this.
'CHARLES.'

'Hoping that when we meet again, we may meet like angels in heaven.
'Your affectionate LOVER.'

'Adieu, and may the benediction of these covering heavens fall on thy head like lead.
'Yours respectfully, *au revoir*,
'Box 936, City.'

'Write to me as soon as possible, if not sooner.
'I remain yours truly,
'DELIA.'

'No one to love—none to caress—
None to respond to this heart's tenderness;
Sad is my heart—joy is unknown,
For in my sorrow I'm weeping alone.
'LIB.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

LOCAL HANOVERIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I wish to make the following remarks in reference to the Local Hanoverian Stamps. It may not be generally known that one halfpenny is charged for every letter on delivery in Hanover,—a very annoying and stupid tax. The inscription on these stamps is *Bestellgeld-frei*, meaning commission-money paid, or free; so that I presume they are used for the prepayment of this charge. Your readers would doubtless be glad of any further information on this subject.

I remain, yours obediently,
London. O. FLEUSS.

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As I can cheerfully bear testimony to the usual general correctness of your Magazine, I trust you will permit me to call attention to two errors into which you have fallen.

You are in error in classing the American Internal Revenue Stamps with the Government Postage Stamps of the United States. Your correspondent, Mr. Richardson, of New York, is therefore right in stating that the stamps referred to were never intended in any sense to serve as postage labels. Persons may, indeed, ignorantly affix them to letters, just as the same mistake might be committed in England, by attaching a receipt-stamp to a letter; but such improper and unwarranted use can never give rise to any doubt as to the true and proper use of such Internal Revenue labels.

The Express Stamps, in regard to which you ask for information, are those to be affixed, by the provisions of the recent Revenue Act, to all and every receipt or acknowledgement given for any box or package forwarded by any of the various Express-Forwarding Companies, who monopolise, to a great extent, the transmission of parcels of goods over the lines of railway in the United States.

The Express Bill or Receipt is a simple declaration, in printed form, with certain blank spaces filled in with writing, stating that the Adams Express Company (or any other company) has received from A. B. a parcel containing [here the contents are noted, as in a ship's bill of lading], which the said company promise to deliver to C. D. at [here the name of the town is inserted]; and then follows the signature of the agent of the company at the town where the parcel is left for forwarding. This receipt serves, in case the parcel is lost by the company's negligence, as evidence to recover the value of the contents.

In your reply to G. V. C., of Cambridge, in your number for June, you state that 'the portraits on the Government stamps of the United States are those of Washington, *Penn*, Franklin, and *Lincoln*.' The portraits of Penn and Lincoln have *never* yet been engraved upon any government postage stamps of the United States. The only portraits yet used are those of Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson. The reason of the apparent difference in the portraits of the *same* head, is to be traced to the differences of the *original* pictures or busts from which the portraits upon the stamps have been engraved.

I have the honour to be
Your most obedient servant,
JAMES LESLEY, Jun.,
Ex-Consul of United States at Nice.
Nice, Alpes Maritimes, France.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I notice one or two errors in your magazine, in regard to American stamps. For instance, the U. S. Inter. Rev. are *not* postage stamps, as stated in your May number. They are for the same purpose as your receipt stamps, bill stamps, &c.; and are not recognised as paying postage when attached to letters.

I was amused at the charming little piece of self-stultification displayed by your Flemish friend, M. Moens, in an article published by you. His self-satisfied (and not very original) sneer about the 'almighty

dollar,' followed as it was by a paragraph full of extravagant praise of stamps of *American* manufacture, which he in his ignorance supposed to be British, is a pretty good joke. I would commend to his special attention a certain proverb of our 'half-horse, half-alligator' Solomon—David Crocket—viz., 'Be always *sure* you're right, *then* go a-head.'

Respectfully yours,
Post Office, New York. J. GAYLER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

KYLE, Dublin.—We had not remarked the omission you point out, of the sixpenny and shilling octagon English from Mount Brown's fourth edition.

TONY, Birkenhead.—Your first query is replied to at length by a correspondent from Nice.—The Austrian complementaries remain a *vexata quæstio*.—The Belgian and Victorian stamps must be discoloured specimens.—Should your album be large enough, we would advise the inclusion of newspaper stamps, &c., at the end of the book; but we consider private stamps should be affixed under the heads of their respective countries, together with the government issues, local or otherwise.

SPHINX, Stratford.—You will see authentic information respecting the Inter. Rev. U. S. stamps in the present number.—Your Argentine is genuine.

M. E. S.—Your 20-c. French Republic, blue, *is* noticed in Mr. Brown's manual.—The penuy Cape is very common.

G. PRIOR, Fenchurch Street.—Your 3 kr. envelopes of Würtemberg with the inscription, 6 *kr.*, though of course simply a mistake of the printer, might be included as a variety by collectors.

T. B., Dover.—The distinction between the genuine and imitated essays of Denmark is clearly perceived by Messrs. Lewes & Pemberton's description. The Mercury's head of the former shows a narrow edge of the hinder wing throughout the length; in the latter, as will be seen by the appended engraving, this is not the case.



G. MAIRS, Liverpool.—We cannot answer for other dealers, but we give you full authority to declare that all the unused stamps *we* sell are genuine.—We cannot give our *private* opinion respecting whose is the best catalogue in so widely-circulated a publication as this.

R. BRAITHWAITE.—Most of the 12½, *blue*, of Canada may be 'duffers,' but we understand they *have* been printed in that colour occasionally.

E. T. L. S., St. Neot's.—Your stamp is evidently fictitious. We suppose it is intended for the head of the King of the Belgians.

J. S.—We have the fivepenny Ceylon both chocolate and a very red brown, but the shades of colour in all the stamps of that island vary so much that Mr. Brown did not think it requisite to note them.

QUEEN'S HEAD, Dublin, suggests that stamp dealers should publish their lists of prices so as to be folded up in the form of a small book, in lieu of one large sheet.

A. PESENA, Yeovil.—The U. S. paper postage substitute for money would not prepay a letter.

H. E.—The name of the engraver of the new Italian essays is Pellas. We have just received a *yellow* specimen.

W. A. H., Liverpool.—The black penny New Zealand *may* be a *Colombo* salvage, but our colonies are so capricious in their inks, that we would advise collectors to wait before rejecting it.

STEPHEN MOSS.—Any or all of the English stamps (obliterated), except the essays and the V.R. official, black, can be bought of most dealers.

L. M. and G. E. W. in our next.

J. LESLEY and O. FLEUSS.—Thanks for your communications, which we print in full.

R. MELDRUM, Glasgow.—The black official V.R. was used by the Government offices alone, and only during the currency of the common black penny. A red V.R. may not improbably turn up.

PLYMOUTH POST.—The stamp you describe and figure must frank a French letter, as the blue anchor impression does those of the Admiralty here. We include this stamp in our own collection.

A MANIAC, Blackheath.—The legend on the Greek stamps stands for *Hellenon Gramma*, or, Stamp of Greece.—We do not understand Russ.

W. E. H., Leicester.—It is a shilling Jamaica receipt-stamp to which you allude. They not unfrequently arrive post-marked, and as such are admissible in a stamp album.—The new Trinidad shilling was not issued in time for appearance in Mr. Brown's fourth edition.—We have mentioned a twopenny black English.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

B. YORK & Co., 60, City Road, London, Foreign Booksellers and Dealers in Postage Stamps. The largest stock, and the cheapest house. List of Prices sent on receipt of a posted-directed envelope. Correspondence in English, French, or German language.

BOOKS of CRESTS.—Published on the 1st of every month. Each book will contain 50 Crests in relief, beautifully stamped in Colours, together with a Key to the names of the Families bearing them. This work, when complete, will form the most perfect Collection extant, and is expected to contain over 2000 Crests. Books I. and II. now ready. Price 1/ each; post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Five-Shilling Packet of Local American Postage Stamps contains 20 varieties. Post free, 5/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

TO COLLECTORS of UNOBLITERATED POSTAGE STAMPS.—The One-Shilling Packet of Stamps contains one dozen varieties of Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps, all unobliterated. Post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

Beautifully Printed in Colours. Now Ready.

A NEW AND COMPLETE SET of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums. Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

TO STAMP and CREST COLLECTORS.—Just published, beautifully printed in Colours, 1/, or emblazoned in Gold and Silver, 1/6 each sheet; by post, one extra stamp.

Sheet 1. Arms of all Nations.
2. Arms of all the Counties in England.
3. Arms of all the Colleges of Oxford.
4. Flags of all Nations.
5. English, French, and Russian Orders.
6. Arms of all the Cambridge Colleges.
7. Arms of the Scottish Clans, sheet 1.
8. Ditto ditto sheet 2.
9. Royal Naval and Commercial Flags of Great Britain.

London: GEO. MUSGRAVE & Co., Turnham Green, W.; Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt.

W. DIAMOND, Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, London, Dealer in Postage Stamps of all nations. Foreign Stamps sent per post on receipt of uncut penny postage stamps. Collections purchased. Any communication requiring a reply must contain a stamp for that purpose.

BETA, Barlow Street, Ardwich, near Manchester, can supply Collectors and others with every kind of Postage Stamps. The following will suffice to show the nature of the prices in general:—Collections of 100, 4/; 200, 13/; 300, 2?/; 500, 80/; all different kinds, and good copies. Chili, 4d. each; Greek, 2d. each; Hong Kong, 2 and 8 cents, 6d. each; Venezuela, 7d. each; old Belgium, 4d. each; Spanish, 1850-1-2-3-4, at 1/4 each; old Brunswick, ½ and 1, at 3d. each; old Wurtemburg, 3d. each. The following are unused:—Hanover, 1 and 2, envelope, 3d. each; Brazil, 10 and 20, 4d. and 6d. each; American 1-cent envelope, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz.; French 2 c., 5d. per doz.; Oldenburg, 1/2 per doz.; Hamburg, ½, 10d. per doz.; Bergedorf, ½, and Lubeck, ½, 10d. per doz., Sets of each, 1/3; 1 and 1½ Mecklenburg, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz.; and others too numerous to mention. Beta also Buys Stamps and Collections. P.S.—Stamps sent on inspection on receipt of stamped envelope.

C. HILL, 425, Argyle Street, Glasgow, will send his Price List of 600 Stamps on receipt of stamped envelope. The following are unused:—Ionian Islands, yellow, 2d.; blue, 3d.; red, 4d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 3d.; Papal States, ½, 1, and 2 baj., 2d. each; 3 baj., 3d.; Hamburg Boten, the Set of 9, ½ sch., 9d.; 1 sch., 1/3. C. H. wishes to correspond with parties resident on the Continent. A Collection of 800 for sale, price only 12 Guineas.

SEND STAMPED ENVELOPE to W. S. ROBINSON, 115, Church Street, Everton, Liverpool, for Foreign Postage Stamps on approval. Terms moderate.

C. DECROIX, Bazaar, Dover, has Rare Stamps on Sale. Selection on receipt of stamped envelope. Complete List for two stamps.

1000 TURKISH STAMPS WANTED.—Estimates for the supply of 1000 twenty-paras Turkish stamps to be forwarded to STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, Bath.

12 UNUSED FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS, post free, for 1/; 20 ditto, 2/. Address, W. GREAVES, Arkley, Barnet, Herts.

S. MOSS, East Markham, for one stamp will send his List of stamps. N.B.—Wanted to purchase, 100 used stamps.

20 STAMPS for SIXPENCE.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

FRANKS (Old English), price 6d. each; post free for seven stamps, from J. J. S., 11, St. George's Place South, Borough, London.

SWEDISH STAMPS.—Different kinds can be had at 1/ per dozen, on writing to Box 97, Post Office, Glasgow.

SEND 13 STAMPS to 'TOBIN,' Dover, with a used English penny envelope stamp. It will be returned perfectly brown, thus proving it possible to change the colour.

ARMS, CRESTS, MONOGRAMS, ETC.—A large variety of the above, beautifully stamped in Colours, with names. Price 3d. per sheet; postage 1d. extra. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

LOOK HERE! STAMPS CHEAP! Mr. GLOVER selling off! See advertisement in *Boy's Own Magazine* for July. Stamps at your own price.

A COLLECTION, containing 300 Stamps, good specimens and rare, price £2 5s., at C. W. DEADMAN'S, 26, Adelaide Square, Windsor.

CHEAP! CHEAP! CHEAP! R. KANUNA, Box No. 27, Post Office, Leicester, sends Stamps for inspection on receipt of one stamp

10,000 OBLITERATED FOREIGN STAMPS WANTED TO PURCHASE, exclusive of French and American. Lowest price per thousand to be forwarded to STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, Bath.

STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS! The Cheapest can be had from JAMES LINDSAY. List sent on receipt of stamped-directed envelope. Address at ROBERT MC INDOE, Esq., 133, West George Street, Glasgow.

THE CHEAPEST PACKET of STAMPS.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

ROBERT MELDRUM, 229, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, sends his List of 800 different Stamps for Sale immediately on receipt of one stamp. Newfoundland penny and twopenny, unused, 4d. each. R. M. buys Rare Stamps. He wishes to correspond with persons on the Continent.

FOREIGN STAMPS GIVEN AWAY.—An Unobliterated Foreign Postage Stamp will be given away to all purchasers of Stafford Smith and Smith's Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Illustrated with Fac-simile Engravings of Rare Stamps. The Catalogue and Stamp post free for three stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

A. BENSON'S LIST of HUNDREDS of USED and UNUSED STAMPS, at prices which will bear comparison with any list, is now ready. Address, A. BENSON, Throston Street, Hartlepool. N.B.—No larger or cheaper List to be had.

A GREAT VARIETY of RARE STAMPS always on hand, at moderate prices, and sent for inspection, on receipt of stamped envelope. Old Spanish, Portuguese, Monte Video, Saxon, &c. Assortments of Continentals, 30 for 3/. A. B., 57, York Place, Edinburgh.

SEND STAMPED ENVELOPE for J. R. KENNEDY'S Price List of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps. Turkey, 20 paras, 5d. each, 3/6 per dozen; 1 piastre, 8d. each, 6/6 per dozen; 2 piastres 10d. each, or 8/6 per dozen; 5 piastres, 1/6 each, or 10/6 per dozen. Address, J. R. KENNEDY, 79, George Street, Edinburgh.

BUY of the IMPORTER.—As R. PEGG Imports all his own Stamps, he is enabled to sell cheaper than any other Dealer; and will, on receipt of stamped envelope, send a Selection from his magnificent Stock of upwards of 10,000 Foreign and Colonial Stamps. 11, Holles Street, Dublin.

GIVEN AWAY.—An Unobliterated Foreign Postage Stamp will be given away to all purchasers of Stafford Smith & Smith's Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Illustrated with Fac-simile Engravings of Rare Stamps. The Catalogue and Stamp post free for three stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

PONY EXPRESS (New and Genuine), 1 dol., 1s.; 2 dol., green or pink, 2/; 4 dol., black or green, 3/; 10 c., ¼ oz., brown, 2/; Newspaper paid, blue, 2/; ½ oz. garter, 1/. The St. Joseph to Placerville, Wells, Fargo, and Co., envelope stamp, 1/; the Set, 14/. New York Express and Southern States, 3d. each. G. P. SPRING, Selhurst Road, Croydon, S.

MR. WILLIAM FREDERIC COOKE, Dover, while thanking the Nobility and Gentry, both English and Foreign, for the patronage they have accorded him hitherto, begs to announce that he has just received a fresh supply of Rare and Obsolete Stamps, Selections from which he will be happy to forward as usual, to any address, on receipt of application. Rare Stamps bought.

G. BOLTON, 16, Spring Street, Hull, can supply Dealers with Bahamas penny Stamps at 3/ per dozen; Nevis penny, at 2/; Prince Edward's Island penny, at 2/6; Newfoundland penny, at 2/6; Martinique, 1 c., at 1/ per dozen. G. B. can also supply Collectors with every description of Stamps at remarkably low prices. Stamps sent out on approval. Several Collections of from 400 to 600 Stamps wanted.

STAMPS GIVEN AWAY!!! All who send *three* stamps to Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., will receive, per return, a copy of his large and new Price List for July (post free), with which he will give (gratis) a Rare Unobliterated Stamp of Thurn and Taxis, only just issued. Mr. Prior takes this opportunity of informing his Customers, that he is now Selling Off his entire Stock, *far* below cost price; and would therefore recommend purchasers to send three stamps for his List, and the stamp that he gives away gratis, without delay. Extract from List:—Turkish, 3/6 the Set of four; Ionian Isles, 8d. the Set of three; French Colonies, 1 c., 2d.; 5 c., 3d.; 10 c., 4d.; 40 c., 8d., or 1/4 the Set of four; Sandwich Islands, 5 c., blue, 6d. each; Hong Kong, 2 c., 3d.; Greece, 1 lep., 1d.; 2 lep., 2d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. (Engine), 3d. *The above are all clean copies.* Thousands of other Stamps, both used and clean, at equally low prices. In order to prevent disappointment, an early application is requested.

THE SIXPENNY PACKET of STAMPS.—This Packet contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

ARMS of the QUEEN and ROYAL FAMILY, including the late Prince Consort, the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Alexandra, King of Denmark, King of Prussia, Duke of Cumberland, Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, &c., &c., &c. In two sheets. Relief stamped in colours. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

THE IRISH PRIVATE OFFICE STAMPS, 6d. each; old Norway, 6d. each; Denmark (1851), 4 rigsbank skil., 6d. each; old Sweden, 24, 8, 6, 4 skil. ben., 6d. each. Lalller's Postage-Stamp Albums, post free, 8/2. Wholesale Dealers supplied. Lists on application to J. B. ROBINSON, 65, Grafton Street, Dublin.

NICARAGUAN STAMPS.—Mr. H. J. HYDE, 8, Trafalgar Street, Walworth Road, S., has just received a large supply of the above Stamps (unused and warranted genuine), price 2/ each. H. J. H. has also for sale Addresses to all parts: Nicaragua and Costa Rica, 1/6 each; all other places 1/ each. Apply by letter only, enclosing stamp for reply. N.B.—Languages translated.

MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London, has all kinds of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, at reasonable prices, including the following Scarce Stamps:—*Unused.*—Buenos Ayres, Set of three, 3/; Spanish Official (oval), Set of four, 3/; Moldavia, 5 paras, 2/; Ceylon, 1d., 2d.; 3d., 4d.; 4d., 6d.; envelopes, Set of ten, 14/; United States envelopes, Set of ten, 10/. *Used and Obsolete.*—French Republic, old Saxony, old Belgians, old U. S. Post Office, 5 and 10 cents; also stamps of Chili and Peru. Price List, post free, 2d.

OFFICE for the COLLECTION and RECOVERY of DEBTS.—To meet the great demand which has hitherto existed for an efficient means for the Recovery of Debts, an Office for this purpose will be opened on the 1st of July, at 6, Ruperra Street, Newport, Mon. Two copies of all Accounts are required, with each of which 12 stamps must be sent. N.B.—Agents wanted. STAMP & Co., Proprietors.

EDWARD UPJOHN, Bookseller, supplies all kinds of Foreign Stamps, Stamp Catalogues, Albums, and Publications. H. Whymper's Proof Impressions: Nicaragua, 9d; English and Danish Essays, Turkish, Argentine, old Spanish, &c., 3d. Country Orders executed. 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

ATTENTION! YOUNG MAN! WHERE ARE WE NOW! Ready on the 30th of each month, the *United Kingdom Stamp Advertiser*, price 1d., post free, 2d. A clean Unobliterated Stamp given with each number. It contains important matter that all Stamp Dealers and Collectors should know. The Scale of Charges for Advertising is as follows:—Under 30 words, 9d; ditto 60, 1/6; ditto 90, 1/11; ditto 120, 2/3; and so on. For further particulars apply to the Publishers, Gazette Office, Tavistock, Devon.

J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have on hand nearly every kind of Foreign Postage Stamps, including some obsolete, which they offer for Sale at very low prices. Moldavia, 5 paras, black, 1/; 40, blue, 1/; 80, rose, 1/; Set, 2/6; France, Republic, 20 and 25 c., 3d. each; 10 c., 10d.; 15 c., green, 8d.; 1 franc, 9d.; Empire, 25 c., 8d.; 1 franc, 1/; Presidency, 25 c., 6d.; Monte Video, 80 and 1 r. (*Oblig.*), 180 and 240, 1/6 each. Price List, describing them, value, colour, date of issue, &c. sent on receipt of two stamps. P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool. Orders under 2/6 to contain stamp for reply.

A SHEET of 20 UNUSED STAMPS, consisting of Antigua, Greek, &c., post free, 1/7, by D. DEAN, Hope Square, Weymouth. Republic, 2d.; colonies, 3d.; chiffre-taxes, 4d.; old Prussian and Bavaria, 1d.

SELLING OFF UNDER COST PRICE.—Mr. FRANK E. MILLAR, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N.E., begs to inform his numerous Friends, that he has determined to Sell Off the whole of his valuable Stock of Stamps, without reserve; and has accordingly fixed prices for July for the most part under cost price. For example, he has priced a great number of Clean and Rare Used Stamps at 1d. and 2d. each, and all others in proportion with the following:—*All clean copies.*—Hong Kong, 2 c., 3d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. (Engine), 2d.; Greek, 1 lep., 1d.; 2 lep., 2d.; French Colonies, 1 c., 2d.; 5 c., 3d.; 10 c., 4d.; 40 c., 8d., or 1/ the Set of four; Turkish, 3/6 the Set of four; Ionian Islands, 8d. the Set of three; Sandwich Islands, 5 c., blue, 6d. each. *Used copies.*—Pony Express, from 1/ each; old Denmark, fine RBS., 2d.; Canada, 5 c. Beaver, 1d.; threepenny Beaver (out of use and rare), 3d.; Buenos Ayres, from 6d. each; Monte Video, from 4d. each. N.B.—Mr. Millar's Price List for July is now ready, *price threepence (post free)*; and he will *give, gratis, with each List,* either a used 5-c. Canada, 3-c. United States Government Stamp, or a *clean German Stamp, only just issued.* As all Stamps on the List are put down at such a low price, an early application is requested, to prevent disappointment.

HENRY WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, continues to supply Dealers and Collectors with all kinds of Foreign Stamps, wholesale and retail, at extraordinary low prices. Price List sent on receipt of stamped envelope. Collections of 50 varieties, 1/6; 100, 3/6; 200, 12/.

C. G., Acomb House, Manchester, is now Selling Off his entire Stock. Examples (used): Romagna, 1, 2, 3, 4 baj., 9d. each; Portugal (Queen's Head) 25 r., 6d. each, or 4/6 per dozen; (unused copies) Antigua penny, 3d. each; Newfoundland penny, 3/6 per dozen; threepenny, 8d. each; Prince Edward Island, penny, 2/9 per dozen; New Brunswick, 1 c., 1/6 per dozen; Luxemburg, 1 c., 3d., 2 c., 4d., per dozen. All others at same rates. Send two stamps for Price List (an Unused Foreign Stamp is given away with each).

W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Used and Unused Foreign Postage Stamps, have just issued their New Reduced Price List of 1,500 varieties of Stamps of all Countries, which they will send on receipt of two stamps. Examples of prices: Antigua, penny, 3d. each, 2/6 per dozen; Newfoundland, penny, 4d. each, 3/ per dozen; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; French Colonies, 1 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; St. Thomas, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Nevis, penny, 5d. each, 4/6 per dozen; Venezuela, 1/3 per Set; Brasils, 10 r., 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen; 30 r., 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen; Barbadoes, green, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; blue, 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen. All Continental *very cheap*,—say from 3d. per dozen. For particulars see Price List. All the above are *unused*.

MESSRS. HOOPER & FORWARD (Late J. Hooper), 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C. Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealers in the trade. N.B.—Unused Ionian Islands, 8d. per Set of three. All other Stamps at equally low prices. Just published, the fourth edition of their Price Catalogue, describing form, colour, value, date of issue, &c., of 1000 varieties. This is the cheapest and most comprehensive yet published. Sent, post free, on receipt of a stamped envelope.

D. Mc CORKINDALE, 37, Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, would call attention to his Summer List of Foreign Stamps. Prices very cheap; for example: penny Antigua, 4d.; sixpenny, 7d.; Austria, 2 kr., black, 4d.; Denmark, old 4 RBS., 2d.; French Republic, 40 c., 3d.; 20 c., 25 c., 4d.; 10 c., 15 c., 6d.; *Presidency*, 25 c., 4d.; 10 c., 6d.; Jamaica, penny, sixpenny, each 1d.; twopenny, fourpenny, one shilling, 3d.; Modena, 5c., 6d.; 80 c., 9d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d.; 12½ c., 2d.; 5 c. (unused) 5d.; Norway, old 4, 6d.; Portugal, 50, 100 r., 8d.; 25 r., blue, 7d.; 25 r., blue (Queen Maria), 10d.; Poland, 10 kop., 10d.; *Romagna*, ½, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 20, *baj., each* 1/; *Set of seven*, 6/; Saxony, old ½, 4d.; old 1, 2, 3d.; old 3, 2d. (or 1/6 per dozen); St. Thomas, 3 c., 8d.; Venezuela, ½, 1, 2 rls., 6d.; *Russia*, 20, 30 kop., 6d.; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 3d.; 5 c., 4d.; Papal States, ½ baj., purple, 3d.; violet, 3d.

NOVA SCOTIAN, 1 c., 1s., unused; 9d., used; 5 c., 4/ and 1/; 8½ c., 7/ and 4/; 10 c., 7/ and 4/; twenty dozen 5 c., 15/; New Brunswick, 1 c., 1/3, unused; 5 c., 4/ and 2/; 10 c., 8/; 12½ c., 10/; Canada, 1 c., 1/6; 5 c., 4s.; 10 c., 8/; 12½ c., 10/; Prince Edward's Island, penny, 2/6, unused; twopenny, 5/; threepenny, 6/; sixpenny, 10/. Not less than a dozen Stamps. Apply by letter to A. COLONUS, 18, Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, S.E.

COSTA RICA STAMPS.—Mr. MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London, has just received a few of the above scarce Stamps: ½ real, blue, 3/6; 2 reales, scarlet, 5/. Also New South Wales fivepenny, at 3/6 each; Island of Luzon (Philippines), Ceylon envelopes, Ottoman Empire, and other Rare Stamps. Obsolete and used Parma, Modena, &c. N.B.—Genuine unused twopenny blue Mulready envelopes, 3/ each.

J. MENLOVE, 22, Upper Baker Street, London, N.W. Price List, two stamps. Fifteen per cent. discount off orders above five shillings.

F. P. ERIE, Hamburg, 6, Dornbusch, Dealer in used and unused Postage Stamps, wholesale and retail, at very moderate prices.

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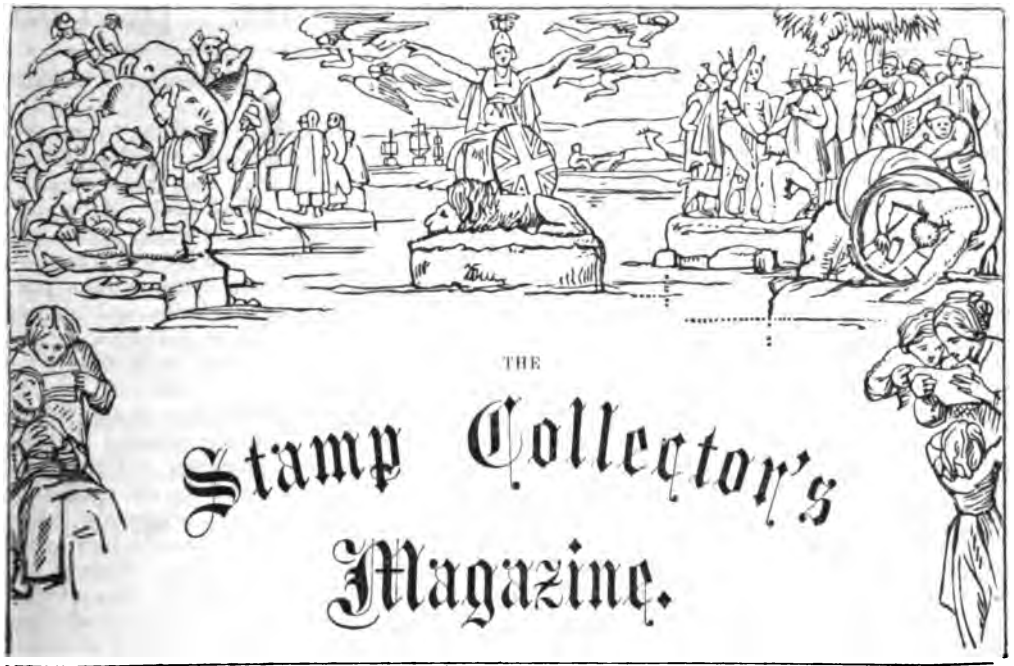

THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE FIRST CONTINUED.—PART VII.

AWAKE.

'Life's a lengthened, troublous dream :
Sleeping—waking—still we seem
Of realities, I deem,
But to catch a transient gleam.'

The night was pitch dark, and I could not at first account for the smarting sensation of my hand, till, collecting my muddled faculties, and managing to feel out a lucifer and kindle a light, I realised the extent of the mischief. The damaged watch announced two o'clock only, so that a very limited period of conscious unconsciousness [ask the metaphysicians the meaning of that lucid phrase] must have elapsed since my retiring to——I dare not say, repose.

I gathered up the broken bits of glass as well as I could, and hunted out some styptic for my wounded hand. The stamps were lying as still, and looking as innocent, as possible, and all unconscious of the mishap they had occasioned. I felt sorely tempted to set fire to them, but prudently forbore; opining that their avenging ghosts might, forsooth, be even more difficult of endurance than themselves.

And here I take leave to interpolate a few remarks, in reply to the sapient and kindly (?) critics who have done me the honour of thinking my humble tale worth carping at. They object that I have represented the postage stamps as too didactic, philosophic, and discursive, and, in brief, as talking too sensibly. I cannot help it; 'I tell the tale as 'twas told to me.' Neither people nor postage stamps always act up to their characters in dreams, whatever they may do in reality. Solomon himself in the visions of the night would be often heard to talk veritable bosh; and I have frequently known you yourself, my worthy friend (*you* know

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whom I mean), when I have dreamt of you, talk good sound sense; and much surprised I should have felt at the astounding fact, did one ever feel surprise in dreams;—the only faculty, as far as I have yet learned, of which one never seems to experience the sensation during sleep.

Moreover, penning my reminiscences at this distance of time, I cannot be always answerable for the recapitulation of my narrators' exact words; and consequently, once for all, I must request my courteous readers, to be persuaded, henceforward, that all seeming otherwise than sensible in my tale is to be laid to the charge of the postage stamps; and that all the sense, much or little, is to be set down to my account. With this fair understanding, then, we will proceed to the continuation of the narrative of the yellow Tuscan lion in

DOZE THE SECOND.—PART I.

A STORMY INTERVIEW.

'That man should tread this glorious earth,
Oblivious of his heavenly birth;
Barter all chance of proffered bliss,
For scenes of turmoil such as this!'

'"Corpo di Bacco, man!" said the tempter, "why do you stand in your own way? I tell you, you can get fortune, obtain your mistress, and——enjoy revenge, all at one stroke; and you do nothing but rage like a baited bear, without the sense to know you are stronger than your tormentors, if you only choose to exert your strength."

'"Fortune! love! revenge!" groaned the other; "the first I care not for, save as means of elevation to obtain the second; but the third——I will have it, if I perish myself in its accomplishment."

'"Tut, tut, my fine fellow," returned Filippo, "I engage you *shall* have it, without risk, too. Only hearken quietly to me, and be guided by my directions."

'"And what am I to thank for your sudden care after my interest?" rejoined Lorenzo, not yet so blinded by passion as not to suspect some sinister motive for the other's interference in his affairs; "why do you force yourself upon me? You can mean no good by your pretended sympathy: you come for no purpose other than to gloat upon my disgrace. Begone, or I will hurl you down the stairs."

'"Well," sneered the ruffian, "you ought to be quite *au fait* in that sort of exploit, as you have experienced that unceremonious sort of exit in *propriâ personâ*. Keep yourself cool, now. You are looking just as you must have done when you lay sprawling——Hands off, I say, I am stronger than you; and were I not, I have a knife, and no man ever attacks me without getting a dig of it sooner or later. Keep off, or it will be the worse for you. What! you *will* have it, then!"—Lorenzo had rushed at the ruffian, goaded by his insulting taunts; but his strength, at once infuriated and weakened by passion, was no match for the calculating coolness of his villainous antagonist, whose object it evidently was to excite him to the utmost verge of desperation, without any personal quarrel with himself. He contrived, then, sparing the exertion of active violence, to overpower the young artist and place him in a chair, where he lay exhausted by his own vehemence, and somewhat soothed by the caresses of poor little Carlo, whom his rooted terror of his uncle had not deterred from springing to the assistance of his beloved protector.

'Filippo left them to themselves awhile, and, lighting a cigar, sat smoking at the window, till his victim appearing somewhat calmed, he again approached him, and the boy speedily beat a retreat to his distant corner.

'"Come, now, my man, why quarrel with your friends? You do not seem to be possessed of too many. I mean nought but good towards you; and, if you inquire why, I am free to own, because I expect to gain greatly by making common cause with you. I repeat that I engage to put you in the way of attaining all three of the seemingly unattainable objects of your aspirations; but you must put yourself under my guidance, heart and hand—not body and soul; folks are too wide awake to avow that sort of bargain now-a-days—not that I see any difference but in words: it seems to me to come to the same thing."

'Alas for poor Lorenzo! the tempter uttered but the naked truth. What is the

simple interpretation of the legends of the foul fiend's victories in the dark ages, where the miserable victims are represented as signing with their blood a bond of fealty, in purchase of love, gold, or power?—boons out of which the crafty demon so often deluded his votary, who found, too late, his promises were only "a mockery and a snare!" What are these apparent fictions but

> '"The simple actions of an o'er true tale.
> Obscur'd by dark tradition's misty veil"?

In sober fact there may be no visible Mephistopheles at the elbow, but how frequently the poor dupe abandons himself, now to the suggestions of his own evil thoughts, and anon to the selfish guidance of a villainous adviser, barters his innocence for greed, lulls for awhile his dormant conscience, and awakes—how terrible an awaking!—to the stings of disappointment and remorse!

'To return to my narrative: all the specious reasonings and persuasions of Filippo might possibly have been ineffectual, had he not bethought himself of the incident of the bracelet, and its value, known hitherto to himself alone, as a means for developing the mystery connected with the birth of the artist-foundling.

'Eagerly did the youth listen to as much of the recital as Filippo chose to favour him with; suffering Lorenzo to believe by implication that both the Marquis and his foster-parents had all along been aware of all the circumstances.

'The plan—the details of which you will have hereafter—he had been thus far unsuccessful in inducing Lorenzo to adopt, was neither more nor less than a night attack on the palace of the Marchese, the abstraction of the costly plate and jewelry well known to be contained therein, and the forcible abduction of Adine, who was to be conveyed to the neighbouring sanctuary of Vallombrosa; and there an accommodating priest would be ready to rivet the chains of matrimony too securely for the possibility of severance, even by the great influence of the old noble. Filippo plausibly endeavoured to persuade his companion that the family of the Marchese would be easily induced to hush up the affair for the sake of the honour of the heiress.

'The communication of Filippo, nevertheless, had a contrary effect from what he had intended, Lorenzo immediately declaring he would boldly apply to the Marquis for the restoration of his property. At first, Filippo fancied he had made a false move, and was not without some misgivings as to the effect of his tardy acknowledgment of the truth. Reflection, however, reassured him as to the futility of his dupe's application, which he knew he had private means of forestalling or neutralising, so as to induce disbelief in his own confession. The consequent refusal of the Marquis to give up the ornament, he shrewdly conjectured would but serve to add fuel to the impassioned young artist's resentment, and only in the upshot bind him more closely to a participation in his own nefarious projects.'

'The event justified his anticipations. The old noble, in a written communication to that effect, seemed to have been induced utterly to ignore the rights of Lorenzo, and at the same time coupled his negation with a friendly admonition to quit the society of his mendacious accomplice, and turn his great talents to account on other soil than that of Tuscany. A handsome amount of money was enclosed in the packet, which Lorenzo dashed to the ground; and Filippo, who had managed to get wind of the time the parcel might be sent, furtively consigned the same to his own pockets. Adine had considerately added a small note to Carlo, containing the recovered stamp; and this act of kindness, and the very sight of her handwriting, might have disposed Lorenzo to a better course, had not Bernardo contrived to forward the missive by one of his uncle's retainers, who entertained an old grudge against the artist, on account of his active resentment for some act of insolence. This man's vulgar mind had eagerly seized so favourable an opportunity of retaliation, and he had consequently been one of the foremost in the throng of his persecutors, the memorable morn of his ignominious expulsion from the palazzo of the Marchese.

'The sight of this menial rekindled his sleeping rage; and nothing but the abject

terror of the cowering fellow prevented him from violence. Thus, ill-prepared for the endurance of disappointment, he opened the packet, perused the denial of what he considered his just claims, and furiously exclaimed :—

'"Away ! scruples of conscience, away ! I will hesitate no longer—I will have revenge ! Yes (catching sight of the stamp, which Carlo had just taken out of his little note, and was innocently holding up to his friend's eyes), by the Cross of Savoy I will be revenged !"'

(To be continued.)

THE POST BEFORE RAILWAYS.

Previous to 1784, the mail-bags of the post office were carried by postboys on horseback, at an average rate, including stoppages, of from three to four miles an hour. Of these postboys and their doings we have some curious accounts. Mr. Palmer, of Bath, who originated some considerable reforms in this department of the post office, says of them in his report, when introducing his schemes to Mr. Pitt: 'The mails are generally intrusted to some idle boy without character, mounted on a worn-out hack, and who, so far from being able to defend himself, or escape from a robber, is more likely to be in league with him.' This testimony, though it might not be unbiassed, seems in the main to have been true. Anybody might rob a postboy, and that by the simplest contrivance. Letters of any great value were so seldom sent by these means that the booty was often found worthless. The French mail on its outward-bound passage *viâ* Dover was more than once stopped and rifled before it had got clear of London. A string stretched across a street in the borough through which the mail would pass, has been known to throw the postboy from his horse, who, without more ado, would coolly retrace his steps, empty-handed, to the chief office, and report the loss of his bags. About this time, it was a frequent complaint of the officers of the post office that the runners did a considerable business for themselves, to the great detriment of the public revenue. Post-letters were frequently found upon them, when they would urge in extenuation of the fraud, that they had no wages from their masters —the proprietors who farmed the mails. One high official complains grievously that the gentry '*doe* give much money to the riders [for services rendered, no doubt], whereby they be very subject to get in liquor, which *stopes* the *males*.' We have seen upon what a slender thread the arrival or non-arrival of the mails really hung, and that to 'stope the males' was by no means a difficult task. Nor did the speed at which they travelled form any obstacle. From old records we learn that when Mr. Harley (afterwards Lord Oxford) complained that an express to him had been delayed, the postmasters-general (two were required in those days) replied, 'that it had travelled one hundred and thirty-six miles in thirty-six hours, which,' added they, 'is the usual rate of expresses.'

In Scotland, about the same time, this work was done even slower, and accomplished with greater hardships. The postboys walked all distances under twenty miles; longer distances required that the person should be mounted, though no relays of horses were allowed, however long and tedious the journey might be. Many years later, the English order of 'post' and 'express' would appear to have been reversed, 'expresses' travelling the slowest. Campbell, the poet, relates a story which shows how things were managed in his younger days in the Highlands. 'Near Inverary, we regained a spot of comparative civilisation, and came up with the postboy, whose horse was quietly grazing at some distance, whilst Red Jacket himself was immersed in play with other lads. "You rascal," I said to him, "are you the postboy, and thus spending your time?" "Nae, nae, sir," he answered, "I'm no the post;" and then, as if ashamed of his connection with it, added, "I'm *only* an *express!*"'

Thirty years before Mr. Palmer submitted his plans for appropriating some of the coaches to post-office uses, we learn that 'flying' coaches were started. The first was established by a number of Manchester merchants, to run between that place and the metropolis. These coaches earned their appellation by an increase of speed of about

a mile an hour above the ordinary rate. They were remarkable, however, for the improvements that continued to be made in them, both as to construction and in the matter of speed. Towards the end of the last century the rate had reached the considerable speed of eight miles an hour. This velocity was not attained without considerable misgivings and distrust on the part of travellers. When the eight miles was increased to ten and twelve miles an hour, principally through the influence of the post-office, the public mind was found to be in different stages of alarm and revolt. Vested interests indulged in the gloomiest forebodings on those who should thus knowingly spurn the ways of Providence! Lord Chancellor Campbell relates that he was frequently warned against travelling in the mail-coaches improved by Palmer, on account of the fearful rate at which they flew, and instances were given him of passengers who had died suddenly of apoplexy from the rapidity of the motion.

Mr. Palmer, who complained in his report that the post, instead of being the quickest, 'is almost the slowest conveyance in the country,' proposed, in 1784, that as far as possible the mail-bags should be sent in these improved coaches. He stipulated that they should in all cases be accompanied with mail-guards, well armed and accoutred, and such officers 'as could be depended upon as trustworthy.' He very properly thought that, with the help of the pistol and blunderbuss of the mail-guards, passengers might dispense with the usual precaution of making their will before taking a long journey. To provide for cases of *coachwreck*, he suggested that the mail-guard should be sent for his first month to the coach-making department, to learn the mysteries of the craft, and be initiated in the matter of axles and springs. This enterprising reformer also insisted that the mails should be timed throughout their journeys—a most needful arrangement, as we have seen. They might thus be enabled to reach London at a given time, when the mails could be delivered together. Again, instead of leaving London at all hours of the night, Mr. Palmer proposed that all the coaches should leave together at a specified time; and thus established what was, to the stranger in London, for many years, one of the first of city sights.

The post-office authorities made many and vehement objections to the plans for these sweeping changes. One, who doubtless foresaw more work for his department, could see 'no occasion for so much regularity;' another could not tell '*why* the mails should travel as quickly as passengers.' One more prominent gentleman, content like the rest with the insecurity of the old means of transit, objected to the employment of mail-guards, inasmuch as, instead of affording protection to the mails, 'the crime of murder would be added to that of robbery; for,' said he, 'when once desperate fellows had determined upon robbery, resistance would lead to murder!' Notwithstanding all departmental opposition, however, the Treasury, with Mr. Pitt at its head, saw and acknowledged the merits of the scheme as likely to lead, after a time, to a permanent increase of the revenue. An act was passed in 1785 authorising its adoption; and as no one could accuse prime-minister Pitt at that date with any leaning to peace and non-resistance principles, the clause recommending the appointment of mail-guards was fully sustained. Mr. Palmer, *ci-devant* theatre-manager, was at once transferred from the boards at Bath to the general post-office, as manager of the new scheme. He held office till 1792, when he retired upon a pension of £3000 a year, and a subsequent parliamentary grant of £50,000. Spirited reforms, during his few years of office, went on most vigorously. Three hundred and eighty towns, which had had before but three deliveries of letters a week, now secured one daily. On some roads, the mails were conveyed in one-third of the previous time. The time required for the mails to travel between the English and Scotch metropolis was reduced to sixty hours, with a corresponding reduction between towns at shorter distances.

The appearance of the mail at a halting-place in a small provincial town was always hailed with general interest, and the news discoursed, especially in times of war, eagerly devoured by men of all parties. In the earlier days of mail-coach travelling, cheap

letters and cheap newspapers were alike undreamed of. The leather bag of the post-office was viewed as the peculiar property of the Upper Ten Thousand. When there was any reason to suppose that some communication was on its way to some member of the commonalty, speculation would be eager among the knot of persons met to talk over the probable event. Letters, before the restrictions subsequently placed upon them, were more worthy of the name than they are now; family chronicles, domestic newspapers, moral essays, that must have taken hours to write, and but few of the slipshod hurried scrawls which characterise this era of cheap postage.

It is to the present era and the events of our own days that we turn in conclusion. The year 1837 was a memorable one in the post-office annals, inasmuch as a reformation was begun in that year by Mr. Rowland Hill which has led to most important results. Mr. Hill, in presenting his proposal to the government of the day, showed on general principles that the post-office was at once costly and inefficient; that with trade, industry, intelligence, and population increasing with the greatest strides, the post-office was at least stationary, if it was not falling into a state of decrepitude. With an outlay to the public, for the convenience it gave, enormously great, the returns to the state exchequer were disproportionately small. The legislature was convinced by the sagacious reasonings of Mr. Hill, and in its principal features, at any rate, his plan of a uniform penny postage was adopted. On the 12th of November, 1839, as a preliminary step, the Lords of the Treasury issued a minute, reducing the postage of all inland letters to the uniform rate of fourpence. On the 10th of January, 1840, Mr. Hill's success was rendered complete by the adoption of the penny rate.

The railways, however, have proved a very much more expensive means of conveyance than the mail-coach system which they superseded; and many striking examples of the difference in question are furnished by the successive reports of the post-office.

In 1844, for instance, a coach proprietor in the north of England actually paid to the post office department the sum of £200 annually for what he regarded as the privilege of conveying the mails, twice a day, between Lancaster and Carlisle. Six years ago, the post-office paid to the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway the sum of £12,000 a year for the same service. This sum, we believe, is far exceeded now. In every district in England and Scotland, immense sums are now paid to the different railway companies for services which formerly cost nothing; in many cases a merely nominal sum; in all, but a fraction of the present charges. Nor is the weight of the mails so materially different as to account for the increased expenditure. Whilst, since 1839, the letters in the aggregate have increased in weight six or seven fold, the weight of newspapers, in all cases forming the bulk of the mails, has actually decreased. By the abolition of the compulsory impressed stamp on newspapers, the greatest weight of them is now sent over the country by other means than the post, though the service of the post-office is still retained for sending single papers to outlying districts where the transit by other means would be much more costly. The weight even of book-parcels now sent through the post-office—a useful arrangement peculiar to our own day—does not nearly make up for the decreased weight of newspapers. In a report, dated 1856, it is clearly shown by the inspector-general of mails that the present weight of mail-bags might have been carried by the mail-coaches existing just before they were superseded, or by a slight addition to their number. The great and important gain to the public of calling into requisition the iron roads, is in the matter of speed. This triumph, however, over time and space is attained by a large sacrifice of revenue.—*Chambers's Journal.*

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

[We propose continuing this Appendix to Mr. Brown's early editions, for the benefit of those who do not possess the fourth.—Ed.]

Ottoman Empire.

The Turkish stamps were not issued in time for notice in the third edition. They

are upright oblong, black impression on extremely thin coloured paper; bearing, in a frame-work of different design for each value, *Ottoman Empire*, in Turkish characters, inscribed in a crescent; the Sultan's sign-manual above, and numerical value beneath; yellow, 20 paras; lavender, 1 piastre; blue, 2 piastres; rose, 5 piastres. Precisely similar impressions are issued (we are informed for Constantinople only) on paper of a brick-red colour; but the 1 piastre is usually of a lighter colour than the others, and occasionally a dark brown, and the 2 piastres is often seen of a light chocolate brown.

Paraguay.

Of these essays there is a light brownish, as well as a dark red; and we take this opportunity of cautioning amateurs against some very ill-executed forgeries of these rare stamps now in circulation.

Parma.

The issues of this government seem to have been invariably distinguished with correctness by most cataloguers, no overlooked individual having ever started into notice. We refer to Messrs. Lewes and Pemberton's book for an explanatory account of the forgeries.

Peru.

There is much trouble in identifying the many varieties among these stamps. In the fourth edition of the catalogue, the 1 peseta red, on *white* ground, is correctly transferred to a position denoting its border as composed of double lines; but the shape of the cornucopia, which is but slightly curled in the double-lined varieties both blue and red, renders their recognition much easier. Since the publication of the third edition, the essays therein described have been adopted: the 1 dinero being vermilion, and the 1 peseta brown on white.

Portugal.

The 5 reis of 1858 is sometimes of a very dark red-brown, as well as light-brown and chocolate; and the two varieties of blue of the same issue (first noticed in the fourth edition) may be readily distinguished by observing that the impression of one, which has the hair evenly parted, is the same as that of the green and lilac; and that of the other, which exposes the whole of the ear, is similar to the brown and rose of the same issues. A 10 reis yellow of the present reign came out this year, but the expected 50 r. green, and 100 r. lilac, are still desiderata.

Prince Edward Island.

The stamps of this colony, with those of Jamaica, Holland, and Mecklenburg, have never undergone a change.

Prussia.

As we stated in a reply to a correspondent last month, we have only seen the 6 pf. of the earliest Prussians brown-coloured, not vermilion. Mr. Brown has omitted the 2 s. gr. drab from the last edition, considering it unauthenticated.

The returned-letter label—eagle over horn, vermilion on white—was introduced this year. The ½ rose, 1 lilac, and 2 green, Express local Berlin, are pronounced to be another Hamburg humbug. We think parties selling stamps as postage which are not so, might be indicted for obtaining money under false pretences.

The 3 s. g., of the first issue of envelopes, is orange, not yellow. The 1, 2, and 3 s. g., with inscription traversing the stamp, are added to the third edition. We append an engraving of the 2 s. gr. adhesive, present issue.



Queensland.

The penny scarlet and twopenny light blue of this colony are not in the fourth edition; but there is a chocolate registered, which we think a Columbo variety.

Romagna.

The 6 bai. of this rare series of stamps

has been known but recently in comparison with the others; and we do not think it unlikely that a 7 bai. will be routed up some time or another. An engraving is subjoined of a genuine 4 bai.



Russia.

The 10 kopeck adhesive seems invariably of a lighter colour than formerly; as does the Polish of the same value. The 5 k. and 10 k. of Finland, 1862, are now also printed of a much paler colour, and we have the blue envelopes of that year in two very distinct shades.

St. Helena.

We have heard of a sixpenny red of this island, but it may have been an essay.

St. Lucia.

It is reported that shilling stamps are in preparation for this and other West Indian islands.

St. Vincent.

The green of the sixpenny is of a different shade from what it used to be.

Sandwich Islands.

The 1 cent black, noted in the fourth edition, now supersedes the blue. There is also a 2 cents *black*, on bluish tinted paper, as well as on white. We possess both, and they came direct from Honolulu. The portrait on the blue and red stamps, as corrected in the last edition, is that of Kamehameha the Great.

(*To be continued*).

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

We can but very rarely expect the pleasing duty of describing the issue of three—we may almost say four—complete sets of stamps in the same number. Such, however, is the case.

We commence with the Saxons which appeared on the 1st of July. They are elegant-looking and very neatly-engraved stamps; both adhesives and envelopes bearing a white embossed shield and crown, on a field of colour on white. The four envelopes and their corresponding values in labels are oval; but the ½ n. g. and 3 pf. have the corners filled up with the design. The inscription is *Sachsen* above, and the value beneath, which is repeated in figures twice on the envelopes, seven times on the ½ n. g., and no fewer than eleven times on each of the other values. The 3 pf. is green; the ½ n. g., scarlet; the 1, 2, 3, and 5 n. g., both labels and envelopes, are respectively rose, blue, light brown, and lilac. The stamp of the envelope is on the right, but the inscription on the left. We do not admire the slavish imitation of the Prussian series by so many governments. The last Saxon envelopes were extremely handsome; and the adhesives, of which we engrave one, had an individuality lacking in this new series, pretty as it is. The 10 n. g. is no longer employed.



The next series is the Lübeck, the device of which is still more similar to the Prussians. In the centre, the arms of Lübeck, in white cameo on a coloured ground; name above, monetary denomination beneath, and figures each side. There are five adhesives, and the same number of envelopes, printed in similar colours. Unlike the modern German impressions, the stamp and inscription are to the left of the envelope. The values are as before—½ s., green; 1 s., scarlet; 2 s., rose; 2½ s., blue; and 4 s., light brown.

The third series newly issued is the Austrian. These also have followed the lead of Prussia, in discarding the sovereign's head for the everlasting eagle. This symbol, like those of the preceding, is in white relief on colour, or rather on shield defined in colour. Inscription above, and value beneath. The 2 kr. is yellow; the 3 kr., green; the 5 kr., rose; the 10 kr., blue; and the 15 kr., brown. Envelopes the same. The 25-kr. envelope, which is still continued, is violet; but the 20 kr., 25 kr., 30 kr., and 35 kr., are among the things of the past. The

newspaper stamp differs in form, but not in design, from the others. It is pale violet. The old stamps are allowed to be issued until the end of November.

A fourth series may virtually be reckoned as an addition to collections, in the stamps of Venetia, which are, as formerly, precisely similar to those of Austria, with the trifling exception of bearing the value in soldi in lieu of kreuzer.



An engraving of the Costa Rica is subjoined. This stamp does much credit to the printers of the American Bank-Note Company, to whom also are due the Nova Scotia stamps, and, we believe, those of Nicaragua.

We have the pleasure also of being the first describer of two very old British Guiana stamps hitherto unmentioned. They were from the valuable collection of a well-known amateur, and have now passed into Parisian hands. An individual, evidently of the same series, is described by Dr. Gray in his manual, as 8 cents on green paper. Of those to which we allude, one is a transverse oval; *British* above, and *Guiana* beneath; *4 cents* in the centre: the other has the same inscription, but the oval is upright; value, 12 cents. Both are printed in black; the former on yellow, the latter on blue.

We can add, moreover, another individual to the very rare old Philippine Islands issue. It is similar to the 1 real of the catalogue (which is black, not brown), and like it, has *correos* (not *correo*), 1854 *y* 55, beneath: on the top is, *franco*, 2 *reales*, *fts.*: green impression on white. We may add that the effigy of the Queen is precisely similar to that on the Spanish stamps of 1853. This specimen is in our own collection. There is another of the same series in Mr. Lewes's collection, colour, red on white: this latter has the value (5 *cuartos*) beneath, and inscription and date above.

To the essays for Italy previously noted are to be added a yellow and a violet; but we are informed by a correspondent that he has the authority of an official in the Italian post-office, for announcing that these beautiful stamps have been rejected by the Government, on the score of the expense of engraving them.

The expected Norway envelopes will be most probably in use in a day or two.

We have not space to notice many new Confederate stamps; and must defer our promised description of English essays, &c.

REPLY TO THE ATTACK ON POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTORS, IN THE '*SEMAPHORE*' OF MARSEILLES.

A journal in the south of France has been lately complaining, perhaps not unreasonably, of the annoyance created by the passion for stamp collecting.

This new fancy, which is spreading with increased rapidity, may incontestably degenerate into *timbromania*. Many persons are collecting for divers reasons: some from eccentricity, others from fancy; some from vanity, and some—and these are by far the most numerous—collect because others do so; add to these the stamp dealers, and finally the youth of the schools and colleges, who join most energetically in the pastime.

Agreed that the perseverance of these latter, often passing the bounds of discretion, is well calculated to exasperate individuals of a cool temperament; but let us agree also that there is a certain pleasure in finding unexpected treasures with which to enrich a well-supplied album.

We are not to believe, moreover, that the formation of those mosaics which provoke the spleen of the paper in question never has a useful aim: the postage stamp, before cancelling, is a sort of representative paper money, often used for other purposes than franking letters. It is under this incontestable title that numismatists have declared it worthy of figuring in *their* collections.

If among these squares of paper are some of an insignificant type, there are others, on the contrary, offering striking portraits of a great number of sovereigns. These portraits have the enormous advantage of being more exact and more sightly than those on coins.

The engravings on stamps, artistically treated, are durable, whilst the impressions

on coins are soon effaced by use. Postage stamps, moreover, are infinitely more circulated than coin at a distance, the transmission of the latter requiring more trouble and expense.

It is to be regretted that the different states do not adopt for their stamps the sovereign's effigy, concurrently with his own private arms or those of the country over which he reigns.

We devoutly wish the cancellation were managed so as not to utterly destroy the type, as is unfortunately the case in Belgium, India, Hong Kong, &c.

Envelope stamps are generally of perfect execution, but it is undoubtedly labour lost; for pressure soon damages the cameo appearance, if not already done by the cancelling apparatus.

Would the postal officials only read these lines and study their import, we are convinced they would take every opportunity of satisfying people both in an artistic, scientific, and historical respect.

It is also to be desired that engravers would employ more art in the reproduction of effigies—more exactness in featuring the sovereigns—that there may not be *official* in flat contradiction to *truthful* portraits. We do not think history can gain aught by the exaggerated flattery of these gentlemen.

The ancients perpetuated the glorious deeds of history by means of their coins. By the same means have been cleared up many knotty historical points: by coins has its domain been extended, and the precise arms, utensils, and costume of the ancients ascertained; they have preserved to us the features of the greatest men of antiquity, as well as the shape of several large buildings since destroyed by arms, fire, or time. As true pages of history, they serve as testimony, justification, or contradiction to such writers as Tacitus, Livy, or Sallust. They establish the dates of great events, they make us acquainted with the origin of cities, provinces, and Roman colonies.

Can the same be done now-a-days? Alas! no. Because now interests of more importance do not allow us to distort money from its veritable intent, and we must sacrifice to convenience all that art and history entrusted to ancient coin.

From these coins it is that we are made acquainted with and even possess those beautiful types of Nerva, Trajan, Antoninus, &c. We much doubt if remote posterity will ever possess a single specimen of our copper coinage.

It is true that special medals relate not only the principal facts, but even facts of a secondary interest that the ancients would disdain to notice. That is some compensation doubtless, but by no means satisfactory; and even in this sense their number is excessively limited in comparison with current money, a few cabinets alone possessing them.

Now since money cannot at present, as in Roman times, serve to perpetuate the history of nations, why not consecrate postage stamps to that use?

On an average, six postage stamps are employed in each state: the lowest and highest values might bear the sovereign's effigy; the second and last but one in price might carry the arms and colours of the country; the intermediate stamps could be reserved for perpetuating events of consequence.

Four would thus undergo the changes of dynasty or reign, and the others be more frequently altered.

Would this be an inconvenience? We think not; especially as in certain states, for the prevention of fraud, impressions are almost annually renewed.

As to the final complaint of the same newspaper, we think it must be a joke; not having the least notion that stamp-trafficking ever had an illicit aim. Many amateurs, ourselves among others we own, have indeed tried to cleanse our specimens as much as possible from the hideous post marks that disfigured them; and we know by experience that these attempts, pushed too far, have been attended with disastrous consequences.

The administration is no doubt in the right to preoccupy itself with a question that would seem to menace financial interests, but we are convinced that so far from being prejudicial, the extraordinary extension of this new branch of commerce that has risen up in so strange a manner

is wonderfully productive to the revenue; since, besides these shoals of obliterated postage stamps—which in our opinion are exported only to paper the apartments of some eccentric celebrities—considerable sums of money are expended for the purchase of unused specimens, destined to adorn the thousands of albums whose leaves are daily turned over in every part of the world.

E. De Rives de Seine.

REVIEWS of POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage-Stamp Album. Illustrated with Maps. By Justin Lallier, Member of the Archæological Societies of Orleans and Sens, and of the French Society for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. Second edition, revised, corrected and enlarged. Paris: A. Leuègre.

'Great cry, and little wool,' as a certain unmentionable personage is reported to have said on shearing a pig. Mons. Jules Lallier, as he calls himself in his preface—we did not know that Justin and Jules are synonymous—deserves great credit for being one of the first, if not the primary introducer of postage-stamp albums; but in the interval between his first and second editions, there has been ample time to make more corrections and additions than he has done, although many improvements, in truth, there are.

The mythical Newfoundland halfpenny is of course still quoted, although non-existent, and never-existent. To make things square, however, he omits the well-known fourpenny and sixpenny of that island. And here we may take occasion to own we were mistaken in supposing the twopenny has not been printed in the new dark colour. We saw one this morning in Mr. Thornton Lewes's choice collection of unused specimens; also one of much deeper colour than they now are. We suppose Mons. Lallier ignores colour, as no mention is made of the change of colour of the Bahamas, British Guiana penny stamps (of which there are four distinct colours), Turkish, the 2 n. g. Saxon, of the oldest issue, and numerous others. On the contrary, there are spaces left for stamps of which we have never heard, as the 3 kr., orange; 6 kr., green; 9 kr., pink, and 18 kr., blue, oval *envelope* stamps for Würtemberg. We shall be glad to be set right, if such stamps exist. The now well-known old Moldavian stamps are unnoticed; the 15 c. Italy, of the last impression; the 6 bai. Romagna; the old issue of Monte Video, &c. There is room for one Antigua stamp only, and no mention even of that in the letter-press; and one of the three 8-reales Mexican is ignored. Smith and Elder's stamps are introduced among the Indian.

In conclusion, we should be very grateful for a sight of the reddish-brown, octagonal, threepenny English envelope; the *oval* Finlands which fit into *square* compartments; and the upright rectangulars fitting into oblong ovals. This reminds us of the quaint conceit of an old author, who compared life to a board pierced with holes of various shapes, and human beings to pegs in like manner diversely shaped. 'How frequently,' is his piteous but legitimate complaint, 'do we see the round man put in the three-cornered hole!'

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Enclosed I send you five samples of the new United States two-cent postage stamp; the first of that denomination issued by this Government. The head is that of *Andrew* Jackson (and for heaven's sake *don't* let any of your correspondents persuade you that it is the late *Stonewall* Jackson), twice President of the United States and a major-general during the last war with Great Britain. I think the stamp a model of ugliness; but I *may* be prejudiced, as *my* design was rejected.

Yours truly,

New York. J. GAYLER.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—In reference to your article on page 56 of the magazine, I forward you an extract from a Hamburg newspaper, just come into my hands, and which will certainly amuse your readers.

'The postage-stamp exchange has just received a heavy blow. A certain M. Schecrenbeck, proprietor of the *Institut Hamburger Boten*, ordered stamps in the usual postal form, in the centre of which figures the Hamburg arms—a castle—and his own name beneath. He sent those stamps to England and elsewhere for sale to collectors. Some enterprising clerks, in imitation of this, ordered a series of stamps to be struck off, the same in number (20), inscribed *Verein Hamburger Boten*, the figure 1 or ½ in the centre, and *Th. Lafrenz* below. A lot of these were also sent to England, &c.

M. Scheerenbeck, feeling himself insulted by that proceeding, bought 2000 specimens of these Lafrenz stamps, which he consigned as *corpus delicti* to the police authorities, denouncing his competitors as propagating postage stamps of a non-existing institution. The head of the police gave judgment as summarily as Solomon. He not only confiscated the stamps of the non-existing institution, but threatened M. Scheerenbeck with a five-thaler fine, if he persisted in using the arms of Hamburg for a private speculation.

'Our readers may see how far the humbugging system is carried in postage stamps when they hear that stamps are issued by order of the "Company of Shoeblacks;" others by "The United Theatres," inscribed, "Dissolved in the year so-and-so," and a cipher in the centre. A stamp is now ready for the English market, professedly emanating from pretended agents of the "Society of Publicans," with a pint pot in lieu of arms in the middle!'

Accept the best compliments of
Yours truly,
OSCAR BERGER-LEVRAULT.

Strasburg.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—Being recently in the company of an Austrian official, I asked him the reason of the changes in the postage stamps. He told me that the Government of Austria decided upon changing the stamps, so as to have the arms instead of the head, for this reason, viz., that when the sovereign dies they would be obliged to have a different set of dies, and therefore they have changed them to the arms instead of having the head; so that they do not anticipate having to change again.

Saxony, I suppose you are also aware, has changed her stamps from the head to the arms. They were issued on the 1st of July. The colours are different from the old ones, in several instances.

I have been informed (I cannot, however, answer for its being true) that it is contemplated in Brussels, that the Belgian Government will shortly issue a set of stamps, bearing the lion of Brabant on a shield, and of the values of 1, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 80 c.

On dit in Turin that the Italian essay stamps are expected to take the place of the present issue, and that they will consist of 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, and 1 lire.

Hoping you will find space for the insertion of the above,

I remain yours truly,
WILLIAM FREDERIC COOKE.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—The following recent issues of postage stamps may be of interest to your readers.

British Guiana.

Inscription [B. GUIANA] *ship in full sail to right in circle, date* 1863. *Col. imp.; large rect., value in Roman figures.*

6 cents lilac. 24 c. green. 48 c. rose.

Confederate States of America.

Inscription [THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA] *head of President Jeff. Davis to right in oval. Col. imp.; fancy frame.*

10 cents blue, value in words.
10 c. blue, value in figures.

Effigy in an oval, figure indicating value in upper angles, letters C. S. in lower angles. Col. imp.; rect.

2 c. carmine, value in words.

Dutch Indies.

Inscription [NEDERL. INDIE. POST ZEGEL], *head of King William III. to left. Col. imp.; rect.*

10 cent carmine.

Lubeck.

Name [LUEBECK] *white embossed two-head eagle displayed in oval, value in figures each side. Col. imp.; oval.*

½ schilling green. 1 sch. orange. 2 sch. rose.
2½ sch. blue. 4 sch. brown.

ENVELOPES.

Same device, brown envelope inscription on left. Col. imp.; oval.

½ schilling green. 1 sch. orange. 2 sch. rose.
2½ sch. blue. 4 sch. brown.

Austria.

Embossed white two-headed eagle, crowned and displayed. Col. imp.; oval.

2 kreuzer yellow. 3 kr. green 5 kr. rose.
10 kr. blue. 15 kr. cinnamon.

NEWSPAPER STAMP.

Inscription [K. K. ZEITUNGS POST STÆMPEL] *same device in oval. Col. imp.; oct.*

Lavender.

Saxony.

Name [SACHSEN], *arms embossed in white relief on lined ground in oval. Col. imp.; rect.*

3 pfennige green.

Name [SACHSEN], *arms embossed in white relief in invected border. Col. imp.; oval.*

½ neu groschen orange. 1 n. gr. pink. 2 n. gr. blue.
3 n. gr. brown. 5 n. gr. lilac.

ENVELOPES.

Name [SACHSEN] *and arms embossed in white relief on coloured ground. Col. imp.; plain oval.*

1 neu groschen red. 2 n. gr. blue.
3 n. gr. brown.

United States of America.

July, 1863. *Inscription* [U. S. POSTAGE], *head of President Lincoln in oval, figure indicating value in upper angles; value in words and letters U. S. in lower angles. Black imp.; rect.*

2 cents.

It will thus be seen that the 'Disunited States' do not despair of becoming 'United.'

The Baden Land Post stamps are now no longer used, and will soon become scarce.

The Danish government will shortly issue envelope stamps, the design to be adopted being already decided.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
MOUNT BROWN.

124, *Cheapside, London, E.C.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Everall.—Your 3 n. g. Saxon has not the slightest appearance of ever having been yellow; and, notwithstanding our Leipsig authority, we cannot help believing in the white issue.

Szezrzec, Harlow.—The language of the Sandwich Islands is as much an unknown tongue to us, as that to which your own pseudonym belongs.

W. X. Z., Torquay.—The 6 kr. and 9 kr. Baden, black on white, we believe were in Mr. Brown's first and second editions, but have been discarded from the later. They are generally supposed to be, like the 3 n. g. Saxon alluded to above, naturally or artificially faded specimens.—You will find your Canton Bern figured in our June number. It is a bill stamp, and there are similar ones of various denominations; but, as we have said before, this stamp seems to have been allowed, like the Jamaica shilling receipt, to do duty occasionally as a postage stamp. Since writing the above, we have seen what we believe is a *genuine* specimen of a 9-k. white Baden. It was taken from an old letter, received some years since.

L. M.—Your 15-kr. Austrian on buff may possibly be an envelope stamp, printed on paper such as is now generally used by the Americans.—The French 20 c. republic we have before noted in our addenda as printed on white and on tinted paper.—Your Belgium 40 c., violet brown, and 8 pies, purple, India, must be discoloured specimens.—The 1d. Cape of Good Hope is often a very brown red.—We never heard of the 20 c. blue on blue; 20 c., brown; or 40 c., red on blue, Sardinian, 1851. Such peculiar stamps should be sent for inspection, as it is impossible to give an opinion from the simple description.—We intended noticing the two shades of colour in the Swedish 12, 24, and 30 öre in their due place, and also the two colours of the 24-c. U. S., last issue; the two varieties of the 12-cuartos Spain, 1860; and a whole set of Swiss that have never yet been catalogued.—The 1d. white envelope of Great Britain, having passed the post, is entitled to be considered a postage stamp.—The twopenny *yellow* Great Britain must be a chemical swindle.—To distinguish Austrian and some other envelopes from their adhesive congeners, a good margin of paper should be left. We think we have remarked this before.—We introduce two sets of Greeks into our own album. In addition to the numbers impressed upon the backs, except in the 1 l. and 2 l., the later printed stamps are darker in appearance, there being much more shading about the face, giving Mercury what Mercury never had—a whisker.

H. B., Primrose Hill.—Your 12 c. and 24 c. United States are both of the issue of 1857.

C. E. S., Weymouth, states that the 10 and 1-kop. Russian envelope was in use as early as the year 1855,—three years before the date given in Mount Brown's manual.

G. E. W., St. Mary's, Harlow.—We have never seen the 6 pfennige of the early issue of Prussia otherwise than brown on white, not vermilion.—The 15-c. Italy, blue, of the present year, was in use two or three months only, having been soon superseded by the present stamp of that value.—The sixpenny Canada, black, is rare, but the twelvepenny is almost unattainable.—The laureated heads in the New South Wales stamps, on blue paper, are a trifle inferior in execution to those on white.—The 1 peseta, brown, of the present Peruvian issue is noticed in this number, as well as in Mr. Brown's fourth edition.—We believe the Moldo-Wallachian, but not the Moldavian, stamps are in actual use.

E. Smith, Liverpool.—You will see the distinction between the Portuguese impressions noticed in our addenda, in the present number.—The omission of the shilling and sixpenny octagonal adhesives was mentioned in the last number: it was quite an oversight of Mr. Brown's.

R. S., Oxford.—Your pale and deep-orange 2-annas Indian, may be considered as varieties. The Lafrenz swindles were appended to Mount Brown's third edition, but are properly discarded from his fourth. You will find their history explained in a translation from a Hamburg newspaper, in the present number.

Tony, Birkenhead.—We have ourselves the shilling and sixpenny English octagonal, both as adhesives and envelopes. We had noticed the two shades of colour in some of the latter. We have never seen the tenpenny otherwise than as adhesive. As you rightly observe, some have threads and others none; the latter may be from envelopes, but the sixpenny appear invariably without threads.

E. B. Shaw.—Your first question has been previously answered.—The 1-franc French has been long discontinued.

S. K., Torquay.—The fictitious Danish essay may be easily known from the genuine, by the long beard noticeable in the accompanying engraving.



J. Couper, Swansea.—We have elsewhere acknowledged our error in imagining the twopenny Newfoundland had not been issued of the new colour. Possibly the eightpenny will come out likewise, but we do not see why stamps should be anticipated before issue.—Thanks for the information that the Ireland Private Office stamps of Lallier's album are the pink and green Petty Sessions stamps. We have recently seen them.

R. S., Torquay.—Your Florida stamps, 'upright rectangular; without value indicated; galloping courier on horseback, shoulder-strap and post-bag; marked *Express;* one yellow-brown, the other rose-coloured,' may or may not be genuine. We have never heard of or seen them.—We believe in the 12½-cents Canada, blue.

R. F. Wilme.—The rarest of the Sandwich Island stamps is the 2 cents, large figure.—The 20-c., 25-c., and 40-c. French republic are equally common. The other three are very much scarcer.—A black penny English in good condition is worth the current value.

E. Bolton Shaw.—The new Saxons, which we describe elsewhere, were issued on the 1st of July.—The very minute figures on the right and left sides of the new blue English, represent the number of the complete sheet from which they are taken, which has a corresponding figure in the corner. The new penny issue is marked in the same way.

*** Advertisements for insertion in the Stamp Collector's Magazine, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

TIMBRES POSTES!—D. DEAN, Hope Square, Weymouth, has a lot of rare used and unused Colonial to exchange for Foreign. All kinds purchased.

ARMS, CRESTS, MONOGRAMS, ETC.—A large variety of the above, beautifully stamped in Colours, with names. Price 3d. per sheet; postage 1d. extra. Address, Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath.

W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps, will send their Price List, giving full particulars of prices, &c., of 1000 varieties of *used* and *unused* Stamps, on receipt of two postage stamps. Example of prices (all other kinds equally low):—Austrian Italy, 2 s., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 3 s., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Barbadoes, green, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; blue, 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Brazil, 10 r., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; 30 r., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Lubeck, Bergedorf, and Hamburg, ½ sch., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Baden, Bavaria, Germany, and Wurtemburg, 1 kr., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Luxemburg, 1 c., 1d. each, 4d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; 4 c., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; 10 and 12½ c., 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen; Greece, 1 lept., 1d. each, 5d. per dozen; 2 lept., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; Berlin Express, ½ s. g., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; 1 s. g., 3d. each, 1/10 per dozen; 2 s. g., 4d. each, 3/ per dozen; Hanover and Saxony, 3 pf., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Germany, ½ and ½ s. g., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Nevis, Trinidad, Bahamas, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island penny, 4d. each, 3/3 per dozen; Costa Rica, ½ r., 2/6 each; Liberia, 6 c., 1/ each. All the above are unused.

OMEGA, Everton, Liverpool, has an extensive assortment of Foreign Postage Stamps in stock. The following are a few:—Antigua, penny; Bahamas, penny; Barbadoes, blue, green; Jamaica, penny; Nevis, penny; Newfoundland, penny; St. Vincent, penny;—all 3d. each; Baden, 1, 1d.; Lund Post, 1, 1d.; Bremen, 2, 2d.; 3, 3d.; British Guiana, 1 c., black, 2d.; 2 c., 3d.; 4 c., 6d.; 8 c., 7d.; Canada (Envelopes), 5 c., 6d.; 10 c., 9d.; Confederate States (fac-similes), 5d. each, or 3/ the set of 15; Germany (N.), ½, ½, ½, at 1d. each; Greece, 1, 1d.; 2, 1d.; 5, 2d.; 10, 3d.; Hamburg, ½, 1d.; Hanover, ½ gr., 1d.; 3 pf., 1d.; old envelopes, 1 g. gr., 9d.; 1 gr., rose, 1/6; Ionian Islands, 9d. per set of 3; Liberia, 6 c., 1/; Lubeck, old and new, 1/3 per set; Wallachia, 3, 5d.; 6, 5d.; 30, 1/; Natal, penny, 4d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d.; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d.; new 2 c., 3d.; Papal States, ½, 1½d.; 1, 1½d.; 2, 3d.; 3, 4d.; Prince Edward's Island, penny, 3d.; twopenny, 4d.; threepenny, 7d.; Saxony (new kind, just issued), 3 pf., 1½d.; ½ gr., 1½d.; 1, 3d.; 2, 5d.; 3, 6d.; 5, 9d.; or 2/ the set of six; envelopes, 2/ the set of four; St. Lucia, red, 3d.; blue, 9d.; Trinidad, red, 4d.; Turkey, yellow, 5d.; United States envelopes, 1, 2d.; 3, 4d.; 6, 6d.; 10, 1/; Venezuela, 4d. each, or 10d. the set of three; Hamburg Locals, 1/, 1½, 1/6 per set of ten. All the above are unused. The following are used, but in good condition:—Baden (figure in centre), 3 kr., blue, yellow, green, 6, green, 3d. each; 6, yellow, 9, pink, 2d. each; French Colonies, 10 c., 40 c., 3d. each; Hanover (first issue), 1 g. gr., 1-10, 4d. each; 1-30, 1-30, 1-15, 2d. each; second issue, 1 g. gr., 1-10, 4d. each; 1-30, 1-15, 2d. each; India (old), ½, 1, 2, 4, 6d. each; Prussia (first issue), 1, 2, 3, 2d. each; second issue, 1, 2, 3, 1d. each; Saxony (first issue), ½ gr., 4d.; 1, 2, 3, 3d. each. List sent on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope.

FORGED STAMPS: HOW to DETECT THEM, by Thornton Lewes and Edward Pemberton. Contains full descriptions of all kinds of Forged Stamps. All orders to be sent to Edward Pemberton, Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Post free, 1/1.

CAUTION! The great sale of the 'SHILLING ALBUM' having induced dishonest Dealers to imitate the title and style of advertisement, with the intent to palm off on the public their very inferior publication, R. Pigg hereby gives notice the 'Shilling Album' can be obtained only at 11, Holles Street, Dublin.

Now Ready. Will be sent for Seven Stamps.

COSTA RICA.—A most beautifully-engraved Proof, an exact fac-simile of the original Costa Rica Stamp. A very limited number have been taken. Address, Costa Rica, 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

STAMPS GIVEN AWAY.—Send three stamps for J. and A. Menlove's Priced List, and you will receive an unused Foreign Stamp. Apply by letter to J. and A. Menlove, 22, Upper Baker Street, London, N.W.

10,000 OBLITERATED FOREIGN STAMPS WANTED TO PURCHASE, exclusive of French and American. Lowest price per thousand to be forwarded to Stafford Smith & Smith, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, Bath.

E. C. HALL, Foreign Stamp Dealer, Hartlepool, begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Stamp Collectors in general, that he has Postage Stamps of almost every country constantly on hand, a great many of which he receives direct, and can, therefore, offer them cheaper than any other dealer. For one stamp he will send an assortment on inspection. Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Romagne, &c. Orders punctually attended to. E. C. H. is desirous to correspond with parties resident on the Continent and elsewhere.

IMPORTANT to THOSE ABOUT to COLLECT.—C. G., Acomb House, Manchester, has a Collection for sale, containing 1200 varieties of Stamps, more than 600 of which are *unused*. Price only £40, but no reasonable offer will be refused.

C. DECROIX, Wellington Bazaar, Dover, sends Stamps on approval on receipt of stamped envelope. Price List for two stamps.

FRANCE: Presidency, 25 c., and Republic, 20 c., at 1/10 per dozen, or 10/ per hundred. Others equally cheap. Decroix, Bazaar, Dover.

TIMBRES POSTE ÉCHANGÉS.—S. T., Post Office, Weymouth, sera heureux de recevoir aucune quantité de timbres poste vieillis du Continent, en échange de ceux des Colonies Anglaises, dont il a beaucoup. S. T. traitera bien liberalement avec ses correspondants.

MR. WILLIAM COOKE, Dover, will forward selections from his magnificent stock of Obsolete Stamps for inspection. Dealers liberally dealt with.

EDWARD UPJOHN, Bookseller, supplies Foreign Stamps at reasonable prices. Illustrated List, 2d. August 1st, No. 1 of the *London and Provincial Stamp Collector's Guide and Advertiser*, with Monthly Summary, List of Dealers, &c., One Penny. 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

20 STAMPS for SIXPENCE.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath.

JAMES SHELTON, Grimsby, wishes to purchase 5000 obliterated Colonial and Obsolete Stamps. Lowest price per 500 wanted. For sale, Swiss Rayons, 3/3 per dozen, or 50, mixed, for 11/; Mexico, mixed, 8/ per dozen. Selections sent on receipt of stamp.

D. Mc CORKINDALE, 37, Abbotsford Place, Glasgow. Send for Summer List. Prices very cheap. Nova Scotia, threepenny and sixpenny, each 4d.; Saxony, 1, 2, 3, old, 4d., 3d., and 3d. each; Mauritius, 3d. each; Romagnas, 1/ each, &c.

SAMUEL K. CROMPTON, 8, Prince's Terrace, Birkenhead, has a Collection of 340 Foreign Stamps (100 are unused) to sell to the highest bidder. List sent on receipt of stamped envelope.

A. BENSON, Throston Street, Hartlepool, begs to announce that he can send, on receipt of stamped envelope, his large printed Price List of used and unused Foreign Stamps, which will be found one of the largest and cheapest yet issued.

G. W. WILKINSON, 9, Goldsmith Square, Stoke Newington, London, N., sends Stamps out on approval, on receipt of stamped envelope.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM TITLES.—Now Ready, beautifully printed in Colours, a New and Complete Set of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums, Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., etc., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Specimen Sheet post free for two stamps. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street.

COINS! COINS! COINS!—Collectors will receive, per return of post, the new edition of H. G. Smith's printed Price List of Coins, on receipt of stamped envelope. Stocks of Stamps selling off at greatly reduced prices. Address, 12, Chestnut Street, Waterloo Road, Manchester.

LOOK BEFORE YOU PURCHASE.—C. K. JONES, 59, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester, sends all kinds (both old and new issues) of Stamps on inspection, on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope. Apply at once.

WANTED, Agents to sell old Hanover, old Brunswick, old Sachsen (1850, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), Spanish, Brazil, Antigua, Nevis, American envelopes, French President and French Republic at 3d. each, Bremen (1 and 2 g.), Helvetia, old Cantons Swiss, Bergedorf, Lubeck, and others too numerous to mention. Fifteen per cent. allowed on advertised prices. Apply at once to C. K. Jones, 59, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester.

THE SIXPENNY PACKET of STAMPS.—This Packet contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath.

HENRY WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, supplies all kinds of Foreign Stamps, at extraordinary low prices. For particulars and List send one stamp.

FOR THIRTY SHILLINGS, a COLLECTION containing 320 different Stamps, many unused, and nicely arranged. For particulars apply to C. C., Newport, Mon., who has also more than 1100 varieties to dispose of, at low prices. Communications requiring a reply to enclose a stamp.

C. BENTHAM, Woodview, Blackrock, Dublin, on receipt of a penny stamp, will send some cheap Foreign Stamps on approval.

BOOKS of CRESTS.—Published on the 1st of every month. Each book will contain 50 Crests in relief, beautifully stamped in Colours, together with a Key to the names of the Families bearing them. This work, when complete, will form the most perfect Collection extant, and is expected to contain over 3000 Crests. Books I. and II. now ready. Price 1/ each; post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

JAMES ROBINSON & Co., 153, Crown Street, Liverpool, have just imported a large quantity of Foreign Stamps. The following are unused:—Ionian Islands, 7d. per set, 6/ per dozen sets; Prince Edward's Island, penny, 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen; twopenny, 4d. each; Antigua, penny, 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 5 c., 4d.; set of 5, 2/9; New Brunswick, 1 c., 1d., 10d. per dozen; French Colonies, 1 c., 1d.; 5 c., 3d.; Greek, 1 lept., 1d., 4d. per dozen; 2 lept., 1d., 8d. per dozen; Portugal, 5 r., 6d.; 10 r., 9d. per dozen. Master List on receipt of one stamp for postage.

LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Five-Shilling Packet of Local American Postage Stamps contains 20 varieties. Post free, 5/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

SELLING OFF. FURTHER REDUCTION!!—Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 48, Fenchurch Street London, E.C., will, this month (August), send his new Price List (with a very rare Continental Stamp, only a few weeks in circulation, gratis), post free, on receipt of two stamps; and he feels sure that the great reduction in price (most stamps being at only half their original cost) must elicit an order from every purchaser of his List. Extract from List, all clean specimens:—Sandwich Islands, 5 c., 4d.; local American, 1/ per dozen, assorted, Confederate States, choice specimens, 2d. each; Hong Kong, 2 c., 3d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. (Engine), 2d.; Greek, 1 and 2 lept., 1d. each; Turkish, 5 the set of 4; French Colonies, 1 c., and 5 c., 2d. each; 10 c., 3d.; 40 c., 7d.; or 9/ the set of 4. Used specimens:—Pony Express, 6d. each; old Denmark, Fire R.B.S., 1d.; Old Norway, 4 sk., blue, 3d.; Canada, 5 c. (Beaver), 1d. each.

TO COLLECTORS of UNOBLITERATED POSTAGE STAMPS.—The One-Shilling Packet of Stamps contains one dozen varieties of Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps, all unobliterated. Post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

A COLLECTION of over 1000 POSTAGE STAMPS, of which 400 unused, to be sold for £20. For particulars, apply to T. P., 7, Anglesea Street, Clonmel, Ireland.

BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED in COLOURS.—Now ready, a New and Complete Set of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums. Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Illustrated with Maps and Diagrams, and containing a full description of British, Colonial, and Foreign Stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. Imperial oblong 8vo., cloth, clasp, 7/6; post free, 8/2. Bound in half-morocco, clasp, 10/; post free, 10/10. Bound in whole morocco, two clasps, gilt edges, 12/6; post free, 13/4. Bound in best morocco relief, two clasps, 21/; post free, 21/10. Handsomely bound in best morocco relief, two large clasps, 25/; post free, 27/10.

"For the benefit of Collectors, Mr. JUSTIN LALLIER has just issued an admirable Album, which will be in extensive demand as soon as its existence is known. It contains a description of every known variety of letter paste, so that a partially obliterated stamp may easily be recognised; and on the page opposite the description are spaces for mounting the stamps described, so that any Collector may, at a glance, see all his deficiencies."—*The Bookseller.*

Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street.

S. DAVIS, 18, Granby Street, Leicester, in returning thanks to the numerous gentlemen who have honoured him with their patronage, begs to state that he has just received a large and valuable assortment of rare and obsolete Stamps, from which he will send a selection for approval, to any address, on application. All orders will receive prompt attention.

CHEAP.—A COLLECTION of 250 STAMPS to be sold to the highest bidder. Apply to E. HINE, Dunstable.

STAMPS.—C. TAW, 57, Joy Street, Belfast, has a large stock of Stamps on hand, and is willing to sell at the lowest possible prices. Price Lists can be obtained by forwarding a stamp to above address. Along with every List a Foreign Stamp is sent free. Stamps sent on approbation.

THE CHEAPEST PACKET of STAMPS.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

ONE PENNY EACH.—Baden, 1 kr.; Bavaria, 1 kr.; Bergedorf, ½ sch.; Brunswick, ½; Germany, ½, ½ s. gr., and 1 kr.; Hamburg, ½ sch.; Hanover, ½ pf.; Lubeck, ½ sch.; Luxemburg, 1 and 2 c.; Portugal, 5 r., &c. Hamburg Boten, 10 kinds for 9d. Local American, 3/ per dozen. Price List sent, on receipt of stamped envelope, by C. H. CLARK, Foreign Stamp Dealer, Liverpool.

THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM is strongly bound in cloth, with compartments arranged for the reception of upwards of 1400 Stamps. Post free, 1/1. H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

10 VARIETIES of RARE FOREIGN STAMPS for 3d.; 20 ditto, 6d. H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

UNPARALLELED SUCCESS of WHITTAKER'S ONE SHILLING ALBUM. Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford.

ALBUMS, 1s. 1d., post free. H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford.

POCKET ALBUM for CRESTS, ARMS, and MONOGRAMS. Containing spaces arranged for 1200 varieties. Neatly bound, with pocket, flap, and elastic band. Roan, 2/; post free, 2/1; morocco or russia, 3/6; post free, 3/8; morocco or russia gilt, 4/; post free, 4/2. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

IF THIS SHOULD MEET the EYE of any one who wants a good and cheap Album, let him send 13 stamps to H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

W. N., 11, South Parade, York, will send his Price List to any address, on receipt of stamp. Examples, unused:—Ceylon, halfpenny, 4d.; Van Diemen's Land, penny, 3d.; Portugal, 10 r., 4d.; 5 r., 2d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 3d.; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 4d.; British Guiana, 1 c., 4d.; St. Thomas, 3 c., 7d.; St. Lucia, penny, 6d.; St. Vincent, penny, 5d.

NOTICE to AMATEURS (especially) and OTHERS! On receipt of stamped envelope and full name and address, O. FLEET, Peckham, Surrey, sends any amount of Foreign Postage Stamps for approval; applicants stating whether one or more of each kind, and whether they wish clean or obliterated Stamps.

S. T., Post Office, Weymouth, begs to inform his numerous friends and customers that he continues to send out all kinds of Stamps for approval, on receipt of postage and list of requirements. All orders executed per return of post. Stamps bought or exchanged.

THE POSTAGE-STAMP COLLECTOR'S POCKET ALBUM.—Containing a complete Table of all the Postage Stamps issued by each Country, State, or City, with spaces arranged for their reception. The whole in a neat and portable form, with flap and elastic band, and a pocket for surplus stamps. Roan, 2/; post free, 2/1; morocco or russia, 3/6; post free, 3/8; morocco or russia gilt, 4/; post free, 4/2. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

S. T., Post office, Weymouth, has for sale, cheap, Italian, French, and Belgian, Essays, Parma, Modena (9 B. G.), Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Buenos Ayres (Ship), Tuscany (60 cr.), Zurich, Geneva (local and cantonal), and many other choice Stamps, *all genuine.*

YOUR Time, Trouble, and Money will be saved, by sending for Stamps on Approval, to S. T., Post Office, Weymouth.

BUY of the IMPORTER.—R. PEGG, Importer of Foreign Stamps, and cheapest Dealer in the world, has now a most extensive stock of rare and unused Stamps. Having imported them himself, will sell at much lower prices than any other Dealer. A selection sent on receipt of stamp. Agents wanted. 11, Hollis Street, Dublin.

LOWER THAN JULY PRICES!!—Mr. FRANK E. MILLAR, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N.E., begs now to state that the remaining portion of his stock is for sale at still lower prices than last month, without reserve, as under. All clean copies:—Sandwich Islands (Honolulu), 5 c., blue, 4d.; local American, immense variety, 1/ per dozen; Confederate States, very rare specimens, 2d. each; Hong Kong (Chine), 2 c., 3d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. (Engine), 2d.; Greek, 1 and 2 lept., 1d. each; Turkish, 3/6 the set of 4; French Colonies, 1 c. and 5 c., 2d. each; 10 c., 3d.; 40 c., 7d., or 1/ the set of 4. Used copies:—Pony Express, 6d. each; old Denmark Fire, R.B.S., 1d.; old Norway, 4 sk., blue, 3d.; Canada, 5 c. (Beaver), 1d.; Buenos Ayres, 6d. each. P.S.—Mr. MILLAR'S Price List for August is now ready, price (twopence, post free; and he will give with each List a clean Stamp of Thurn and Taxis (Germany), which has only just been issued, and is at present very rare.

MESSRS. HOOPER & FORWARD, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C. Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealers in the trade. Their Price List for August now ready, describing form, colour, value, date of issue, &c., of 1000 varieties. This is the cheapest and most comprehensive yet published. Sent, post free, on receipt of a stamped envelope. Correspondence in English, French, or German languages.

ARMS of the QUEEN and ROYAL FAMILY, including the late Prince Consort, the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Alexandra, King of Denmark, King of Prussia, Duke of Cumberland, Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, &c., &c., &c. In two sheets. Relief stamped in colours. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

Now ready. Fourth edition, revised, augmented, and corrected.

CATALOGUE of POSTAGE STAMPS,—BRITISH, COLONIAL, and FOREIGN. By Mount Brown. Containing an accurate description of the form, colour, date of issue, and value, of 1700 varieties. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Bound in morocco leather, and interleaved for Collectors, 2/; post free, 2/2. Address, Mr. BROWN, care of Mr. Passmore, Bookseller, 124, Cheapside, London. *** Priced List of unused and rare stamps, post free, 3d.

RARE STAMPS ON SALE by Mr. MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London. Costa Rica, ½ r., blue, 2/3; 2 r., red, 3/3; the pair, 5/; Nicaragua, 2 c., blue, 2/6; 5 c., black, 2/; the pair, 4/; Luzon (Philippines), 5 c., 3/6; 10 c., 4/6; Mauritius (envelopes), sixpenny, ninepenny, one shilling, set of 3, 6/6; Mulready twopenny envelopes, 2/9; Romagna, 2/6; Parma (Town) 5 c., 2/9; 9 c., 2/6; Modena, old Denmark, United States envelopes and essays, Ceylon envelopes, &c. Also from the following countries, newly issued:—Lubeck (5 labels and 5 envelopes) set of 10, 7/6; Saxony, set of 10, 8/; and shortly the new Danish envelopes.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, Liverpool, have just received another large assortment of Stamps, of almost all countries, which will be sold at very reduced rates, comprising some very rare and *obsolete*; such as, Antigua penny, 2d. each, or 1/10 per doz.; Austria, 2 kr., 2d. each; Argentine Confederation, 5 c., red, 10d. each; Baden, 1 kr., black, 1d. each; Bahamas, penny, 4d. each; fourpenny, 1/ each; sixpenny, 1/3 each; Set of three, 2/3; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d. each; 3 kr., 3d. each; Brazil, 10 r., blue, 2d. each, or 1/3 per dozen; 30 r., 4d. each; British Guiana, 1-c., black, 2d. each, or 1/6 per dozen; 1-c. brown (old issue), 6d. each; Brunswick, ½, ½, ½ s. gr., 1d. each; Buenos Ayres, 1 p., rose, 1/ each; 4 r., green, 1/ each; Canada, 1 c., 2d. each; Germany, ¼ and ½ s. gr., 1d. each, or 8d. per dozen; ½, orange, 2d. each; Greece, 1 lept., 4d. each, or 5d. per dozen; Hamburg, ¼ sch., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Set of 7, 2/8; Hamburg Boten, Th. Lafrenz, Set of 10 ½ sch., 10d.; Set of 10 1 sch., 1/1; H. Scheerenbeck's, set of 10 ½ sch., 1/; set of 10 ½ sch. (Postman), 1/; set of 10 1 sch. (Castle), 1/3; Carl Hamer and Co., set of 10, including two envelope stamps, 1/; Marx Verein, set of 10 1 sch., 1/3; Malta, halfpenny, 1d. each, or 8d. per dozen; Moldo-Wallachia, set of 3, 2/; Moldavia, 5 p., black, 1/6; 40, blue, 1/6; 80, rose, 1/6; set of 3, 3/6; 54 p, (circular), 2/ each; 80 p., 2/ each; 108 p., 2/ each; set of 3, 5/; Monte Video, 180 c., 1/; 240 c., 1/; *diligencia*, 80 c., 1/; 1 r., 1/; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d. each, or 10d. per dozen; Newfoundland, penny, 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen; Saxony (new issue, white shield in centre), 3 p., 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen; ½, orange, 1d. each, or 1/ per dozen; 1, rose, 3d. each, or 2/ per dozen; 2, blue, 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen; 3, stone, 6d. each, or 4/ per dozen; U. S. env., 1 c., 3d. each; 3 c., 4d. each. The above are all *unused*. The following are *used*:—Buenos Ayres (Ship), 1 r., blue, 2/ each; 1 p., rose, 8d. each; 1 p., blue, 6d. each; French Republic, 10 c., 6d. each; 15 c., 5d. each; 20 c., 2d. each; 25 c., 2d. each; 1 franc, 8d. each; Finland, 10 kop., rose (large stamp, with shield surmounted by crown), 9d. each; Hanover, first and second issues at 3d. each; Donna Maria and Don Pedro, 25 r., blue, 3d. each, or 2/6 per dozen. Their new Price List is just out, giving full particulars of form, value, colour, date of issue, &c.; will be forwarded on receipt of two stamps. All orders executed and forwarded per return of post. P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool. N.B.—As we have just purchased between thirty-eight and forty thousand used Stamps, we will sell them at the very low price of 2/ per hundred, mixed, consisting of Saxony (first, second, and third issue), Austria (first and second issue), Austrian Italy, Bavaria (old and new kinds), old Hanover (1-10, 1-15, 1-30), Prussia (first, second, and third issues), Austria (Zeitung), Brunswick (old kind), Germany (Thurn and Taxis, all the different issues), old Swiss (1, 2, 3 rayon), Saxony (envelopes), Baden (figure in centre), Austria (head of Mercury), Naples, old Sicily, &c., mixed.

Twenty Foreign Stamps for Sixpence.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S SIXPENNY PACKET of STAMPS. Containing 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free, 7d.

The Cheapest Packet of Unobliterated Stamps.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S ONE-SHILLING PACKET of FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. Containing one dozen varieties; all unobliterated. Post free, 1/1.

Important to those about to Collect.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S FIVE-SHILLING PACKET of FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. Containing 100 varieties of Foreign Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free, 5/1.

To Collectors of Unobliterated Postage Stamps.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S TWO-AND-SIX-PENNY PACKET of UNOBLITERATED POSTAGE STAMPS. Containing 20 varieties of Colonial and Foreign Stamps, all unused. Post free, 2/7.

New Packet of Postage Stamps.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S FIVE-SHILLING PACKET of LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS. Containing 20 varieties Post free, 5/1.

Magnificent Collection of Postage Stamps.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH have for Sale a magnificent Collection of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Comprising nearly 1200 varieties. All beautiful specimens, and neatly arranged in a handsomely-bound morocco Album. Price fifty guineas. Carriage free to any part of the world.

Now Ready, Beautifully printed in Colours.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S NEW and COMPLETE SET of POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM TITLES. Comprising upwards of 130 Titles, geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.R.S., &c., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Specimen sheet post free for two stamps.

To Foreign Stamp and Crest Collectors.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S MONTHLY CIRCULAR for August will be sent gratis and post free to any address on application.

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE SECOND.—PART II.

THE TEMPTER TRIUMPHS.

'The tempter gains the day—
Alas, the power of sin!
The guardian spirit sadly flits away,
And demons enter in!'

'"Spoken like a man! Help yourself, and the devil will help you," was the profane parody of the ruffian on the well-known French proverb. He made a step forward with the apparent intention of favouring his companion with a hug of approval; but there was a something in the artist's eye which repelled the distasteful familiarity. Lorenzo had not *yet* sunk so low as to level himself to an equality with the villain to whose wiles he was gradually succumbing. As in a dangerous crisis would one readily condescend to wield the most ignoble weapon in self-defence, but reject the same with disdain were time or opportunity allowed for choice; so was the semi-demented lover led recklessly to avail himself of the advice and assistance of his vile associate.

'Filippo, perceiving the repugnance of the other to his amicable advances, and that he was considered merely as a tool to be discarded as soon as used, with a muttered curse, and inward vow that some of this squeamish pride should be knocked out before he had done with him, contented himself for the present with the sarcastic remark, that he fancied the scanty light he had been able to cast upon his excellency's birth, had made him imagine himself not far from princely rank.

'"Well, well,"—quailing under the flashing glance of Lorenzo's eye—"let's work together without quarrelling. I suppose I may approach your lordship near enough to speak low, as I do not choose the particulars of our plot to reach the ears of that young

brat, and he had better take himself off to his corner; not that, if I thought him likely to betray us, I should at all scruple to wring his neck."

'Poor Carlo, though confident of his own personal immunity from his uncle's brutality in the presence of his protecting friend, undesirous of becoming himself the object of a quarrel between them, lost no time in again retreating to his distant pallet out of earshot. Filippo, thereupon, proceeded with the minuter details of the plan whereto he had been soliciting the young man's acquiescence.'

'With your permission,' here interrupted the Savoy Cross, 'I will now take up and connect the threads of the narrative. I conclude the audience is aware that "the stamp," as your catship unceremoniously termed me, has re-appeared on the scene, and is prepared to resume office.

'When the letter of Lorenzo to the Marchese, containing the application for the bracelet to which he considered himself entitled, was delivered him, the old nobleman might not have been disinclined to accede to such request;—the more so, as the tardy statement of Filippo, embodied in the missive, tallied with his own long since pre-conceived suppositions. The gentle Adine—whom her grandfather, fully confiding in her maidenly discretion, did not scruple to make a confidant of his half-formed intention—thereupon handed me over to him to be added to the enclosure; and the rich jewel would have accompanied me to the hands of its rightful owner—and oh! how much crime and misery would have been escaped!—had not the malicious Bernardo, apprised of the state of affairs by means of which you shall be fully cognizant in due course, intruded his mischievous presence in time to suppress the benevolent intention of the Marquis. By allusions to the more than suspected evil associations of Filippo, and inuendos of the probability of its being a plausible plot concocted between the gamester and the foundling for the purpose of possessing themselves of so valuable a prize—notwithstanding the mild but earnest pleading of Adine, who affirmed her disbelief of the likelihood of Lorenzo's being a party to so unprincipled a fraud—the note of denial, which had so powerful an effect, was substituted for one of assent in the envelope wherein I was lying ready for transmission.

'You have already heard the consequences of our reception, and are now capacitated for following up the incidents of my tale.

'"Ascoltarmi dunque," said Lorenzo, "I will take part in your villany so far and no farther. Gorge yourself as you will with plunder, I will assist you in the enterprise; but I take nothing for myself but the jewelled certificate of my birth. I bear away no property of the good old man's but his granddaughter—my own idolised Adine."

'"So far and no farther!"—How oft has the deluded victim of temptation uttered these fatal words! The votary of sin is comparable to one standing with slippery footing on a glittering, polished slope—gradually, but surely, the feet slide down; and when the guardian spirit does not cast asperities in the path in the shape of sickness, poverty, or other trouble—thus affording opportunity of redeeming pause in the downward course, and means of secure footing for a painful and arduous re-ascent—too surely will the fond, self-beguiling sophist sink to utter ruin, and find, alas! too late, no *mortal* dares to say, "so far and no farther."

'"Cospetto, my fine fellow, we can settle all that afterwards; only pass your word to me and my comrades not to betray us. Why, man alive, what do you start at? Did you fancy you and I could manage such a dangerous enterprise by our own unaided exertions? The business will call for the services of many stout hearts and strong arms; but I want one clear head and brave hand to manage and execute all the details of as glorious a chance of making one's fortune as ever poor fellow schemed. Ebbene, if you are too proud to join us, my young prince—of beggars—" added the wretch, for he was beginning to lose temper, "we must e'en manage to do without you—part the treasure fairly, cast lots for the lady——the foul fiend seize you," roared the ruffian, as they lay on the ground in deadly struggle, "take that;" and one home dagger-thrust would have ensured Lorenzo's ex-

emption from many a more bitter pang, had not young Carlo sprung forward—his love for his protector counteracting the terror of his uncle—and, seizing the uplifted arm with more than a child's force—the excitement lending additional strength—averted the fatal stroke. Lorenzo thus gained opportunity of disengaging himself from the death-grip. "I am indeed mad," murmured the wretched youth, "to equalise myself with such a wretch. Leave me."

'"Leave you! By San Nicolo, no such fool as that: for you to peach on us to the Marquis? But there is not much fear of that: you will hardly present yourself at his doors again; it is not likely any letter in your handwriting would be opened; and you ought to be raging still with the smart of your last appearance there."

'These cruel taunts might have issued in another scuffle; but the very violence of emotion unnerved the wretched and excited Lorenzo, and he sank almost powerless on a seat.

'"Come, come, man," said his evil adviser, "keep your fury for its legitimate destination: give the old Marquis such a grip as you did me but now, and he will never trouble you again."

'"Fiend," gasped the youth, "dost think I would hurt a hair of his head, or of anything belonging to her?"

'"Of course not," sneered Filippo, "not even her respectable cousin?" The tempter well knew the right chord to strike.

'"The vile Bernardo! Ah! ten thousand curses light on him! His hated name suffices to turn the scale. I hesitate no longer. Friend or enemy—be you what you may—give me means to wreak my vengeance on him, to deprive him of his coveted prize, and do with me how you will: I am yours for ever."'

DOZE THE THIRD.

THE CASINO.

'The roué and the gamester—behold a worthy pair!
When Greek meets wily Greek, then comes the tug of war.'

With an uneasy start, a second time I awoke, but soon dropped off anew to dreamland. The visionary train of thought continued, but with change of machinery. The actors in the scenes depicted by the postage stamp seemed presented to my vision. The city of Florence appeared as a map before me. I saw the roué Filippo quit the apartment of the artist, and lounge up the Via dei Bardi. 'Corazzio, Filippo,' soliloquised he, crossing the Ponte alle Grazie, 'well hast thou contrived. Thy machinations seem now in a fair road for success. But successful or not, Italy will be too hot to hold thee; thou must be off to London. Thy last trip there was a lucky hit, and many a young gull didst thou famously bleed there.'

Avoiding the Piazza Santa Croce, he turned to the left, and passing the Torcicoda proceeded through a labyrinth of narrow streets, or rather alleys, towards the old town in the Cerchio Primo. He stopped at the door of a low casino in a dark street not far from the Via delle Cipolle, and looking carefully round to see if any curious observer were tracking him—for he well knew that in the eyes of the police authorities he was something more than a suspect—on finding the coast clear he entered.

'Pablo,' said he to a blackguard-looking one-eyed waiter, who, by the way, had to thank him for the loss in a drunken brawl, 'has any one been wanting me?'

'Si, Signor; a cavaliere in a cloak and slouched hat has been waiting in the small cabinet a clock hour.'

'Mille perdone, I am desolated to have kept your eccellenza waiting,' was his cringing apology to the worthy who was smoking and sulking in the inner room.

'Maledetto, pel nome del diavolo, how long you have kept me in this infernal den! Here have I been kicking my heels in a fume of impatience at the loss of so much time.'

'That young scoundrel—may the fiend take him—gave me such trouble to persuade him to join in the plot. Per San Nicolo, had I not luckily bethought myself of introducing your eccellenza's name, I might have been with him yet. Mille diavoli, it is but one more score to the long list of grudges I have against him; and your eccellenza likes him about as well as I do.'

'Curse him,' was the ready response of

the other; 'but enough of that: have you settled with him? Will he join us?'

'Just as I hinted; your eccellenza's name decided him: he is with us, hand and foot.'

'Well then, let us hasten to arrange all preliminaries; we have lost time enough as it is. Have you engaged enough assistance?'

'Yes, your eccellenza, sure fellows—ready to do all I tell them; ask no questions; take what guerdon for their services I shall agree to; and forget next morning the very locale of the enterprise.'

'To-morrow night, then, let it be: meet me in the morning at noon in the church of Santa Croce. Stand by the pillar nearest to Machiavelli's tomb—I like to catch an inspiration there sometimes—and if either of us wishes to say aught to the other, he can lead the way to the café del Giocolo, in the Via Ghibellina. Stay here to give me scope for getting clear of this quarter: we need not be seen together. Be faithful, and I will reward you well.'

The well-matched pair of confederates parted. Bernardo (for he it was) leaving the humbler villain behind, and muttering, as he moodily paced the filthy alley:—

'The game is a dangerous one. This rascal must be well looked to, or he will prove too sharp for me: I must be wary. But let me first get quit of that painter fellow, and then the game will be in my own hand for winning my cousin—and her dower. Two such prizes are well worth a little risk in going in for.'

Filippo, meanwhile, with a deep execration, watched him turn the corner of the passage:—

'Thou reward me! thou blustering braggart! Filippo is not dolt enough to await thy tardy recompense. He is sharp enough to seize his own share of the spoil—and a little more, too, or he is greatly mistaken. Yes, yes, my noble comrade, you err egregiously if you think I am *your* tool. You are little aware you are working for *my* ends, not for your own. Let me but contrive to set you and the other hell-cat together—curse him, I feel the gripe of his hand on my throat now—and if I do not contrive to make off with the valuables while they are grappling, any cowardly fool may call Filippo, Cousin.'

(*To be continued*).

MEMOIRS OF A NOVA SCOTIAN POSTAGE STAMP.

Since first I was stamped by the fatal postmark I have travelled much, I have been in many a hand, and am not yet sure of ending my days in peace.

Now that I am stationary, and before sleeping for ever, allow me to relate my travels through the world.

You know, probably, dear collectors, the amiable queen whose image I represent; and you know also that the obliteration does not prevent my being worth more than I cost before I was used.

Scarcely arrived at Southampton, I was ruthlessly torn off by a post-office clerk. Oh! how I should have liked to see the astonishment of the receiver of the letter on which I was placed, for I fancy he was a collector! How many times did he exclaim against the clerks of an office which nevertheless renders him many a service. But, not to digress, I was now in the possession of my plunderer; but do not suppose it was for a collection of his own that he stole me; it was merely to please a stamp-maniac: he meant to give me to a child. [The stamp collector is of no particular age: you see some scarcely six years old; you will meet with some of sixty years, and even more.] This youth had already one of my fellow-countrymen, worth one cent, like myself; he hastened, then, to send me to one of his correspondents at Havre. You cannot imagine the pleasure derived from my appearance by this young collector: he did not trouble even to read the letter that was written him; he was never tired of looking at me. 'Look, what beautiful engraving!' said he to one of his young friends, to whom he was displaying his collection; 'look how clear the letters are! Who would believe that such masterpieces were destined to be marked some day with black or blue?' His friend, not being a collector, did not partake of his enthusiasm; he could not comprehend the pleasure of storing up little

pictures more or less soiled. If people wanted the portraits of any sovereign or other celebrity, cannot photography supply their *cartes de visites?* If they fancied an engraving, would it not be much better to purchase one of a reasonable size? But he gave no vent to his thoughts, for that would only have caused an interminable discussion. After having been over and over again examined, I was placed in an album.

I stayed there quietly for some time. You probably wonder what caused my removal:—my master received one of my brethren less obliterated than myself, I was incontinently turned out, and passed into the hands of an ignorant collector.

He ought to be thankful to the authors of manuals and the compilers of albums; for, were it not for them, he would not have known where to put me. Classifying his stamps in a geographical order, he would most likely have placed me between those of Greece and those of Prince Edward Island. Were it not for printed albums, if you told him Nova Scotia is situated near Australia, he would have readily believed you. He could not take much delight in collecting, since he had no notion of geography; so he soon sold his stamps, and I fell into the hands of a dealer.

Alas! how cruelly was I treated by that Jew: he sent me here and there. He sent me to Switzerland, whence I soon returned because he set too high a price upon me; I went to Paris, to Rouen, to Brussels, and back again. He was in despair; he could not get the two francs he wanted for me. The dealers not choosing to have me at that price, he had recourse to the collectors. 'I have a Nova Scotian stamp,' said he to every stamp-maniac he met, and forthwith exposed me to their curious gaze, boasted much of my rarity, and always terminated his chatter in these words: 'You do not possess this magnificent stamp; I sell it you for two francs; it is not dear.' Often did the collector reply, not daring to complain of the exorbitant price: 'Thank you, I have been promised one.' The bolder ones used to say, 'I don't want it,' without giving any reason.

At last, he made up his mind to let a young Parisian have me for a franc and a half. I then visited the French capital. Many a time I crossed the Seine to go from the gardens of the Luxembourg to the gardens of the Tuilleries, and from the Tuilleries to the Luxembourg again—the great stamp exchanges of Paris. I wondered many times at the collectors of that city; every one wanted me, but I was still the property of the same owner. During all this time the stamp mania spread far and wide: it went on increasing, and, strange to say, I lost value every day; for, as fast as fresh collectors sprang up in Europe, fresh stamps came from America. Numbers of stamps were sent from Nova Scotia; and instead of being worth a franc and a half, I could scarcely be sold for fifty centimes.

My new owner turned me out for a new specimen, and I then found my way back to whence I came, that is to say, to Havre, where I now am, in a pretty good collection.

In the Havre collection where I was first located, I was on the same page as the elegant stamps of New Brunswick, which have this peculiarity, that two only of them bear a similar impression. You might tell me that those of Canada are much the same, since the five stamps are of five different designs; those of Naples and Rome, too, might be instanced as presenting still more variety. That is true; but in the Roman as well as the Neapolitan stamps it is only the arrangement of the pattern of the stamp that differs; whilst, amongst those of which I have been speaking, one represents a railway; another, Queen Victoria; a third, a steamer; the 17 cents, a youth in a Scotch dress. I know that there are likewise the private offices of America; but those impressions are so numerous and so varied that my master made a separate collection of them, and I very seldom saw them; however, they are well worth the trouble of collecting, for they are said to be very pretty.

At the ignorant Mons. Edw. R———'s I once heard a remark from him that showed the man up famously. 'I think there are stamps from Tobago,' said one of his friends to him. 'What are you chattering about?' replied he quickly. 'Tobago!

Tobago! Did you ever hear of a country called Tobago?' His reply had no need of comment, so his friend made no answer.

At the dealer's I saw many a mean trick. He was a forger of false stamps, and I often saw him fabricating francs of the French Empire. This was his method: he took some specimens of the French empire 80 c. deep carmine, and some 1 francs of the republic; he cut off the value of those stamps, and pasted under the emperor's effigy the little band which he had taken from the bottom of the republic stamp. In this manner he had an individual with the effigy of Napoleon III., and having as indication of value, 1 *franc.* Unfortunately for him, he had not remarked that the value of the 1 franc of the republic is marked 1 *FR.*, whilst that of the franc of the empire is indicated 1 *F.* It was from this circumstance that his fraud was discovered; for his francs of the empire possessed two *r*'s too many, since the value is twice repeated.

In one of my journeys to Rouen I noticed a very whimsical prejudice. Some collectors will not admit a stamp whose place is not prepared in M. Lallier's album. They have probably never read his preface, and do not understand the meaning of the blank pages at the end of the book. They do not believe in new issues. However, in the album in question there is no place for the 2 centimes French: they can scarcely pronounce this stamp fictitious, as they can buy it themselves at the post-offices.

Mons. E. C———, a young fellow of Havre, who comes sometimes to see the collection in which I am placed, and who has a fine one of his own—according to his own account, for no one has ever seen it—has a peculiar fancy, not less extraordinary than that of the Rouen collectors. He will not admit into his collection any of the rarer European stamps, nor any transmarine stamp, new, because he says that these stamps are all fictitious when they are new. This opinion could be easily refuted; but for my part I shall not give myself the trouble of doing it, and desire one thing only, which is, never to be turned out of the collection of LEON CHANDELIER.

NEW USE FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY the *Sonora*, a few days since, says a Californian correspondent, some two hundred of Uncle Sam's orphans arrived, and were distributed around. Some were sent to Fort Alcastra, some to the barracks at the Presidio, and the remainder were quartered at Benicia barracks, preparatory to being assigned to the different companies of the regiments in this Department. They will soon be scattered from Oregon to that most delightful post, Fort Yuma, in Arizona—a place where they have to put rocks on the roofs to keep the ends of the boards from curling over like little dogs' tails. It is a wretched place to live at, and to be ordered there is enough to make any officer resign, unless a Catholic, and acknowledges the justice of being sent to purgatory. They have a little fun even in that awful place sometimes, and an officer was telling me the other day of how he lost his postage stamps. He had sent up here for some twenty dollars' worth, and had left them on his table. Now the habits, manners, and customs thereabouts are considerably on the free-and-easy style, and the Indians are allowed to roam around the garrison *ad libitum*, if they behave themselves and do not steal. On this occasion a young squaw, who had the run of the quarters, and was very much at home anywheres and everywheres, happened to stray into my friend's room, and seeing the postage stamps began to examine them with great curiosity. She discovered they would stick, if wet; and forthwith a happy idea struck her. Now the fashionable dress of the ladies of her class in that warm climate is of the briefest description. She was ambitious to dress up and excite the envy of the other Pocahontases. So she went in on the postal currency, and much to the astonishment of the garrison, made her appearance presently on the parade-ground entirely covered over with postage stamps. She was stuck all over with Benjamin Franklin, and the father of his country was plastered all over her ladyship's glossy skin indiscriminately, regardless of dignity and decency. The 'roar' that greeted her, from the commanding officer down to the

drummer-boys, was loud enough to be heard nearly at head quarters in San Francisco; but, Indian like, she preserved her equanimity and did not seem at all disconcerted, but sailed off with the air and step of a genuine princess, while my friend rushed into his quarters to discover himself minus his twenty dollars' worth of postage stamps, and that what was intended for the mail had been appropriated to the fe male. She might have been put in the overland coach and gone through—she certainly could not have been stopped for want of being prepaid.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

BUT few, if any, emissions have taken place since our last notice. We fulfil our promise of describing some rare and hitherto unnoticed English essays. The first is a large upright oblong; corners cut out; a white star in the centre; above this is *penny*, and *post* below; around it, an engine-turned, blue, oval rim, encompassed by close-set, perpendicular, red lines on a white ground. Another, which is very well executed, bears the royal arms in white relief, surrounded by an elaborately engine-turned border, also in white relief on a blue ground: same size as the last. The third is a narrow upright oblong, about five inches in length, and not an inch broad, divided into six compartments, on one of which is *post paid* 1*d.*; another bears *Beaufort House;* and a third, *post, V. R., paid;* the whole on a complicated engine-turned pattern of red and black on a white ground. These three curious essays are in the collection of the same amateur.

The beautiful profile of our Queen has been recently reproduced, in mauve colour, on the new 2-cent Nova Scotian stamp. These stamps are intended for the payment of letters of troops.

We have just come into possession of some of the exquisitely-engraved Pacific Steam Navigation stamps—the ½ oz. 1 real, and the 1 oz. 2 reales; each value being printed both in green and yellow.

In the 'Illustrations' of Moens are engraved *two* individuals of the rare Reunion stamps, one only of which (the 30 cents) was noticed in Mr. Brown's early editions. The 15 c. is very similar, but the pattern even more fantastical. We have heard them mentioned as first appearing in 1862, but they were in continental catalogues long before that date, and are now so rare as to be almost unattainable. We have only seen one specimen.

There has been an issue of essays of the United States stamps in black. We have seen the 90 c., 24 c., and 30 c.: the latter, rather a poor-looking stamp generally, comes out exceedingly well in black. The 5 c., moreover, has been printed in olive, green, red, and other colours.

The postage-stamp mania has penetrated to the remote regions of Cuba. We understand the young people there are as eager for collecting as they are here. The consequence is that the postal authorities have allowed two series of essays to be struck off from the casts of the Cuba stamps. We apprehend this was done expressly for the sake of having something novel to send to Europe in exchange for desiderata. We have seen the ½, 1, and 2 r. plata printed in black, and the same values in bright red.

British Guiana has once more favoured us with a change, not only in pattern, but in values. A 48 c. and a 6 c. is just issued, and we have seen the green 24 c. of similar pattern. Most probably what other values are continued will likewise follow in the same wake. The stamps are a trifle larger than the last issue. The usual ship is enclosed in a round garter which bears the stereotyped motto. Above is *B. Guiana;* and below, the value in letters. At the four corners the date of the current year [1863] in figures as before. The 48 c. is pink, and the 6 c. blue; which looks as though the 8 c. and 4 c. were to be discontinued.

The anticipated 1-fr. Swiss, like the 60 c., has not been true to its (proposed) colour; in lieu of carmine, it turns out to be gold on white. The colour of the South Australian one shilling is changed to brown. The Indian 2 an. is now pale yellow instead of orange.

We have to describe also a new stamp in Holland, for the use of her Indian possessions. It is a handsome-looking specimen,

printed in red on white, bearing the head of King William III., looking to the left; *post Zegel* at the bottom, and 10 *cents* at the top; on the left side is *Neder*, and on the right, *Indie*.

There is a very singular-looking individual that has just emanated from the United States. The printing is black on white. It has in the centre a head nearly filling the whole field of the stamp, inscribed in an oval; *U. S. postage*, above; *two cents*, below; the figure 2 in each of the upper, and *U. S.* in the lower corners. The head is that of General Jackson (not Stonewall), and its conformation is very peculiar, the eyes being as near as possible half way between the top of the head and the chin. The closed mouth, scarcely showing any lip, is perfectly American. There is a fine head of white hair, brushed up from the forehead, very much after the fashion of the wigs of the time of George III.



A new United States envelope stamp appeared simultaneously with the above, value 2 cents. It is black on buff; the head (a profile) and lettering in relief; *U. S. postage* above; *two cents* below; and the figure 2 on each side. The head on this stamp is also intended for General Jackson, from a bust taken at middle age. The portrait on the adhesive stamp is from one taken in extreme old age.

It is very singular that the Confederate government has chosen the same general for immortalisation on one of its stamps which was issued in June last. This latter is red on white, and the head not filling so much of the stamp, has a better effect.

Another new Confederate stamp bears the head of Colquhoun (?) to the right, in an oval containing, above, *postage;* below, 10 *cents;* on the right and left, *The Confederate States of America*. It is blue on white. The head of this individual is also remarkable for great depth of forehead. We cannot answer for correctness of nomenclature with regard to these heads: we give the names as we received them.

We regret having no space to describe two obsolete Polish envelopes for the city of Warsaw in the present number, besides the seven individuals before alluded to, and about a dozen others. We hope to be able to do so in our next issue.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

[We propose continuing this Appendix to Mr. Brown's early editions, for the benefit of those who do not possess the fourth.—ED.]

Saxony.

THE recent issue of Saxony was fully described in our last number: we recapitulate for the sake of uniformity. We have seen the 5 n. g. of the last issue, brown.

1863. Name [*Sachsen*] and value in oval band, circumscribing crowned arms in white relief on field of colour on white; corners filled up with pattern:—3 pf. green, ½ n. g. scarlet. Same device; corners vacant:—1 n. g. rose, 2 n. g. blue, 3 n. g. brown, 5 n. g. lilac. A specimen of the new issue is engraved.



ENVELOPES.

Arms embossed on coloured ground, inscribed in engine-turned oval band denoting name and value; stamp to the right, but inscription to the left of the envelope; the four higher values only; colours the same as in the corresponding adhesives.

Sierra Leone.

The stamps of this colony remain in *statu quo*.

South Australia.

The shilling stamp of this colony is now brownish lilac.

Spain.

We would caution our readers against a forged series of all the early issues of this country. Specimens of them were sent us for inspection from the continent avowedly fictitious. The stamp mania having now penetrated to Cuba and South America, in

which places these wonderfully rare specimens would most probably be found, collectors need not now despair of procuring them genuine. In the interim, they must be content with exhibiting the copies, as specimens of the multifarious changes in the Spanish stamps. An engraving is given of one of the 1851 issue.



The 1 real of 1854 is not black, but plum-coloured on white. The 4 cuartos of 1855 is brownish lake as well as carmine. The 4 cuartos of 1856 is rather dull scarlet than lake. The 4 cuartos of 1857 is found in two distinct colours—rose on white, and dull scarlet on tinted paper. The 1 real of this issue is light blue and dark blue; and the 2 reales is reddish and bluish lilac, as well as chocolate. The 12 cuartos of 1860 was on yellowish-tinted and on white paper. The 12 cuartos and 2 reales of the present series are sometimes on pink-tinted paper.

OFFICIAL LABELS.

The ½ onza is now straw-coloured.

CUBA, HAYTI, AND PORTO RICO.

In the present number we have alluded to the black and red essays of Cuba, the former of which are mentioned in Mount Brown's fourth edition. We have seen some older issues of Cuba in continental collections, but cannot describe with sufficient accuracy from memory. We shall see them again shortly, and will not fail to take notes for the benefit of our readers.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The 1 r. Fte. of 1854 and '55 is black, not brown. We have the 2 r. green of the same issue, and have elsewhere noticed the 5 cuartos red.

Of the later issue there are two quite distinct varieties of the 5 cuartos. The one is almost identical in design with the 10 c. rose—the head being nearer the top than the bottom of the circle in which it lies; the other has the same inscription, but the letters and figures are smaller; and the head is a facsimile of that on the Cuba stamps, and those of the 1855, 6, and 7 issues of Spain.

WILLIAM MULREADY, R.A.

It may interest some of our stamp-collecting friends to read the following observations of a writer in a late number of the *Athenæum*, on the character and talents of W. Mulready, Esq., R.A., the designer of the envelopes now known by his name, and which—owing to the short time they were in use (viz. six months)—are now so rare.

'One of the oldest and best-known artists of this age has gone from amongst us. Last Tuesday will be remembered for a long time as the day of the death of William Mulready, a painter, during whose long life many changes have occurred, and much general, and therefore sound, advance in English Art has taken place. To this advance no individual, either amongst the now living or the dead, contributed so successfully, so earnestly, thoughtfully, and unselfishly as Mulready. Several generations of students have received the kindly counsel and genial, but not therefore thoughtless, encouragement which Mulready was willing to give to the poor, the rich, the swift of thought, the tardy in conception, the laborious, or the superficial. To the very last, so late as the evening before his death, this faithful student—a student, born in 1786 (the year before Lawrence came to London), who came to London about seventy years ago—drew in the Life School of the Academy together with some youths whose grandfathers were his contemporaries. Mulready was fifteen when admitted a student of the Academy. He came from Ennis, being born while his country was in the fervent simmer of insurrection, and the armed bodies of "volunteers" disturbed the English Government.

'Banks, the sculptor, of whom the deceased always spoke not only gratefully, but in high appreciation of his artistic powers, was Mulready's first instructor, having allowed him to work in his studio gratuitously, and having given him all the professional counsel that was needed. Neither master nor pupil thought this was much, for Mulready was always of opinion, and no one could be said to have had greater experience in teaching art, that to keep a pupil out of error was all a good master could serviceably do. The

system adopted by the painter was no small portion of his life, and deserves to be stated here, because it was put in practice in his boyhood and only relinquished when all had to be relinquished. Mulready's practice was a singularly fortunate example of singleness of aim steadfastly pursued. He married young, and not happily; devoting himself fully to study, he underwent labour in art such as would daunt most men, while few, unless gifted with his perfect constitution, would even attempt it. Deriving his knowledge of art from practice in its strictest sense, he—in youth from poverty, and, when in better circumstances, holding that Nature, as she came before himself, was the best instructress—never visited the great centres of European art.

'Mulready always drew with the greatest completeness in execution; in the treatment of minor things nothing could exceed his attention to detail. Innumerable studies attest this practice, and his felicity bore witness to its success. He would reproduce with extraordinary facility the details of foliage, not only from one but several points of view, and prepare exquisite memoranda of the bark of trees, and dissect flowers with the care of an anatomist, his aim being thoroughly to *understand* the things that came in his way. Great boughs of trees he drew with the utmost minuteness and noble breadth, such as is rarely attained by artists even of the greatest schools. Thus, he would render the subtleties of every curve, or foreshortening of each leaf, in a way that was delightful to study. He made similar studies of the colour of details, and carried these principles into every department of art.

'The result of this system was that the painter's various pictures represent grades of advancement secured step by step in execution. Like most young men, he began with grand subjects, and produced "Ulysses and Polyphemus," "The Disobedient Prophet," &c. Even in these works sound and solid workmanship bore testimony to the value of his system and the skill of the artist. Not satisfied with the ability thus displayed, he continued his studies in a still more rigid manner, copying the most powerful of the Dutch painters' works, Jan Steen, and others, and painting from nature in the neighbourhood of his life-long residence at Bayswater, which was then a rural village, and supplying in the famous "Kensington Gravel Pits" the school of more than one great landscape-painter.

'It is hardly necessary to sum up the technical merits of Mulready's pictures. He was a humorist, without a shade of malice; his laugh had nothing sardonic. As thorough a lover of domestic life as Wilkie, he added to that feeling in colour, tone, and drawing, an art-power which was a thousand years in advance of the Scotch artist. In expression, no *genre* painter surpassed Mulready: nothing could be more genial and characteristic than his works. He added love for homely beauty to these excellencies, as in "The Wedding Gown," which is inestimable. In some respects one might call him, so highly should the last-named quality be prized the Raphael of *genre* painters. Personally, no man was more esteemed—indeed, reverenced—by the young artists who had grown up about him, none more affectionately regarded by his brother painters. His manliness, simplicity, and kindly heart, drew people's regard without consideration of professional honours. Always strong in body, Mulready was, while age permitted, devoted to manly sports: a boxer, a great walker, swimmer, and cricketer. Altogether he was a brave man. Peace be with him!'

AN AMERICAN TRICK.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.—WE WILL SEND, on receipt of 25 cents, a beautiful Steel Engraving of Gen. Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans. Address, C. B. & Co., Elizabeth port, N. J.

THE above advertisement recently appeared in the *New York Herald*, under the head of 'Fine Arts.' It is a most plausible and innocent-looking announcement, and one which few would suspect as intended to effect the extraction of postage currency from the pockets of the unwary. Yet we regret to state that such is the case. The hallowed memory of Old Hickory has been desecrated by a Jeremy Diddler; and the affectionate veneration in which he is held by a grateful people has been taken advantage of by an impecunious vagabond to fraudu-

lently replenish his collapsed porte-monnaie. But let us not do injustice, even to the unworthy. The patrons of 'C. B. & Co.' *did* each receive a 'beautiful steel engraving'—not of the largest size, it is true, but still an excellent work of art, and a capital likeness of the 'Hero of New Orleans.' So far, all was 'on the square'—the only irregularity which a strict moralist could detect in the transaction being the fact that the 'engraving' consisted of a specimen of the new *two-cent stamp* which was issued on the 1st of July! Unfortunately for 'C. B. & Co.,' they are likely to find to their cost that the sale of postage stamps in the States for a greater amount than the value expressed on their face, is one of the 'fine arts' the practice of which is attended with disagreeable consequences, being forbidden, under heavy penalties, by Act of Congress.

MOURNING STAMPS.

A few days since, a female entered the post office in Pekin, Illinois, for the purpose of mailing a letter to a friend who is in the army. Calling for an envelope, and while depositing the document therein, she gravely informed the postmaster that it contained very bad news,—no less than the decease of a beloved nephew. As she dilated upon the melancholy theme, her feelings became very much excited, and the epistle being duly sealed and superscribed, she in sorrowing tones inquired, 'If the gentleman would be kind enough to place a *black postage stamp* upon it, that her friend might know there was a death in the letter before she opened it?'

Notwithstanding the mournful tone in which the question was propounded, the Government official could not restrain his risibilities, and was compelled to answer that 'Uncle Sam had not yet furnished his deputies with any postage stamps especially adapted to mourning purposes.' This announcement seemed very much to surprise the good woman, who was also equally shocked at the want of feeling displayed by the government in not furnishing its children with such an outward sign of inward woe; for, to use her own expression, 'It would be so convenient.'—*United States Mail.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

International Postage-Stamp Review. London: Wilks.

Opens well, with abundance of promises which the postage stamp collecting coterie will thankfully welcome, if fulfilled. There is a furious and merited diatribe against the vendors of fictitious specimens; but we doubt the propriety of appending the epithet of 'acknowledged respectability' to the names of such.

The new Saxons and Austrians, but not the Lubecks, are described; and we think the 2-gr Bremen scarcely comes under the denomination of new at four months' expiry.

The Austrian complementaries are alluded to; and we are glad to avail ourselves of this opportunity of clearing up the mystery that has so long hovered round them. Their filling up the four otherwise vacant spaces in each sheet of Austrian and Venetian stamps has been long known, but their employment or not for postal purposes has been hitherto hidden as the sources of the Nile. They were not *intended* for use, but the post-office clerks frequently found them conveniently at hand to affix to returned or insufficiently-paid letters; their being adhesive saving the trouble of sticking on plain pieces of paper. They were thus utilised, not for the sake of their faces, but their backs; and for this reason many of them have by chance borne the postage mark. We had this information but a day or two since from the possessor of the finest collection of postage stamps we have yet seen, and who kindly presented us with seven specimens that have never appeared in any catalogue.

We are quite of the editor's opinion, that the collection of postage stamps is by no means on the decrease, but quite the contrary. It may have subsided a little in London, but has ramified into the country towns of England, and, as has been remarked elsewhere, to distant parts of the world.

If one of the contributors had read our magazine regularly, he would have seen it long since pronounced on authority, that the hero of the anecdote related by Miss Mar-

tineau was not Rowland Hill, but Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The editor, professing to give a complete catalogue of postage stamps, should not have omitted mention in his very first quotation—Belgium—of the rare but undoubtedly genuine *yellow* essay, 10 cents, of that country. We wish every success to the publication, and take leave with one more objection—that the last word of the eleventh line of the fourth page is not according to Murray.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRINCE CONSORT POSTAGE STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Can any of your numerous correspondents help me to any particulars relating to an English essay that appears to have hitherto escaped all notice? It is similar in all respects to the black penny Victoria Stamp of 1840; letters *F. J.* in the lower corners only; but in place of the Queen's head, it is that of Prince Albert to the left. I have six of them, in two rows of three each, found among some old letters, evidently torn from a sheet, and apparently engraved by the same hands which had produced those established for general use. Was there any project of using the Prince Consort's head on the stamps instead of the Queen's—a proposition overruled by more reflective heads?

London. J. H. BURN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Will you allow me to give my testimony in regard to the *Colombo* stamps? I received letters from New Zealand by that unfortunate ship, all the outside stamps of which had been washed off, but one of them happened to have some colonial stamps enclosed. All the penny vermilion New Zealands were changed to dark brown, and the twopenny blue to blue-black. I have preserved two in my collection as curiosities. I may also mention that the last mail brought me what I think must be a new issue of the twopenny New Zealand. It is on very thin paper, without watermark, of the new blue colour, but very pale.

Believe me, Sir, yours faithfully,

Brighton. VERITAS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Knowing that you are desirous, through the columns of your invaluable magazine, to furnish collectors with every particular concerning stamps, both obsolete and in present use, I take the liberty of sending a description of a specimen which I saw some few days back in an extensive collection, and which I believe has not yet been described in any postal publication. The stamp to which I allude emanated from Bremen, and in design is similar to the 5 s. gr. of that town, but its value is 1 s. gr., and it is printed in blue on white paper. A hasty glance at this stamp would doubtless to many (as it did to myself) suggest the idea that it is one of the 'chemical family,' being the 5 s. gr. just alluded to changed in colour; but on a closer examination it is clearly seen, that in this individual we have a specimen whose existence has been doubtless hitherto generally unknown. The stamp being post-marked (with the word Bremen in an oblong), I presume we shall be justified in cataloguing it as a newly-acquired specimen?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

London. THOMAS WILLIAM KITT.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—On looking attentively at the old Baden and Wurtemburg stamps (with figure), I observe some peculiarities hitherto unnoticed in them, viz., the indication of the date—*6th of April*, 1850. This applies to the 1 kr. white, 3 kr. green, 6 kr. yellow, 9 kr. pink, of the so-called issue of 1855; the 3 kr. blue—which by some is called an issue of 1859!; the 1 kr. buff, 3 kr. yellow, and 6 kr. green, 1851; whereas *all* of the Baden and Wurtemburg stamps (and I suppose the 1 kr. *black* of Bavaria) with large figure in the middle were issued on the same *day*, 6th of April, 1850. This will be found on the right-hand side of the stamp. I mean by this to throw a doubt on the *reality* of the various shades of the 3 kr., &c., especially as green can be so easily changed to blue by acids, and also white to buff.

I beg to tell you also that the French 10 c. à percevoir is now no longer used, and is already rare in France; unused specimens being sold in Boulogne for as much as 75 c. (7½d.) for each impression.

If these facts would be useful to your valuable magazine, they are quite at your service.

Believe me, Sir, yours obediently,

J. M. STOURTON.

Boulogne-sur-Mer.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. HARVEY.—The stamp you refer to is the new 2-cent United States stamp. There is also an envelope stamp of the same denomination just issued. A description of each will be found in the present number, under our usual notice of the newly-issued stamps.

'MULREADY.'—An unobliterated copy of the black penny Mulready envelope is seldom to be met with. You may procure a *used* specimen of almost any dealer, at prices varying from one shilling to half a crown.

NELLY.—In the May number of this Magazine will be found an ably-written article by Dr. Gray, of the British Museum, which gives a full description of the English Essay stamps referred to in your letter.

KARL VANCAUWENBURG, Amsterdam.—The reason of your not receiving the foreign postage stamp given away with each number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, will be found in our Notice on the last page of the present number.

DONALD MC NEIL, Aberdeen.—There *is* such a stamp as the *half*-anna *red* India. One was sold but a few days since for as much as a guinea. The specimen alluded to had passed the post, and there is not the slightest doubt of its being a *bona fide* stamp.

EDWARD HAMILTON.—The article you refer to appeared in *Once a Week*, No. 215. It is entitled 'Timbromanie,' and consists for the most part of extracts from the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*.

ATHENS.—The stamps of the Ionian Islands will, we expect, be shortly superseded by those of Greece.

HENRI BERANGER, Bordeaux.—The English envelope stamps of the higher values cannot be procured at the post-offices, but must be ordered expressly from the office of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London.

F. HOLDING, London.—The Canada 10 cents brown (bust of Prince Albert to right) *will* be found catalogued in Mount Brown's fourth edition.—We believe it was originally intended to issue the 60 c. and 1 f. Helvetia yellow and carmine. Their change to brown was subsequently determined upon.—If the head of the lion on your 1 quattr black and 1 soldi yellow Tuscany is 'more like the head of a man than that of a lion,' we should certainly pronounce them to be forgeries.



E. J. S.—The stamp of the Argentine Confederation you forward us for inspection is a badly-executed forgery. The genuine stamp, as will be seen by the annexed engraving, has the cap of Liberty, which is omitted in your specimen. Also the inscription on the genuine stamp is *Confeon Argentina*, not Confeon Argentine. We advise you to procure a copy of Messrs. Lewes and Pemberton's pamphlet, which will greatly aid you in detecting forged stamps.

R. S., Oxford.—The difference of colour in the expected and actual new stamps of Helvetia has been remarked elsewhere.—The tenpenny English was disused before perforations were adopted; it is consequently never found perforated, nor has it been used for envelopes. The sixpenny and fourpenny are now printed side by side, after the United States fashion, to form a tenpenny envelope.—The U. S. P. O 1 cent, black on rose, with the letters *L. P.* on each side of the value below, is wanting in Mr. Brown's Catalogue.—We believe the 2-anna Indian stamps were returned.—The American local stamps are the emanations of private speculators in New York and elsewhere, and supply the want of district post-offices.

ALPHA, Leeds.—The later general issue of the United States stamps may be readily known from the former, by noticing the letters *U. S.* in each of the lower angles.

J. N. NUTTER, Montreal, Canada.—The 1 cent and threepenny Canada are chemically changed in colour; but the Canada newspaper wrapper we have never seen before, consequently can give no information respecting it. It is very badly executed, and we should scarcely think it was a *bona fide* postage stamp.

JOHN WILKIE.—No special stamps have been issued for Gibraltar. The English postage stamps do service there.

E. N. DAVIS, Liverpool.—We believe the error in the green 1 cents Boyd's City Express you send for inspection to be a blunder of the engraver.

R. S.—If this correspondent's eyes are not sufficiently acute to distinguish the excessively minute figures on *all* the blue English stamps of the present issue, he will readily detect them with a magnifier, which will be found generally convenient for apprehending slight peculiarities in different varieties. Both figures are on a line with the *mouth* of the Queen.

PAT, BROMSGROVE.—We have alluded to the Irish sixpenny Petty Sessions stamps in the last number.

M. T. SHORTT.—The black penny *V. R.* English has been sold for as much as a sovereign, and the large Brazilian 90 reis for 30s.

J. LEVY, Plymouth.—Your Java stamp may be a newspaper or receipt impression. The legend is Dutch; but we do not understand that tongue.

J. A., Hertford.—The 12½-c. Canada, as well as the beavers, the 1 cent, and one halfpenny of that colony, and many of the stamps of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, have been printed in black as essays.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE should reach the Office, 13 George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

LOOK BEFORE YOU PURCHASE.—C. K. JONES, 59, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester, sends all kinds of Postage Stamps on inspection on receipt of stamped envelope. C. K. J. also wants Agents and Correspondents in all parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Hamburg, also in all the schools therein. Commission allowed, 15 per cent. off the lowest trade price. Apply at once to the above. P.S.—Stamps and Collections bought to any amount.

1000 PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS for ONE SHILLING.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully executed, 1050 Microscopic Portraits of Eminent Personages. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath

MESSRS. HOOPER & FORWARD, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E.C. Foreign Postage Stamps Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. The largest stock of Foreign Postage Stamps, and the cheapest Dealers in the trade. Their Price List for September now ready, describing form, colour, value, date of issue, &c., of 1000 varieties. This is the cheapest and most comprehensive yet published. Sent post free, on receipt of a stamped envelope. Correspondence in English, French, or German languages.

500 PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS for SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully executed Microscopic Photographs of upwards of 500 Eminent Personages. Price 6d.; post free, 7d. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

FOR SALE.—A Splendid Collection of 316 Stamps to be sold for £4. List sent on receipt of a stamped envelope. Address, C. W., Post Office, Hayle, Cornwall.

TO COLLECTORS OF FOREIGN STAMPS.—C. G., Acomb House, Manchester, is still selling off his entire stock at very low prices. For example, see *Boy's Own Magazine* for this month. Collections of 25 varieties, 6d.; 50, 1/4; 100, 2/10; 150, 5/; 300, 22; 500, £2 15s.; 600, £4 4s.; 700, £5 15s.; 1000, £13 13s.; 1200, £21. P.S.—Collectors should apply immediately.

Now ready. Fourth edition, revised, augmented, and corrected.

CATALOGUE of POSTAGE STAMPS,—BRITISH, COLONIAL, and FOREIGN. By Mount Brown. Containing an accurate description of the form, colour, date of issue, and value, of 1700 varieties. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Bound in morocco leather, and interleaved for Collectors, 2/; post free, 2/2. Address, Mr. BROWN, care of Mr. Passmore, Bookseller, 124, Cheapside, London. *** Priced List of unused and rare stamps, post free, 3d.

150 AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS for ONE-AND-SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully-executed Microscopic Photographs of nearly 150 American Postage Stamps. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

USED COLONIALS, by DOZEN.—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1 c., 7d.; 5 c., 10d.; 10 c., 2/3; Canada, 1 c., 6d.; 5 c., 9d.; United States, 1 c., 2d., old, 6d.; 3 c., 2d., old, 9d.; 10 c., 3d. A. COLONUS, 18, Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, S.E.

150 EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMPS for ONE-AND-SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully executed Microscopic Photographs of nearly 150 European Postage Stamps, comprising both obsolete and present issues. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

A BARGAIN.—A Collection of 620, all Good and Rare Stamps, price £5 10s. Also one of 700, £10; and another of 600, £6 6s. C. K. JONES, 59, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXTRAORDINARY.—Just Published, the GREAT SENSATION CARD for carte de visite Albums. Containing photographic portraits of over 1000 Living and Historical Celebrities. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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ALL COLLECTORS requiring rare obsolete Stamps are invited to make application direct to 'INCOGNITA,' 22, Oxford Terrace, Clapham, S., who supplies nearly every dealer in London. Selections sent for inspection.

COLLECTIONS and Duplicate Stamps purchased by R. REILLY, 7, Great Brunswick Street, Dublin. Apply by letter only.

20 STAMPS for SIXPENCE.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

A SUPERIOR COLLECTION of FOREIGN STAMPS WANTED. Address, J. INCH, Buckingham Terrace, Bonner's Road, London, who has for sale, at low prices, Costa Rica, and the new issues of Lubeck, Denmark, Saxony, &c., and a large variety of obsolete.

ARMS, CRESTS, MONOGRAMS, ETC.—A large variety of the above, beautifully stamped in Colours, with names. Price 3d. per sheet; postage 1d. extra. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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WANTED to PURCHASE, a quantity of *used* Hamburg, Thurn and Taxis, Bergedorf, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Nevis, Trinidad, Venezuela, Western Australia, and St. Helena, for which a liberal price will be given. Apply to S. T., Post-Office, Weymouth.

STAMPS SENT ON APPROVAL.—Send stamped envelope to J. N., Post-Office, Waltham on the Wolds, near Melton Mowbray.

LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Five-Shilling Packet of Local American Postage Stamps contains 20 varieties. Post free, 5/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

S. T., Post-Office, Weymouth, continues to send any quantity or description of Foreign Stamps for inspection, on receipt of postage. S. T. has no connection with the *Weymouth Stamp and Crest Advertiser*.

LES MARCHANDS ÉTRANGERS sont priés envoyer leur catalogue de prix à S. T., Post-Office, Weymouth.

TO COLLECTORS of UNOBLITERATED POSTAGE STAMPS.—The One-Shilling Packet of Stamps contains one dozen varieties of Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps, all unobliterated. Post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

JAS. J. WOODS, Hartlepool, begs to inform his numerous friends, that he has added to his stamp business that of Dealer in Coins. Monthly List (with which will be given an unused Foreign Postage Stamp) sent on receipt of two stamps.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM TITLES.—Now Ready, beautifully printed in Colours, a New and Complete Set of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums. Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.S.A., etc., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Specimen Sheet post free for two stamps. London: E. MARLBOROUGH & Co.; Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street.

JAMES BRENNAN, 37, Nassau Street (opposite the Post-Office), New York, United States, has always on hand a large stock of Foreign and American Stamps, used and unused. Orders promptly executed. Stamps exchanged.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN having duplicate specimens of Foreign Stamps to dispose of, will be liberally treated by S. T., Post-Office, Weymouth.

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IF YOU WANT CHEAP STAMPS, send to JOHN ROSS, 135, West Graham Street, Glasgow, for his September Price List of Stamps (900 varieties). An unused stamp gratis with it. Enclose stamped-directed envelope. Stamps sent on inspection. Correspondents on the Continent wanted. Stamps bought.

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EDWARD C. HALL, Dealer in Foreign Stamps, Hartlepool, begs to inform the nobility, gentry, and stamp collectors in general, that he is prepared to supply the *rarest* stamps for completing collections on a short notice. He respectfully invites an inspection of his magnificent stock of *obsolete* stamps, all *warranted genuine*. For *one* stamp he will forward a few on approval.

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TO BE SOLD for £12, a splendid Collection of Postage Stamps, neatly arranged in one of Lallier's albums, containing upwards of 650 different varieties, among which may be found the following old and rare stamps:—Sicily, Naples, Parma, Modena, Liberia, Mauritius, Spain, Portugal, &c. Apply to J. B. ROBINSON, 65, Grafton Street, Dublin.

DEALERS are requested to send the Names and Addresses of parties to whom they have sent stamps, and whom they have reason to consider swindlers, to Mr. PRICE, 11, Holles Street, Dublin, who intends publishing a List of Defaulters.

TO STAMP DEALERS.—STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH have for sale the following unused Stamps at the annexed low prices per hundred:—Belgium, 1 c., 2/; Boyd's City Express, 1 cent, 8/6; France, 1 c., 2/; 2 c., 3/6; 5 c., 6/6; Italy, 1 c., 3/6; 2 c., 4/6; 5 c., 8/6; Portugal, 10 reis, 7/6; Saxony, 3 pf. (new issue), 7/6; ½ n. gr., 10/6; United States, 3-cent adhesive, 13/6; 3-cent envelope, 14/6. Address STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Foreign Stamp Importers, Bath.

JAMES ROBINSON & Co., 153, Crown Street, Liverpool, have always on hand large quantities of Foreign Stamps at greatly reduced rates. Examples:—Newfoundland, penny, 3d.; twopenny, 4d.; Antigua, penny, twopence; Prince Edward's Island, penny, 2d.; twopenny, 4d.; threepenny, 6d.; set of 5, 2/9; Nevis, penny, 3d.; Hong kong, 2 c., 3d.; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 1d.; 2 c., 2d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 1d.; 5 c., 4d.; Ionian Islands, 6d. set of 3. Price List of over 1200 varieties on receipt of stamped envelope.

MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London, has the following unused new issues of Postage Stamps:—Lubeck, set of 5 labels, 1/3; 5 envelopes, 1/9; Saxony, set of 6 labels, 2/; 4 envelopes, 2/; Costa Rica, ½ r., 1/9; 1 r., 2/3; Nicaragua, 2 c., 2/; 5 c., 2/; Lagos, 6 c., 3/6. Also used and obsolete stamps of Parma—first issue (col. imp.), 15 c. and 25 c., 2/ each; second issue (blk. imp.), 10 c., 15 c., 90 c., at 10d. each; 5 c. and 25 c. at 1/ each; third issue (Duke di Parma), 15 c. and 25 c. at 1/6; 40 c. at 1/3; provisional (Stati Parmensi), 5 c. red, 3/6; 9 c. blue, 2/3; 10 c. and 20 c., 1/6; Modena 5 c. u. 9 c., 2/; 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., 40 c., each 7d.; 15 c. yellow, 5d. In packets, 20 local U. S. labels for 5/. A collection of 520 stamps, 110 of which are unused, price £13.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Illustrated with Maps and Diagrams, and containing a full description of British, Colonial, and Foreign Stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. Imperial oblong 8vo., cloth, clasp, 7/6; post free, 8/2. Bound in half-morocco, clasp, 10/; post free, 10/10. Bound in whole morocco, two clasps, gilt edges, 12/6; post free, 13/4. Bound in best morocco relief, two clasps, 21/; post free, 21/10. Handsomely bound in best morocco relief, two large clasps, 25/; post free, 25/10.

"For the benefit of Collectors, Mr. JUSTIN LALLIER has just issued an admirable Album, which will be in extensive demand as soon as its existence is known. It contains a description of every known variety of *twelve pence*, so that a partially obliterated stamp may easily be recognised; and on the page opposite the description are spaces for mounting the stamps described, so that any Collector may, at a glance, see all his deficiencies.—*The Bookseller*.

Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street.

W. G. DIAMOND, of Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, Bayswater, Dealer in Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps since 1857, can supply the trade with the under-mentioned unused stamps at the prices affixed, viz., Sandwich Islands, 13 c. red, 2 c. (1½ lets) red, 3/; 5 c. blue on blue paper, 3/; Confederate States of America (head of Davis), six varieties, 1/6; Pony Express, 9/. eight varieties. The under-mentioned used stamps at per dozen:—10-kop. Russian, 9d.; old Austrian (arms), 9d.; penny black English, 4d.; twopenny blue, without lines, 1/; Spanish 2 r., 2d.; Sardinian, 2d. French, Indian, common American, and many others for persons about to collect, at 1d. per dozen. The Pony Express and Sandwich Islands at one half the price quoted for those unused. Send stamped-directed envelope enclosing penny uncut postage stamps for those required. Five per cent off all orders over 10/. N.B.—Single stamps sent as specimens at the same price, and the money returned if not approved of. Collections purchased.

ENORMOUS REDUCTION IN PRICES!!—Mr. FRANK E. MILLAR, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N.E., begs to call especial attention to his Price List for September, and feels confident it will meet with a larger circulation than ever, as he will give, gratis, with each List a very rare unused stamp, at present in great demand. The List will be forwarded to any address in the kingdom, post free, on receipt of *two stamps* and a *directed envelope*. On sale, all unused:—Sandwich Islands, 5 c. blue, 4d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. 2d.; Greek 1 and 2 lepti., 1d. each; Turkish, 3/6 the set of 4; Lubeck (1863), set of 5 adhesive, 1/6; ditto envelopes, 1/6; Saxony (1863), set of 6 adhesive, 2/; set of 4 envelopes, 1/9. Used copies:—Canada, threepenny (beaver—old and out of use), 3d.; 5 c. (beaver), 1d.; Norway, old blue (out of use), 3d.; Denmark, old brown Fire, R.B.S. (out of use), 1d.; Pony Express, 6d. each. N.B.—Price List sent as above for two stamps and a directed envelope.

MESSRS. KENNEDY, McDERMID, & Co., have at present a large assortment of used and unused Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps at remarkably low prices. Examples: Turkey, 1, 2, and 5 p., 2/2 for the 3; Ionian Islands, 8d. per set; Luxemburg, 1 and 2 c., 1d. each; 4 c., 1½d.; Sandwich Islands, 5 blue, 6d.; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 1½d.; 2 c., 4d.; 5 c., 5d.; United States, 2 c., 2d. (just issued); 2 c. envelope, 4d.; Saxony, Lubeck, &c., new issues (the above are all unused); Modena from 1/ each; Romagna, 1/3; old Spanish, from 8d.; Luxemburg, 10 c. old, 1/3; Nova Scotia, 1 c. black, 1d.; 5 c. blue, 2d.; French Republic, from 1d. to 9d. each; old Saxony, 1½d. Stamps forwarded upon approval. Dealers supplied at the most reasonable terms. *Agents wanted*. Note the address, and write it in full—KENNEDY, McDERMID, & Co., 79A, George Street, Edinburgh.

H. STEINAU, Faulkner Street, Manchester, has on sale (used) Austria, 1850, 3, 6, and 9 kr., 2d. each; 1858, 1d.; Brunswick, 1852, 6d.; French Republic, 20, 25 c., 3d.; Presidency, 25 c., 5d.; Hanover, 1851, 1-20, 1-15, 1858, 1-30, 1-15, 1-10 th., 1d.; 1 gr., 2d.; Lubeck, set of 5, 9d.; Modena (with eagle and provisional gov.), 9d.; Norway (1855), 6d.; Portugal (Donna Maria), 25 r., 3d.; Saxony (1851), set of 5, 10d.; Schleswig-Holstein (genuine), 2 s., 9d. (Unused) Bergedorf, 1 s., 2d. set of 5; Brunswick envelopes, 9d. set of 3; Canada envelopes, 4 c., 8d., 10 c., 8d.; French Colonies, 1 c., 1d.; 5 c., 2d.; 10 c., 3d.; Newfoundland threepenny, 6d.; fourpenny, 8d.; fivepenny, 10d.; and a great many others. English or German Price List sent on receipt of postage. Dealers supplied on separate and very liberal terms.

SELLING OFF. FURTHER REDUCTION!!—Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 4a, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., will, this month (September), send his new Price List (with a new German Stamp, gratis), post free, on receipt of two stamps; and he feels sure that the great reductions he has made in the price of most stamps must elicit an order from every purchaser of his List. Extract from List, unused:—Sandwich Islands, 5 c., 4d.; New Brunswick, 1 c. (engine), 2d.; Greek 1 and 2 lept., 1d. each; Turkish, 3/6 the set of 4. Used:—Pony Express, 6d. each; old Denmark, Fire R.B.S., 1d.; old Norway, 4 sk. blue, 3d.; Canada, threepenny (beaver), 3d.; sixpenny (head), 6d.; 5 c. (beaver), 1d. each.

THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM, post free, 1/1. can be had only from H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

20,000 OBLITERATED FOREIGN STAMPS WANTED TO PURCHASE, exclusive of French and American. Lowest price per thousand to be forwarded to STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, the Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, Bath.

10 VARIETIES of RARE FOREIGN STAMPS for 3d.; 20 ditto, 6d. H. WHITTAKER, Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

HENRY WHITTAKER, the old-established Stamp Dealer, continues to supply all kinds of Foreign and Colonial Stamps very cheap. Brazil, 10 and 30 r., 2d. each, unused. Collections of 10 varieties, 1/6; 100, 3/6. Winchester Terrace, Regent Road, Salford, Manchester.

THE CHEAPEST PACKET of STAMPS.—The Sixpenny Packet of Stamps contains 20 varieties of Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, all in good condition, many being unobliterated. Post free for seven stamps. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

F. G. JONES & Co., 87, Roscommon Street, Liverpool, have all kinds of used and unused British, Colonial, and Foreign Stamps on sale at greatly reduced prices. September Price List sent on receipt of a stamped envelope.

SELLING OFF.—E. KETTLETY, 14, Kingsmead Square, Bath, begs to announce that he is selling off the whole of his stock of Stamps at less than cost price, and he will send a selection on approval on receipt of stamped envelope.

DIRT CHEAP UNUSED STAMPS.—Brazil, 10 r., 9d., 30 r., 1/10 per dozen; Saxony (oil-d), 3 pf., 9d., ½ sbgr., 10d. per dozen. M. S. LIGHTOWLER, Cross Lane, Salford, Manchester.

BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED in COLOURS.—Now ready, a New and Complete Set of upwards of 130 Titles for Stamp Albums. Geographically arranged by Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.S.S., ETC., of the British Museum. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Specimen sheet post free for two stamps. London: E. MARLBOROUGH & Co.; Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street.

BUY of the IMPORTER.—As R. W. PEGG imports all his own stamps, he is enabled to sell cheaper than any other dealer, and will, on receipt of stamped envelope, send a selection from his magnificent stock of upwards of 30,000 Foreign and Colonial Stamps. Agents wanted. 11, Holles Street, Dublin.

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THE 'SHILLING ALBUM' is a neat and serviceable book, strongly bound in cloth, and ruled to contain over 1400 stamps. Post free, one stamp extra. R. W. PEGG, Holles Street, Dublin.

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D. Mc CORKINDALE will send his Price List on receipt of stamped envelope. Prices very low—Old Saxony, 1d.; old Danish, 1d.; old Nova Scotia threepenny and sixpenny, 4d.

THE POSTAGE-STAMP COLLECTOR'S POCKET ALBUM.—Containing a complete Table of all the Postage Stamps issued by each Country, State, or City, with spaces arranged for their reception. The whole in a neat and portable form, with flap and elastic band, and a pocket for surplus stamps. Roan, 2/; post free, 2/1; morocco or russia, 3/6; post free, 3/8; morocco or russia gilt, 4/; post free, 4/2. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

SEND for STAMPS on APPROVAL to S. T., Post-Office, Weymouth.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, Liverpool, have just received another large assortment of Stamps, of almost all countries, which will be sold at very reduced rates, comprising some very rare and *obsolete* ; such as, Antigua penny, 2d. each, or 1/10 per doz. ; Austria, 2 kr., 2d. each ; Argentine Confederation, 5 c., red, 10 l. each ; Baden, 1 kr., black, 1d. each ; Bahamas, penny, 4d. each ; fourpenny, 1/ each ; sixpenny, 1/3 each ; Set of three, 2/3 ; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d. each ; 3 kr., 3d. each ; Brazil, 10 r., blue, 2 l. each, or 1/3 per dozen ; 30 r., 4d. each ; British Guiana, 1-c. black, 2d. each, or 1/6 per dozen ; Brunswick, ½, ½, ½ s. gr., 1d. each ; Buenos Ayres, 1 p., rose, 1/ each ; 4 r., green, 1/ each ; Canada, 1 c., 2d. each ; Germany, ½ and ½ s. gr., 1d. each, or 8d. per dozen ; ½, orange, 2d. each ; Greece, 1 lept., ½d. each, or 1d. per dozen ; Hamburg, ½ sch., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen ; Set of 7, 2/8 ; Hamburg Boten, Th. Lafrenz, Set of 10 ½ sch., 10d. ; Set of 10 1 sch., 1/1 ; H. Scheerenbeck's, a set of 10 ½ sch., 1/ ; set of 10 ½ sch. (Post manq. 1 ; set of 10 1 sch. (Castle), 1/3 ; Carl Hamer and Co., set of 10, including two envelope stamps, 1/ ; Marx Verein, set of 10 1 sch., 1/3 ; Malta, halfpenny, 1d. each, or 8d. per dozen ; Moldo-Wallachia, set of 3, 2/ ; Moldavia, 5 p., black, 1/6 ; 40, blue, 2/ ; 80, rose, 2/ ; set of 3, 5, 54 (circular), 2/ each ; 80 p., 2 each ; 108 p., 2 each ; set of 3, 5/6 ; Monte Video, 180 c., 1/ ; 210 c., 1 ; *diligencia*, 80 c., 1/ ; 1 r., 1/ ; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d. each, or 10d. per dozen ; Newfoundland, penny, 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen ; Saxony (new issue, white shield in centre), 3 p., 1d. each, or 10d. per dozen ; ½, orange, 1d. each, or 1/ per dozen ; 1, rose, 3d. each, or 2 per dozen ; 2, blue, 4d. each, or 3s. per dozen ; 3, stone, 6d. each, or 4 per dozen ; U. S. env., 1 c., 3d. each ; 3 c., 4d. each. The above are all unused. The following are used :—Buenos Ayres (Ship), 1 r., blue, 2/ each ; 1 p., rose, 8d. each ; 1 p., blue, 6d. each ; French Republic, 10 c., 6d. each ; 15 c., 6d. each ; 20 c., 2 l. each ; 25 c., 2 l. each ; 1 franc, 8d. each ; Finland, 10 kop., rose (large stamp, with shield surmounted by crown), 9d. each ; Hanover, first and second issues at 3d. each ; Donna Maria and Don Pedro, 25 r., blue, 3d. each, or 2/6 per dozen. Their new Price List is just out, giving full particulars of form, value, colour, date of issue, &c. ; will be forwarded on receipt of two stamps. All orders executed and forwarded per return of post. P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool.

OMEGA, Everton, Liverpool, has an extensive assortment of Foreign Postage Stamps in stock. The following are a few :—Antigua, penny ; Bahamas, penny ; Barbadoes, blue, green ; Jamaica, penny ; Nevis, penny ; Newfoundland, penny ; St. Vincent, penny ;—all 3d. each ; Baden, ½, 1d. ; Land Post, ½, 1d. ; Bremen, 2, 2½, 3, 3d. ; British Guiana, 1 c., black, 2d. ; 2 c., 3d. ; 4 c., 5d. ; 8 c., 7d. ; Canada (Envelopes), 5 c., 6d. ; 10 c., 9d. ; Confederate States (fac-similes), 3 l. each, or 3/ the set of 15 ; Germany (N.), ½, ½, ½ at 1d. each ; Greece, ½, 1d. ; 2, 1d. ; 5, 2d. ; 10, 3d. ; Hamburg, ½ 1d. ; Hanover, ½ gr., 1d. ; 3 pf., 1d. ; old envelopes, 1 g. gr., 9d. ; 1 gr., rose, 1/6 ; Ionian Islands, 9d. per set of 3 ; Liberia, 6 c., 1/ ; Lubeck, old and new, 1/3 per set ; Wallachia, 3, 4d. ; 6, 5d. ; 30, 1/ ; Natal, penny, 4d. ; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d. ; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d. ; new 2 c., 3d. ; Papal States, ½, 1½d. ; 1, 1½d. ; 2, 3d. ; 3, 4d. ; Prince Edward's Island, penny, 3d. ; twopenny, 4d. ; threepenny, 7d. ; Saxony (new kind, just issued), 3 pf., 1½d. ; ½ gr., 1½d. ; 1, 3d. ; 2, 5d. ; 3, 6d. ; 5, 9d. ; or 2, the set of six ; envelopes, 2, the set of four ; St. Lucia, red, 3d. ; blue, 9d. ; Trinidad, red, 4d. ; Turkey, yellow, 5d. ; United States envelopes, 1, 2d. ; 2, 4d. ; 6, 6d. ; 10, 1 ; Venezuela, 6d. each, or 10d. the set of three ; Hamburg Locals, 1, 1/3, 1/6 per set of ten. All the above are unused. The following are used, but in good condition :—Baden (figure in centre), 3 kr., blue, yellow, green, 6, green, 3d. each ; 6, yellow, 9, pink, 2d. each ; French Colonies, 10 c., 40 c., 3d. each ; Hanover (first issue), 1 g. gr., 1-10, 4d. each ; 1-20, 1-30, 1-15, 2d. each ; second issue, 1 g. gr., 1-10, 4d. each ; 1-20, 1-15, 2d. each ; India (old), ½, 1, 2, 4, 6d. each ; Prussia (first issue), 1, 2, 3, 2½d. each ; second issue, 1, 2, 3, 1d. each ; Saxony (first issue), ½ gr., 4d. ; 1, 2, 3, 3d. each. List sent on receipt of a stamped-directed envelope.

W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in used and unused Foreign Postage Stamps, will send their Price List of 1000 varieties on receipt of two stamps. The following is an example of their prices (all other kinds and used ones equally low) :—Austria, 1 kr., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen ; 2 and 3 kr. and 3 kr. env., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen ; Austrian Italy, 2 and 3 soldi and 3 soldi env., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen ; Barbadoes green, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen ; Brazil, 10 r., 2d. each, 1 per dozen ; 30 r., 3d. each, 2 per dozen ; Baden, Bavaria, Germany, and Wurtemberg, 1 kr., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen ; 3 kr. and env. 3 kr., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen ; Hamburg, Lubeck (new issue adhesive and envelope), and Bergedorf, ½ sch., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen ; 1 sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen ; Denmark, 2 sk., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen ; Greece, 1 lept., 1d. each, 4d. per dozen ; Luxemburg, 1 c., 1d. each, 3d. per dozen ; 2 c., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen ; 4 c., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen ; 10 and 12½ c., 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen, 2/2 per set ; Hanover, 3 pf., 4d. each, 8d. per doz. ; Saxony (new issue), 3 pf. and ½ n. gr., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen ; 1 n. gr. and env., 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen ; Spain, 2 cuartos, 2d. each, 1/ per dozen ; 4 cuartos, 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen ; Oldenburg, ½ and ½ gr., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen ; Germany, ½ and ½ s. gr., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen ; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen ; United States, 1-c env., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen ; new issue, 2 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen ; 2-c. env., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen ; penny Grenada, Nevis, St. Lucia, Bahamas, St. Vincent, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, 3d. each. All the above are unused. A collection of over 600 stamps for sale, half of them unused, price £20. Agent for Portsmouth and neighbourhood, L. EMANUEL, 12, Ordnance Row, Portsea.

TIMBRES POSTE ÉCHANGÉS.—S. T., Post Office, Weymouth, sera heureux de recevoir aucune quantité de timbres poste vieillis du Continent, en échange de ceux des Colonies Anglaises, dont il a beaucoup. S. T. traitera bien libéralement avec ses correspondants.

Will be ready on the 15th inst., 16 pages, Frap. 4to.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S DESCRIPTIVE PRICE CATALOGUE of BRITISH, COLONIAL, and FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. New edition, revised and corrected to the present time, and illustrated with upwards of 50 engravings, beautifully printed on toned paper. Price 6d. ; post free, 7d.

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To Foreign Stamp and Crest Collectors.

STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH'S MONTHLY CIRCULAR for September will be sent gratis and post free to any address on application.

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STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH,
Foreign Stamp-sellers to
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF ORANGE,
13, George Street, Bath.

This Magazine will be forwarded regularly every month, to any part of the world, on receipt of the annual subscription of Four Shillings ; which may be remitted in unused postage stamps current in the country whence the order is received.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

Ce Magasin-ci sera transmis tous les mois, à toutes les parties du monde, en envoyant aux Messieurs Smith la souscription annuelle (5 francs), en timbres-poste neufs du pays d' où vient l'ordre.

Stafford Smith & Smith, 13, George Street, Bath, England.

NOTICE.—Purchasers of the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE *are entitled to receive with the May and succeeding numbers an unobliterated Foreign or Colonial Stamp. The above is not applicable to Subscribers resident in Foreign Countries ; as the British postal regulations will not admit of any enclosure being sent in a registered publication addressed abroad.*

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE FOURTH.—PART I.

MORNING.

'Each sure-returning morning
Foreruns the busy day;
Echoing the solemn warning,
Live well while yet you may.'

The dawn ushered in the day, and brightly shone the sun over the beautiful city of Florence, equally arousing its denizens to joy or sorrow. Lusty youth and feeble age; the lowliest ministrant to daily necessities, and the wealthy possessor of all sublunary comforts, alike awoke to hail its impartial rays. The healthy seemed to derive new vigour from its brightness; and even the suffering diseased felt no small amelioration from the disappearance of the long, dull night.

As the morning wore on, the streets were gradually filled with more than their accustomed gay and animated crowd. It was a feast-day, and a grand procession would issue at ten o'clock from the noble church of Santa Croce, the Westminster Abbey of Florence, where repose so many illustrious dead. Many bent their steps thither from a purely—if mistaken—religious motive; many, from an innate love of sight-seeing of any kind; some, to while away an idle hour; but the majority simply following in the wake of others.

Toward that same sacred edifice too, yet with far different purpose, from opposite quarters of the city, and by tortuous ways, to evade observation, slunk the conspirators Bernardo and Filippo; both greatly annoyed at the unusual concourse near their appointed place of meeting—having been either ignorant or forgetful of the public ceremony.

'With care-worn look, and mien distraught
By deep, and sad, and madd'ning thought,'

thither also moodily paced the unhappy Lorenzo, mechanically striving after some

calm by offering up his morning orisons, carefully and unobservedly followed at a distance by his faithful young companion, who, intuitively feeling that some crisis was at hand, was anxious to be nigh his dear protector with what assistance or comfort he might be able to afford.

The solemn mass was sung, and the long procession passed from the church across the Piazza. Preceded by religious banners, first walked the children belonging to the various scholastic charities; then, accompanied by their appropriate insignia, gigantic crosses, and exquisitely-carved crucifixes, issued forth deputations of monks and nuns, representing their respective monasteries and convents. The majority of these, especially the Franciscan friars, might remind the spectator of the exquisite, I will not say, conceptions, as they are doubtless faithful portraits of Rembrandt, Guido, and above all, Lo Spagnoletto, whose pictures, full of utter self-abnegation and sublime devotion, were seemingly presented bodily walking in the file.

These were followed by what we should call in England, Friendly Brothers and Sisters of Mercy; the usual garb of the former partially hid by a sort of clerical habiliment, something like a large surplice. Some of these bore enormous lighted tapers. The appearance of the females was yet more singular; a straw-coloured leno robe and hood but very imperfectly concealing their unmistakably lay dress. The younger sisters, wearing neither caps nor bonnets, might pass muster well enough as novices; but the gay caps of many of the matrons shone forth quite out of place in such an assembly; and more especially some of the associées of a higher grade, sporting bonnets in the extreme of fashion, which the thin material of the hood but scantily covered, and apologetically veiled, lent a semi-ludicrous aspect to this part of the long procession.

After these came the clerical staff of Santa Croce, consorting with those of the other churches who sent contingents to swell the parade. At intervals were borne crucifixes in carved wood, or composed of ivory and ebony, under canopies of scarlet or purple velvet; and many a massive silver crosier appeared a heavy load to its supporter. Last in the show, towered far on high above the shoulders of its score or so of bearers, a massive image of the virgin and child, as large as life, in pure dead and bright silver, and wearing crowns of gold and precious stones.

When the church was partially cleared of the crowd, the two worthies were able to interchange a few hurried words, and then, fearful of recognition, hastily descended the steps of the side entrance of the church. Although they were both partially disguised in shabby blue blouses and large-brimmed straw hats, they were here, to his great surprise and alarm, identified by young Carlo, in search of his friend, of whom he had suddenly lost sight. Unobserved himself, he followed them awhile, in much amazement at the consortment of the two, when he suddenly caught view of Lorenzo slowly advancing. At the same instant the conspirators perceived him, and hastily separated; but the artist was too intent on his own sad thoughts to notice them; and on Carlo, eagerly rushing forward to meet him, to impart the extraordinary discovery he had just made, he started and looked up—— to behold his adored mistress, quietly and unobtrusively returning unattended from one of her daily missions of charity. Their eyes met; and his humble and deep reverence was rewarded by one of her own angelic smiles of recognition. Bernardo and Filippo observed them in the distance; the former, with jealousy and rage; the latter, fearful of the effect of the meeting on the better feelings of Lorenzo.

It might have proved for good, but, as evil fate willed it, the carriage of the Marchese—who knew the direction of his granddaughter's walk that day, and solicitous for her safety in the crowded state of the streets—drew up, attended by that same servant whose presence ever exasperated the luckless lover to frenzy.

How, when, and where will that party meet again? The conspirators hurriedly escaped; Adine entered the carriage; and Lorenzo rushed into the church, followed as speedily and closely as possible by little

Carlo, who found him stretched, apparently lifeless, before the tomb of Michael Angelo.

DOZE THE FOURTH.—PART II.

DARKNESS, DEATH, DESPAIR.

'Shall all the heighten'd grief of years,
Or groans, or sighs, or floods of tears,
Avail to dim that heavy woe?'
Relentless mem'ry answers, 'No.'

With the assistance of a few casual loiterers in the holy building, the sufferer was restored to the sad realization of existence, and the two friends proceeded homewards; but fruitlessly did Carlo endeavour to introduce his startling discovery of the existence of communication between his uncle and the haughty grandson of the Marchese. The very mention of Bernardo's name sufficed so evidently to convulse the whole frame of the artist, that the poor boy was obliged to give up his futile attempt, and contented himself with the most anxious and unremitting attention to the trifling requirements of his protector throughout the day. They had apparently changed their mutual positions. The strong young man, listlessly engaged about some of the mere preparatory parts of his painting, was watched and humoured like a wayward child by the affectionate little fellow of whom he had constituted himself guardian.

Long and dreary was the remainder of the day, its monotony broken only by a brief visit from Filippo, ostensibly to settle a few minor arrangements, but really to ascertain if his companion or himself had been recognised in the morning. The deep abstraction of the artist, who seemed to speak and move like a man in a trance, reassured him, and he speedily relieved the friends of his unwelcome presence.

The sun set; the brief twilight darkened; the evening wore away; and the silence of night succeeded.

'The moon, the witness bright of many a crime,
And looking yet so guiltless all the time,'

was wrapped in clouds, and the hour appointed for the rendezvous of the wretched plotters arrived. Lorenzo, having enticed his young companion to retire to his bed, and waited till he was apparently lost in sleep, softly descended the many steps of the long, dark staircase. Carlo, who was only feigning slumber, immediately sprung from his couch, and, leaning as far as possible out of window, watched till his friend had attained the court-yard; then, hastily huddling on his clothes, followed in full determination to share every danger attendant on his midnight project, whatever it might be.

'It was plot and counter-plot,' continued the postage stamp, with whose narration we will now proceed; 'I tell you not only what I witnessed, but what after events proved to have transpired. The real object of the villanous Bernardo was to allow the ruffians access to his grandfather's palace, which he was easily enabled to do, by bribing that very menial who had a grudge against Lorenzo, and who managed, by drugging their wine, to lull the *concierge* and other domestics of the establishment into a sound sleep. His idea was then, in the confusion, to get possession himself of as much available property as he could lay hands on; after which, ringing the alarm-bell, he would arouse the neighbourhood, and satiate his jealousy and hatred by seeing his rival ignominiously captured and condemned as one of the lawless band; fully confident of his own ability to screen himself from any suspicion of connivance, as he had never been known personally to other of the ruffians than Filippo, whose word he well knew would not be taken in preference to his own denial of the compact between them. The latter, however, was quite as shrewd as his coadjutor, and, his suspicions once aroused by a trifling circumstance, resolved not to lose sight of him.

'One by one, not to attract the attention of the guardians of the night, the minor villains were admitted into the court-yard by the menial Michele, fully cognizant of and maliciously furthering the designs of his young master. Then followed Filippo; and, shortly after, Lorenzo.

'Up the marble staircase, feebly lighted by a few dark lanterns, scarce daring to breathe, the dusky forms ascended. The private cabinet of the Marchese, which the plate-room—where his ready cash and valuables mostly lay—adjoined, was reached, and the latter entered by the plunderers.

Drawers and other receptacles were speedily ransacked, and the lawless crew transferred the costly contents to their bags and pockets.

'My unhappy purchaser persistently clamouring for what he deemed his rightful heritage, the emerald bracelet—easily identified by Filippo—was handed him. Eagerly and curiously regarding it with abstracted eye, he stumbled against Michele, furtively stealing off with a casket which he was well aware contained the priceless coronet, brilliant crosses, and other valuable jewelry of the Abbess of Santa Apollonia, which had been kept at her father's ever since the revolutionary movement had rendered the convents unsafe receptacles for valuable property. At the abrupt contact, the plunderer let fall his burden, which, bursting open, the resplendent contents strewed the floor, and among them, to the especial amazement of Filippo, Bernardo, and Lorenzo, lay a bracelet, the precise model of that held in the hand of our hero.

'The general scramble after the scattered valuables that ensued, afforded Bernardo, as he thought, a favourable opportunity of executing his diabolical purpose; but Filippo was too wary for him, and overtaking the double traitor at the door of the cabinet, a scuffle followed, the noise of which awoke the old noble. He entered from his chamber just as Lorenzo, having got possession of the other bracelet, was preparing to retire. In the struggle the silk mask of Bernardo had fallen off, and the frenzied artist—his brain on fire with the events of the last few days, and a stiletto he had wrenched from one of the ruffians in his hand—sprang forward with deadly intent against his enemy. The latter swerving from the blow, the murderous weapon penetrated the heart of the Marchese, who fell lifeless on the spot.

'A scream startled the horrified occupants of the chamber. The *murderer* turned, and once again beheld——Adine.

> '"Their eyes a single moment met,
> That look he never shall forget."

'The household was by this time in motion: the terrified servants thought but of their dead master and fainting mistress. The assistant marauders hurriedly escaped with what portables they could. Bernardo made demonstrations as if to arrest Filippo, who returned a thrust with his dagger that maimed him for life, and followed his myrmidons. Lorenzo, rushing distracted from the room, again fell against Michele, who fled from his blind fury through chambers and passages towards the servants' apartments, which looked towards the street, and jumped in fright from a window. Lorenzo, madly pursuing, followed his example, and they both lay senseless with fractured limbs before the eyes of poor little Carlo, who had crouched, all the while shivering with terror, at the portals of the court-yard.'

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES OF DESULTORY RAMBLES ON THE CONTINENT.

BY A STAMP COLLECTOR.

There are many places ordinarily unnoticed by tourists, a visit to which would yet well repay the little extra delay and expense incurred. Among such is an old and very singular city, whose elegant postage stamps, by the contrast of their varied colours, are the adornment of a page in every collector's album. It may be compared to a Brobdinagian washing-basin—the houses of the natives at the bottom and sides; and castle, citadel, port, &c., all round the brim. Perfect peace, notwithstanding the warlike appearance of these defences, seems characteristic of the place—at least, such was our impression the short time we were there. Of course we soon managed to make way to the post-office, to store ourselves with the cleanest and brightest obtainable specimens. The postmaster, a collector himself, could understand our wants, and politely obliged us with the best of his stock. Here also we were fortunate enough to meet with some *new* old specimens (the initiated will readily comprehend this Irishism); two sorts we have never seen acknowledged in any but one continental catalogue; and one of them, of which we obtained but a solitary individual, is the very first issue of the place, and of marvellous rarity. Foreign collectors have always recognised it, but it is ever pooh-

pooched by English amateurs as accidentally differing or non-existent. We can only say, we shall be proud to exhibit the same to any zealous collector.

We thought we should like to descend into the basin, but could find no means of access to the lower regions. After a little search we entered an open door, and proceeded down some steps leading to a long passage, then steps again, and again passages. At last we were stopped by sentinels, who seemed to wonder at our appearance; and as the natives are a mongrel breed—neither French, Germans, Belgians, nor Italians, but a sort of outlandish Dutch—we could not comprehend each other. This is not the first time our postage stamps have extricated us from a difficulty. Not wishing to crease them, we had begged of the postmaster some paper to wrap them up in, and he had civilly given us some old official document covered with figures and signatures. This being in our hand attracted the soldiers' attention, who stared at it a good deal, which our acumen perceiving gave us a hint how to proceed. Mixing all the languages we could muster together, and pointing to the magic document, we gave them to understand it was a free pass from the king, emperor, grand-duke, or whatever the sovereign of the place might be, so we were allowed ingress or egress. We did not know our way, and dared not ask; so, after innumerable turnings and windings, ups and downs, we managed to get out nearly where we had entered!

We then found the legitimate mode of reaching the town, and, curious as it is, we were ourselves apparently an equal object of curiosity to the natives. On trying to ascend by another path, we again nearly got into trouble; and when a sentinel went so far as to take hold of our arm, we began to anticipate a sojourn in the dungeons of the castle for the night in lieu of proceeding onwards. A few flourishes, however, of the mystic paper again extricated us, and the soldier gave us the pass.

We climbed a flight of steps—it was intensely hot—and began to count; but after many, many scores, and finding we were not a third advanced, we gave it up, and at last gladly reached the top to find——we had to go all the way back again! There was no egress on that side the castle. We shrewdly suspect the sentinel that stopped us merely meant civilly to intimate that fact. Perseverance at length succeeded, and we emerged from this intricate but most interesting locality, which we may not ever revisit, but of which we shall always retain a favourable impression.

We are now writing in a city of palaces, where the wonderfully-preserved remains of mediæval splendour meet the gaze on every side. This morning we touched two of the beautiful semi-transparent alabaster pillars of the temple of Solomon, and satiated our eyes with many a treasured reminiscence of ages long gone by.

We had heard of the general incivility of the predominating 'powers that be' in this place. We did not experience it. The postal authority to whom we applied for stamps was most obliging, and, on our taking the liberty of petitioning for those mysterious anomalies which are not sold, obligingly favoured us with a handful, which we put into our cap for convenience of carriage, and taking it off on our arrival at our hotel, very much surprised our travelling companion by the squares of green, blue, and yellow which the heat had rendered adhesive to our hair.

Not so civil, though, were the postage vendors of another ancient city that we lately visited—a city whose existence, were it not for one play and one painter, would scarcely be known in England. Yet it is well worth a traveller's visit—every house, every object, thoroughly mediæval. On inquiring for some obsolete stamps, we were very gruffly repulsed; and civilly asking our way of a sentinel at one of the gates, and having unfortunately a plan of the place in our hands, were rudely answered in language that may be translated 'find out'!

Greatly tantalised were we in another city of palaces, on asking for some of those frightfully rare stamps now worth upwards of five hundred times their original cost, and being told that the party to whom we applied had plenty of them on old letters, but had no

time or inclination to take the trouble of hunting them up.

We are inclined to believe that most of the rare stamps have before this found their way to Brussels, Paris, and London; and we must regret the scanty crop reaped from our continental researches. In vain did we inquire for its solitary local stamp in the fine old city where the habitations, often six or more stories high, are surmounted by roofs containing four or five more—where the heads of some of the lower class of females are decorated with something in the similitude of enormous gilt fans; and the churches and other buildings are apparently covered with carpets of bright colours!

A like disappointment baffled us in that once-celebrated city whose name, sadly distorted, particularises a favourite dainty of the cockney poor; where umbrellas and parasols must be at a great discount—the inhabitants bidding defiance to the rain and the sun under the shelter of their splendid corridors. Inquiring at the post-office for some of the long-extinct specimens that had so short a duration, we were accosted by an extraordinary-looking little old man, who offered us, for a consideration, the address of a party who had some for sale. We were foolish enough to be taken in, and found nothing but the commonest recent issues were attainable.

In an obscure market town of the same district, at the foot of the Apennines, where our vetturino stopped to change horses, we were very nearly so fortunate as to obtain what we wished. The postmaster said he had put his hands on a whole remaining sheet a day or two since, and would let us have it. But alas! it was not forth-coming, though he ransacked his drawers as well as he could in the short space of time we were allowed to wait, and we went on our way ——unrejoicing.

We are half ashamed of an adventure in that marvellously-beautiful city full of silent highways, where carriages and horses, and above all, their usual unpleasing concomitants—dust and dirt—are unknown. Making quest in a tobacconist's shop—where stamps are universally sold in most parts of ntinent—we were accosted by an individual who said he had just what we wanted. We accompanied him through several bye streets in a very suspicious neighbourhood, and arrived at last at the entrance of a villanous-looking alley by the side of a dismal, rank canal. It was late in the evening, and we had much money and valuables about us, so began to doubt our prudence in confiding in a perfect stranger; and looking at him for the first time, we found his face perfectly accorded with the locality. The hope of obtaining the coveted postal specimens could not tempt us farther, and we ignominiously turned tail—*alias*, cut and ran.

Travellers must not always expect to find their own impressions tally precisely with those of preceding explorers. At least, as far as our experience can testify, where our expectations have been most highly raised we have been disappointed, and *vice versâ*. We are now writing in a city little known to fame, in which few monuments of the past exist; whose situation and beauties rarely, if ever, have excited enthusiasm; and, nevertheless, the surpassing loveliness of its environs, the great regularity and cleanliness of its streets, and the gorgeous magnificence of its regal palace, render it worthy of a much longer sojourn than the tourist—generally making use of it simply as a *point d' appui*—is disposed to make.

Equally worthy of, or still more so, the praises of the artist or the poet, is that old city of whose buildings one only—and that for its singularity—is of world-wide celebrity; while no locality on the face of the earth can boast of *four* such glorious edifices in one group.

On the contrary, in the city emphatically surnamed 'the beautiful,' its prime glory, with all the costly materials, and extraordinary amount of labour so lavishly bestowed upon it, in our eyes seemed almost a failure. Approaching it near enough to observe the beauty of its component parts, it cannot be viewed as a whole; and standing far enough off for an extended survey, the elaborate ornamentation gives the idea of a structure of painted pasteboard. Moreover, in that same much-bepraised city not one of the sacred edifices—not even the prin-

cipal—has ever been finished; one façade, and sometimes the whole exterior, exhibiting a shabby surface of raw material or dirty plaster! Here, again, we were greatly disappointed in our researches for antique postal specimens. After an introduction to some of the officials, and frequent calls at the post-office, threading numberless passages, and ascending countless stairs, we thought we had at last succeeded; but the promised store, when exposed to view, comprised but the commoner sort of extinct stamps; and these were rated at exactly quadruple the price at which we have bought them in London! We beg to add that it is not on this account we dare to depreciate any of the beauties of this far-famed city, as we were equally disappointed in the cities previously lauded.

The usual affix over the shops of the vendors—for the most part tobacconists, as we mentioned before—is, *Tobacco, salt, and postage stamps sold;* and we were particularly struck with their apparently total obtuseness of perception of there ever having been the slightest difference between the numerous issues of their country. They appear never to have judged of a stamp otherwise than from its numerical amount; and in the umquhile university-famous city, in which one of the Seven Champions of Christendom lies entombed in perhaps as rich a chapel as any on earth, and lamps, with candelabra of solid gold and silver, burn unceasingly night and day around his remains, the distributor of postage stamps stoutly denied the existence of a stamp that has not been a twelvemonth out of use!

The doganas are the great nuisance of continental travel; though, generally speaking, the officials give the smallest possible trouble commensurate with their harrassing duty. Whenever our postage stamps happened to show, they seemed to cause some suspicion of invasion or treason. The uncut envelopes were supposed to be so many letters addressed in invisible ink. Crossing the Austrian frontier, the first object that caught the searcher's eye was a sandwich-box, which he made an eager grab at, most probably mistaking it for a tobacco-box. Before we could speak, a fellow-traveller obligingly volunteered information as to its proper destination; but the man would open it, and the contents were in reality sheets of postage stamps, interspersed with a few Bank of England notes which we had placed there as a safe repository. The official looked as if he thought these a strange sort of edible; and our fellow-traveller was equally surprised, and doubtless vowed never in future to meddle explanatorily with another party's luggage.

Fortified towns, as we hinted before, seem ever on the look-out for an invader. In the neighbourhood of that city well deserving its distinguishing epithet of 'The Superb,' where the snow-white veils gracefully draping the heads and shoulders of the women afford the appearance of a city of brides, we stopped to look over a wall at a most magnificent prospect of the Mediterranean, when a sentinel, like a London peeler, promptly bid us 'move on.'

On the southern side of the Alps we have met with but few collectors. We chanced upon one in the 'beautiful' city, and were introduced to some others in a flourishing and wealthy seaport, of which the town reminded us of the worst part of Bristol, but the neighbourhood is a glorious combination of exquisite landscape and lovely sea. In the Queen of cities, which we hope to reach in some few days, we anticipate the treat of an examination of, and the opportunity of making notes from many a well-stored stamp album.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

[We propose continuing this Appendix to Mr. Brown's early editions, for the benefit of those who do not possess the fourth.—Ed.]

States of the Church.

We submit that the substitution of this heading in the fourth edition is far from being an improvement. 'Papal States' better suited the described stamps; and we would dispute the title of Rome to *The* Church *par excellence.*

No addition is made to the former descrip-

tions; and the solitary alteration is an amendment for the worse. The 6 baj. previously noted as *white*, in the present edition is called *flesh*. We remember once, and once only, seeing an individual whose face was the colour of the stamp in question—a pale stone blue—in consequence of having undergone a course of iron for the cure of epileptic fits. We have the 4 baj. of *two* distinct shades of brown drab, as well as bright yellow.

Sweden.

No alteration has taken place with regard to these stamps since the publication of the preceding edition. We would mention the existence of the 6 skilling banco in two distinct shades of drab. The local 3 öre is most unmistakably brown, not red.

Switzerland.

The last edition of Mr. Brown's manual exhibits both emendations and alterations.

BASLE.

As before.

GENEVA.

The cantonal double stamp is expunged, and we think without sufficient reason, from the present edition. We have just met with individuals in Geneva who remember using it, and we have elsewhere given our opinion as to its due authenticity. The iron-grey 5 c. is really black on white, and is merely an essay.

NEUFCHATEL AND VAUD.

No change.

ZURICH.

The dated essays are more fully identified in the present edition. The dated forgeries are expunged; and the *Orts-post Post-locale* is assigned to its locality—Winterthur.

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The 10 rappen exists of a dull buff colour, as well as yellow and orange; and we know of a 5 rappen in a choice collection which is of nearly the same hue. The 5 rappen blue on white is of two shades—deep and pale. There are three varieties of the 15 rappen vermilion, with large, small, and intermediate figures. We have also the 15 centimes in differently-sized figures.

Besides the 5 rappen amber and 10 yellow, mentioned as an issue of 1854, the latter of which is exceedingly rare, we have to present to notice for the first time a set of stamps of similar device, which most probably immediately preceded those that have just been superseded by the Helvetian series. They are 5 rappen, centimes, or centesimi, cinnamon; 10, blue-grey; 15, lake on tinted paper; 20, pale yellow; 40, greenish-blue; and 1 franc, grey.

The colours of the latest issue (Helvetia Franco) are, 2 c. grey, 3 c. black, 5 c. brown, 10 c. blue, 20 c. orange, 30 c. red, 40 c. green, 60 c. bronze, and 1 franc gold.

Tasmania.

The stamps of this colony seem to have undergone no change for some time.

Tuscany.

The 2 crazie on white is sometimes found sea-green; it varies also from pale to deep blue. We doubt the existence of a 60 c. on perfectly white paper. The 20 centesimi of the Provisional Government varies from pale to deep blue.

Two Sicilies.

NAPLES.

These stamps seem to have attained the perfection of description at once, no emendations having ever been offered.

SICILY.

We believe the *orange* ½ grano is a modern reprint: the colour of the original stamp is nearly that of rhubarb. The 2 grana varies from light to dark blue, if the former be not also a reprint. The 5 grana is found (postmarked) of three very distinct shades of red.

There are also impressions of the described blue essay in black on a white ground.

(*To be continued*).

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

We have the pleasure of presenting our readers with a description of two resuscitated stamped envelopes of Poland. They were introduced for the petty post of War-

saw on the 21st of January, 1858; were issued for the sole purpose of transmitting visiting cards; and not allowed to be sealed. The employment of these stamps lasted only till the 16th of September, 1861, on which day the petty post of Warsaw was closed.

These envelopes bear the Russian arms in red, hand-stamped, which a Polish inscription encircles, whose purport signifies *General Post-Office*. At least we are informed so, but we think the first three words are unaccounted for in the translation. The two envelopes differ merely in the size of the stamp; and both bear under the flap the signature of the clerk under whose department fell the controlment of their circulation.

A local stamp for St. Petersburg has just been issued, an engraving of which we subjoin. It is very ugly, but the other stamps of Russia are so extremely pretty that the contrast is rather pleasing than otherwise. Like its congeners, it is of three colours.



In the centre, the Russian arms in black, on a square of grey and white. This lies on an engine-turned and slightly ornamented round of black and white, bearing inscription and value—5 *k*. The rest of the stamp—except the four corners, which have a slight ornamentation of black and white—is grey, white, and black, forming a very minute pattern, and bearing a Russian inscription. The shape is that of the previously issued stamps of the country.

From Venetia emanates a fac-simile of the new 5 kreuzer of Austria, bearing the arms of that country in white relief on a pink ground; but the value of course differs, being 5 soldi. The 10 s. and 15 s. will be issued, as well as the smaller values and the envelopes, when the existing stock fails; but some of them may not make appearance for a considerable time, there appearing but a scanty demand for some of the postal denominations in Venice; in proof of which we may adduce the non-issue of the 15 soldi in the pattern which is now becoming extinct, the earlier issue of that value being not yet exhausted.

It is not generally remarked that the perforated Belgian 1 centime is of a perfectly different shade of green from the other.

The yellow and green stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, alluded to in our last number, like the original blue and brown, are each of two values—$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1 real, and 1 oz. 2 reales.

We have noticed on the Continent sets of the oldest issue of the envelopes of Brunswick, of which the colours are considerably paler than those of the current stamps; and also sets of the new Würtemburg envelopes with a similar variance in hue.

For marketable purposes, doubtless, the New Yorkers seem to multiply essays of their stamps in all colours. We have just seen the new large-headed 2 cents repeated in six different colours; and the 30 cents, &c., in green and blue, as well as black.

The eightpenny Ceylon adhesive is now a pale brown; and we again hear reports of a rose-coloured St. Helena stamp.

There is a singular series of French essays, through the centre of which a piece of string is passed, the pulling of which would effectually tear and cancel the stamp, in lieu of the present *modus operandi*. Were this plan adopted in all countries, a collection of *used* stamps would henceforward be unattainable, from the ruthless destruction of specimens. With a like disregard to the feelings of stamp collectors, the curious stamps of Western Australia are disfigured, if not totally spoiled, by the abstraction of a round piece; but we cannot imagine how this is done without moreover piercing the letter, and perhaps rendering an important word quite unintelligible.



We append an engraving of one of the new Lubeck stamps, which were fully described in a previous number.

We have this moment received intelligence of the appearance of the long-expected 4 centimes of the French empire. It is a fac-simile of the lately-issued 2 centimes, with the exception, of course, of the difference in value; but is far from an improvement in point of colour, being a dull-grey lavender.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Zschiesche & Köder's *Price Catalogue of Postage Stamps.* Leipsig: C. C. Zschiesche and C. E. Köder.

This is a tolerably complete catalogue of most of the accredited stamps, excluding essays, known to collectors. It is legibly printed on very good paper; and, although in the German language, can be readily understood by any one even ignorant of that tongue.

The arrangement of the countries is very good, they being separated into the five great divisions of Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australia. In each of these divisions the various countries are all alphabetically arranged, without reference to colonies or dependencies. This we think an improvement on catalogues in general, as it must be found perplexing to many to have to search for Cuba under the letter *S*, and New Caledonia or Reunion under the letter *F*.

The specimens are all priced, that is to say, they are marked at the prices the compilers would sell them at *if they then had them to sell.* This is rather an annoying custom of the present issuers of priced catalogues. In several instances, both in England and on the Continent, we have applied for stamps at the marked values, but the answer is, they have none at present. In one case we applied to a continental vendor for eighty various stamps mentioned and priced in his catalogue,——he was sorry to say he had *not one of the lot!* We fear the present publication will prove no exception to the rule. In fact, many of the values are too ridiculously low to be credible.

The catalogue under review contains 1279 distinct species, and must consequently be considered as tolerably approaching completeness; especially if we reflect that the light and dark shades of the same colour, which tend so much to swell the number in a collector's album, and *all* essays, are excluded.

On the whole, we can conscientiously recommend the purchase of this work, both to Continental and British collectors of postage stamps. To the former it is of course quite as intelligible as one published in English; and to the latter the English preface alone is worth the cost of the book, it being quite a literary curiosity.

CONUNDRUM.

Why is a naughty schoolboy like a postage stamp?

Because he needs to be licked and put in the corner to make him stick to his letters.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—The following postal statistics may be interesting to your numerous readers. The total number of postage stamps in existence amounts to sixteen hundred and forty-eight, and are issued by eighty-six countries. Of these stamps, England and her colonies issue four hundred and one; two hundred and ninety-one of which bear the head of Queen Victoria. Five hundred and thirty-two stamps bear the head of the sovereign of the country to which they belong. Seventy-one bear the head of some great man connected with the country, as Columbus, Washington, &c. Four hundred and eighty-seven are impressed with the arms of their country. The rest have some emblems, as the figures of Britannia, Liberty, &c. America uses about two hundred and fifty private stamps, and Hamburg about fifty, but their numbers are rather uncertain. Ninety-eight essays or trial stamps have been made, twenty-nine of which are English. Hoping you will find space for the insertion of this,

I remain yours truly,

Preston. H. T.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I wish to make the following remarks respecting Mr. J. M. Stourton's letter, which appeared in the last number of your invaluable magazine. It is very evident that your correspondent is totally unacquainted with the German language, or he would not have made such an error.

The Baden stamps of the different issues of 1850, '55, and '59 have all the same inscription (in German characters), viz.—*Deutsch-Oestr. Postverein* [German-Austrian Postal Union], on the left, and *Vertrag v. 6th April*, 1850 [Treaty of the 6th April, 1850] on the right hand side of the stamps. On the Würtemburg it is the same.

Your correspondent has also made a mistake in the latter part of his letter. He says that unused specimens of the French 10 centimes à percevoir are 'being sold in Boulogne for as much as 75 c.' (7½d.). This is not the case, as the 10 centimes à percevoir have always been, and are still, sold at 25 centimes (2½d.) each.

I enclose you a specimen of the new 4-centime French stamp, which appeared in Paris yesterday, the 15th instant.

Believe me, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Boulogne-sur-Mer. FIAT JUSTITIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Alpha, Brighton.—The stamp, blue on yellow, bearing the Queen of Spain's head to the left, *50 cents* beneath, and *recibos* above, is a receipt stamp; that being the signification of the Spanish superscription.

J. S. H ——s, Enys, Penryn, Cornwall.—The stamp of which you forward a drawing, red on white, bearing the figure 9, *Slavonia* above, and *franco* beneath, must be one of the present prevalent impudent forgeries. Did any of the countries forming part of the ancient Slavonia take a fancy (like Helvetia) to make use of that designation, the Spanish or Italian word 'franco' would assuredly not be employed. In their anxiety to deceive by pretended accuracy, forgers frequently outwit themselves. We have just been shown in Paris, as genuine, a so-called rare and undescribed Italian individual; and on our expressing doubts of its authenticity, we were triumphantly directed to notice the post-mark as a proof of its genuineness. This was actually the *English* word *PAID!*

W. J. Wright asks if the dull violet twopenny Australian stamp (Queen in coronation chair) is of Victoria or Melbourne. We presume he means, was it local or general? It may have been employed indiscriminately, as we have seen two together with others on a letter from Geelong to England; or they might possibly have only prepaid the letter as far as Melbourne, and the others served for the ocean postage.

J. C. T., Luton.—If you will forward postage stamps to the amount of fourpence to the publishers, you will have by return of post ocular demonstration of the *reality* of the stamp presented with each number of the magazine.

J. P., Torquay, writes on the subject of the lilac stamp known as the essay of Liberia, to the effect that about fifty or more of them were struck off by a youth who surreptitiously got hold of the sixpenny plate in the printing office of the London firm that supplies them, but could not obtain (or durst not use, more probably) the proper colour. These he sold to a barber, who again disposed of them to a Jew boy at twopence each, who, in his turn, retailed them so as to be sold by another party at threepence.

'As it was told us, so we give the tale.'

It was rather a dangerous game to play, and we are rather inclined to believe that the stamps in question were really among the first essays for Liberia; which does not at all militate against the probability of their having been repeated in the way described above, our correspondent having authentic vouchers for the truth of his narration. Moreover, we are persuaded we have seen the stamp alluded to, post-marked, in a collection. If our supposition even be not correct, they have as much right in a catalogue or collection as the modern essays of Cuba, and the United States, Nova Scotia, &c., which are avowedly printed for the sake of 'filthy lucre,' to gratify the fancies of rich amateurs.

E. F. J., Paris.—You will search in vain for many not uncommon stamps in both editions of Lallier's album. One of the stamps you figure, however, is simply an Austrian receipt or bill-stamp. The other is the 2½ centavos of the 1861 issue of New Granada.—The 2 cents of the United States is fully described in the September number of our magazine.—Neither Russian, Polish, nor Swedish stamps have now much exchangeable value, except the earlier series of the latter, and the new local stamp for St. Petersburg noticed and figured in the current number, which will bear a premium for some little time.

J. H. Clayton.—We have *heard* of, but never seen any postage stamps of the Bermudas or Somers Islands, and must pronounce them imaginary.—If you had read the last number of the magazine, you would have seen the new Austrian issue bearing the eagle described at length.

Q. Q. Q.—The colours of the present series of Queensland stamps are mostly, if not all, of a much paler hue than those previously printed.

P. K., Newcastle.—The 5 silber groschen of Bremen (engraving subjoined) was the only stamp of that city employed for postage to England, until the emission of the 2 grote, the equivalent value of which will now prepay a letter to this country.



W. H. Crosskey, Brighton.—Your inquiry respecting the Spanish receipt-stamp is responded to in this number.

X. Y. Z., Claughton.—Your 'American Express Company' 'Wells, Butterfield, and Co.' stamp, is equally worthy a place in the collector's album with its numerous congeners.—The old Swiss Rayon stamps, I., II., or III., were employed according to the extent of the rayon or circle whither they franked the letters. The first, value 5 rappen, being for a local range; the second, more extended; and the third, 15 rappen, or centimes—the former employed in the German, the latter in the French cantons—having the farthest privilege of circulation.—Most of the Hamburg Boten since Hamer's are fictitious, as we have so frequently intimated.

R. F. Wilme.—Your small French stamp is a mere whim of the printer.—Your second query is answered above.—Krantz is a humbug.—The black penny V. R. officials of course carried a letter to *any* part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

E. W. Gosse, Torquay.—Thanks for your well-executed copy of one of the numerous travesties of Mulready's envelopes.—No doubt all the Würtemburg envelopes are printed on bluish-tinted as well as white paper.—We do not know anything respecting Justin Lallier's 'Interpostal Stamp, Hamburg.'—We should like to see 'Ballon's Fraser River Express,' 'Freeman's Express,' and 'Jeffray's Express' stamps, 'used by the British Columbian miners, on forwarding letters to England, *via* Californin and the Rocky Mountains.'—Your French 'Timbre Imperial, Seine,' is a bill or receipt-stamp.—We had never previously remarked that there are two sorts of green penny queen's-head Victorias, *besides* the one without devices in the corners. Thanks for the information.—We have not yet seen the newly-issued Würtemburg 9 kreuzer, but have no doubt of its being the same colour as the envelope of equivalent value. If you have seen a black one, it must be either an essay or an engraving.—The greenish-blue old Thurn and Taxis 3 kreuzer is now of some rarity, especially if unused.—Your variety of the 40-c. French empire must be an accidentally abraded specimen.

A. C., London.—We cannot give any opinion on the marketable value of your O'Connell or Nicaraguan essays, or 'one of the first impressions of the red penny English sent by the printer for approval.' All objects of *fantaisie* have but a factitious value; and a sudden and unexpected influx of any rarities would immediately depreciate their value. The essay first mentioned bears at present a high price, and is only met with when some old collection is broken up for sale.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

STAMPS SENT on APPROVAL.—Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Argentine Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, fivepenny New South Wales. Unused French Republic, Norway, and Sweden. Denmark envelopes as soon as issued. Address, by letter, to STAMPEDE, 12, Trellick Terrace, Pimlico, London, S. W.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have now on hand nearly every description of Foreign Postage Stamps, both used and unused, for sale, wholesale and retail; also a large quantity of obsolete stamps just received. The following are examples of the very low prices at which they can supply them:—Austria, 3 kr., 1d. each; Antigua, penny, 2d. each; Baden, 1 kr., 1d.; 3, 2d.; env., 3 kr., 2d.; 6, 4d.; Bahamas penny, 4d.; fourpenny, 10d.; sixpenny, 1/3; set, 2/3; Bavaria, 1 kr., 1d.; 3 kr., 2d.; 6 kr., 4d.; Bergedorf, ½, 1d. each; 9d. per dozen; 1 white, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 1½ yellow, 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen; set of 5, 1/2; Brazil, 10 reis blue, 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; 280 reis vermillion, 1/6 each; 430 reis orange, 2/6; British Guiana, 1 c., 2d., 2 c., 4d.; 4 c. 5d.; 8 c., 9d.; Brunswick, ½, ½, 1d. each; Buenos Ayres, 1 p. rose, 1/; 4 reales green, 1/; Canada, 1 c., 2d., 5 c., 4d., 10 c., 10d.; env., 5 c., 5d., 10 c., 9d.; Denmark, 2 sk., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 4 sk., 2½d. each, 2/ per dozen; set of four, 1/; China, 2 c., 3d. each; French colony (Martinique), 1 c., 1d. each, 5 c., 5d.; Germany (North), ½, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; Greece, 1 lep., 1d. each, 2d. per dozen; 2 lep., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; 5 lep., 3d. each; 10 lep., 4d. each; Hamburg, ½ sch., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; 1 s., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 2, 3d., 3, 4d., 4, 6d., 7, 9d., 9, 1/; set complete, 2/8; Hamburg Baden (each set containing 10 stamps), Th. Laffrein, ½ sch., 4d., 1 sch., 6d. per set: H. Scheerenbeck's, ½ sch., two kinds, 1 each set: 1 sch. (castle), 10d. per set: Carl Hamer & Co.'s, ½ sch., 1 per set: Marx Verein (dated 1863), 1 sch., set, 1/4: Hanover, 3 pf., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; ½ gr., 1d. each: 1 gr., 2d. each: a complete set of 5 adhesive and 3 env. for 2/3: Lubeck (out of use), per set of 5, 2/: (present issue), ½ sch. green, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen: 1 sch. vermillion, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen: set of 5, 1/2: Luxemburg, 1, 2, 4 c., 1d. each,: 10 and 12 c., 2d. each: set of 9, 2/: Malta, halfpenny, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen: Moldo-Wallachia, 3 p., 4d. each: 6 p., 6d. each: 30 p., 1/3 each: set, 2/: Moldavia, 5, 40, and 80 p., 1/ each: the set, 3/6: 54, 81, and 108, the set, 5/6: Monte Video, 120 c., 2½ c. dilligencia, 20 c., and 1 real, at 10d. each: New Brunswick, 1 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen: 5 c., 4d. each: 10 c., 9d.: Newfoundland penny, 3d. each: Norway, 2 sk., 2d. each: 3 sk., 3d. each: 4 sk., 3d. each: set of 4, 10d.: Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d.: 2 c., 4d.: 8 c., 9d.: 10 c., 10d. each: Papal States, ½ baj., 1d.: Portugal, 5 reis, 1d.: 10 r., 1d.: 25, 32, 1 set of 5, 1/: Saxony (new issue), 3 pf., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen: ½ gr., 1d. each, 11d. per dozen: U. S. (1857), 1c., 4d.: 3 c., 4d.: 10 c., 6d.: set, 1/: (1861), 1 c., 1d.: 3 c., 2d.: 5 c., 6d.: env., 1 c., 3d.: 3 c., 4d.: New Grenada, 5 c. orange, 1/9: 2½ c. green (out of use), 2/6 each: Trinidad (first issue, out of use), black print red, 1/3 each. The above are unused. The following are used, but in the best condition, and only slightly obliterated:—Buenos Ayres, 1 peso rose, 8d.: 1 p. blue, 6d.: 2 p. blue, 6d.: 2 vermillion, 1/: 4 reales green, 8d.: Bavaria, 3, 6, and 9 kr. (old issue), at 1½d. each: Belgium, 10 and 20 c. (old issue), 6d. each: Brazil, 30 and 60 reis black, 3d. each: Cape of Good Hope penny and sixpenny, 2d. each: fourpenny and one shilling, 3d. each: set of 4, 9d.: Denmark, 4 R.B.S., 2d. each: France (republic), 20 and 25 c., 2d. each: 10 and 15 c., 4d. each: Granada penny, 2d. each: sixpenny, 4d. each: Hanover, 3 pf., 1-10, 1-15, 1-30 (blue), 3d. each: 1 sgr. (head of Frederick the Great), 1, 2, and 3 gr., 3d. each: Sicily, 1 gra. brown, 9d. each: 2 blue, 6d.; 5 red, 9d.: 10 blue, 8d. Used stamps, consisting of old and new issues of Saxony, Prussia, Bavaria, Austria (arms), Austrian Italy, Germany (1, 3, 6, 9 k., 1, 2, 3 s. gr.), Hanover (1-10, 1-15, 1-30), Norway (2, 3, 4, and 8 sch.), Baden (old issue, figure in centre), Sicily or Naples, &c., &c., for sale at the very low price of 2/ per hundred mixed. Price List of one hundred varieties forwarded on receipt of two stamps. Not less than one dozen of each kind of stamps supplied at wholesale prices. Orders under 2/6 to contain stamp for reply. P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool. Also Costa Rica, ½ r. blue, 1/; 2 r. red, 2/, unused; 3 r. red, used, 1/4 each: India (first issue), ½ anna blue, 1 red, 2 green, 4 red, at 3d. each, used: Confederate States (head of Jefferson Davis), 5 c. blue, square, 1/6 each: Italian essays, unused, 2 c. green, blue, yellow, crimson, black, and violet at 3/6 each, or 7/6 the set of 5: Portugal (Donna Maria and Don Pedro), 2d. each, or 1/6 per dozen: Italy, 1 c., 1d. each: 2 c., 1d. each: 5 c., 2d. each: 10 c., 3d. each: 20 c., 3d. each: 40 c., 8d.: 80 c., 1/: 3 lire gold, 2/ each, unused: per set of 3, 4/: old Norway, 4 sch. blue (arms), 6d. each: Modena, 5, 10, 15 c., 6d. each: Tuscany, 1 and 2 c., 6d. each: 5, 6, 9 c., 6d. each: 10 c., 6d. each: 20 and 40 c., 8d. each: 80 c., 6d.

Second Edition, greatly enlarged and improved.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUM. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Illustrated with Maps and Diagrams, and containing a full description of British, Colonial, and Foreign Stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. Imperial oblong 8vo., cloth, clasp, 7/6; post free, 8/2. Bound in half-morocco, clasp, 10/; post free, 10/10. Bound in whole morocco, two clasps, gilt edges, 12/6; post free, 13/4. Bound in best morocco relief, two clasps, 21/; post free, 21/10. Handsomely bound in best morocco relief, two large clasps, 25/; post free, 25/10.

* For the benefit of Collectors, Mr. JUSTIN LALLIER has just issued an admirable Album, which will be in extensive demand as soon as its existence is known. It contains a description of every known variety of fombre paste, so that a partially obliterated stamp may easily be recognised; and on the page opposite the description are spaces for mounting the stamps described, so that any Collector may, at a glance, see all his deficiencies.—*The Bookseller.*

Bath: STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street.

Now ready, free by post for 7 stamps.

COSTA RICA.—An exact fac-simile proof of the Costa Rica stamp. E. UPJOHN, 24, Bow Street, Covent Garden, London, W. C.

OMEGA, Everton, Liverpool, can supply the following stamps:—Antigua penny, 2d.; Argentine Confederation, 5 c., 1/; Austria and Austrian Italy, old and new issues; Bahamas penny, 2d.; Bavaria 1, 1d.; 3, 3d.; the set of six, 2/6; Post taxe 3, 4d.; Bergedorf, 1/3 the set; Brazil, 10 blue, 2d.; British Guiana, 1 c., 2d.; Brunswick, ½, ½, 1½d. each; Ceylon, halfpenny, 2d.; envelopes, penny, 5d.; twopenny, 7d.; Chili, 1 c., 6d.; Confederate States (fac-similes), 2d. each, or 2/3 the set of 15; Costa Rica, ½ r., 1/3; 2, 2/3; Denmark, 2, 1d.; Germany (North), ½, ½, ½, 1d. each; envelopes, 1/4 the set; (South), 1, 1d.; envelopes, 1/4 the set; Greece, 1, 1d.; 2, 1d.; Grenada, penny, 3d.; Hanover, 3 pf., 1d.; ½ gr., 1½d.; Bestellgeld-Frei, 2d.; Hong Kong, 2 c., 3d.; 8 c., 10d.; Ionian Islands, 9d. the set; Liberia, 6 c., 1/; 12 c., 1/3; Lubeck (new), 1/4 the set, and envelopes; Luxemburg, 1, 2, 1d. each; Malta, halfpenny, 1d.; Mecklenburg, 1/6 the set of envelopes; Modena, 5-c. green, 1/6; Moldavia, 5, 9d.; 40, 1/3; 80, 2/; Moldo-Wallachia, 3 and 6, 5d. each; Nevis penny, 3d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 1d.; 5 c., 4d.; Newfoundland penny, 3d.; fourpenny, 9d.; New Granada 5 c., 1/; old 2½ c., 2/6; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 1d.; 2 c., 3d.; Oldenburg, old envelopes, 3/6 the set; new envelopes, 1/4 the set; Papal States, ½, 1½d.; Portugal, 5, 1d.; Prince Edward Island penny, 3d.; 6d.; Finland, 5, 6d.; Saxony (new), 2/ the set of 6; and envelopes, 2/ the set of 4; Spain, 2 c., 2d.; 4 c., 3d.; Trinidad, old red, 9d.; new red, 3d.; Turkey, yellow, 5d.; United States envelopes and local, from 2d. each; Venezuela, 10d. the set; Wurtemburg envelopes, 1/ the set, &c., &c. All the above are unused. The following are slightly obliterated:—Baden (figure in centre), 1, 9d.; 3 blue, green, yellow, 6 green, 3d. each; 6 yellow, 9 pink, 2d. each; Brazil, 30, 60, 3d. each; Brunswick old ½, 6d.; Confederate States (*genuine*), 5 c. blue, 9d.; France, republic, 20 c., 25 c., 2d. each; presidency, 25 c., 3d.; colonies, 10 c., 10 c., 2d. each; Hanover (1st issue), 1-30, 1-10, 1-15, and (2nd issue) 1-30, 1-15, 2d. each; India, old ½, 1, 2, 4, 6d. each; New Brunswick old threepenny, 1/; one shilling, 2/; Nova Scotia, old penny, 1/; threepenny, 9d.; Prussia (1st issue), 1, 2, 3 sgr., 3d. each; Saxony (first issue), ½, 4d.; 1, 2d.; 2, 3, 3d. each; Sweden, old 3 skg., 3sco., 5d.; Switzerland (first issue), 5, dark and light blue, 6d. each; 10 yellow, 6d., &c., &c. List sent on receipt of two stamps.

W. Y., of 34, South John Street, Liverpool, has the following stamps on *hand* and for sale, all *warranted genuine*:—*Unused.*—Trinidad *(old kind) red*, 1/ each; New Granada *(old kind)*, 2½ c., 2/ each; United States, *essays* of 2 cents in 5 colours, 1/ each; Italian *(essays)* in 6 colours, 1, each; Spain (issue 1857), 4 cuartos, 6d. each; Austria *(head of Mercury)*, blue, 1/8 each; Pony Express, 10 cents, 1/ each; St. Lucia *(blue)*, 10d. each; *(green)*, 1/2 each; Nevis (4d.), 1/ each; (6d.), 1/3 each; Trinidad (4d.), 1/ each; (6d.), 1/3 each; (1/), 2/ each; Costa Rica, ½ rl. blue, 1 each; 2 rls. red, 2/ each; Liberia, 6 cents, 1/ each. *Used.*—Bahamas *(1/ green)*, 6d. each; Chili, 5 and 10 centavos, 6d. each; Tuscany (shield), 4d. each; (lion), 6d. each; Spain (issue 1850, '51, and '52), 6 cuartos, 10d. each; (issue 1853), 6 cuartos, and (1854) 4 and 6 cuartos, 6d. each; Luxemburg, 10 cents black (head of Duke), 3d. each; (old) Nova Scotia (1d.), 9d. each; (3d.), 5d. each; (6d.), 6d. each; 5 cents, 2d. each; 10 cents, 3d. each; *(old)* New Brunswick (3d.), 1/ each; 5 cents, 3d. each; 10 cents, 4d. each; United States *(old)* env., 3 cents on buff and white, 3d. each; old Post-Office 5 cents *(head of Franklin)*, 9d. each; 10 cents, 1, each; Cuba, ½ rl., 3d. each; Buenos Ayres, 1 peso pink and blue, and 4 rls. green, 8d. each; Sweden, 8 sk. bleu., 4d. each; Portugal, *(Donna Maria and Don Pedro)*, 25 reis blue, 3d. each; Romagna, 2 bai., 1/3 each; 4 bai., 9d. each; Sicily, 2 gr., 6d. each; 1, 5, 10, and 20 gr., 10d. each; ½ and 50 gr., 2/6 each; Naples, 1, 2, and 5 gr., 6d. each; 10 and 20 gr., 9d. each; French Republic, 20, 25, and 40 cents., 3d. each; 15 cents and 1 franc, 6d. each; Modena 8d., and Parma 1/ each; Confederate 5 cents blue, 6d. each. All kinds of stamps bought, *if cheap*, also collections. A stamp for reply must be sent with orders under 2/6, and with stamps for sale. N.B.—All orders forwarded *per return of post.* Stamps may be seen on application at the above address.

H. STEINAU, Faulkner Street, Manchester, has on sale the following stamps, viz.:—*Unused*—Austria—head—2, 3 kr., 3d.; new issue—arms—2, 3 kr., 1½d. each, 1 per dozen; 5 kr., 3d.; Bremen, 1, 2 grote, 3d.; 5 grote, 5d.; Canada—envelopes—5 c., 6d.; 10 c., 8d.; Ionian Islands, 7d. per set; Italy, 1 c., 4d. per dozen, 2/6 per 100; Lubeck, adhesive or envelope, 1/3 per set; Oldenburg, envelopes, ½ gr., 1 gr., 2d.; Portugal 5, 10, reis, 1d.; Saxony, 1854, 3 pf., ½ n. gr., 2d. each. *Used.*—Austria, old, arms, 3, 6, 9 kr., 1d.; Baden, figure, 3, 6, 9 kr., 2d.; Brunswick, 1852, 2 s. gr., 6d.; Hanover, 1-30, 1-15, 1d.; old Lubeck, 9d. set of 5; Saxony, old king, ½ n. gr., 3d.; Schleswig-Holstein, pink and blue, 1/9 each, and a great many others. Used colonial stamps bought to any amount.

STAMPS! STAMPS!—NADIN & WESTON, 34, Plymouth Grove, Manchester, can supply ladies and gentlemen who collect with all kinds of Foreign Postage Stamps. The examples will show:—Spanish 1850-1-2-3-4-5, 1 4 each; old 10-c. Luxemburg, 5d. each; 10 and 20 old Belgium, 6d. each; old Wurtemburg, 2d. and 3d. each; old Baden, 2d. each; 3rd issue, Baden, 1d. each; Brazil, 240 and 420, unused, 1 and 1/9 each; old 1-15, 1-30 thaler, Hanover, 1½d. each; old 1 gro., Hanover, 3d. each; old 2 Brunswick white, 10d. each; New Brunswick and 1c. Italy, 1d.; ½ baj. Papal States, 3d. each, and others too numerous to mention. All orders must be prepaid.

THE POSTAGE-STAMP MAGNIFIER.—All Stamp Collectors should possess one of Stafford Smith & Smith's Postage-Stamp Magnifying Glasses, which will be found of great assistance in detecting forged stamps. Sent post free for 4. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in *used* and *unused* Foreign Postage Stamps, will send their Price List, giving *date of issue, description, &c.*, of 1000 varieties, on receipt of two postage stamps. The following is an example of their prices for *unused* stamps (all other kinds and *used* ones at equally moderate prices, for which see List):—Austria, 1 kr., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; 2 kr., 2d. each, 1/2 per dozen; 3 kr. and dit o *env.*, 2d. each, 1/8 per dozen; Austrian Italy, 2 soldi, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 3 soldi and ditto *env.*, 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Baden, Bavaria, Germany, and Wurtemburg, 1 kr., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; 3 kr. and ditto *env.*, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Mecklenburg, ½ sch., Portugal, 5 reis, France, 2 c., and Swiss 2 c., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; Spain, 2 cuartos, Malta, ½d., Brazil, 10 reis, Barbadoes *(green)*, Prussia, 6 pf., and Oldenburg ½ and ¼ grs., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; Luxemburg, 1 c., 1d. each, 3d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; 4 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 10 and 12½ c., 2d. each, 1/8 per dozen, 2/ per set; Lubeck *(new issue)*, ½ sch., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen, 1/3 per set, envelopes same price; Bergedorf, same price; Hanover (issue 1857), 3 pf., 6d. each; Hamburg, ½ sch., and Denmark, 2 sk., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen: Hanover, 3 pf., Prussia, 4 pf., and Saxony *(new issue)*, 3 pf., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; Saxony *(new issue)*, ½ gr., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; Germany, ½ and ¼ gr., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Greece, 1 lep., 1d. each, 4d. per dozen; 2 lep., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen, 2/9 per set: Sweden, 3 ore, Norway, 2 sk., and Holland, 5 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Barbadoes *(Nude)*, Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Grenada, Nevis, Prince Edward's Island, Venezuela, and Newfoundland, all at 3d. each; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1 cent, 2d. each; Chili, 1 centavo, 6d. each; Italy, 1 and 2 cents, 2d. each; Liberia, 6 c., 1/ each; Costa Rica, ½ rl., 1/ each; 2 rls., 2/ each; Queensland (id.), 3d. each, 2/6 per dozen; (3d.), 6d. each; (3d.), 9d. each; 4d., 1/3 each; (1/), 2/ each: Italian essays, in 6 colours, 1/ each; Hong Kong, 2 cents, 4d. each, 3/ per dozen; United States, 2 cents (new issue), 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 2 c. *env.*, 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; 3 cents *(essays)*, in 5 colours, 1/ each: Pony Express, 10 *cents brown*, 1/ each; 2 cent American *from* 1/6 per dozen, *assorted*. All the above stamps *warranted genuine. Orders* forwarded *per return of post without fail*. N.B.—All communications requiring a reply to contain a stamp for that purpose.

C. K. JONES, *59*, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester, can supply stamps cheaper than ever sold before, as the following few examples will show, viz.—1 c. United States *env.*, 1d. each; Hanover, 1-15, 1-30, 1d. each, 7/ per 100; Hanover, envelopes, 1, 2, and 3, 1½d., 3d., and 5d. each; Brunswick, 1, 2, and 3, 1½d., 3d., and 4d. each; Sicilians, 2 grs., 8d. each; Portuguese, 25 Donna Maria, 3d. each; Don Pedro, 2d. each, 1/6 per doz.; Prince Edward Island, penny, twopenny, threepenny, fourpenny, sixpenny, and ninepenny, 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., and 1/ each; Newfoundland, penny, twopenny, threepenny, fivepenny, and fivepenny-halfpenny, 3d., 5d., 6d., 9d., and 10d. each; Nova Scotia, new, 2 c., 2½d. each, or 2/ per doz.; old Nova Scotia, threepenny and sixpenny, 6d. and 9d. each; old New Brunswick, threepenny and sixpenny, 9d. each; old penny and twopenny Brunswick, 3d. and 1/; new Sachsen, ½, 11d. per doz.; ½, 1/3 per doz.; new Austrian, 1½d. each; 2 and 4 bal. Romagna (warranted genuine), 1/6 each; Sicilian 5, 10, and 20, 1/ and 1/3; Modena, 6d. to 1/6 each; old 1 soldi Tuscany, 5/; sets of 10 Lubeck, 3/6; ½ Lubeck, 1/3 per dozen; ½ env. Oldenburg, 2d. each, 1/6 per doz.; ¼, ½, 1½d. and 2d. each, 1/3 per doz.; also, coll. all different and good copies, 10, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 50, 1/3; 100, 3/6; 150, 7/6; 200, 11/; 300, 28/; 500, 80/: also the following good Collections, viz., 300 very nicely arranged and rare stamps, 38/; 200, 21/; 150, 9/; 600; 110/; and one, 820, £10. C. K. J. also buys to any amount. Wanted Agents in Switzerland and Germany to sell at 15 per cent. commission.

WONDERFULLY CHEAP! Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., is now prepared to send out his October List—and with it he gives, gratis, an unused Continental stamp that cannot fail to please—post free on receipt of three stamps. Extract from List:—*Unused.*—Sandwich Islands, 5 c., 4d.; 2 c. and 13 c., both very rare, at prices equally low; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d.; Danish envelopes very low; Lubeck, 1863, 5 labels or 5 envelopes for 1/3; Saxony, 1863, 6 labels, 1/9; 4 envelopes, 1/6; United States and Confederate stamps very low. *Used.*—Pony Express, 6d. each; Canada, 5 c., beaver, 1d.; 10 c., prince, 2d. Price List as above, with rare stamp, 3d.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.—G. BOLTON, 16, Spring Street, Hull, has for sale a very superior Collection containing over 700 Stamps, of which about 400 are unused. The stamps are in one of Lallier's 12/6 albums. The collection comprises an unusual number—for its size—of rare and obsolete stamps, and every stamp is warranted to be in good condition. It has been formed by G. B. himself, with very great care, and is in every way an unusually good one. The price is £10, and no less can be accepted. Detailed lists will be sent if required; or on receipt of half a £10 note the collection will be sent for inspection.

THE GREAT SENSATION CARD.—This extraordinary production of modern art contains the portraits of over 1000 Living and Historical Celebrities, and is designed not merely as a photographic curiosity, but as a medium of instruction and entertainment. It is believed to be impossible for any one to glance over it without at once recognising the portraits of very many whose deeds are as familiar as 'household words,' thereby introducing an easy and agreeable source of conversation into all circles of society. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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PRICES EXTRAORDINARY!—Those who wish to complete their collections, or add to their number of postage stamps, should send at once to Mr. F. E. MILLAR, of 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N. E., and enclose three stamps for his Price List, with which he sends to each applicant a very scarce unused postage stamp, only issued a few weeks, and hardly known of at present. On sale, all *unused*.—Lubeck, 1863, 5 labels, 1/3; 5 envelopes, 1/3; Saxony, 1863, 6 labels, 1/9; 4 envelopes, 1/6; New Brunswick, 1 c., engine, 2d.; Turkish, 3/6 the set of 4; Sandwich Islands, 5 c. blue, 4d.; also 2 c. and 13 c., clean, at equally low prices. Denmark envelopes and United States essays at very low prices. All *used*.—Canada, 5 c., beaver, 1d.; Pony Express, 6d., and many others too numerous to mention. N.B.—Price List and the rare stamp, as above, post free for *threepence*.

SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF! IMMENSE SACRIFICE!—Messrs. HOOPER & FORWARD are now selling off their entire stock at greatly reduced prices. Examples:—Collections of 25 varieties, 4d.; 50, 8d.; 100, 2/; 150, 4/; 300, 18/; 500, 30/; 600, £2; 700, £4; 1000, £10; 1200, £12; also unused Costa Rica, ½ r., 1/; 2 r., 1/6, or used 9d. each; Nicaragua, same price; Ionian Islands, 6d. per set; Confederate States, 2/ per set of 15; Local American, 3d. each. For others, all equally low, see Price List—gratis with a very rare stamp on receipt of one stamp for postage. P.S.—Collectors should apply immediately. Address, Messrs. HOOPER & FORWARD, 1, Hanover Court, Milton Street, London, E. C.

RARE STAMPS at LOW PRICES.—Modena, 5 c. green, 10 c. rose, 15 c. yellow, 25 c. primrose, 2/6 the set of 4; Parma, 5 c. yellow, 10 c. white, 25 c. purple, 25 c. red-brown, 3/ set of 4; Tuscany (arms), 1c. violet, 5 c. green, 10 c. brown, 20 c. blue, 1/ the set of 4; Tuscany (lion), 1 quattr black, 1 crazia marone, 2 crs. blue, 4 crs. green, 3/ the set of 4; Naples (1857), 1 gr., 2 gr., 5 gr., 10 gr., 20 gr., 2/6 the set of 5; Sicily, 1 gr. olive-brown, 2 gr. blue, 5 gr. carmine, 10 gr. deep blue, 20 gr. blue-black, 3/6 the set of 5. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

JAMES BRENNAN, 37, Nassau Street (opposite the Post-Office), New York, United States, has always on hand a large stock of Foreign and American Stamps, used and unused. Orders promptly executed. Stamps exchanged.

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USED STAMPS, consisting of old and new issues of Saxony, Prussia, Bavaria, Austria (arms), Austrian Italy, Germany (1, 3, 6, 9 k., 1, 2, 3 s. g.), Hanover (1-10, 1-15, 1-30), Norway (2, 3, 4, and 8 sch.), Baden (old issue, figure in centre), Sicily, or Naples, &c., &c., for sale at the very low price of 2/ per hundred *mixed*. Address, J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool.

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A MARVEL OF CHEAPNESS.—The SHILLING CARTE-DE-VISITE ALBUM, to hold 12 portraits, is the cheapest album ever issued. Strongly bound in roan leather, with clasp and gilt edges. The mounts are manufactured of the best cardboard, with gold borders. Post free, 1/2. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!—R. W. PEGG, Stamp Merchant, Holles Street, Dublin, has now for sale a most extensive and varied stock of Foreign and Colonial Stamps, all of which he is selling at low rates of prices, which have gained him such an extensive business. His stock includes many very rare and obsolete stamps, and over one hundred thousand of the commoner sorts, at prices from one penny up. A few sent on approval on receipt of stamp. Collections of all sizes on sale. Stamps bought. Apply by letter only.

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WANTED to PURCHASE—Several Thousand Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, both used and unused. Address, stating lowest price per hundred, to Mr. F. E. Millar, 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N. E. N.B.—No French or Belgian wanted.

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NOTICE.—Purchasers of the Stamp Collector's Magazine *are entitled to receive with the May and succeeding numbers an unobliterated Foreign or Colonial Stamp. The above is not applicable to Subscribers resident in Foreign Countries; as the British postal regulations will not admit of any enclosure being sent in a registered publication addressed abroad.*

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THE

Stamp Collector's Magazine.

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A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE FIFTH.

CORRIENTES.

'The sacred duty of a daughter bows,
And yields submissive to a lover's vows.'

The readers of this visionary tale may or may not remember the circumstance of a dull-coloured specimen of the stamp tribe obtruding on the principal narrator an offer of information touching the birth and parentage of our wretched hero. It bore for superscription the heading of this chapter; and the present opportunity will not come *mal-àpropos* for introducing its contribution to the *éclairissement* of the story. It spoke as follows:—

'Our worthy and voluble co-mate, the Cross of Savoy, took occasion to boast of the superiority of its natal place over that of our courteous auditor lying extended so comfortably (?) on his couch. Inasmuch as the comparatively sunless skies and bare fields of this ungenial clime may be surpassed by the bright vistas of Tuscany, its plains and hills covered with vineyards and oliveyards, and the prospect of the glorious mountains that environ it*; so these, in turn, are incomparably inferior to the magnificent pampas, adorned with gigantic monarchs of verdure, and seamed with ocean-like rivers, characterizing the noble, but unhappily wild and unsettled tract whence I derive my birth and name.

'Not to weary you with more description, I will at once proceed with facts. One of the most extensive and wealthy landholders of Corrientes was Don José de Montoya,

* The editor takes leave to deny any participation in the rash assertions of these postage stamps. He has lately travelled over the most beautiful portions of northern Italy, and unquestionably beautiful they are; but nowhere, amidst all the enchanting and romantic loveliness of the landscape, did he gaze upon grass so green, or sky so blue, as decorates the ordinary rural scenery of England—*in fair weather*.

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possessor of large plantations of indigo, rice, and cotton, and herd upon herd of the finest breeds of cattle. But the fairest, most precious, and most cherished of the old man's possessions was his only daughter Manora. On her was lavished all the affection that might have been shared by his long-deceased wife and a numerous offspring, snatched by relentless fate from the enjoyment of life. No marvel, then, that he repelled the suit of a young Italian noble, some two or three and twenty years ago nominally an *attaché* at the Brazilian court, but who spent much of his time rambling about the provinces of La Plata, a professed libertine, seeking, like Satan, whom he might devour.

'Hospitably received by the wealthy Senor de Montoya, his handsome person and fascinating manners speedily made a conquest of the innocent heart of his entertainer's beautiful daughter. In many a stolen interview vows of unalterable affection were interchanged. The lovers' secret was at length surprised by a native retainer attached to the household, and particularly confided in by his master.

'This man, a member of the tribe of the Yagas, had been carried off by a company of marauding Matacos when an infant, and barbarously exposed to perish. Rescued and brought up by the benevolent De Montoya, he entertained the most devoted feelings of attachment, amounting to a sort of savage veneration for his benefactor. With the quick instinct of uncivilized nature he divined the base character of the suitor, and, jealous of his master's honour, disclosed what had transpired.

'No proof of any surreptitious intention existing, the father could merely signify his objections against any suitor for his daughter's hand, likely to allure her from her native home and country. Fully aware as he was of the feelings of Manora, and not choosing to resign his prey so easily, the lover apparently accepted his dismissal, but remained so carefully secreted in the neighbourhood, as to elude the vigilance even of the faithful and astute Yaga; and taking advantage of the latter's absence on a confidential mission of his master's, he persuaded the trusting and unsophisticated Manora to consent to a secret marriage and flight from her doting parent.

'To such a heart as his what mattered it that he had already a wife and infant child in Italy: like son, like father—for you have already doubtless divined that it is the father of Bernardo I am speaking of—he succeeded in carrying off his lovely prey to Europe; and you may be sure under such auspices her valuable jewels were not forgotten. Among other trinkets of immense value, were the two emerald bracelets that have been brought under notice, which, in truth, once decorated the arms of a native idol.

'In Florence, the "bride and no bride" remained in seclusion some months, when our hero was born to share some of the affection hitherto solely bestowed on his worthless father. At last came the rough awaking from the fond illusive dream. The Yaga, some while detained in Corrientes by the sinking state of his heart-broken master, remained but to lay him in the grave; and then, tracing the fugitives with all the sagacity and perseverance of a native Indian to the city of their sojourn, quickly discovered the truth, and burning to eradicate all trace of the dishonour of his revered benefactor, resolved on the destruction alike of the guilty father and innocent babe!

'Manora was seated in the private room of a café, fondling her infant, and awaiting the arrival of its father. She had just taken off one of the bracelets—which she always wore as talismans, in accordance with the superstitions of her birthplace—and placed it round the baby neck of our Lorenzo, when the Yaga rushed into the room, and after upbraiding her with the desértion and death of her parent, and plainly divulging the perfidy of her villanous betrayer, attempted to snatch away the infant with the avowed intention of its destruction.

'A mother's love supplied strength to the well-nigh distracted Manora. She extricated herself from the Yaga, and, rushing into the street, threw the babe into the arms of the first person she saw, unperceived by her pursuer, and fled on till she reached the convent of Santa Apollonia, which she entered, and claimed protection. There she

was kindly cared for; but memory and reason had both departed; her delicate frame succumbed to the shock; and an untimely tomb soon covered and expiated her fault. The bracelet she wore was retained among the treasures of the convent, which accounts for its presence in the casket of the abbess, though she little knew how nearly connected she was with the original owner.

'The child, as you have seen, escaped a fate which would have been merciful in comparison with what awaited him; but the father, shortly afterwards, was assassinated by an unknown and undiscovered hand. The Yaga I have never seen or heard of since.'

(To be concluded in our next).

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

[We propose continuing this Appendix to Mr. Brown's early editions, for the benefit of those who do not possess the fourth.—Ed.]

United States of America.

In the fourth edition of the manual the 5 cents brown (Franklin) and 10 cents black (Washington) are quoted as being on *blue* paper as well as white. We have elsewhere ventured an opinion on the genuineness of the 10 c. blue of 1857. The lately-issued 2 cents (head of General *Andrew* Jackson, *not* Stonewall) is an addition to the catalogue. This is printed, for the sake of variety (or lucre), in six different colours, which multiplication of specimens we must courteously denominate

ESSAYS.

Under this head also come the 5 c. (Franklin's head) above mentioned, in green and in black, and also the 5 c. of 1857, dark green, bistre, two shades of umber, brownish pink, russet, and red.

The 24 c., 30 c., and 90 c. of the later issue, as essays in black, demonstrate the goodness of the engraving much better than when in the normal colouring.

We would remark that the 5 c., both of 1857 and 1861, is found in two distinct shades of brown, as is also the 24 c. of the later issue.

ENVELOPES.

The 2-cents envelope—same head as the 2-cents adhesive, but in profile—is the only addition. It is fully described in a previous number.

LABELS OF PRIVATE OFFICES.

We confess to a shrewd suspicion that our transatlantic cousins—ever on the look-out to turn a *quasi* honest penny—have multiplied the colours and devices of their local stamps, in order to pander to the taste of the numerous and, we think we may add, increasing tribe of postage-stamp collectors. As it is, nevertheless, difficult if not impossible, on this side the ocean, to eliminate the genuine from the spurious, it is the duty of cataloguers to quote all the species offered for sale, lest a really unexceptionable stamp be rashly excluded from collections. We are in a position to make additions even to the latest edition of Mr. Brown's catalogue. Those stamps, however, will be noted first that were not in the first three editions, viz.:—

Bank and Insurance Notice Delivery Office, 50, William Street, col. imp., blue.

Same inscription, 82, Broadway, col. imp., rect., blue.

Bouton's Rough-and-Ready City Despatch Post (profile), black imp., rect., 2 c. white.

Boyd's City Express Post, 2 c. black on blue; 2 c. gold on scarlet, green, and dark blue.

Brown and McGill's U. S. P. O. Despatch (eagle in oval), col. imp., oblong, blue.

Central Post-Office, black imp., circular, 1 c. yellow; 1 c. buff.

Chicago Penny Post (beehive), col. imp., rect., orange

Clark and Co. (letter box), col. imp., rect., 1 c. red; 1 c. blue.

De Ming's Penny Post, Frankford, black on white.

Government City Despatch (courier), 1 c. slate.

We think this the genuine stamp of which the 1 c. black is an imitation or a reprint.

Harnden's Express, circular.

This is perhaps the most singular of the many extraordinary devices adopted by the fertile brains of the American local-post designers. It represents a man with enor-

mously disproportionate long legs, stepping across a river, bearing under his right arm a sack labelled *Boston, New Orleans;* and on his left shoulder another with the name of the branch-post he represents. Black on white.

Hussey's One Stamp or Cent each Delivery, col. imp., rect., 1 c. red.

Letter Express Free, col. imp., oval, black.

Metropolitan P. O. Express to Mail; *William H. Laws, P. M.*, embossed in white relief: col. imp., shield, 1 c. vermilion; 1 c. blue.

New York Post-Office, large rect.

This stamp, well known to collectors by the designation of 'big-head,' was formerly supposed to be a government issue, but is now ascertained to prove one of Mr. Hussey's legions of postal offspring. Having been exceedingly rare for some time, it now makes appearance both on white and blue paper.

One Cent Despatch (cavalier).

There is a red and a blue impression of this stamp, with the addition of *Washington* as inscription.

Paid Eagle Post of Adams's Express, col. imp., oblong small, red, blue.

Pomeroy's Letter Express.

Incorrectly spelt in the manual 'Pimeroy.' It is not *square*, but large rectangular. Bust of female within an oval inscription as above: 20 *for* 1 *dollar* in very minute characters below. Black, blue, and scarlet on thin semi-transparent white paper. We have not seen a yellow specimen.

Priest's Paid Despatch, black imp., oblong, rose, blue, buff.

Robison and Co.: device, an envelope, oblong, 1 c., black on lavender.

Roadman's Penny Post, oblong, red on white.

Saint Louis Post-Office (device supported by bears), black imp., rect., 10 c.

Smith's City Express Post, Postage Paid, black imp., oblong, 2 c. green.

Spence and Brown's Express Paid Post, col. imp., oct., black.

Squier and Co.'s City Letter Despatch (dove), 1 c. puce—is added in the fourth edition; and 1 c. green, same device, but *octagon*.

Staten Island Paid Express Post, oblong, 3 c. This stamp, printed in deep red, leaves the inscription and value visible on the white ground.

United States City Despatch Post (bust in oval), black imp. on coloured paper, rect., 3 c. green; 3 c. blue.

U. S. Mail, prepaid, black on colour, 1 c. yellow—is noted in the fourth edition.

U. S. P. O., Paid, oblong, 1 c. gold on black; 1 c. purple on white; 1 c. black on white.

Warwick's City Despatch Post, plain border, 2 c. and 6 c., both red on white.

Wells, Fargo, and Co., Pony Express, *if enclosed in our franks* (man on horse), col. imp., rect., 25 c., ½ oz., blue.

There are doubtless numerous others hitherto undescribed, which we have had no opportunity of yet meeting with. The following are in our own collection:—

Brooklyn City Express Post (dove), 1 c. black on pale bluish-green.

Dupuy & Schenck's Penny Post (beehive). This stamp is black on *drab*, not white.

Honour's City Post. This stamp is square; black on lavender; value 2 cents.

Hussey's Bank and Insurance Special Message Post. We have 1 c. lilac to add to the catalogue.

Hussey's Bank and Insurance Letter City Post, 50, William Street, *basement*, black on orange, is another addition; and

Hussey's Bank and Insurance Special Message Post, 50, William Street, 1 c. blue, and 2 c. brown, both with the addition of the date, 1863, are among the latest issues of their imaginative proprietor. The acme of eccentricity, however, is more nearly attained by the four following:—

Hussey's S. M. Post, 50, William Street, N. Y. This inscription, with the addition of a Mercury standing on one leg at the hindmost extremity of a galloping horse, is repeated on four stamps of various values—black on orange, 5 c.; bronze on green, 10 c.; gold on black, 15 c.; gold on blue, 25 c. The device, figures, and inscription are exposed on the groundwork of orange, &c. We have also seen what purported to be an essay of the same in black and white.

Ker's City Post (bust), blue imp. on white; 2 c., 5 c.

Langton's Paid Pioneer Express. This is fully described in our April number. It is figured there, and also in Messrs. Stafford Smith and Smith's catalogue.

Letter Express Free. Very meagrely described in the last edition. In an oval is represented a female sitting on some bales of merchandize near a ship which is circumscribed by an oval inscription as above, with the addition of 20 *for* 1 *dollar* in smaller characters.

Metropolitan P. O. This stamp bears the above, and 13, *American Bible House, N. Y., Wm. H. Laws, Proprietor*, in raised white letters on a blue and on a red ground. The form is a very irregular octagonal.

U. S. P. O., Paid, oblong. There is a smaller stamp than those noted bearing this inscription, and in addition, *L.* and *P.* (perhaps Local Post) on each side of 1 *cent.* Black imp. on pink paper.

Wells, Fargo, and Co. The envelope of this well-known firm, bearing a garter formed of close lines of deep orange on yellowish paper, ought to be included in catalogues. Inscription as above, with *paid*, and *The California and Atlantic Express.* Another envelope, or rather band, of similar character is rose-coloured on white: *Wells, Fargo, and Co.*, the capitals being disproportionately large; crossed by ½ *ounce, paid, from St. Joseph to Piacerville, per Pony Express.*

(*To be continued*).

A CHAPTER ON THE UNITED STATES LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY JAMES LESLEY, JUN., ESQ., UNITED STATES' VICE-CONSUL AT NICE.

It may be as well to premise that the proper explanation of the many local postage stamps issued in the United States is only to be found in a thorough review of the postal laws passed by the United States' Congress, and in a careful study of the various changes wrought by these successive legislative acts in the mode of distribution of letters and in the rates of postage.

Previous to the act of March 3, 1845, the tax upon the carriage of letters was not regulated by weight. The rate for a letter, consisting of not more than a single sheet of letter-paper, varied in accordance with the distance over which it was to be carried. The charges were excessive, and the varying distances caused an endless perplexity of rates. The single rate for any distance between one hundred and three hundred miles was 12½ cents (13 *sous*). This was the price charged, for instance, between Boston and New York, between New York and Philadelphia.

The agitation in favour of, and final adoption in England of the penny-postage system, excited a corresponding interest and movement in the United States in favour of a reduction of what were felt to be, in comparison with British rates, extortionate postal charges. As happens with all political reforms, it took time to develope public sentiment, and to draw the attention of Congress to this important subject. The government rates for carrying letters were deemed so onerous, that, in the fall of 1844, private parties undertook to transport letters on their own account between points where they felt sure that money could be earned at lower rates. And, although such attempts to defraud the post-office revenues were in direct contravention of existing laws, popular sentiment, impressed with the idea of getting a better service at a lower price, winked at the law's infractions; and, although the violations of the law were carried on with comparatively little secrecy, the perpetrators were never reached, or, at any rate, were never punished. Thus, between the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, a Boston firm, named Hale & Company, despatched regularly every day, each way, a special messenger, who took his passage in the regular railroad train, carrying in a leather travelling-sack a mail of letters, for the collection of which he called, previous to starting, at the counting-houses of the principal city-merchants. Between Boston and New York the two octagonal local stamps, representing a number of letters scattered, with the name, 'Hale & Co.,' were employed. Between New York and Philadelphia, another stamp was used, which was put out by the same Boston firm. It bore the name of the 'American Mail Co.'; vignette [eagle to the

right], and inscription, 20 *for* 1 *dollar*,—which was the price at which stamps were sold, viz., 4 cents, wholesale, or 5 cents for a single stamp or any number less than twenty. Subsequently another party commenced carrying letters between Boston and New York, and this gave rise to another stamp, that of 'W. Wyman, 8, Court Street and 3, Wall Street,' vignette [train and cars], and inscription, 20 *stamps for* 1 *dollar*. Between *Albany* and New York also, 'Brainard & Co., 58, Wall Street,' undertook this style of private postal service, and issued stamps, 20 *for* 1 *dollar*.

The successful efforts of these private carriers soon commenced to tell upon the postal revenues, and, as the natural consequence, the post-office department was compelled to propose the remedy so clamorously called for by public opinion. By the act of March 3, 1845, Congress at one sweep abolished the previous dear rates, as well as the annoying scale of varying distances; and, whilst substituting the weight-standard, reduced at the same time the rate for a single letter to 5 cents (5 *sous*) for any distance under three thousand miles, and 10 cents (10 *sous*) for all distances over three thousand miles. By the provisions of the same act, *drop-letters* (by which was meant letters intended for delivery in the same town where posted, as distinguished from letters intended for transportation to other towns) were made chargeable with a tax of 2 cents, *prepayment being optional*.

It must be borne in mind that, in addition to all the rates just mentioned, the post-office carriers were entitled to charge upon *all* letters, without exception, *delivered at one's residence*, a fee of '2 cents for delivery.' This last item of revenue formed the entire compensation of the carriers, who, deeming themselves underpaid, were unwilling to make more than two deliveries a-day—one in the morning, and another in the afternoon. It will be seen that, under this arrangement, the entire tax levied upon a drop-letter, carried a few squares' distance and delivered at one's residence, was 4 cents, or only 1 cent less than the sum charged for transporting a similar letter nearly three thousand miles!

It is to this important fact, and *to the want of frequent deliveries* in large cities and towns, that we may legitimately trace the creation of the numerous private-post companies. In all the chief towns, these companies established a system of letter-boxes, from which letters were collected and delivered five or six times a-day, and at one-half or even one-fourth the rates charged by the Government. The usual price was 1 cent or 2 cents. At first in the principal cities, when there was no competition, the price was *two* cents. Later, as rivalry started up in the private postal service, some of the companies lowered the price to *one* cent. In some of the smaller cities, where the distances travelled over by the carriers were comparatively short, the price was never higher than one cent. Hence almost every city had its one, or, as in Philadelphia or New York, its half-dozen local posts; and hence why, upon the stamps employed by these companies, the usual designations of value will be found to be *one* and *two cents*.

Among the first pioneers in this postal reform was Mr. D. O. Blood, of Philadelphia; who, as early as 1843 (in advance of the experiments of Hale & Co., of Boston), commenced the delivery of *city*-letters, having organized a complete system of boxes and of carriers for the city of Philadelphia. The earliest stamp he employed—which may be considered as the first American adhesive label or stamp—was the characteristic one with a vignette, representing a post-office carrier crossing over buildings. [The centre building represented on this stamp is the Merchants' Exchange of Philadelphia.]



It was not, in fact, till 1847, that the American Congress decided upon the introduction of postage stamps. The eleventh section of the act of March 3, 1847, provides as follows:

'Section II. That to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail, the Postmaster-General be authorized to prepare postage stamps which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter.'

An important innovation upon the system of postal regulations was introduced into the Act, passed March 3, 1851. Whilst still leaving the prepayment of letters optional, this new law reduced the rate for letters under three thousand miles to 3 cents, *if prepaid;* whilst, if *not prepaid*, the old rate of 5 *cents* was collected. In the Southern States, the smallest coin then in circulation was a silver half-dime, of the value of 5 cents. To meet the delicate taste of the Southern chivalry, whose dainty fingers scorned to touch 'coppers,' (as the copper-cents were called,) a new coin of the value of 3 cents, composed three-fourths of silver and one-fourth copper, was expressly coined, in conformity with the provisions of this act.

The continued success of the private posts at this period caused the insertion of a provision in this same act of 1851, authorizing the postmaster-general to establish 'post-routes within the cities or towns'; to reduce the total charge, inclusive of delivery-fee, upon drop-letters to two cents; and to provide for collecting and conveying to the chief office of the general post letters intended for transportation to other cities,—the latter duty having been previously monopolized by the private carriers. This explains a great many of the local stamps bearing such inscriptions as the following: *To the mail, one cent; Post office despatch; Government city despatch;* and, also, the one issued by the Post-office Department, viz., the blue oval stamp, with vignette of an eagle rising, and the inscription, *U. S. P. O. despatch, prepaid one cent.*

But, notwithstanding the provisions of the act of 1851 referred to, the post-office officials were slow to exercise the authority granted. Though the price on drop-letters was reduced to only 2 cents, still the rapid and frequent deliveries which the public had become accustomed to from the private companies, were not yet supplied by the Post-office Department; the government post-office carriers refusing to make more than the traditional two daily deliveries, unless they were assured a remunerative salary, which should not be dependent upon the number of letters, more or less, which they delivered.

By the Act of August 31, 1852, for the first time '*stamped letter-envelopes*' were directed to be issued.

By the Act of June 15, 1860, a still further reduction was made in the fee for the delivery of letters: the rate collected by the carriers on *all* letters, whether received from abroad or mailed in the city itself, being one cent. A special appropriation of money was also made, to make up the loss to the carriers consequent upon this reduction, by substituting a fixed salary for these officials. And yet nothing was said in the Act as to the *compulsory* prepayment of this delivery-fee of 1 cent. In reality, that question remained an open one until the present year. By the Act of March 3, 1863, the question was definitely settled. It provides for frequent deliveries (which can now be easily carried out, since the carriers have regular fixed salaries); it compels prepayment on all drop-letters, upon which the rate is made *two* cents [a step backwards, it may be remarked, *en passant*]; and abolishes all delivery-tax upon letters coming from other towns. The law took effect on the 1st of July, and this accounts for the introduction of the new 2-cent adhesive label, and the 2-cent envelope, both with the effigy of President Jackson.

The question of the right of private carriers to transport letters within the municipal limits of cities, was settled authoritatively in 1861, by the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in a suit brought by the Government against Messrs. Kockersperger & Co., successors to D. O. Blood & Co., of Philadelphia. The Court decided that, by the language of the Post-Office Act of March 3, 1851 (already previously quoted), the 'streets' of cities and towns were made 'post-routes,' and that the Government alone had power to transport letters over them. This decision, happily commended to popular approval by the tardy awakening of the post-office officials to increased energy and enterprise, was the death-blow to the local companies. Though the Government did not commence suit against all the parties, the decision in the one case has served as a sufficient warning; and, at the present time, private-posts and

local stamps in the United States may be considered amongst the things of the past.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the publication of our last number, but too late for notice, appeared a shilling stamp of the Bahamas: queen's head crowned, to the left, in ornamental oval, surmounted by name; pine apple and shell, as in the penny stamps of those islands, at the lower corners; and value beneath; green on white paper. No doubt those of the West Indian Islands that do not already possess a shilling stamp, will shortly issue a similar denomination.

Two provisional stamps for St. Helena have come over by the last few mails. The same die that strikes the sixpenny blue is evidently employed; but that value is crossed off, and *fourpence* or *one penny* printed across the stamp. The colour used for the former is deep rose, and for the latter dark vermilion. They will in all probability be soon superseded by regular impressions, and consequently become as valuable as provisional stamps usually are.

We have seen an essay of the green 24 c. of the new issue of British Guiana, of which we give a specimen, but the old pattern still comes on letters.



Two new stamps come from Norway. They are very similar to the old blue 4 skilling, bearing the same armorial bearings, but with *Norge* above; *Frimarke* on each side, and value beneath. That for 8 skilling is pale brown, and the 24 skilling, rose on white.

Envelope stamps for Denmark are advertised for sale; but these, as well as the 20 c. and 80 c. of the French colonies, to be found in most priced catalogues, have not yet appeared.

We understand envelopes are in preparation for Bavaria, and will be issued on next New Year's Day.

Several French essays are in the market. We have a set before us in various colours, with a head of the goddess of liberty to the right; the value, unlike the series that was adopted, is above; and the inscription, *Repub. Franc.*, is beneath. They are printed in colour, on a thin tinted paper marked with very slightly wavy horizontal lines. There are also others purporting to be essays for Cayenne; these bear the emperor's head, very poorly executed, and are, too, impressed in various colours on white.

A 3 bai. of Romagna, *yellow*, now figures in albums; whether a genuine old emission, or a modern reprint from the original stamp, remains to be proven. Reprints are getting quite the rage. Besides the old Finlands and Moldavians, &c., the rare old Bergedorfs are now to be purchased; and what has been called the rarest European stamp known, viz., the Austrian Mercury, both in rose and vermilion—doubtless reprints—are offered for sale.

Forgeries are very rife. Wretched imitations of the Tuscan lions are to be met with. We have seen some professedly genuine specimens of the rare old Spanish. The forger evidently knew nothing of the originals, except from a misapprehension of their description in catalogues; as in lieu of being printed in *colour* on *white*, as they ought to be, the imitations are *black* on *colour!* Much better forgeries of the 13 c. and others of the Sandwich Isles are also in the market, and advertised for sale at ridiculously low prices, scarcely sufficient to cover their prime cost and the expense of importing them, if genuine. Carefully as the originals have been copied—in this case the forger having access to the genuine stamps—there are slight differences evident on a very cursory inspection. The absence of a small dash between Hawaiian and the figure 5, renders the false 13 c. easily recognizable: and the white paper of the inferior, and the slight tinge of lilac in the paper on which the better imitation of the blue on blue is impressed, are easy guides for the identification of the genuine stamp.

We see a 10 c. Luxembourg, *lilac*, conspicious in some collections. The authorities of the post office of that city deny all knowledge of such a stamp, or of any essays or other issue than those generally received by collectors. The stamp we allude to is, consequently, either a blue one chemically-

transformed, or a spurious imitation by (most probably) a Hamburg dealer.

The beautiful designs of the engraver in the 'superb' city having been rejected, Messrs. Delarue received instructions to prepare a series of stamps for the Italian government, which we are informed will come into circulation at the new year. The specimens, eight in number, lie before us, and they are *not* an improvement on those refused: but that could scarcely be anticipated—the former so nearly reaching perfection. They are, nevertheless, vastly superior in beauty of design and carefulness of engraving to most of the stamps in circulation. The one centesimo bears a large figure, on which the value is repeated in letters,—*Poste* above, *Italiane* below; a Greek border; the intermediate space filled up with pattern; colour, sea-green on white. The other seven are also printed in colour on white. The head of Victor Emanuel in an oval, with *Poste Italiane* above, and the value below; the spandrils ornamented with devices different in each stamp. The values and colours are: 5 centesimi, greenish slate; 10 c., orange; 15 c., blue; 30 c., brown; 40 c., carmine; 60 c., mauve; and 2 lire, scarlet.

There is a new threepenny Jamaica issue, green; and a threepenny vermilion, with a five-shilling bright mauve, now come from the Mauritius. The three-cornered Capes will be soon superseded by square stamps; the shilling and sixpenny already appearing in that shape.

We can expect to announce but seldom so many additions to the stamp-collectors' albums. Hong Kong favours us with three new values, to wit: 4 cents, bluish green; 6 c., mauve; and 30 c., vermilion. The device is similar to the former issue, but the paper bears a crown as water mark.

The 20 c., red, of the latest issue of the New Granada—or rather, United States of Columbia—stamps should be added to the English catalogues. It belongs to the series having nine stars on a white ground.



An engraving of the latest newspaper stamp for Austria is subjoined.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Timbres-poste d'Amérique. Principaux Timbres-poste d'Europe. Paris: De Torbéchet, Allain et Cie.

THESE are *cartes* containing photographs of the American and principal European postage stamps respectively. They are the size of *cartes de visite*, and would form appropriate frontispieces in collections of the photographs of postal amateurs, which many collectors now make a point of having. On the former card, one hundred and forty of the principal stamps of North and South America are accurately portrayed; and on the latter, one hundred and forty-seven of the individuals of most of the European countries, which are, moreover, numbered, and their names given beneath. Both cards are elegant specimens of the skill of the photographer and the capabilities of photography.

A New and Revised Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Bath: Stafford Smith and Smith.

THIS catalogue really corresponds with its designation. It is priced, and contains, with few exceptions, only such specimens mentioned as the publishers actually have, all marked at fair selling prices, used and unused; so that parties forwarding stamps or a post-office order can be certified of obtaining such individuals as they require, in lieu of the stereotyped reply of some of the continental catalogue compilers, 'We are sorry we have not the stamps you require in stock at present.' For the convenience of small dealers, also, the more common and lower values of many foreign stamps are priced by the dozen, both used and unused.

The publication is printed on good paper, in an exceedingly legible type, and contains a supplement of from fifty to sixty beautifully-executed engravings, printed on toned paper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 'CONVICT' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In the October number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, I see you refer to the hole pierced in the stamp

of Western Australia. I beg to offer some explanation respecting them, showing the way by which they are pierced without injuring the letter. I have just received some of these stamps from a lady having friends in Western Australia, and who, in the letter enclosing them, informed her that they are *first* pierced, and then supplied to the convict establishment. By this means a convict's letter may, if necessary, be traced. I consider these stamps of greater value, being more rare; and many stamp collectors of my acquaintance acknowledge them as another variety.

Yours truly,
Brighton. S. WELFARE.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Knowing that you are always willing to impart information through the columns of your highly-prized magazine, I take the liberty of making the following observations.

In the Schleswig-Holstein stamps I have noticed something which will enable collectors to distinguish the genuine from forged specimens. In the *bona fide* stamps there is a thread of silk (blue in the 1 skilling, and rose in the 2 skilling) which runs in the paper from top to bottom.

As there appears to be much discussion respecting the *Colombo* specimens, I may remark that I am in the habit of receiving New Zealand stamps every mail, and those that I got per the *Colombo* were altered in colour, as follows:—The penny vermilion to a dirty black: the twopenny blue to a very dark blue, and the shilling green to nearly black.

Yours respectfully,
Glasgow. R. P. HARLEY.

TRINIDAD WOOD-BLOCK STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I was very much surprised to hear that two or three individuals, who assume to be authorities in all matters appertaining to stamps (though *why* I am at a loss to know), have had the presumption and ignorance to class the Trinidad 'wood-blocks,' which you had from me, as forgeries. As I told you before, I again most positively state, that I had them *direct* from W. Eversley, Esq., the postmaster of Trinidad; and that I bought up all that could be found. Surely, a gentleman in such a position would not attempt to impose *forgeries* upon me; and I think you will agree with me, that he is a far more reliable authority, with regard to these particular stamps, than any of the *wiseacres* who have so rashly condemned them. In conclusion, permit me to state, that I consider myself quite competent to detect any forged stamps; and that my experience (whether length of time or extent of business be taken into consideration) is *second to none* at home or abroad.

Hoping the preceding remarks will convince you, and the readers of your magazine, of the *genuineness* of the above-named stamps,

I am, dear sir,
Yours very truly,
Everton, Liverpool. OMEGA.

THE NEW ITALIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—'Il Ministro dei Lavori pubblici, Signor L. F. Menabrea,' has confirmed the design of the new Italian stamps, of which I have been favoured with an inspection. They will be as follows:—

FOR NEWSPAPERS.

Inscription [POSTE ITALIANE], *figure indicating value and enclosing denomination and value, in rectangular frame enclosing etruscan pattern. Col. imp.; rect., value in words.*

1 centesimo slate-green.

FOR LETTERS.

Same inscription, head of King Victor Emanuel to left in oval, contained in rectangular frame, spandrils differing in pattern, inscription and value in white letters. Col. imp.; rect.

5 (cinque) centesimi dark green.
10 (dieci) c. red-brown.
15 (quindici) c. blue.
30 (trenta) c. chocolate.
40 (quaranta) c. rose.
60 (sessanta) c. lilac.

Same device, flowers in each spandril, inscription and value in coloured letters. Col. imp.; rect.

2 (due) lire scarlet.

It will thus be seen that the 20 and 80 centesimi and 3 lire labels are no longer to be used, and that three *new* stamps (30 and 60 centesimi and 2 lire) will be substituted.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
London. MOUNT BROWN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. H. O., Nottingham.—The later issue of the penny Queensland is scarlet; the earlier, carmine.—The 20 c. and 40 c. French you speak of are fancy stamps, used for pricing packets of *bonbons*.—We may take this opportunity of cautioning collectors against an excellent imitation of the Dutch stamps in violet, employed for a similar purpose. It will most probably be offered for sale as a new edition or an essay.

R. MELDRUM, Glasgow.—We received by the last mail from Reunion, a communication from a correspondent, to the effect that the postage stamps enclosed (French colonies) are the only ones in present circulation; and that the old Bourbon stamps have been long disused, and are now unattainable.—We have no doubt there were two issues of the old tenpenny English, viz., with and without threads, the former on white, the latter on buff paper; but no envelope of that value, till the present substitute.

T. W., Keymer, Hurstpierpoint.—Like yourself, we have a black twopenny English in our collection, but cannot obtain satisfactory proof of its authenticity.

L. M., St. Neot's.—We have never met with the 10 c. yellow, of the 1854 issue of Switzerland; consequently, cannot speak as to its shade of colour. Why do you not ask the first-rate authority on postage stamps residing in your own town?—There are no fewer than twenty of the Krantz Hamonia emissions, in bronze or silver on various colours. It is strange that we cannot obtain reliable information on the Hamburg locals.—We have never seen such a twopenny New South Wales as you describe, but cannot judge of its genuineness without inspection.—The envelope stamps of Hanover, Saxony, and Baden frequently arrive pen-cancelled; and occasionally also the adhesives of Canada.

I. S.—We cannot appraise stamps. As we have before remarked, they are worth what they will fetch.—We believe a *red* ½ groschen of Hanover must be a forgery.—

The sixpenny and fourpenny envelope stamps doing duty for tenpence, and the sixpenny and threepenny for ninepence, can be procured only by special application at Somerset House.—The stamps of the French colonies are employed for the postage of letters in and from Martinique, Guadaloupe, New Caledonia, Cayenne, Algeria, and other French possessions. A letter we had from Reunion was prepaid with them; and doubtless they *could* free Algerian and other colonial letters.—The tenpenny English may be still used if you choose to affix one. We have bought them, both at the post-office and at stationers, very recently.

H. N. W. R.—In the small stamps of Venezuela the horse's head is to the right (of the spectator): in the three of the later issue the position is reversed.—The orange sixpenny Victoria is one of the rarest of our colonial stamps.—The 1 peso (large) of New Granada is rare.—The spandrils of the Sydney stamps are the spaces between the circle and the square frame.—A specimen stamp, not being intended for circulation, may come under the comprehensive denomination of 'essay.'

NOVICE, Beeralstone, Tavistock, Devon.—Your query respecting the Ocean Postage stamp was replied to in one of our earliest numbers.

INQUIRER.—We could not supply the information you requested in our last, but are in a position to do so now. In the 2 c. stamps of Honolulu, the signification of *uku* is 'pay;' *leta*, 'letter;' *elua* means 'two;' *keneta*, 'cents.' These stamps have superseded the 2 cents with the large figure.—There is no such letter as *t* in the language of the Sandwich Isles,—the alphabet consisting of the vowels a, e, i, o, u, and the consonants h, k, l, m, n, p, w. They print the letter *t* on these stamps; but the natives cannot pronounce it otherwise than as uku le*k*a, elua kene*k*a. They are used for inter-island postage exclusively.

Miss SILLS is informed that her stamp is one of the latest Austrian issue.

SIDNEY S. BROWNE.—The old Norwegian stamp you figure and describe—8 skilling, pink on white—has just been issued, and is introduced to notice in the present number. No stamp was enclosed in your letter.

W. S. B., Birchmore, Newport.—Page 115 of the 2nd edition of Oppen's album is intended for the stamps of the French colonies.

S. L. B., Southernhay, Exeter.—The stamps you possess are Austrian complementary.

E. A., York, suggests an article on the 'dishonesty of those who write to dealers for stamps and never reply.' We do not see the necessity for replying to one's own letter. Also 'hints for avoiding or defeating such actions.' What actions? We should imagine non-replying a *passive*, not an *active* token of dishonesty,—always provided it *be* dishonest to send no reply to one's own communications. Perhaps he means those who never reply to the dealer's answer to his application. It is just possible that the dealer's prices are too high for him. In this case we think the dishonesty would consist in a reply containing an order, and no pecuniary reply to that order if responded to. The County Court and a lawyer's letter would adjust that.

E. S., Canterbury.—We believe the 6 kr. Baden *white* a genuine stamp.—We have never before heard of a 60 centesimi of Austrian Italy, but that is no proof of its non-authenticity. It may be genuine, or an essay, or a mistake of the printer. Your having possessed it before forgeries (of stamps) were thought of, excludes it from that category.

Miss B.—Your query shall be responded to in our next number.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, 13, George Street, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

STAMPS SENT ON APPROVAL.—Address by letter to STAMPEDE, 12, Trellick Terrace, Pimlico, London, S.W.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have now on hand nearly every description of foreign postage stamps, both used and unused, for sale, wholesale and retail, also a large quantity of obsolete stamps just received. The following are examples of the very low prices at which they can supply them:—Austria 2 kr., 1d. each; Antigua penny, 2d. each: Baden 1 kr., 1d., 3, 2d., env.; Bahamas penny, 4d., fourpenny, 10d., sixpenny, 1/3, set, 2/3: Bavaria 1 kr., 1d., 3 kr., 2d.; Bergedorf ½, 1d. each, 9d. per doz., one shilling, white, 2d. each, 1/6 per doz., 1½ yellow, 3d. each, 2/3 per doz., set of 5, 1/: Brazil, 10 reis blue, 3d. each, 280 reis vermillion, 1/3 each, 430 reis orange, 2/3; British Guiana 1 c., 2d., 2c., 4d., 4 c., 5d., 8 c., 9d.; Brunswick, ½, ½, ½, 1d. each: Buenos Ayres 1 p. rose, 1/, 4 reales green, 1/; Canada 1 c., 2d., 5 c., 4d., 10 c., 10d., envs. 5 c., 5d., 10 c., 9d.; Denmark 2 sk. 1d. each, 10d. per doz., 4 s., 2½d. each, 2/ per doz., set of 4, 1/; China 2 c., 3d. each; French Colony (Martinique) 1c., 1d. each, 5 c., 4d.; Germany (North) ½, ½, 1d. each, 8d per dozen; Greece 1 l., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen, 2 l., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen, 5 l., 3d. each, 10 l. 4d. each; Hamburg ½ sch., 1d. each, 8d. dozen, 1 s., 2d. each, 1/6 dozen, 2, 3d., 3, 4d., 4, 6d., 7, 9d., 9, 1/, set of 7, complete, 2/8; Hamburg Boten—each set containing ten stamps—The Lafranz, ½ sch., 10d, set, 1 sch., 6d. per set; H. Schuerenbeck's ½ sch., two kinds, 1/ each set, 1 sch., castle, 10d. set; Carl Hamer & Co. ½ sch., 1/ per set; Marx Verein, dated 1863, 1 sch., set, 1/4: Hanover ⅓ pfg., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen, ½ g., 1d. each, 1 gr. 2d. complete set of 5 adhesive and 3 envelope for 2/3; Lubeck—out of use—per set of 5, 2/, present issue ½ sch. green, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen, 1 sch. vermillion, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen, set of 5, 1/2; Luxemburg 1, 2, and 4 c., 1d. each, 10 c. and 12½ c., 2d. each, set of 9, 2/; Malta half-penny, 1d. each, 5d. per dozen: Moldo-Wallachia 3 p., 4d. each, 6 p., 6d. each, 30 p., 1/3 each, set, 2/; Monte Video 180 c., 2d c., diligencia 80 c. and 1 real, at 10d. each: New Brunswick 1 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen, 5 c., 4d. each, 10 c. 9d.; Newfoundland penny, 3d. each; Norway 2 sk., 2d. each, 3 s., 3d. each, 4 s. 3d. each, set of 4 10d.; Nova Scotia 1 c., 2d., 5 c., 4d., 8½ c., 9d., 10 c., 10d. each 2 c. violet, 3d. each; Papal States ½ baj. 2d.; Portugal 5 reis, 4d., 10 r. 1d., 25 c., 3d., set of 5, 1/8: Saxony—new kind—3 pfg., 1d. each 10d. per dozen, ½ gros. 1d. each, 11d. per dozen: U. S. 1857 1 c., 4d. 3 c., 4d., 10 c. 6d., set 1/: 1861 1 c., 1d., 3 c. 2d., 5 c. 6d., env. 1 c. 3d., 3 c., 4d.: New Granada 5 c., 1/0, 2½ c. green 1857, 2/ each: Trinidad first issue black print red, 1/ each. The above are unused. The following are used, but in the best condition, and only slightly obliterated:—Buenos Ayres head, 1 peso rose, 8d., 1 p. blue, 6d., 2 p. blue, 10d., 2 p. vermillion, 1/, 4 reales green, 8d: Bavaria 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr. old issue at 1½d. each: Belgium 10 and 20 c. old issue, 6d. each: Brazil 30 and 60 reis black, 3d. each: Cape of Good Hope penny and sixpenny, 2d. each, fourpenny, one shilling, at 3d. each, set 9d.: Denmark 4 R.B.S., 2d. each: France, republic 20 and 25 c., 2d. each, 10 and 15 c., 3d each: Grenada penny, 3d. each: Hanover 3 pfg, 1-10, 1-15, 1-30 thalers, 1st and 2nd issues, at 3d. each: Saxony, first issue, ½, 1, 2, 3 at 3 l. each: Sicily 1 grano brown, 9d. each, 2 blue, 6d., 5 red, 9d., 10 blue, 8d. 20 black, 1/3. Also Costa Rica ½ real blue, 1/; 1 real red, 2/ unused; 2 real red, 1/4 used; old India (head in square) ½ anna blue, 1 red, 2 green, 4 red, at 3d. each used; Confederate States (head of Jefferson Davis) 5 c. blue, 1/ each; Italian essays, unused, 2 c. green, blue, yellow, crimson, black, and violet at 1/ each, or 5/ per set of 6: Portugal (Donna Maria and Don Pedro) 2d. each, or 1/6 per dozen; Italy 1 c., 1d. each; old Norway (lion) 4 sch. blue, 4d. each; Modena 5, 10, 15 c., 6d. each; Tuscany 1 and 2 c., 6d. each; 4, 6, and 9 c., 4d. each; 10 c., 6d. each; 20 and 40 c., 4d. each; 80 c., 6d. each; Baden land-post 1 kr., 3d.; 3 kr., 4d. (out of use); Naples 1 g., 6d. each; 2, 5, 10, 20 grs., 4d. each; Venezuela, 1/ per set; ½ centavo green, 3d. each; Prussia, head of William IV, ½, 1, 2, and 3 s. g., 2d. each: Western Australia used penny red, 4d.; penny black, 10d.; twopenny blue, 10d.; twopenny red, 1/; unused penny red, 6d.; twopenny blue, 1/; Sweden used 3 and 6 sk. bco., 5d. each; Austria first issue 9 kr., 1d. each; 3 and 6 kr., 2d. each. An entirely new and revised Price List of upwards of 1000 stamps, giving form, value, colour, and date of issue, will be forwarded on receipt of two stamps. Not less than one dozen of each kind of stamps supplied at wholesale prices. P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool. All orders under 2/6 to contain stamp for reply.

150 EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMPS for ONE-AND-SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully executed Microscopic Photographs of nearly 150 European Postage Stamps, comprising both obsolete and present issues. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, have now on hand the following and all other kinds of used and unused foreign postage stamps, which they offer for sale, both wholesale and retail, at very moderate prices. Their Price List of 1000 varieties will be sent on receipt of two postage stamps. Example of prices for *unused stamps (for prices of used stamps see other advertisement and Price List)*:—Antigua, 2d. each, 1/10 per dozen; Austria (new issue), 2 kr., 2d each, 1/ per dozen; 3 kr. and env., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; 1 kr. zeitung and lavender, 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; 2 kr., 2d. each, 1/2 per dozen; Austrian Italy, 2 soldi, 2d. each, 1/4 per dozen; 3 soldi and env., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Baden, Bavaria, Germany, and Wurtemburg, 1 kr., all 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; 3 kr. and ditto env., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Portugal, 5 reis; Mecklenburg, ½ sch.; France, 2 c.; Swiss 2 c., Italy, 1 and 2 c., all 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; Hanover, 3 pfg; Saxony, 3 pfg. (new issue); Germany, ½ and ¼ s. gro.; Prussia, 4 pfg.; and Brunswick ½ and ¼ gro., all 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; Saxony, ½ gro. (new issue); Oldenburg, ½ gro. and env.; ½ gro. Brunswick; Spain, 2 c.; Portugal, 10 reis; Prussia, 6 pfg.; Swiss 5 c.; New Brunswick 1 c.; and Nova Scotia, 1 c., all at 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; Luxembourg, 1 c., 1d. each, 3d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; 4 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 10 and 12½ c., 2d. each, 1/8 per dozen; the set, 2/; Greece, 1 lep., 1d. each, 4d. per dozen; 2 lep., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Lubeck (old issue), ½ sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; the set, 1/6; (new issue), ½ sch, 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; envelopes same price; the set of each, 1/3; Bergedorf, ½ sch., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; the set, 1/3; Hamburg ½ sch., Denmark, 2 sk., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; Holland, 5 c.; Norway, 2 sk.; and Spain, 4 c., all 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Papal States, ½ baj.; Sweden, 3 ore; and Barbadoes green, 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen; Swiss 5 c.; French colonies, 1 c.; Brazil, 10 reis; Malta, half-penny; and French 4 c. (new issue), all 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; Hong Kong 2 c.; Barbadoes *(blue)*; Bahamas, penny; Ceylon, halfpenny; Jamaica, penny; St. Vincent, penny; St. Lucia, penny; Prince Edward's Island, penny; Trinidad *(red)*; Nova Scotia, 2 c.; Newfoundland, penny; Grenada, penny, all at 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen; Venezuela, ½ c., 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen; Nevis penny, 1d. each; British Guiana, 1 c., and United States 2 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; ditto env., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; old *(used block)* Trinidad red, 1/ each; Costa Rica, ½ rl., 10d. each; 2 rl., 2/ each; Western Australia, penny pink, 4d. each, 3/6 per dozen; twopenny blue, 8d. each; Spanish dated (1854), ½ onza yellow rect, 2/ each; present issue *(oval)*, yellow, 4d. each; rose, 6d. each; green, 1/ each; blue, 1/6 each; St. Thomas, 3 c., 4d. each; Queensland penny, 3d. each, 2/9 per dozen; British Columbia, twopence-halfpenny *pink*, 1/ each; Hanover, Bestellgeld-Frei *(horse)*, 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; *(horn)*, 3d. each, 2 per dozen; Hanover, the set of 5 *(issue 1851)*, 3/; *(issue 1859)*, the set of 5, 3/; envelopes *(issue 1857, figure at bottom)*, 1 gro., 8d. each; 2 n. gro., 1/ each; 3 n. gro. yellow, 1/6 each. All orders forwarded per return of post. Letters requiring a reply to contain a stamp for that purpose.

J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have now on hand a large quantity of used stamps, which they are selling at the very low price of 2/ per hundred mixed; consisting of Austria, arms, 3, 6, and 9 kr.; also head, second, third, and fourth issues; Bavaria, 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr., issue of 1851, also the present issue; Baden, figure in centre; Brunswick, Canada, Denmark, 4 rigsbank sk., and present issue; Germany, ½, 1, 2, 3 s. gr.; and 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr.; Hamburg, Hanover, first and other issues; Italy; New Brunswick; Portugal; Prussia, first issue, head of William IV., 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, s. gr.; and second issue and also the eagle, third issue; Saxony, first issue, head of Frederic Augustus, 1 and 3 s. gr.; second issue (out of use lately), ½ grey, 1 rose, 2 blue, 3 yellow, 5 red, and 3 pfg., green; Tuscany (lion and shield), one in each 100; Sicily or Naples, one of either in each 100; United States, Wurtemburg, &c., &c., at the aforesaid rate of 2/ per 100 (mixed).

TO STAMP DEALERS.—STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH have for sale the following unused Stamps at the annexed low prices per hundred:—Austrian Italy, 2 soldi, 12/; Baden, 1 kr., 4/6, 3 kr., 10/6; Belgium, 1 c., 2/; Boyd's City Express, 1 cent, 8/6; France, 1 c., 2/, 2 c., 5/6, 5 c. 6/6; Germany, ½ silb. gr., 5/, ½ silb. gr., 6/; Hamburg, ½ sch., 6/, 1 sch., 11/6, Italy, 2 c., 3/6, 4 c., 4/6, 5 c., 8/6; Luxembourg, 1 c., 2/, 2 c. 3/6; Portugal, 10 reis. 7/6; Saxony, 3 pf. (newissue), 7/6; ½ s. gr., 10/6; Switzerland, 2 rap., 4/; 3 rap., 5/; United States, 2-cent adhesive, 13/6; 2-cent envelope, 16/6. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Foreign Stamp Importers, Bath.

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WONDERFULLY CHEAP! Mr. GEORGE PRIOR, of 48, Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., is now prepared to send out his October List—and with it he gives, gratis, an unused Continental stamp that cannot fail to please—post free on receipt of two stamps, Extract from List:—*Unused*,—Sandwich Islands, 5 c., 4d.; 2 c. and 13 c., both very rare, at prices equally low; Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d.; New Brunswick, 1 c., 2d.; Danish envelopes very low; Lubeck, 1863, 5 labels or 5 envelopes for 1/3; Saxony, 1863, 6 labels, 1/9; 4 envelopes, 1/6; United States and Confederate stamps very low. *Used*.—Pony Express, 6d. each; Canada, 5 c., beaver, 1d. Price List as above, with rare stamp, twopence.

500 PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS of beautifully executed, SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, of Eminent Personages executed, Microscopic Photographs of upwards of 500. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath. Price 6d.; post free, 7d. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, 13, George Street, Bath.

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D. LIDDEL, at H. MCKENZIE'S, 108, Argyle Street, Glasgow, has Romagnas for sale at 6d. each. Stamps sent on inspection.

WANTED TO PURCHASE several thousand used Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps. Address, stating lowest price per hundred, to Mr. F. E. MILLAR, 166, Queen's Road, Dalston London, N.E. N.B.—No application will be answered that does not contain a stamped-directed envelope for reply.

HANOVERS, ALL THE OLDEST KINDS, CLEAN!! Hanover (issue 1851), 1 guten gr. green, 9d.; (issue 1856). 3 pfg. rose, with lines, 6d.; envelopes (issue 1857), 1 guten gr. green, 1/; 1 silb. gr. rose, 2/6; and all the others equally low. Address, Mr. F. E. MILLAR, 166, Queen's Road, Dalston, London, N. E., and send two penny stamps for his new and very large Price List, with which Mr. Millar sends, gratis, a very rare unused Continental stamp. N.B.—All the above are unused; and Mr. M. has all the Sandwich Islands equally cheap.

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STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS!—Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2 c., at 1½d. and 3d.; Prince Edward's Island penny, twopenny, fourpenny, sixpenny, ninepenny, at 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 1/; Newfoundland penny, twopenny, threepenny, at 3d., 4d., 6d., &c. Agents wanted. JOSEPH MASON, 46, York Street, Oxford Street, Manchester.

TO COLLECTORS of UNOBLITERATED POSTAGE STAMPS.—The One-Shilling Packet of Stamps contains one dozen varieties of Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps, all unobliterated. Post free, 1/1. STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, George Street, Bath.

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F. W. HENSTOCK & Co., Foreign Stamp Merchants, 24, Butler Street, Greenheys, Manchester, continue to supply dealers and collectors with all kinds and unused. Examples singly, by the set, or in dozens, both.: 5 c., 6d.; 10 c., 10d.; 12½ c., (unused):—Nova Scotia, 1 c., 2d.; 2 rsland penny, 3d.; twopenny, 5d.; 1/; set of 5, 2/9; Prince Edw ninepenny, 1/3; set of 5, 3/3; Portugal, threepenny, 6d.; sixpence ditto, 6d.; 50 ditto, 9d.; 100 ditto, 1/3; set of 5 reis, 2d.; 10 ditto ch Presidency, 25 c., 3d.; Republic, 20 c., 3d.; 25 c., 5, 2/9. Used ish 10 c., 4d.; 20 c., 4d.; old Spanish 6 c., 1/3, viz., 1850-4; 3d.; Luxembourg, 10 c., 4d., &c., &c. Also sixpenny packets containing 25 old foreign stamps. N.B.—All stamps sold by F. W. HENSTOCK & Co. can be also obtained of their agents. Also agents wanted.

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SWEDISH STAMPS.—All varieties may be had for 6d. per dozen, by applying to Box 97, Post-Office, Glasgow.

RARE STAMPS sent on approval by INCOGNITO, 22, Oxford Terrace, Clapham, S.

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TO STAMP DEALERS, Collectors, and others.—Foreign and obsolete English postage stamps bought, sold, and exchanged in any quantity, and to any amount. Collections bought. Apply by letter to H. M., 46, Gwyn Street, Bedford. Stamp to be enclosed for reply.

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SEND for STAMPS on INSPECTION to R. P. HARLEY, 14, Gloucester Street, Glasgow. Coins sent on inspection.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, on the appearance of the closing number of the first volume, have to thank their numerous subscribers, contributors, and correspondents, both in England and elsewhere, for their kind support.

The circulation of the magazine is at present considerable; and they venture to anticipate that the increasing interest now taken in the study and collection of stamps, will shortly enable them to double the number of impressions now printed off monthly.

To render the periodical still more worthy of support, and as the augmented number of advertisements often compels them to exclude much interesting matter, they purpose enlarging it in the January and succeeding issues, by the addition of eight pages. Unused stamps will still be given with each magazine, and the engraving of newly-issued and rare specimens entrusted to the same talented artist.

A TALE OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

DOZE THE LAST.

CHANCES AND CHANGES.

'Bound to the earth by heavy pain,
The spirit nobly spurns the chain;
Forgets her own in others' woes,
And finds in charity——repose.'

Once more, and finally, the Savoy cross took up the thread of the narrative.

'The sufferers were removed to the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, whence Michele emerged, some months after, a helpless crip-

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ple for life. Carlo was allowed to accompany his friend, and attend upon him during the course of a tedious confinement, succeeded by but a partial recovery. The mind of Lorenzo was irreparably shattered; the aspirations of genius chilled; and the vainly-cherished dreams for the future dissipated for ever.

'A distinguished English artist, who had previously known and valued his talents, chancing to revisit Florence, and becoming acquainted with his sad state, though unaware of the facts of the case, saw enough to convince him that the major part of the disease was not in the body. He offered, therefore, to furnish a total change of scene, by taking the friends with him to London, and there find them sufficient employment for their maintenance.

'Lorenzo was perfectly indifferent to the present and the future—the horrid past alone being ever before his imagination; but Carlo, thoughtful beyond his years, and anxious to withraw his companion and escape himself from the scenes of recollections so painful, easily persuaded him to accept the kind offer.

'It may be wondered at that no active stir was made for the discovery and punishment of the murderers of the marchese; but the state of the government was not yet settled enough to work the requisite machinery for their pursuit and identification; and the principal surviving relatives of the deceased noble, Bernardo and Adine—the latter incapacitated by affliction, and the former passive through dread of his own participation in the midnight attack being divulged—not actively urging the authorities, the tragedy, at a period so eventful, soon passed from general memory. No obstacle, then, was offered to the departure of Lorenzo and Carlo from Florence.

'The very morning of the consummated crime, Filippo had contrived—having previously procured a passport—to evacuate Tuscany, and eventually found his way to the English metropolis, with a considerable share of the ill-gotten booty. Adine, past all thought for worldly affairs, virtually allowed her cousin the management of her property; and, influenced more by a wish to escape daily intercourse with him, than by aught else, accepted the invitation of an English family of high rank, to accompany them to London for an indefinite period. Thus were some of the principal personages of our drama once more—though unwittingly and far apart—consorted in the same metropolis.

'The family with whom Adine resided belonged to that modern section of the religious world that strives to appropriate the better characteristics of the papal faith; devoting themselves with sincere and untiring energy to the assuagement of the calamities of fallen humanity. Adine enthusiastically entered into all their benevolent plans; and the very sight of her angel face, beaming amid the humble garb of a sister of mercy, brought solace to many a suffering invalid. Filippo found congenial employment by entering into partnership with a fellow-countryman in a night gambling-house in the neighbourhood of Leicester Square.

'Misfortune, in the meanwhile, still dogged their path, and laid a heavy hand upon our hapless heroes. Not very long after their establishment in a tolerably comfortable position, their kind patron met with serious pecuniary losses from the bursting of one of those bubble companies, the careless and culpable supineness of whose directors—taking into account the real amount of distress and wretchedness occasioned—cause the follies and crimes of the Bernardos and Filippos of society to mount with feathery lightness in the recording balance. A naturally nervous temperament was so greatly shocked by this occurrence, as to necessitate a temporary retirement from active life; and Lorenzo, now, alas! mentally bereaved of artistic skill, and physically disqualified by his maimed arm, lost the remunerative, if undignified, employment of filling in backgrounds.

'Not long since, I heard my present owner reading in a popular work of fiction,* scenes illustrating a character depicted therein. It is the daughter of a clergyman, restricted by a malady from other exercise than removal from bed to sofa and *vice versâ*; yet repre-

* *Chronicles of Carlingford.*

sented as taking interest in all the busy concerns of the community around her, though in a sarcastic and unamiable way. In a suburb of this city resides a lady, alike and yet how unlike! With the same corporeal disqualification, and the same interest in the society from which she is partially secluded, the better spirit rises superior to the mortal clay; and *her* time and talents are devoted to solacing the troubles, and in some way contributing to the welfare of all that are so fortunate as to fall within the sphere of her influence.

'Through her instrumentality, young Carlo had obtained a situation in a foreign merchant's warehouse, in which employ his knowledge of the Italian language made him a valuable acquisition. Through her, also, his presence in London became known to Adine, to whom he had been mentioned as a fellow-countryman, during one of the calls of the latter, while co-operating in some kindred scheme of benevolence; little aware as the speaker was of any former connection between them. Adine did not fail to forward him many a handsome present through her kind informant, but requesting their source might not be divulged. Till the affliction, therefore, alluded to in the preceding paragraph, fortune seemed to smile again upon the boy; but after that, the desolate and helpless state of his friend obliged the resignation of his situation.

'From low to lower they gradually sank; shame precluded application to their good patroness; and Lorenzo was eventually driven to the humble employment of a photographer in an inferior purlieu of the City Road; while Carlo acted, now as assistant manipulator inside, and now outside the door touting for the entry of the passers-by. Many chance customers that would not otherwise have been induced to invest a shilling in their "counterfeit presentment," were attracted by the engaging and intelligent countenance of the boy; and numbers of the (by courtesy) fair sex of the neighbourhood were lured by the desire of seeing the still handsome, though blighted countenance of the interesting "furriner."

'In such situation I last saw him, and there they might now be remaining, but——'

'*That* sad narrative *I* promised, and, as eye-witness of the circumstances, am best qualified to relate,' curtly interrupted the Tuscan lion; 'and with the permission of our auditor will continue.'

The petulant cross resisted; but in the midst of the squabble——'Hot water, sir,' was the accompaniment to a loud tapping at the door; and I awoke to the full glare of daylight.

THE DÉNOUEMENT.—PART I.

BIRCHIN LANE.

'Wheree'r we range
Appears a change.'

I AWOKE, as may well be imagined, unrefreshed by my night's *quasi* rest. After my matutinal sacrifice to the graces, and a hurried breakfast, I resolutely set to, with head all muddled as it was, to jot down the visions of the night as well as I could remember them, and such as they have been laid before my readers. Here, then, may find its appropriate place what I afterwards learned, and what the yellow Tuscan lion 'might, could, would, or should' have said.

The clock over the post-office in Lombard Street pointed to five. The usual two or three hours' block at each end of that busy thoroughfare no longer existed; and the bankers and merchants of the neighbourhood might be seen speeding homewards in substantial-looking equipages, hailing cab or omnibus, or taking a constitutional on foot.

An uninitiated observer could have comprehended *that;* but he would have been at a loss to account for the gradual congregation of individuals of all ages under the arches and in the courts connecting the rich street of the bankers with Birchin Lane, one of which was named years ago, from its proximity to the Great Exchange,—but without the slightest anticipation of the peculiar appropriateness of the designation in the middle of the nineteenth century—'Change Alley.

The majority, especially the juvenile portion of the gathering, were holding thin books of various sizes, which they were assiduously pressing on the attention of the

numerous passers-by, most of whom seemed to have taken that way for the purpose; and silver and copper, nay, sometimes gold, passed from hand to hand in all directions.

This was the then-flourishing Stamp Exchange; and the curious observer would have been amused at the varied aspect of the component parts, and the conversation of the detached groups.

There was a sprinkling of dark foreigners who were sure to be objects of eager interest, as most probably prepared to barter South American or other coveted and rare specimens. There were ———, sporting a silver watch and gold chain, the proceeds of his novel but lucrative traffic; handsome ———, joking, and larking, and chaffing the policemen; ———, remarkable for never sporting the same waistcoat or tie for two consecutive days, and who 'only changed, never sold;' ———, with primrose kids, apparently ashamed of his position as itinerant street vendor; ———, walking up and down, cigar in mouth, and disposing of his stock as if he honoured his customers by so doing.

'Cum multis aliis quos nunc perscribere longum est.'

The snatches of conversation were entertaining. 'Where is ——— ?' 'Oh! the people at the eating-house threw some greasy water out of window yesterday, and spoiled his best cap, and his mother won't let him come here any more; and ———, what is become of him? He used to be a constant attendant.' 'Don't you know? He was taken before the Lord Mayor last week for obstructing the way, and doesn't want to repeat his visit.'

It is six o'clock. Policeman D 456, much more civil than the rest of his fraternity, leaves the beat, and D 457 takes his place. At his approach books and sheets of paper rapidly disappear, and everyone tries to assume the guise of a casual passenger. 'I tell 'ee what 'tis, now; if you don't clear away from this, you shall all go to the P'lice Station, whiskers and no whiskers.'

He passed on his beat; and the sight of his back turning the corner was the signal for the reproduction of the hidden books, and the renewal of the traffic. After a while, this choice specimen of a peeler again showed himself, and again there was a lull in the transfers. This time his objurgations were accompanied by profane oaths; and on being rebuked by a respectable physician, one of the offending parties, his civil reply was, that 'he should curse and swear as much as he liked'!

He took himself off at last, and once more the bustle re-commenced. A fresh comer appeared on the scene,—a handsome youth, with the olive tint and unmistakeable large dark eyes of Italy. It was the Carlo of our tale. His threadbare clothing, clean and neat as it was, and his emaciated appearance betokened months of privation. He had been a frequent attendant on 'change: one by one his cherished stamps had been disposed of, and the produce devoted to the diurnal necessities of his friend, whose frequent aberrations of mind now sadly curtailed their slender gains.

The yellow lion and Tuscan cross of the same colour were in his hand, reserved to the last, both from their rarity and as treasured mementos of almost the last happy hour he had spent, when they were given him so long since by his loved friend, just before the terrible events that had cast such an untimely blight on his youthful happiness.

No sooner was he in sight than a general rush was made towards him. 'Have you brought them?' 'You promised me the refusal.' 'I'll give you as much as any one.' Such were the greetings he met with. The two stamps were eagerly competed for; and the poor boy had much ado to follow them with his eyes from hand to hand, the tears welling up at parting with his treasures.

In the midst of all this confusion, P. C. D 457 re-appears more furious than ever. A man with a ladder across his shoulder was turning the corner of the alley, and drew back a moment, unable to pass the crowd. 'Go on, can't you?' yelled the policeman; 'break their heads, if they don't get out of the way.'

How much more prone we are to follow evil counsel than good! He was too well obeyed. Poor young Carlo, anxiously engaged in making the best of his precious stamping, did not back quickly enough out of the way. He was knocked down by a

heavy blow on the back of the head, and carried home senseless and bleeding on that very ladder that had just proved the instrument of the reckless deed!

PART II.

REALIZATION.

'When the dream of life is past;
When the fatal die is cast;
Then the waking mind will feel
What is false, and what is real.'

The greater part of my spare time for two or three days was occupied in writing and arranging the substance of my dreams. One morning my editorial friend called in to see how the 'Tale' was progressing; and hurrying over the manuscript, condescended to express himself very well satisfied on the whole.

'I think you have managed pretty tolerably,' said he; 'and I see you have contrived to introduce those romantic circumstances I was relating to you. The idea of the vision was very good, if not perfectly original. Why, what is the matter with you? You have knocked down the inkstand, and just missed spoiling those stamps.' 'Hang the stamps,' cried I; 'what are you talking about? Do you mean to say that———' He was paying no attention to me. 'Ah! I see: you have left the catastrophe for me. All right; you would have only made a mull of it. Here it is: I thought you would be ready for it by this time. Why, what *are* you staring so for?'

Well I might; for I could not *then* for the life of me tell what he was driving at. But he talked so fast, there was no getting in a word edgewise. 'By the bye, how are you engaged this morning? Why not come with me? I am going to see them,—for the last time, I fear. The poor boy's injury proves to have been more serious than was at first anticipated. We can take the city 'bus.'

Who were the 'them,' and where he spoke of going were myths to me; but having nothing particular else to do, I agreed. I had not left the house since the supper evening, and the fresh air would have soon had its wonted good effect on my faculties; when the stifling omnibus, the noise of the streets, and the squalor and bustle of the dirty thoroughfares leading from the City Road to the place of our destination, added ten-fold to my bewilderment.

We reached a shabby-looking house in the Curtain Road. The door was open. In front of it was a cab, near which stood a powerful man of a bull-dog cast of countenance; and a plain private brougham, attended by a portly personage, evidently a superior confidential servant out of livery, was drawn up not far off.

We mounted the crooked, creaking staircase to the topmost floor, and entered a large but poor-looking room. Like an electric flash the reality burst upon me; for there, in one corner stood Lorenzo, hopelessly calm, with eye in which the light of intellect was for ever quenched, sadly gazing at, but apparently from some cause too spell-bound to approach the bed on which was pillowed the bandaged head of his faithful young companion.

There, too, by the side of the lowly couch on which the dying boy was lying, in all the superlative beauty which the little post-age stamp had not exaggerated—looking like some ministering angel prepared to take charge of the fast-fleeting spirit—knelt Adine!

PART III.

CONCLUSION.

'Blame we Providence or Fate?
Is it chance? Or is it sin
That brought us to our present state?
How different far
Is what we are
From what we might have been!'

It was not all a dream then! The dozes of the night had been but partial repetitions of the conversation of the evening, with an admixture of some historical and other events about which I had lately interested myself.

Little now remains to be told. All was soon over. The noble visitor, but recently made aware of the destitute state of her compatriots, after giving directions that everything necessary should be attended to at her charge, retired to the conveyance which was awaiting her; and Lorenzo, whom nothing but the extremest violence

could have induced to quit the living Carlo, seemed now totally prostrate, and was unresistingly conducted to the cab at the door, and borne off to a private asylum.

There he still remains, harmless and spiritless; now, sitting abstracted for hours; now, listlessly occupied in a feeble imitation of his former pursuits; but he never gets beyond the outline of a face—always the same—an unfinished copy of the large picture about which we first saw him engaged in his native city.

Filippo may yet be seen occasionally swaggering about Leicester Square and its neighbourhood; but his ill-gotten plunder does not seem to have prospered with him, as latterly he has been looking very seedy, and the *Times* not long since announced that in consequence of certain irregular proceedings, the house with which he was connected had had its license superseded.

In an obscure corner of Abney-Park Cemetery, an unpretending but carefully-tended grave, lavishly decorated with bright flowers, catches the eye. At no distant interval, a private equipage, occupied by a sister of mercy, stops at the gates; the visitant descends, and exchanges a faded for a fresh garland of *immortelles* The headstone is of white Carrara marble. The inscription reads:—

'Qui si riposa Carlo, aspettando Lorenzo.'

Concluded.

ON THE INCREASE OF THE TIMBROMANIE.

One of the greatest maxims of commerce is, that wherever there is a demand there will be a supply. This has proved true in a remarkable degree in the case of stamps. Two years ago, the rising taste for collecting these little labels had scarcely a purveyor: now, not only London, and all the great provincial cities, but even many smaller towns, such as Hull, Dover, Hartlepool, and Ipswich, contain dealers—many of them, doubtless, doing a good trade; and month by month, the number of addresses presented in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* increases. There is probably no kind of timbre-poste which may not be obtained from one or other of these enterprising firms.

The increased competition has naturally induced a great fall in the prices. The few solitary individuals who have been accumulating collections for many years and who now are left behind by the general rush, never thought of troubling themselves about clean copies, but were quite content with such as came to them and their friends on letters. Consequently, obliterated stamps remained in the ascendant among the earlier victims of the present mania; and the oldest dealers' lists offer little else to the purchaser. Moreover, the prices affixed to the different kinds would now be regarded as ridiculous, if demanded for clean specimens. But time passed on; friends, collectors, and postmasters in the colonies were communicated with; the new demand brought abundant supplies, and 'immaculates' became the rage. These, in many cases, have already reached a discount of seventy or eighty per cent on the prices originally asked; and the reduction will doubtless continue for some time longer. Thus the beautiful one-cent Nova Scotia, which a year ago fetched a shilling, may now be had for a penny; and the corresponding New Brunswick, for which the same price was demanded, though it had passed through the post, now sells for a penny when clean.

Stamp collecting does not yet wane; and there is no reason why it should not remain, like the kindred manias for accumulating coins or books, as a permanent institution in the land. In our opinion, the present possesses several advantages over these two 'follies'; for the comparative cheapness and small bulk of its objects, and the ease with which they may be obtained, are a great recommendation. Who knows but that we may live to see Stamp Clubs, similar to the Camden and Hakluyt Societies, got up to reprint curious and obsolete stamps?

SECOND CHAPTER ON UNITED STATES' LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY JAMES LESLEY, JUN., ESQ., UNITED STATES' VICE-CONSUL AT NICE.

In a previous article, published in the last number of the magazine, we endeavoured to give a brief review of the postal legislation

of the United States, with a view to furnish a clearer explanation of the American local stamps. The origin of the private postal companies, as has been shown, may be traced directly to the neglect of the United States' Post-Office Department to provide the public with the proper postal facilities. There was felt, in all the larger cities and towns, a pressing need of frequent and rapid deliveries of letters circulating within the municipal limits. Though in cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, the government carriers made their *two* deliveries a day (one in the morning, and the other in the evening), they made but *a single* delivery per day in the vast number of towns, in the proportion of ninety-nine out of a hundred. To be obliged to wait for the delivery of a note (requiring immediate attention) either twelve or twenty-four hours, was felt to be a grave imposition on the public patience; and, hence, the private posts became an absolute necessity.

As those engaged in these private postal enterprises were obliged to compete directly with the government in the delivery of drop-letters (that is, letters intended for delivery in the towns where posted), they charged lower rates for transportation. These rates, as has been already noted, were rarely over two cents (a penny) for the single letter.

An examination of Brown's catalogue (fourth edition) gives a striking confirmation of this fact. The 264 varieties of local stamps, noted by Mount Brown, may be thus classified :—

Without any designation of value:	114
Of the value of 1 cent:	62.
„ „ 2 cents:	55
Making a total of those representing values of 2 cents and under:	231

Of the remaining 33, we find 4 of 3 cents; 6 of 5 cents; 1 of 6 cents; 4 of 10 cents; 6 of '20 for 1 dollar;' and 9 of various larger values, issued by Wells, Fargo, & Co. Those in the above classification cited as 'without any designation of value,' were all of the value of one cent, that value being understood where not definitely expressed.

Most of the local stamps of higher values than two cents, were issued by private parties who extended the sphere of their operations beyond the mere transportation and delivery of drop-letters. Those issued, for instance, by the American Mail Co., Brainerd & Co., Hale & Co., and W. Wyman, were intended, as previously explained, to prepay postage over extensive government post-routes; as between New York and Philadelphia, New York and Albany, New York and Boston, &c.

The following were, I believe, issued very soon after the passage of the Act of Congress of 1847, authorising the Post-Office Department to make adhesive labels, and when the rates fixed by law were for a single letter '*five cents* under 3000 miles,' and '*ten cents* over' that distance :—

New York Post-Office. [Bust]. Large rect. 5 cents, black on blue: 5 cents, black on white.

Prov. [*idence*] *R. I.* [*sland*] *Post-Office.* Black imp. Oblong. 5 cents.

St. Louis Post-Office. [Device supported by bears]. Black imp. Rect. 10 cents.

Though unwilling to undervalue the authority of the magazine in regard to these 'big-head' stamps of New York, I may state that there is a strong presumption that *all* of the above stamps were issued by the government postmasters of the respective cities *in anticipation* of those in preparation by the Post-Office Department. This much is, however, indisputable, that out of all the local stamps of which we have any account, these are the only ones in which occurs the name of a regular government post-office with the name of the city attached; and it is equally clear that their values (5 and 10 cents) were too high for use upon drop-letters. They *could* have served, however, to prepay a letter in the States east of the Rocky Mountains (the fixed rate for which was five cents), or from these States to California, or the Pacific coast (the rate for which was 10 cents). It seems scarcely probable that any private individual would venture on so bold a proceeding as to usurp

directly the name of a government office. It is still more unlikely that private individuals could issue stamps which should pass unchallenged through the government mails, and be considered as the evidence of prepayment. Of the latter fact, so far as it applies to the New York stamps in question, I can vouch from my own knowledge. It will be observed, also, that in the case of these New-York stamps, the style of engraving differs from that in all other local stamps, being of a much higher order of art. It would seem to have been done by the same bank-note engravers who executed the plates for the government postage stamps. Whether the original plate for the 'big-heads,' after having served its temporary government purpose, subsequently fell into the hands of private parties, and was thus used again, I am unable to state.

Besides the stamps just noted, of which the values exceeded five cents, we have also to notice those issued by the following:—

Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Express Co.: two stamps of *each* of the values of 5 cents, 10 cents, and 20 cents.



Winan's City Post: [curious device of the bomb with wings] *one* stamp of each of the values 5, 10, and 20 cents.

Warwick's City Despatch Post: one stamp of the value of 6 cents.

Wells, Fargo, & Co.: nine stamps of various values from 10 cents to 4 dollars each.

In reference to the Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Express Co., it may be stated that this is a regularly-chartered corporation, created by the Legislature of the State of New York. By the terms of its charter, it is authorized to carry small parcels within the limits of the city of New York. The stamps of lower or higher values are used to prepay the carriage of smaller or larger parcels over shorter or longer routes. A similar explanation will hold good of the higher-value stamps of Winans and of Warwick, and of the very recent issues of Hussey's [device of galloping horse], described in the last number of the magazine, of the several values of 5, 10, 15, and 25 cents.

The explanation of those issued by Wells, Fargo, & Co. is to be found in the necessity which arose for the transportation of a speedy mail *over-land* to California and Oregon. It was believed, before the line was commenced, that a saving in time of five or six days would be effected over the long sea-route of 7000 miles by way of the Isthmus of Panama. In the absence of legislative authority to the Post-Office Department to undertake the matter, private enterprise was ready to engage in the perilous enterprise. Considering the great risks run in a large section of the country full of unfriendly savages; taking into account the large expenditure necessary to provide for the transportation of letters over so long a route; and bearing in mind the actual saving in time; it must be admitted that the rates charged by Wells, Fargo, & Co. were by no means excessive. When they commenced their undertaking, the telegraph had not yet bound together the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. At first, they ran their stages twice a month. There is now a *daily* United States' mail over the line, which is the longest stage-route in the world. In fact, it is actually two thousand and forty-five miles long, extending from Folsom, Mo., to Denver City, California. There are employed upon it over two hundred stages and over six hundred horses. The line is owned by three companies, who work in harmony, viz.:—From Folsom to Salt Lake City (the capital of Utah and seat of the Mormon fanaticism), 686 miles, there are *two* companies, the Pioneer Stage Co., which is the private property of Louis McLane, Esq. (formerly U. S. Minister at St. James's), and the other by Wells, Fargo, & Co. The remainder of the route, including the Denver City branch, is 1357 miles long, and is owned by B. Holliday, Esq., of New York.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

As might be expected towards the close of the year, an entire dearth of novelties is the

only announcement offered our readers in the present number. Under such circumstances, we cannot do better than recapitulate the specimens, old and new, first described in this magazine during the eleven months it has been before the public. Of one of the most remarkable of these —the Java, or Dutch East-Indian stamp—we give an engraving.



We find we have described, either under the above heading, or in our addenda to Mr. Mount Brown's catalogue, nearly three hundred new or unnoticed individuals, of which twenty-six have been engraved in this magazine. It must be owned, however, that many of them,—some of the Hamburg Boten, for instance, the forgeries of the local Berlins, and the Mexican mail stamps—are more than doubtful.

More than fifty will be found to be essays, either offered bonâ fide for adoption, as the French *laisser flotter*, Pellas's Italians, &c., or apparently printed off for sale, as those of Cuba and the United States. Besides the English essays noticed by ourselves, are to be added those described in the valuable paper by Dr. Gray, in the fourth number of the magazine.

Notwithstanding these deductions, upwards of one hundred accredited postage stamps, issued since the 1st of January in the present year, swell the number already known to collectors. Of these, Europe alone contributes eighty-two; among which figure Turkey's first emissions, and an entire new series for Austria, Saxony, Lubeck, and Italy. Our eastern colony of Hong Kong gives ten individuals, and the West Indies also furnish six.



We add an engraving of the new threepenny stamp of Jamaica, green.

New issues are expected, both from the continent of Europe and South America, on New-Year's Day.

To the best of our belief, it has never been remarked that the disused *trefoil* for the town of Hanover was not only employed for envelopes, but sold in sheets, like other postage stamps, as an adhesive. It, therefore, rightly claims a place both in albums and catalogues under each head.

We are just in time to note a new 3 pfennige for Hanover. The design is similar to the one superseded; but the inscription reads *three-tenths* in lieu of *one-third* of a silber-groschen. The colour is not yet fixed, but the essays are green. It is proposed to be issued on New-Year's Day.

A correspondent has just favoured us also with the information of the arrival of a new type of fourpenny from Victoria.

RETURNED LETTERS.

ABOUT two millions of letters are returned to their writers every year, owing to failure in the attempt to deliver them to the persons addressed. It is calculated that some ten thousand letters per annum are posted without any address at all, and more than a million and a half are improperly or imperfectly directed. This may be attributed partly to the fact that many streets are not numbered; many others are distinguished by the names Great, Little, Upper, Lower, New, Old, East, West, &c., all dreadfully puzzling to the carriers, especially as, if our friend lives in West ——— street, we are almost certain to address our letter to East ——— street. There are in London somewhere about fifty King and Queen streets, sixty John streets, sixty William streets, and forty New streets. The irregularities and eccentricities in the numbers of streets is a great difficulty. A postman was once astonished to see a brass plate with the number 95 between two houses numbered respectively 15 and 16. In answer to his inquiry, the old lady who tenanted the house said that the number had belonged to her former residence, and thinking it a pity that it should be thrown away, she had transferred it to her new home, supposing that it would do as well as any other number! Nearly four thousand letters have sometimes arrived in one day at St. Martin's-le-Grand with no other address than 'London,' most of them being intended for small shopkeepers whose advertisements have led

country customers to understand that they must be so well known in the metropolis as to need no fuller address. In most cases, however, the difficulty of delivering a letter arises solely from the carelessness of the writer; and we quite agree with the Postmaster-General, that as the time of the department is the property of the country, the amount of pains expended over misdirected or imperfectly-addressed letters ought not to be given without some additional charge.—*London Quarterly Review.*

ON IMPROVEMENTS IN STAMPS.

Perhaps the most tangible benefit likely to accrue from the present timbromanie, is an improvement in the design of future stamps. Many countries have yet to issue this kind of currency; for the names of Iceland, Gibraltar, Lagos, Bolivia, Tobago, St. Kitt's, and some other states and colonies, do not appear in our albums. Stamps are certainly susceptible of much improvement; and it is to be hoped that forthcoming varieties will be alike free from the repulsive appearance of the Victorians and the indistinctness of the old Natals. The points which should be borne in mind in the preparation of new designs may be stated as follows:—

1. Clearness and beauty of engraving.
2. Convenient shape and size.
3. Distinctness of different values.

Of course an appropriate emblem for the centre of the stamp is the first consideration. While a crest, like the Germanic eagles (Prussia, Austria, Lubeck, &c.), possesses one considerable advantage over the sovereign's portrait, viz., the non-necessity of change, the greater elegance of the latter may overbalance this. We object to the female figures on the Swiss, Nevis, Cape, and Barbadoes stamps, as being uninteresting and meaningless; and think the profile, or coat of arms, superior even to those designs which do convey a meaning;—as the rising sun of Monte Video, the swan from Western Australia, and the ship from British Guiana; though the remarkably apposite motto, for a colony, which surrounds the latter ('We give, and ask in turn'), is some recommendation to it. A clear, bold, escutcheon, like those on the earlier Spanish, is certainly preferable to an indistinct jumble, which the old Neapolitans are; or an encumbered one, which the first Nova Scotian issue presents. We likewise prefer a head which fills up most of the room, and is large enough to be easily seen, to a microscopic one.

The rectangular shape is vastly preferable to the triangular one; for though the Cape stamps are curious in an album, they are awkward things to arrange on a letter. Perhaps our own stamps may be taken as a model for size. They are certainly better than such large ones as the sixpenny and shilling New South Wales, of which a very few will cover a letter; or the little Mecklenburgs, which are liable to be overlooked.

We now come to the third and most practically important consideration,—distinctness from the other values. Every instant of time being of importance to the post-office officials, it is necessary to lessen as much as possible the difficulty of distinguishing the different labels. With this point in view, we presume the stamps of most of the German states have been made to correspond in colour; so that the stamps of Prussia, Lubeck, Oldenburg, Saxony, Hanover, Thurn and Taxis, and Austria, worth nearest an English penny, are now red; those worth twopence, blue; and those worth threepence, brown or yellow. It is in this point of view also that a bold number, as a central point, is useful; and it has been adopted by Brazil, Hamburg, &c. The variation of size, according to value, which we see in the Bergedorf, is a very ingenious idea. Embossed designs are, we think, objectionable, from their want of clearness. For a set of six stamps, the following are a distinctive set of colours: black, red, blue, gold, dark brown, and orange. Green and blue can scarcely be distinguished by candlelight.

A STRANGE 'CHANGE.

One sunny noon, with anxious face,
Round and round the 'Change I pace,
With stocks and shares so full my head:
'Sell out,' I thought—for I had dread
Of strife upon the Yankee land,
Where Mammon sways with heavy hand.
I did so, and I left that 'Change,
And then towards Birchin Lane I range—
A spot where small fry much resort,
And carry on a curious sport.

I took a glass of Bass's pale,
To drown the stocks in sparkling ale,
Then, slowly wending on my way,
To seek a spot to pass the day,
Athwart the bustling crowd I broke,
When in my ribs I got a poke.
With rising choler now I turn,
The object of the blow to learn.
A group of British youth is there,
And from their language this I hear:
'Who'll give a Turkey for a Pole?
You see the envelope's quite whole.'
'I'll take a Swedish for a Cape:'
'If I'm a monkey, you're an ape.'
'A Pole's worth more than any Russian.'
'One old Dane's worth a set of Prussian.'
'I want a Sandwich for a bear:'
'Why, that is not one half as rare.'
This outcry made me turn my head,
And thus in wonderment I said:
'Boys, what on earth is all this row?
'What's up? What is it? Tell me now:
'And why those signs upon your books;
'And why those eager, anxious looks?
'Such troubles youthful minds derange;
''Tis *I* should vex—a man on 'Change.'
I spoke, and taking from the hand
Of one, the foremost of the band,
A book bedeck'd with many a sign,
Dazzling with all bright colours fine,
In squares and rounds, in strange device
(Near every sign was mark'd its price);
This, Phœbus bears, in noonday glare;
And that, our Queen upon a chair:
A bear climbs up a leafless tree:
A steamer ploughs across the sea:
A beaver; then a railroad train—
The portrait of a queen again:
Black eagles' heads—spread, double, single,
With other strange devices mingle:
A lion with a shield and crown:
The view of a far-distant town:
Heads of both sexes, wreath'd and crown'd.
With eyes amazed, I stared all round;
When, sudden, a gruff voice is heard,
That all the thronging bevy stirr'd:
I turn'd, and fix'd my eyes upon
A bobby! crying—'Stumps, move on.'

SYDNEY J. EISENBERG.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS,

COMPRISING NOTES, ADDITIONS, AND EMENDATIONS,

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

Venezuela.

The first series of Venezuelan stamps are not on blue, but on very slightly toned paper. Independently of this, they may be readily distinguished by a difference in colour. The ½ real of the former issue is gamboge; the 1 real, a dull blue; and the 2 reales, red. The respective colours of the 1860 series are orange, deep blue, and lake.

Victoria.

Two impressions only of the old Melbourne twopenny stamp are noted in catalogues; but we have four perfectly distinct specimens in our own collection. In two of them the background is entirely filled in; in the other two, above the arms of the throne it is white. Of the latter pair, one may be easily distinguished from the other, by noting that the steps of the throne are smaller, and the letters, as also the space for them, larger. Moreover, being block-printed, the background is simply a blotch of colour. The variations of the other pair are not so marked: the difference, still, on inspection is unmistakeable; one of them being much more coarsely engraved than the other, which is a decided brown. The three first mentioned are more or less dull shades of mauve.

The threepenny half-length figure of the Queen is printed in light and deep blue; and the one penny cinnamon, when clean and unfaded, is vermilion.

We fear the penny black, similar to the green of the late, and the penny chocolate of the present issue, will turn out to be Colombo varieties. The fourpenny dark red of the same issue is a rich vermilion when clean.

The very rare sixpenny with small letters, and the one like the two-shilling stamp, are both deep orange, not yellow, when fresh. The threepenny of the present issue varies from a very light to a dark shade of blue. It is singular that the multifarious changes of the Victoria stamps have never favoured our albums with something superseding the old barbaric octagonal shilling.

Western Australia.

There are two perfectly distinct colours of the old oval shilling. One is a yellowish, the other a chocolate brown. The one penny of 1861 was a brownish pink. The penny of the present year is a very red pink. It is difficult to name the colours of the Swan River stamps. The sixpenny of 1861 varies from chocolate to violet-brown; the sixpenny in



actual use is in different shades of violet, and the twopenny varies from light to dark blue.

Of the rose-coloured fourpenny one single sheet only was ever printed, containing 240 impressions. This was sent out to the colony from London as a sample, but for some reason not approved of, and a second sheet never called for.

The stamps pierced with a round hole, explained by a correspondent in the last number of this magazine as being supplied to the convict establishment of the colony for the purpose of identification, may be with propriety included in collections as varieties, under the designation of 'convict stamps.'

Wurtemberg.

The one kreuzer of the first series of this country is buff, not white. A white 9 kr. is seen in collections, but generally believed to be simply a faded pink. The 1 kr. and the 9 kr. of the second issue may each claim to form two distinct varieties; the former is printed in two different shades of brown, and the latter in carmine-red and in rose-madder. The 3 kr., 6 kr., and 18 kr. are also in lighter and darker shades of their respective colours. It is possible there were two distinct issues of this series. We believe the new blue 6 kr. is not yet out.



REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Album de Timbres-Poste, illustré des armoiries des principaux Etats du Globe, orné de cinq cartes Géographiques, et classé par ordre alphabétique de chaque partie du Monde, par J. B. Moens. Brussels : J. B. Moens.

This publication, emanating from a commercial dealer of such long standing and experience as M. Moens, ought to be—and as far as we have had an opportunity of judging, from a comparatively cursory examination, is—as near perfection as could be expected in a work on what may almost be considered entitled to the dignity of a science.

The collection of postage stamps can scarcely, however, claim that appellation, until some distinct rules are recognised with reference to what individuals are to be admitted, and what excluded from our albums. M. Moens, we observe, excludes all essays; even the *rechçrché* abortion of O'Connell, the numerous varieties of the French republic, the curious emanations of Paraguay, and the beautiful designs for Italy. *En revanche* he includes the emissions of Smith & Elder and the *British-Workman* series,—quoting a threepenny and sixpenny of the former, and some of the latter which were never issued. A page also is—as we opine, quite unnecessarily—devoted to the different impressions of the New Caledonian stamps, other than forged specimens of which it is hopeless to attempt procuring.

The work under review is extremely well and carefully printed, and does great credit to the skill and accuracy of the continental printers. Such trifling inaccuracies as shelling, for shilling, in one instance, would not be worth noting, except for the sake of mentioning that nothing of more account is to be animadverted on.

Although acknowledging varieties on white and tinted paper, we see the publisher ignores light and dark shades of the same colour, but there is plenty of room in every page for such additions, according to the taste of the collector. A space is marked out for such stamps as M. Moens himself would admit, such space being marked with the designation of the stamp it represents, so that all desiderata are readily ascertained. At the end of each division, moreover, are several blank pages for future emissions, either of countries making a wholesale change, as Venetia—of which we engrave a specimen—or of those which (wherever they are to be found) have not yet made an issue.



The publication contains the five recognised divisions (no longer quarters) of the world, viz., Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Oceania.

There are appended very good maps of these several divisions, and, moreover, a planisphere of the world, on which most of the countries, large or small, using postage stamps are designated. We miss Antigua, St. Thomas, and Martinique or Algeria only. We admire the improvement over other albums of a similar nature, in allowing sufficient space for a good margin in the squares, or rather rectangles, intended for the reception of the envelope stamps.

There is no attempt, by means of colour or complicated designs, to distract the eye from the legitimate occupants of the leaves, which of themselves are quite sufficient to supply all requisite ornamentation. A handsome black bordering bounds each page, and almost every country is headed by its armorial bearings, printed in black, according to heraldic rule. Some of the devices—which we never remember meeting with previously—as those of Hong Kong, Cuba, our Australian possessions, and some of the South American countries—adopted as their distinguishing emblems—are highly singular and poetical. We cannot imagine why the bull of the Danubian Principalities, the ship of British Guiana, and the elegant design of the Newfoundland stamps, do not figure as headings in their respective places. We would also have suggested the insertion of the arms of our Indian Empire.

We beg to conclude by conscientiously recommending this album to the notice and approval of the numerous stamp collectors both of England and the Continent.

Guide-Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-poste. Paris: Mahé et Cie.

THIS is the completest list of the different varieties of postage stamps we have ever seen, including as it does the various shades and tints of paper in which, or on which, the objects at present interesting our readers are printed. As such, it is well worth procuring; but as a price list, like one we lately took occasion to notice, it is perfectly worthless, the compiler putting an *ad libitum* value to every stamp, whether in his stock or not, trusting to chance for obtaining it at any future period. We wrote ourselves for more than eighty of the catalogued and price-marked specimens, but not one was forthcoming. When we adduce the tenpenny Van Diemen's Land, of which one specimen only has ever been brought into notice, as marked at three francs, we think we have said enough to prove the truth of our animadversions. We may here take occasion to mention that we lately received a communication from the postmaster of Hobart Town, to the effect that there did not exist, nor ever had existed, a stamp in that colony to the value of tenpence. This statement must, nevertheless, be received with considerable latitude of credence, as our readers may remember our remarking many months since, that the head postal officials of Paris, on our presenting a 10 centimes à percevoir as a pattern, requesting to be supplied with some of the same, declared it could not be a French stamp, as they had never heard of it; and that on inquiring, at the head branch-office in London, for our higher-priced envelopes, we were positively assured that no values had ever been issued in England as envelopes, except for one penny and twopence respectively!

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BAHAMAS STAMP—YAMS *versus* SHELLS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—There seems to be some doubt as to what is represented on the right side of the penny Bahamas stamp; and whilst in a former number of the magazine it is supposed to be some tropical fruit, in that for the present month (November) it is called a shell,—certainly a most unmeaning emblem, Now, I am of opinion that it represents yams—the esculent root of the *Dioscorea sativa*—an important article of food in the West Indies, and there used as a substitute for the potato, particularly by the negro population. As colonial produce in the shape of the pine apple is introduced on the one side, it seems particularly appropriate to select for the other an article so largely cultivated for native consumption. I merely throw out these remarks by way of suggestion; wiser heads than mine can compare the stamp with the ugly and distorted tubers occasionally sold in our Italian fruit shops under the name of 'yams,' and then decide whether I am right or wrong.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

[The emblem in question is unmistakeably a shell, of the genus *strombus* of Linnæus. The likeness is not faithful—even worse in the new shilling than in the penny;—but one of the well-known helmet-shells, the *cassides* of modern conchologists, is evidently intended to be portrayed. These are exported largely from South America and the West Indies, especially the Bahamas, for the purpose of being cut up into cameos.—ED.]

SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEW STAMP ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Allow me, through the medium of your now pretty-generally circulated publication, to mention more publicly that which I have named in private,—the necessity which so evidently exists for a new issue of a stamp album. The best—as it is the most attractive—already given to the public is that of M. Lallier; * but how sadly deficient it is in very many of its parts; nor do we need one of quite so expensive a character, though I must maintain that such collections as have been made demand, as they deserve, a handsome volume. I would have the book of a different shape, more square; the paper of the same substance, but ruled only with single lines, and not any printed description; the left-hand pages being left blank for remarks of the collector, or otherwise. I would also have the spaces all square, that is, not cut to any outline that the stamps might bear. This would considerably lessen the expense of preparing the stones for printing. These suggestions are as to the general outline. But it would be necessary to have the spaces adapted to the sizes of the stamps to be received, care being taken that they were large enough. This could be done only by one familiar with our largest collections, and by communication with the various well-known collectors, few, if any, of whom would, I should think, decline to give any information asked for; whilst your paper would, I trust, be open to suggestions from any desirous to make them. I feel it also desirable that only in very few cases the stamps of more than one country or island should be placed on any one page; and in every instance I would leave room under the spaces for the introduction of stamps of same value which varied in their colour; as some collectors introduce into their collections every shade, however trifling it may be. The date of issue it would, perhaps, be well to place above each space prepared for the stamps of each year in which they were issued; but if the catalogue of Mr. Mount Brown was made the basis of arrangement, that addition might be deemed unnecessary. I make these suggestions as the opening of a subject, but in the hope that they may lead to our having, ere long, a volume adequate to the wants of those who, like your now correspondent, are collectors of hundreds, even to the extent of nearly two thousand.

I am, yours truly,

Mona's Isle. S. N.

* [We consider Oppen's album far superior to Lallier's. We believe M. Moens' new album, which is reviewed in the present number, will be published with the necessary alterations, in English.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Can you give me any advice under the following circumstances? A person some time ago wrote and asked for a quantity of stamps on inspection to be sent to 'A. A. Outram, Esq., Belvoir Lodge, Lymington.' The stamps, value 18s. 6d., were sent; and after a short time, as no reply was received by me, I wrote again to the person, requesting an answer; but in the meantime the scamp had left the place, and my letter was returned through the dead-letter office. I think such conduct deserves to be made public.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Leicester. L. DAVIS.

[We have also received similar complaints of the dishonesty of Mr. Outram from Mr. D. McCorkindale, of Glasgow, and Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. B.—The stamps you describe, were a temporary issue for British Guiana. You will find them mentioned both in this magazine and in Mount Brown's catalogue.



Collector, Trin. Coll., Camb.—The provisional St. Helena penny and fourpenny stamps—of the former of which an engraving is subjoined—will most probably be shortly superseded by a more orthodox issue. A similar contrivance was resorted to in the Mauritius some years since, *fourpence* and *eightpence* being sometimes found printed on stamps usually bearing another value.

Gertrude C., London.—We believe in the old gutengroschen, blue, of Hanover, but we never remember seeing one red.—It is difficult, if not impossible, to fix a value on so fluctuating a commodity as postage stamps.

C. D., Harrow.—The Nicaraguan you describe—green, yellow, and black, must be an essay; as you say it came direct from the country it represents.

R. F. Wilme, Dublin.—The Polish National Government has not issued postage stamps.—Mr. Lesley's interesting paper in last month's magazine, ought to set the question for ever at rest touching the undoubted propriety of including the American locals in catalogues and collections.—If the Zurich stamps for 1843 are not admitted, the French republics of 1848 are the oldest foreign stamps. Of these, the most valuable is the 1-franc vermilion.

H. J., St. Mary's College, Harlow.—On the 21st of May, 1850, a law was passed for the emission of a 50 c. French stamp. It is possible the specimen you enclose may be one of these.

C. W. Deadman, Windsor.—Your query is replied to above.

A. C. Y., Hadlow.—There are but two Antigua stamps at present: the red penny, and the green sixpenny. The stamp you mention must be a Prussian bill stamp.

E. W. G., Sandhurst, Torquay.—Yours is an Austrian bill stamp.

Lambda.—We refer to our advertising pages for the names of dealers.—The present issue of Italians is often seen on tinted paper.—It is a mooted point whether 'Her-Majesty's-Service' envelopes are admissible in a collection. We introduce into our own album the Admiralty and Post-Office stamps.

W. R. C., Manchester.—We have never before seen or heard of the stamp you enclose, but see no reason to doubt its authenticity, especially as there was an early issue of the other values of India.

A Subscriber, Streatham.—The ½-baj. Roman is printed in three distinct colours, forming three marked varieties.—The Segna Tassa is employed for unpaid letters, in the same manner as the French 15 centimes à percevoir.

Aspiro, Briarley.—Your stamp is one of the present series of Austria.

W. R. C.—The New Brunswick 5 c., pale-blue, we should be inclined to pronounce chemically changed.

E. B. S., Piccadilly.—Thanks for your information.—We cannot pronounce your postage stamp false or genuine, in the absence of figures or letters to give any clue to its value or country.

O. P. Q.—You will find by an advertisement in the present number, that elegant gilt cloth cases for binding the first year's numbers of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* are being prepared and will shortly be ready.—All the back numbers of the magazine are in print.

*** ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE, should reach the Office, Queen-square House, Bath, not later than the 10th of the month.

STAMPS SENT ON APPROVAL.—Address by letter to STAMPEDE, 12, Trellick Terrace, Pimlico, London, S.W.

W. YOUNG & Co., Aintree, near Liverpool, have now on hand and for sale the stamps named below, also most other kinds. See Price List of 1000 varieties, which will be sent on receipt of two stamps. All the following are *unused*:—Penny Antigua, 2d., 1/10 per dozen; Austria 2 and 3 kr., 2d. each, 1/2 per dozen; Zeitung 1 kr., 1d., 9d. per dozen; 2 kr., 2d., 1/ per dozen; Austrian Italy 2 soldi, 2d, 1/4 per dozen; 3 soldi and env., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; Baden and *Land*-post, 1 kr., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; 3 kr. and env., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Bavaria, same price; Barbadoes green, 2d., 1/3 per dozen; blue, 3d., 2/ per dozen; Belgium 1 c., 1d., 3d. per dozen; 10 c., 2d. 1/6 per dozen; Bergedorf ½ sch., 1d., 10d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d., 1/6 per dozen, 1/3 per set; Lubeck (new issue) and env., same price; (old issue) ½ sch., 2d., 1/3 per dozen; 1 sch., 3d., 2/ per dozen, 1/9 per set; Bremen 1 grote adhesive and env., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 2 grote, 2d., 1/9 per dozen; Brunswick ½ and ½ gr., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; ½ gr., 2d., 1/ per dozen; Chili 1 centavo, 4d., 3/ per dozen; Denmark 2 sk., 1d., 10d. per dozen; 4 sk., 2d., 1/6 per dozen, 1/3 per set; France 1 c., 1d., 3d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d., 6d. per dozen; 4 c., 1d., 9d. per dozen; French Colonies 1 c., 1d., 9d. per dozen; Germany ½ and ½ gr. and 1 kr., 1d. each, 8d. per dozen; ½ s. gr. and env. and 2 kr. env., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; 1 s. gr. and 3 kr. env. and adhesive, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Greece 1 lept., 1d., 4d. per dozen; 2 lept., 1d., 9d. per dozen; Grenada penny, 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen; Hamburg ½ sch., 1d., 8d. per dozen; 1 sch., 2d., 1/6 per dozen; Baden (Lafrenz), Scherenbeck's and Hamer's, 9d. per set of 10; Hanover 3 pfg., 1d., 8d. per dozen; ½ grо. and 1 gro. env., 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; Reitschlegel Frei (horse), 2d., 1/ per dozen; (horn), 3d., 2/ per dozen; Holland 5 c., 2d., 1/6 per dozen, 10d. per set; Hong Kong 2 c., 3d.; Ionian Isles, 1/3 per set; Italy 1 c., 1d., 4d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d., 8d. per dozen; 5 c., 1d., 10d. per dozen; (essays) 2 c. in 14 colours at 6d. each; Jamaica penny, 3d. each; twopenny, 4d. each; Luxembourg 1 c., 1d., 3d. per dozen; 2 c., 1d., 6d. per dozen; 4 c., 1d., 10d. per dozen; 10 and 12½ c., 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen, 2/3 per set; Malta halfpenny, 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; Mecklenburg ½ sch., 1d., 6d. per dozen; 1 sch. env., 2d., 1/9 per dozen; ½ sch., 3d., 2/3 per dozen, 2/3 per set; Moldo-Wallachia 3 p., 3d.; 6 p., 5d.; 30 p., 1/, 1/6 per set; Natal penny, 1d. each; Nevis penny, 3d. each, 2/6 per doz n; New Brunswick 1 c., 1d., 10d. per dozen, 5/ per set; Newfoundland penny, 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; twopenny, 4d. each, 3/6 per dozen; threepenny, 6d. each; Nicaragua 2 and 5 c., 1/3 each; Norway 2 sk., 2d., 1/6 per dozen; 8 sk. (new issue, lion), 8d. each, set of 4, 1/3; Nova Scotia 1 c., 1d., 10d. per dozen; 2 c., 2d., 1/10 per dozen; 8d c., 8d., the set, 2/6; Oldenburg (first issue), 1/30, 1/; ½ s. gr., 1/; env., ½ gr. brown, 3d.; 1 gr. blue, 4d.; 2 gr. rose, 6d.; 3 gr. yellow, 1/; (second issue), ½ gr., 6d.; 2 and 3 gr., 9d. each; (third issue), ½ and ½ gr., 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; 1, 2, and 3 gr., 8d. each; (present issue), ½ gr., 1d., 10d. per dozen; ½ gr. and env., 2d. each, 1/2 per dozen.; Papal States ½ baj., 1d., 1/3 per dozen; 1 baj., 2d., 1/9 per dozen; Portugal 5 reis, 1d., 6d. per dozen; 10 reis, 2d., 1/ per dozen, the set, 1/10; Prince Edward Island penny, 2d. each, 1/10 per dozen; twopenny, 4d. each, 3/3 per dozen, the set 2/9; Prussia 4 pfg., 1d., 8d. per dozen; 6 pfg., 2d., 1/ per dozen; Queensland penny, 3d. each, 2/3 per dozen; twopenny, 4d. each; threepenny, 6d. each, the set 4/; Russia (new issue) 5 kop., 9d., the set of 8, 10/; Finland, the set of 4, 2/6; St. Lucia red, 3d., 2/ per dozen; blue, 8d.; green, 1/; St. Vincent penny, 3d. each, 2/ per dozen; sixpenny, 1/ each; Sandwich Islands 5 c., 9d.; Saxony 3 pfg., 1d., 8d. per dozen; 1 gro., 2d., 1/ per dozen; 1 gro. and env., 2d. each, 1/9 per dozen; Spain issue 1857) 4 c. rose, 4d.; (present issue) 2 c., 2d., 1/ per dozen; 4 c., 2d., 1/9 per dozen; Cuba ½ rl. plata, 6d.; Sweden 3 ore, 2d., 1/ per dozen; 5 ore, 2d., 1/9 per dozen; Switzerland 2 c., 1d., 6d. per dozen; 3 c., 1d., 9d. per dozen; 5 c., 2d., 1/ per dozen; Trinidad crimson, 2d., 2/6 per dozen; fourpenny 9d. each; sixpenny, 1/ each; (wood block) red, 1/; United States 2 c., 2d., 1/6 per dozen; env. 2 c., 3d., 2/ per dozen; the full set of (5) issue 1857 for 12/6; 3 c. env., on white, buff, and blue paper, 3d. each; 4 c., 10d.; Pony Express 10 c., 9d.; the full set set of 8 stamps and 1 env. for 12/6; local American, 100 varieties at 2d. each or 1/3 per dozen; Western Australia twopenny blue, 8d.; Wurtemburg 1 kr., 1d., 8d. per dozen; 3 kr. and env., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; St. Thomas 3 cents, 4d.; Turkey 20 p., 4d., 3/ per dozen; the set of 4, 3/; Monte Video 180 and 240 c., 1 each; Venezuela ½, ½, 2, 2d., 1/8 per doz.; Italy, Segna Tassa, 10c., 4d. ea. The following are USED, but in good condition:—Sixpenny Antigua, 4d. each; Argentine Republic, 5 c., 6d. each; Austria, first issue (*arms*), 1 and 2 kr., 3d. each; 6 kr., 2d. each; 3 and 9 kr., 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; Austrian Italy, first issue (*arms*), 15 and 30 c., 4d. each; Baden (figure in centre), 1 kr. buff, 6d. each; 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Bahamas penny, fourpenny, and sixpenny, 2d. each, 2/ per dozen; one shilling green, 4d. each; Barbadoes blue and sixpenny red, 2d. each; Bavaria, old and new issues, 2d. each; Belgium, old, 10 and 25 c., 4d. each; Brazil, 30 and 60 reis, 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; (old italic figures), 10, 30, and 60 reis, 2/ each; British Guiana, 12 and 24 c., 2d. each; (newspaper), 1, 2, and 4 c., 2d. each, 1/6 per dozen; Bremen, 5 s. gro., 2d. each; Buenos Ayres, 1 peso blue and 1 peso rose, 6d. each; 2 peso blue and 4 rls. green, 5d. each; Canada, 5 c., 1d. each, 10d. per dozen; 10 c., 2d. each; 17 c., 2d. each; Cape of Good Hope, penny and sixpenny, 2d. each; fourpenny and one shilling, 3d. each; Ceylon, penny, twopenny, and sixpenny, 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen mixed; shilling, 3d. each; Chili 5 and 10 c., 4d. each; 20 c., 8d. each; old, on blue paper, 5 c., 1/ each; Confederate States of America, 5 and 10 c. blue (genuine), 8d. each; Denmark old 4 R.B.S., light and dark brown, 2d. each, 1/ per dozen; French republic, 20, 25, and 40 c., 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen; 10 and 15 c. and 1 franc, 6d. each; presidency, 25 c., 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen; empire, 25 c., 4d. each; French colonies, 10 c., 2d. each; 40 c., 3d. each; Greece, 80 lepta, 2d. each; Grenada penny, 2d. each; Hamburg, 3 and 4 sch., 3d. each; 7 sch., 1d. each; 9 sch., 4d. each; Hanover, first and second issues, 1 g. gro., 1-10, 1-15, and 1-30, and 3 pfg., all 2d. each, 1/3 per dozen m'xed; Hong Kong, 12 and 18 c., 6d. each; India (old), ½, 1, 2, and 4 annas, 2d. each; Jamaica sixpenny, 2d. each; twopenny, fourpenny, and one shilling, 3d. each; old Luxembourg 10 c. black, 4d.; 1 s. gro. red, 6d.; Modena, 5, 15, and 25 c., 6d. each; 10 and 40 c., 9d. each; 9 c. n c., 1/ each; Monte Video, 60 c., 5d. each; Naples, 2, 5, and 10 gr., 6d. each; 1 and 20 gr., 8d. each; New Brunswick (old) threepenny, 6d. each; 5 c., 1d. each, 9d. per dozen; 10 c., 3d. each; 12½ c., 2d. each; 17 c., 6d. each; New Granada 10 c., blue, 9d.; New South Wales penny, twopenny, threepenny, sixpenny, and one shilling, all 2d. each, 1/ per dozen mixed; old threepenny, 5d. each; New Zealand twopenny and sixpenny, 2d. each; threepenny, 4d. each; shilling, 3d. each; Norway, 3 and 8 sk., 1d. each; old 4 sk. 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(warranted genuine), 1/ each; Russia, 10 kop., 2d. each; 20 and 30 kop., 6d. each; St. Vincent penny, 2d. each; Saxony, first issue, ½, 1, 2, and 3 gr., 2d. each; second issue, 1d. each; Sicily, 2 gr., 4d. each; 1, 5, and 10 gr., 9d. each; 20 gr., 1/ each; Spain, issues 1850 and '51, 6 c. black, and '52 6 c., rose, 6d. each; 1853 and '54, 6 c., rose, 4d. each; 1856 and '57, 4 c. rose, 2d. each; Sweden (old), 4, 6, and 8 sk. brn., 3d. each; old *Frimarke for Landbref*, black, 4d. each; present issue, 5, 9, 12, 24, and 30 ore, 2d. each; 50 ore, 3d. each; Swiss, old issue at 2d. each; new issue, 1 franc gilt, 3d. each; Tuscany (lion), 2, 4, and 6 c., 2d. each; 1 and 9 c., 4d. each; (shield), 10, 20, and 40 c., 4d. each; 1 quattr black, 1/6; United States (old post-office), 5 c., 9d. each; 10 c., 1/ each; old issue, 3 c., 1d. each; 5 c., 6d. each; 10, 12, and 24 c., 2d. each; env. 3 c., 3d. each; Pony Express, 1, 2, and 4 dollars at 1/ each; Van Diemen's Land penny, twopenny, fourpenny, and sixpenny at 2d. each; Victoria, first issue, threepenny, 4d. each; second issue, twopenny, 6d. each; present issue, twopenny, threepenny, fourpenny, and shilling at 2d. each; penny and sixpenny at 1d. each; two-shilling, 3d. each; Western Australia, penny rose, 2d. each; twopenny blue, 6d. each; fourpenny blue, 5d. each; Wurtemburg, first issue (figure in centre), 3, 6, and 9 kr., 3d. each. N.B.—All orders forwarded per return of post. Communications requiring a reply to contain stamp for that purpose.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have the following stamps for sale:—*Unused*.—Antigua penny 2d.; Austria 2 kr. 1d.. 3 kr. 2d., newspaper 1 and 2 kr. 2d. each, 1858 (head of emperor) blue 1/, lilac 1/, 1861 lavender 2 l.; Baden 1 kr. 1d., 3 kr. 2d., Baden Land-post 1 kr. 3d., 3 kr. 4d.; Bahamas penny 4d., fourpenny 10d., sixpenny 1/3, set 2/; Bavaria 1 kr. 1d., 3 kr. 2d.; Bergedorf ½ sch., 1d., 9d per dozen, 1 sch. 2d., 1/6 per dozen, 1½ yellow 3d., 2/3 per dozen, set of 5 1/2; Brazil 10 reis 2d., 30 reis 3d., 60 reis 4d., 280 reis vermillion 1/3, 430 orange 2/3; British Guiana 1 c. 2d., 2 c. 4d., 4 c. 5d., 8 c. 9d.; Brunswick ½, ½, ½ 1d. each; Canada 1 c. 2d., 5 c. 4d., 10 c. 9d., 12½ c. 9d., 17 c. 1/, env. 5c. 6d., 10 c. 9d., set of 7 4/; Denmark 2 sk. 1d., 10d. per dozen, 4 sk. 3d., 2/ per dozen, set of 4 1/; China 2 c. 3d.; French colony (Martinique) 1 c. 1d. each, 5 c. 4d., 10 c. 6d.; Germany (north) ½, ½ 1d. each, 8d. per dozen, ½ 2d., 1/ per dozen; Greece 1 lept. 1d., 2 lept. 2d., 5 lept. 3d., 10 lept. 4d.; Hamburg ½ 1d., 9d. per dozen, 1 s. 2d., 1/4 per dozen, 2 3d., 3 4d., 4 6d., 7 9d., 9 1/, set of 7 complete 2/8; Hamburg Baten (Th. Lafrenz) set of 10, ½ sch. 10d., set of 1 sch. 6d.; Hanover 3 pfg. 1d., ½ gr. 1d., 1 gr. 2d., 2 gr. 4d., 3 gr. 6d., set of 5 adhesive and 3 envelopes 2/3; Lubeck (out of use) 2/ per set of 5, (present issue) ½ sch. 1d., 9d. per dozen, 1 sch. 2d., set of 5 1/3; Luxembourg 1, 2, and 4 c. 1d. each, 10 c. and 12½ c. 2d., 9 c. 4 of 9 2/; Malta half penny 1d., Moldo-Wallachia 3 p. 4d., 6 p. 6d., 30 p. 1/3, set 2/; Monte Video 180 and 240 c., Billgencia 80 c., and 1 real at 1 each; New Brunswick 1 c. 1d., 10d per dozen, 5 c. 6d., 10 c. 9d.; Newfoundland penny 3d. each, 2/ per dozen, twopenny 4d., threepenny 8d., fourpenny 8d., sixpence-half penny 1/, eightpenny 1/4, shilling 2/; Norway 2 sk. 2d., 3 3d., 4 3d., 8 6d., set 10d.; Nova Scotia 1 c. 2d., 5 c. 4d., 8½ c. 9d., 10 c. 10d., 2 c. violet 3d. each; Papal States ½ 2d.; Portugal 5 reis 1d., 10 reis 1d., 25 reis 3d.; Saxony (new kind) 3 pfg. 1d. each, 10d. dozen, ½ gr. 2d., 1/6 dozen; United States (1857) 1 c. 4d., 3 c. 4d., 10 c. 6d., set of 3 1/, (1861) 1 c. 1d., 3 c. 2d., 5 c. 6d., env. 1 c. 3d., 3c. 4d.; New Granada 5 c. 1/3; Trinidad (first issue) block print red 1/. The following are used, but in the best condition, and only slightly obliterated:—Buenos Ayres (head) 1 peso rose 1d. 1 peso blue 8d., 2 pesos blue 8d., 2 pesos vermilion 1/, 4 reales green 8d.; Austria (first issue, 1850) 1 kr. arms yellow 4d., 2 kr. black 4d., 3, 6, and 9 kr. 1d. each, (gazette stamps) 1857 head of Mercury blue 8d.; Baden 1850 1 kr. buff 10 ½, 3 kr. yellow and 6 kr. green 1d. each, 1855 1 kr. white 4d., 3 kr. green 3d., 3 kr. blue 4d., 6 yellow 6 pink 2d each; Bavaria 1851 1, 3, 6, 9 2d., 1853 3, 5, 9 2d. each; Mexico 4 real blue 1/3, 1 yellow 1/2, 2 green 1/, 1 green 1/6, 2 pink 1/3; Portugal (Donna Maria and Don Pedro) 25 r. 2d. each; Prussia (first issue) ½, 1, 2, 3 s. gr. 2d. each; Spain 1850 6 cuartos black 6d., 1851 6 cuartos black 6d., 1852 6 cuartos rose 6d., 1853 6 cuartos rose 4d., 1854 4 cuartos pink, 6 cuartos red 4d. each; Tuscany 1 and 2 crs. 6d. each, 4, 6, and 9 crs. 4d. each; Sicily 1 gra. brown 1/, 2 blue 6d., 5 red 10d., 10 blue 6d.; Naples 1 gr. 8d., 2 6d., 5, 10, and 20 4d. each; Western Australia penny black 8d., penny pink 4 d., twopenny orange 6d., twopenny blue 9d., fourpenny blue 9d. An entirely new and revised Price List, giving full particulars of form, value, colour, date of issue, &c., forwarded on receipt of two stamps. All communications to contain stamp for reply, P. O. O. to be made payable to J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Liverpool. Not less than one dozen of each kind of stamps supplied at wholesale prices. All orders executed and forwarded per return of post.

THE POSTAGE-STAMP MAGNIFIER.—All Stamp Collectors should possess one of Stafford Smith & Smith's Postage-Stamp Magnifying Glasses, which will be found of great assistance in detecting forged stamps. Sent post free for 4/. The following is from Mr. Edward J. Cordy, High Street, Malmesbury:—"The Glass is come safe to hand. It is truly invaluable. I only wish I had had it six months ago; it would have saved me a deal of trouble." Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Queen-square House, Bath.

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OMEGA, Everton, Liverpool, will send his List on receipt of two stamps. It includes all the stamps at present in circulation, and most of those that are obsolete. The prices are moderate, as the following selections will show:—Antigua penny, 2d.; Austria (new issue), 2, 3d.; newspaper stamps, old red 2 kr., 4d.; old (head) lavender, 3d.; new lavender (eagle), 2d.; Austrian Italy, new 5 sol., 5d.; Baden, 1, 1d.; Barbadoes, blue, 3d.; green, 2d.; Bavaria, 1, 1d.; Bremen, 2, 2d.; 3, 3d.; Bergedorf, ½, 1½d.; 1, 2d.; Chili, 1 c., 4d.; Ceylon, half-penny, 2d.; Costa Rica, ½ rl., 9d.; Germany (N.), ½, ½, 1d. each; ½, 1½d.; Greece, 1, 1½d.; 2, 1d.; 5, 2d.; Grenada penny, 3d.; Hamburg, ½, 1½d.; 1, 2d.; Hanover, 3 pf., 1d.; ½, 1½d.; Bestellgeld-Frei, 2d.; Hong Kong 2 c., 3d.; Ionian Islands, 8d. per set; Jamaica penny, 2d.; Liberia, 6 c. 10d.; Lubeck (old), ½, 2d.; 1, 3d.; (new), ½, 1½d.; 1, 2d., and envelopes; Moldavia, 5, 8d.; 40, 1/; 80, 1/9; Moldo-Wallachia, 3, 3d.; 6, 4d.; 30, 10d.; New Granada, 5, 9d.; Portugal, 5, 1d.; 10, 1½d.; Prince Edward's Island penny, 2d.; twopenny, 4d.; Spain, 2 1½d.; 4, 2½d.; St. Lucia red, 3d.; St. Vincent penny, 3d.; Trinidad red, 3d.; Sweden, 3, 2d.; Venezuela, 10d. the set of 3, &c., &c., all unused. The following are slightly defaced:—Baden (figure in centre), 3 green, yellow, blue, 6 green, 3d. each; 6 yellow, 9 pink, 2d. each; France, republic, 20 c., 2d.; 25, 2d.; presidency, 25, 3d.; colonies, 10 and 40, 2d. each; Hanover (first issue), 1-30, 1-30, 1-15, and (second issue) 1-30, 1-15, 2d. each, &c., &c., all warranted genuine.

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CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.—Now ready. The Sixpenny Packet of Christmas Complimentary Note Paper, containing six sheets of fancy Note Paper with appropriate headings, for Christmas and the New Year. This Packet contains several varieties all beautifully stamped in colours. Post free, 7d. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & Smith, Queen-square House, Bath.

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MR. R. P. HARLEY, 14, Gloucester Street, Glasgow, Ecosse, desire à correspondre avec des personnes résidentes dans toutes les contrees comtinentales, pour échanger des timbres postes, puisqre il en a des rares à échanger.

ON 15th DECEMBER, 1863, will be published No. I. of the *Stamp Collector's Herald and Monthly Advertiser*. Containing original articles on stamps, engravings of new and rare stamps, &c. Price 2d.; post free, 3d. An unused stamp given with each number. Advertisements received up till 8th December, and charged at the low rate of 2d. for 10 words. Original articl s wanted. Address, R. P. HARLEY, 14 Gloucester Street, Glasgow.

TO STAMP DEALERS.—STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH have for sale the following unused Stamps at the annexed low prices per hundred:—Austrian Italy, 2 soldi, 12/; Baden, 1 kr., 4/6, 3 kr., 10/6; Belgium, 1 c., 2/; Boyd's City Express, 1 cent, 8/6; France, 1 c., 2/. 2 c., 5/6, 5 c. 6/6; Germany, ½ silb. gr., 5/. ½ silb. gr., 6/; Hamburg, ½ sch., 6/, 1 sch., 11/6; Italy, 1 c., 3/6, 2 c., 4/6, 5 c., 8/6; Luxemburg, 1 c., 2/, 2 c., 3/6; Portugal, 10 reis, 7/6; Saxony, 3 pf. (new issue), 7/6; ½ n. gr., 10/6; Switzerland, 2 rap., 4/; 3 rap., 5/; United States, 2-cent adhesive, 13/6; 2-cent envelope, 16/6. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Foreign Stamp Importers, Bath.

WANTED by a PRIVATE COLLECTOR 200 of the rarest obsolete stamps and essays. A fair price will be given. Particulars, stating lowest price, to be sent to A. Z., care of J. SLADE, Ironmonger, 4, Torwood Row, Torquay.

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WANTED AGENTS in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany, and all the schools therein, to sell all kinds of postage stamps at a commission of 15 per cent. off the lowest trade prices. See other advertisement. Apply at once to C. K. JONES, 59, Barlow Street, Ardwick, Manchester.

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RARE and OBSOLETE STAMPS forwarded on approval, on receipt of stamped envelope, at moderate prices. Old Italy, Hanover, and colonial on hand. Wanted a good collection of 400 to 500. Extensive foreign and home correspondence enable A. B., 57, York Place, Edinburgh, to offer collectors a great variety for inspection.

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DOES ANY ONE WANT *CHEAP* STAMPS?—If so, send a list of stamps wanted, and a stamped envelope, to S. DAVIS, 18, Granby Street, Leicester. One of Oppen's albums and catalogue, with 200 stamps already in, sent to any address post free on receipt of Post Order for 3/, payable to S. DAVIS, Leicester. Local American stamps cheap, Zurich, 1/ each; Hong Kong unused 24 c., 1/6 each.

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CATALOGUE of POSTAGE STAMPS,—BRITISH, COLONIAL, and FOREIGN. By Mount Brown. Containing an accurate description of the form, colour, date of issue, and value, of 1700 varieties. Price 1/; post free, 1/1. Bound in morocco leather, and interleaved for Collectors, 2/; post free, 2/2. Address, Mr. BROWN, care of Mr. Passmore, Bookseller, 124, Cheapside, London. ⁂ December Price List of obsolete and new stamps, post free, 3d.

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NOTICE!—Messrs. KENNEDY McDERMID & Co. have foreign postage stamps at marvellously low prices. Examples from catalogue for November:—Turkey 20 paras 3d., 1 piastre 4d., 2 piastres, 6d., 5 piastres 1/3, or 2/ per set; Western Australia penny pink 4d., twopenny blue 6d., shilling green 2/6; Nova Scotia 1 c. 1½d., 2 c. 3d. 5 c., 4d., 8½ c. 9d., 10 c. 10d.; Antigua penny 3d., sixpenny 1/; Lubeck old issue the set 1/3, new issue 1/3 per set; Nicaragua 2/3 set of 2, or 2 c. 1/, 5 c. 1/6; Hamburg, 3/4 the set; Malta halfpenny 1½d.; Hong Kong 2 c. 4d.; Luxemburg 1 c. 2d. per dozen, 2 c., 4d. per dozen. 4 c., 1d. each; Bremen 2 grote orange 2d. The above are all unused. Western Australia (used) penny pink 3d., twopenny black 4d., fourpenny blue 7d., penny black 8d., twopenny vermillion 6d., twopenny chocolate on red 3.6, sixpenny green 2/6, sixpenny bronze 3/, sixpenny carmine 9d., shilling green 1/6, shilling maroon 2/ each used; Nicaragua 2 c. 9d., 5 c. 1/ used; Nova Scotia 1 c. 8d. per dozen, 5 c. 1/4 per dozen used; also Romagna, Modena, Neapolitan, Sicilies, old Spanish, Schleswig-Holstein, Mexico, Parma, Costa Rica, &c. Stamps sent on approval, if kept beyond one week not allowed for. Terms cash. K. McD. & Co. wish to purchase some Russian stamps used and unused. 79A, George Street, Edinburgh.

PUBLIC NOTICE!—Mr. GEORGE PRIOR of 48, Fenchurch Street, London E.C., begs to inform his friends and the public generally, that the business of Mr. Frank E. Millar, of Dalston, will in future be carried on under the name and management of Mr. George Prior, to whom all correspondence should be addressed in full as above. Mr. Prior begs to draw especial attention to his large and comprehensive Price List, containing many hundred varieties, published on the first of December, post free for twopence, including a very rare unused European stamp only just issued, and which alone from most dealers costs threepence. All the old issues of Hanover, both envelopes and adhesive, unused at lower prices than generally charged for used specimens. The proposed 3 pfg. green Hanover, in place of the old rose-colour, with a different inscription, price 6d. unused; Sandwich Islands 5 c. blue 4d. each; New Brunswick 1 c. (engine) 2d.; Pony Express used 6d. each.

MR. R. COWLEY-SQUIER, Wellington Hall, Dover, in returning thanks for the liberal patronage he has received, begs to announce that he has greatly increased his stock, and at the same time reduced his prices. His large and varied assortment comprises:—Parma (used and unused), Romagna (ditto), Modena, old Italian, old Spanish, and many other rarities obsolete, either used or unused. Mr. Cowley-Squier has a quantity of cheap stamps for juvenile collectors.

RARE STAMPS SENT ON APPROVAL:—Parma, Modena, old Italian, old 3 pf. Saxon, ½ baj. grey Papal States, old 1 black Bavaria, Spanish (1850) 12 cuartos and all the old Spanish, Romagna, Sicily, old Brunswick, Hanover, old 1 and 10 (head) Luxembourg, and others too numerous to mention, at exceedingly low prices. C. K. J., Barlow Street, Ardwick, near Manchester.

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RARE OBSOLETE STAMPS, including Pacific, Buenos Ayres, Romagna, Spain, Luzon, Sicily, &c., sent on approval at marked prices. J. Inch, Buckingham Terrace, London.

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G. W. WILKINSON, 9, Goldsmith Square, Stoke Newington, London, N., sends stamps out on approval on receipt of stamped envelope.

J. J. H. STOCKALL & Co., Broad Green, near Liverpool, have now on hand a large quantity of used stamps, which they are selling at the very low price of 2/6 per hundred mixed; consisting of Austria, arms, 3, 6, and 9 kr.; also head, second, third, and fourth issues; Bavaria, 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr., issue of 1851, also the present issue; Baden, figure in centre; Brunswick, Canada, Denmark, 4 rigsbank sk., and present issue; Germany, ½, 1, 2, 3 s. gr.; and 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr.; Hamburg, Hanover, first and other issues; Italy; New Brunswick; Portugal; Prussia, first issue, head of William IV., 1, 2, 3, s. gr.; and second issue; and also the eagle, third issue; Saxony, first issue, head of Frederic Augustus, 1 and 3 s. gr.; second issue (out of use lately), ½ grey, 1 rose, 2 blue, 3 yellow, 5 red, and 3 pfg., green; Tuscany (lion and shield), one in each 100; Sicily or Naples, one of either in each 100; United States, Wurtemburg, &c., &c., at the aforesaid rate of 2,6 per 100 (mixed).

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ARMS AND FLAGS FOR STAMP ALBUMS.—Stafford Smith & Smith have just received a supply of the Arms of all Nations and Flags of all Nations specially adapted for stamp albums, being beautifully emblazoned in gold and silver. Price 1/6 each set; post free, 1/7. Address, Stafford Smith & Smith, Queen-square House, Bath.

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NEW CALEDONIAN 10 CENTIMES Grey.—A post-marked specimen (in first-rate condition) of this very rare stamp for sale, price £1 1s. nett. A written warranty of genuineness will be given to the purchaser. Address, Frederick Deviones, The London Central News Rooms, 191, Cheapside, London, E.C.

STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS!—Selections sent to any address on receipt of postage. Beta, Post-Office, Crauford, Hounslow, W.

MENLOVE BROTHERS, 39, Manchester Street, Manchester Square, London, W., will send stamps on approval on receipt of stamped envelope.

W. DIAMOND, Dealer in Coins and scarce Stamps. Send two stamps for his Price List and Pocket Almanack. Old foreign and colonial stamps from one penny per dozen. Copy the address:—Rifle House, Westbourne Grove, Bayswater, London, W. Collections purchased.

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MESSRS. KENNEDY McDERMID & Co., Ausländisch und Colonial Postmarken Händler, wünschen mit ein Auslande sich befindenden Händlern, durch einen Briefwechsel in terkehr zu stehen, sie wünschen die postatempel von Russland, der Franz sischen Colonien, Italien, etc., zu Raufen, und sie Nennen Händler mit stempfen von Neu Schottland, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Antigua, Neufundland, etc., versehen. Addresse, 79, George Street, Edinburg, Schottland.

Second Edition, greatly enlarged and improved.

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SPANISH STAMPS (1850-51-53), 6 cuartos, 9d. each, or 8/ dozen. Austria (head of Mercury) blue, 8d. Stamps sent on approval by GEORGE HYAMS, 19, Walcot Buildings, Bath. Stamps bought.

T. B. BROWN, of Cheshire View, Pendleton, Manchester, begs respectfully to inform foreign postage stamp collectors, that he can now supply them with all kinds of rare and common postage stamps at very low prices, and will forward selections from his large stock to any address for inspection, on application. Collections made up very cheap, for persons beginning to collect. All kinds of stamps bought, if cheap. T. B. B. wishes to correspond with persons on the continents of Europe and America. All communications requiring a reply must contain a stamp for that purpose.

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25 BONA-FIDE addresses of Foreign Stamp Dealers, 5/, namely, West Indian, St. Petersburg, &c. Separate, 6d. each. Money returned if found fictitious. J. BOND, 24, Mark Lane, London.

G. RAWLL, 139, Leadenhall Street, London, has for sale unused Austria newspaper 1d. 8d. per doz., 2 kr. 10d. per doz. 3 kr. and envelopes 1/4 per doz., Mercury (blue) 8d., Nova Scotia, 2c. 2d., 1/9 per dozen, Newfoundland, 1d. 3d., 2/- per dozen. Also used 20c. 25c, Republic, 1d., 9d. per dozen, Spain 1850 and '51, &c. 6 c. 6d. 5/ doz. mixed. Send 3 stamps for List and unused West Indian. Foreign and Colonial correspondents wanted.

CATALOGUE of POSTAGE STAMPS, edited by ERICHSCHE & KÖDER, of Leipzig. Contains list of 1300 stamps, with preface in English, French, and German, also a Money Table. Elegantly printed, foolscap 8vo. Price 1/, post free.

150 EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMPS for ONE-AND-SIXPENCE.—Just published, carte de visite size, beautifully executed Microscopic Photographs of nearly 150 European Postage Stamps, comprising both obsolete and present issues. Price 1/6; post free, 1/7. Address, STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, Queen-square House, Bath.

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REGARDEZ!!!! Unused Moldo-Wallachia, 3 p. 3d., 2/6 per dozen, Venezuela, 2d. 1/6 per doz., Papal States, 1 baj. 1d., 10d. per doz. Also used B. Guiana Gazette PEARL BORDER, 6d. per set, 10d. per doz. mixed. J. BOND, 24, Mark Lane, London.

ALEXANDER ROSENBERG wishes for correspondents in Sweden, Denmark, and Italy, who would exchange Stamps of these countries for Austrian stamps (all kinds). Letters post free. Vienna, Jägerzeile 42.

DISPATCH!—Packets of Stamps, all different varieties:—Twelve unused, 9d.; twenty-four foreign and colonial mixed, many unused, 1/. Post free for one stamp extra. Stamps bought. Rare stamps sent on approval on receipt of postage. J. PLATT, Akbar, Birkenhead.

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W. LINCOLN, Jun. (at W. S. Lincoln & Sons), 462, New Oxford Street, London, will send his Priced List of foreign and colonial stamps for one stamp. Justin Lallier's albums, new edition, 7/6 each. American 2-cents envelopes, 3d. each. *** Rare stamps bought.

VANCE & Co., Alston Street, Ladywood, Birmingham, send stamps on approval on receipt of an application enclosing two stamps. Old Spanish (1850-1-2-3), Belgium, Luxembourg, Modena, Parma, Sicily, &c. in stock, Twopenny Mulready envelopes, 2/6 each. Rare stamps purchased.

FIRST-CLASS COLLECTIONS of not less than 1000 purchased on very liberal terms. Also 10,000 colonial stamps wanted, assorted. State lowest price per 1000 to MOUNT BROWN, 124, Cheapside, London.

IF YOU WANT CHEAP STAMPS, apply to WALLACE & Co., 11, Lee Crescent, Birmingham. For varieties see other advertisement.

OH YES!!—WALLACE & Co., 11, Lee Crescent, Birmingham, continue to send stamps on approval on receipt of stamp for postage. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Confederation, Monte Video, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Zurich, French Republic, and other rare stamps always on hand.

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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

INTRODUCTION.

MYSELF.

'Pity the sorrows of a lonely man,
With books, and friends, and ample means, that can
Enjoy himself, and lounge about the town,
And reach his lodgings fearless of a frown.'

It was a cold, dark night in December: without, the wind moaned in fitful gusts, and the slow, steady rain beat in dreary, monotonous cadence on my window panes; but I was little affected by either—the closely-drawn curtains shutting out the gloom of the evening; and a clear, bright fire defying the raging of the elements.

With a feeling of intense comfort and complacency, I glanced round my warm, snug bachelor's room. I was alone in the world, having lost my father and mother in early childhood. My bringing-up and education were superintended by a cross, selfish, and misanthropical old uncle, my sole relative, and who, as soon as he had obtained for me a lucrative situation as clerk in Messrs. Clark and Thomson's office, in the city, washed his hands of my future, and left his only nephew to make his way, unprotected and uncared for, in the wide world. But it was with no very keen sorrow at my lonely condition, that I drew my chair and table nearer the cheery wood fire on this cold winter's evening, and set myself to arrange, for the hundredth time at least, my choice collection of stamps—placing, replacing, and displacing them in my pretty russia-leather album. I had been peculiarly fortunate, and ranked amongst my collection the rarest and choicest specimens. The mania had just then come into fashion; and I was one of the most ardent and devoted votaries of *Timbromanie*.

While thus, with pleased and satisfied eyes, gloating over my treasures, I was suddenly interrupted by the abrupt entrance of my former school friend, Charles Lawson, who in his usual impetuous manner rushed up to me, shook both my hands, and finally threw himself, breathless and exhausted, into the chair opposite mine. Before I had time to collect my scattered thoughts, he was pouring forth a string of arguments, entreaties, and supplications, the sense of which, after some time, I managed to gather. He was going with two or three mutual acquaintances to see the *Colleen Bawn*, then in the zenith of its popularity, and afterwards all were to adjourn to some famous oyster rooms to supper. 'Would I be of the party? If so, we must lose no time; we must start directly.' I was about to replace my album in the table drawer as usual, when my restless, impatient friend interrupted me by exclaiming:—

'Come along, old fellow; don't wait to put anything away; I am off, you see.'

Hastily extinguishing my lamp, I followed Lawson, who had by this time nearly reached the street door.

CHAPTER I.

MY LOSS.

'"Madam! I've lost my album, with a pack
Of choicest postage stamps. Call Susan—Jack—
Confound it!" And the woman cries, "Alack!
If Con has found it, perhaps he'll bring it back."'

It was long after midnight before I returned home, after this night of unusual dissipation. I was far too tired to think of anything but getting to bed as quickly as possible, and, once there, I fell into a sound and dreamless sleep, from which I did not awake until the stroke of eight tolling from St. Clement's Church, hard by, put the drowsy god to

flight; but it was not till I was dressed, and had swallowed my hasty breakfast, that I remembered my cherished stamps, so carelessly left on the table the night before. Glancing round the room, I perceived no vestige of my album! Inwardly cursing my good landlady's officious tidiness, I rang the bell, summoning her to my awful presence. Vain were all my questions, abjurations, and, finally, threats. Mrs. Matson had not set eyes upon them: when she entered the room to set the breakfast the table was empty. After a vigorous and prolonged search, I gave up the stamps as lost, and consequently became exasperated and furious. I raged and stormed in, I am afraid, a very ungentlemanly way; but the woman's tale remained unaltered.

'I had been shamefully, disgracefully robbed; I would not remain in her house another day; I would send for the police; the utmost rigour of the law should be employed to enforce the restoration of my cherished property;' and at last (oh! reader, tell it not in Gath), blinded by passion and anger, I took my weeping landlady by her two fat shoulders, and pushed her violently out of the room.

'The bold, impudent creature!' exclaimed I, loudly and indignantly, 'to dare to stand there and face me out that she knew nothing of the extraordinary disappearance of my stamp album. The wretch has dared to cast a covetous eye—to place a sacrilegious hand on the joy and pride of my heart; but she shall live to rue this day; I will sift this matter to the bottom; I will leave no stone unturned to fathom this perplexing mystery.'

It was not alone the loss of my stamps, but the cloud of obscurity which enveloped their disappearance, which provoked and puzzled me. My cunning was baffled; I hated to be mystified; and I also hated to find my penetration at fault.

In similar wild rhapsodies and absurd threats, I passed the ensuing half-hour; but after this I cooled down into a more rational, sensible frame of mind; and though neither my wrath nor annoyance had diminished, I decided, on calmer reflection, to let the affair rest as it was, until I saw my way clearly to the solution of the enigma; and I determined, if the robber should ever prove other than my poor and widowed landlady (which probability, by the bye, I did not see the slightest chance of), it should be 'war to the knife,' as the Spaniards say.

There were several other lodgers besides myself in the house at the time; but as my rooms were reached by a private staircase, I had never come into contact with any of them, except occasionally exchanging little mutual civilities with a young accountant who lived on the floor above mine. He now and then borrowed my books, and sometimes lent me one of his; but these usually passed through Mrs. Matson's hands to reach their destination, and consequently I had only seen my fellow-lodger but twice or thrice, and knew his face but imperfectly.

Carrying into immediate execution my avowed and fixed resolve to leave Mrs. Matson, I quitted her house, and by nine o'clock the same evening was comfortably installed in some small but quiet and respectable apartments in the next street.

(To be continued).

GERMAN PRINCES AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

OUR readers, mature as well as juvenile, may be interested or instructed by a summary of the reigning sovereigns at present composing the Germanic Confederation; their titular designations, dates of birth, and accession to power; and the postage stamps employed in the several states, with their respective periods of issue. The principal referential authority is the *Saxe Gotha Almanack* for 1863.

EMPEROR.

FRANCIS JOSEPH I., of Austria; born August 18th, 1830; ascended the throne, December 2nd, 1848. Austrian stamps first issued New Year's Day, 1852. Four sets, both for letters and newspapers.

KINGS.

FREDERICK WILLIAM, of Prussia; born, March 22nd, 1797; succeeded his brother, January 2nd, 1861. Prussian stamps, November 15th, 1850. Four issues.

MAXIMILIAN II., of Bavaria; born, Novem-

ber 28th, 1811; succeeded, March 21st, 1848. Bavarian stamps, June 5th, 1849. Three issues.

JOHN, of Saxony; born, December 12th, 1811; succeeded, August 9th, 1854. Saxon stamps, June 22nd, 1850. Five types for labels, and two for envelopes.

WILLIAM I., of Würtemburg; born, September 27th, 1781; succeeded, October 30th, 1816. The oldest and longest reigning sovereign in the world. Stamps first issued, October 7th, 1851. Three sets.

GEORGE V., of Hanover: born, May 27th, 1819; succeeded his father, November 28th, 1851. First stamp issued, November 30th, 1850. Four types.

GRAND-DUKES

FREDERICK, of Baden; born, September 9th, 1826; succeeded, September 5th, 1856. Issue of stamps, May 1st, 1851. Two types, and frequent changes of colour.

LOUIS III., of Hesse Darmstadt; born, June 9th, 1806; succeeded, June 16th, 1848. Stamps of the office of Thurn and Taxis, numerical value in kreuzer, issued in 1850. Four sets, in the same pattern, but with variation in colour of print or paper.

PETER, of Oldenburg; born, July 8th, 1827; succeeded, February 27th, 1853. Started stamps, December 28th, 1851. Five issues of different devices in adhesives, and two in envelopes.

FREDERICK WILLIAM, of Mecklenburg Strelitz; born, October 17th, 1823; succeeded, July 18th, 1853. In this grand-duchy are employed those stamps of the office of Thurn and Taxis valued in silbergroschen, of which there have been three issues of similar pattern, but with variations in colour of impression.

FREDERICK FRANCIS, of Mecklenburg Schwerin; born, February 28th, 1823; succeeded, March 7th, 1842. Issue of stamps, both adhesive and envelope, July 1st, 1856. One of the few states that have made no change.

CHARLES ALEXANDER, of Saxe Weimar; born, June 24th, 1818; succeeded, July 18th, 1853. Silbergroschen issue of Thurn and Taxis.

WILLIAM III., of Luxembourg, King of Holland; born, February 19th, 1817; succeeded, May 17th, 1849. First issue of stamps, November 1st, 1852; second, October 1st, 1859. The former series bore the sovereign's head; but since the partition of the grand-duchy between Holland and Belgium, the arms of the province are represented on the stamps.

DUKES.

FREDERICK, of Anhalt-Dessau-Cöthen-Bernburg; born, October 1st, 1794; succeeded to the government, August 2nd, 1817. The Prussian stamps are used in this duchy.

WILLIAM, of Brunswick; born, April 25th, 1806; succeeded, April 25th, 1831. Three issues of stamps, varying in colour only: the first was on January 1st, 1851. This state, as well as that of Mecklenburg Schwerin, makes use of the singular contrivance of a stamp in four compartments, which can be cut so as to form the several values of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, or 1 silbergroschen.

CHRISTIAN IX., of Holstein and Lauenburg, King of Denmark; succeeded his cousin, November 15th, 1863. The succession is, however, disputed by Frederick, Prince of Augustenburg. For a brief period during the revolt in 1850, the duchy, in unison with Schleswig, started stamps for itself; but at present those of Denmark are employed.

ADOLPHUS, of Nassau; born, July 24th, 1817; succeeded, August 20th, 1839. The kreuzer series of Thurn and Taxis stamps serve for this duchy.

ERNEST II., of Saxe Coburg Gotha; born, June 21st, 1818; succeeded, January 29th, 1844. Same as the last.

ERNEST FREDERICK, of Saxe Altenberg; born, September 16th, 1826; succeeded, August 3rd, 1853. This duchy uses the silbergroschen issue of Thurn and Taxis.

BERNARD ERICH, of Saxe Meiningen; born, December 17th, 1800; succeeded, December 24th, 1803. Stamps of the kreuzer series of the Thurn and Taxis office.

PRINCES.

JOHN MARIA, of Liechtenstein; born, October 5th, 1840; succeeded, November 12th, 1858. The stamps of Austria do duty in this principality.

PAUL LEOPOLD, of Lippe; born, September 1st, 1827; succeeded, June 1st, 1851. The stamps used are those of the silbergroschen issue of Thurn and Taxis.

HENRY XXII., of Reuss Greiz; born, March 28th, 1846; succeeded, November 8th, 1858. Same stamps as the last.

HENRY LXVII., of Reuss Schleiz; born, October 20th, 1789; succeeded, June 19th, 1854. As the preceding.

ADOLPHUS, of Schaumburg-Lippe; born, August 1st, 1807; succeeded, November 21st, 1860. As before.

FREDERICK GUNTHER, of Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt; born, November 16th, 1793; succeeded, November 6th, 1814. As before.

GUNTHER FREDERICK CHARLES, of Schwartzburg Sonderhausen; born, September 24th, 1801; succeeded, September 3rd, 1835. The stamps of Prussia circulate in this principality.

GEORGE VICTOR, of Waldeck; born, January 14th, 1831; succeeded, May 15th, 1845. The Prussian stamps are current here also.

In addition to these principalities, without any vote in the Diet, are those of Birkenfeld, which has been transferred to the ducal house of Oldenburg since 1817, and which employs the postage stamps of Prussia; and those of Hohenzollern Hechingen and Hohenzollern Sigmaringen, since 1850 under the sole possession of PRINCE ANTONY. The kreuzer stamps of Thurn and Taxis do duty in this small principality.

LANDGRAVE.

FERDINAND, of Hesse Homburg; born, April 26th, 1783; succeeded, September 8th, 1848. Same as the last.

FREE STATES.

FRANKFORT, employing those of the kreuzer series of the office of Thurn and Taxis.

HAMBURG has half a dozen stamps, published January, 1859, for Holland, England, and transmarine correspondence, besides numerous private offices employing stamps similar in nature to those of some of the cities of the United States, for local purposes. This city has, moreover, six other post-offices; one, using the stamps of Thurn and Taxis, for Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and South Germany; a second, employing the Prussian stamps, for Prussia, Poland, and Russia; a third, the Danish, for Denmark; a fourth, the Swedish, for Sweden and Norway; a fifth, those of Hanover, for Hanover; and lastly, one using those of Mecklenburg, for that country.

LUBECK. The authorities of this city have given forth two series of adhesive postage stamps; the first, on New Year's Day, 1859; the second and a set of envelopes, last year. Like Hamburg, Lubeck also contains additional post-offices, viz., one, issuing the stamps of Thurn and Taxis; and another, those of Denmark.

BERGEDORF, a dependency on these two latter cities, gives us its singular and once *recherché* stamps, first issued November 1st, 1861.

BREMEN closes the list with half a dozen stamps, of elegant and various designs, the first of which was issued April 4th, 1855.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

I.—ROMAGNA.

HAVING previously insisted on the unfrivolous nature of the present fast-increasing and widely-spreading taste for collecting postage stamps, and its undoubtful utility as accessory to geographical and historical studies, we cannot do better than prove our proposition by some brief notices of those countries brought more prominently before view, by the rarity or singularity of their postal emissions.

The subject of our first article, for upwards of twelve centuries the appellation of one of the most beautiful and fertile tracts of the Garden of Europe, were we to launch out into any extended description of its geographical features, or endeavour to depict a tithe of the stirring events occupying its citizens and ennobling its cities for so long a period, would lead us to trespass far beyond the limits prescribed by the nature of our unpretending publication. Our object, then, is to afford a simple outline of the past and present state of the district under consideration.

The very name, Romagna, will probably, ere long, be merged in one united Italy, and preserved from oblivion only in the pages of the stamp-collector's album. This immortality it will owe but to the emission of a few postage stamps, whose official duration did not exceed a twelvemonth!

The term Romagna, bestowed when the Exarchates fixed their residence at Ravenna, the capital of the region, thereby rendering it a second Rome; and that of Romandiola, by which it is frequently distinguished by the writers on the middle ages; appear with very singular distinctness to identify the same portion of country for many centuries of history. As the usual and extreme boundaries, may be taken the river Po on the north, and the Tuscan Apennines on the south.

We remember, last summer, being ferried across that magnificent river at an unconscionably early hour in the morning, owing to the antiquated and absurd regulation prohibiting the entry into what used to be Papal territory after seven o'clock in the evening. This obliged ourself and companions to post from that very uninteresting Austri-Lombardo-Venetian town, Rovigo, at two in the morning, to avoid sleeping at a most dreary, wretched-looking place on the frontier, rejoicing in the name of Santa Maria Maddalena.

The stamps issued in 1859 by the Provisional Government of Romagna not only did duty in that part of the revolting provinces of the legations more particularly included in the terms Romagna and Romandiola—the inhabitants of which, viz., those of Ravenna and Forli, are still called by the Romans, Romagnoli—but in the remaining two legations of Ferrara and Bologna.

The general products of the beautiful region represented by the stamps in question are, wheat, rye, barley, maize, rice, hemp, flax, and exquisite fruits in abundance; delicious peaches and nectarines ranging from one to five or six for the value of an English farthing. Vineyards and oliveyards adorn and enrich the land; the tobacco plant is largely cultivated; melons and chestnuts abound; the silks and sausages of Bologna are well known; and the fine buffalos of Ferrara are magnificent specimens of the live stock of Italy. The forests of oak, cork, ash, and elm are a valuable addition to the pictorial and fiscal riches of the country; and the fifteen miles of pine forest, part of which now lies between Ravenna and the sea, in the precise spot where the fleet of mighty Rome once lay at anchor, has been a theme for the descriptive powers of Boccaccio and Dante, as also of our own Dryden and Byron.

We may take a cursory view of the principal towns of the region under notice, before proceeding to touch upon its general history.

Ravenna, with the exception of the remains of the wall previously alluded to, has few Roman antiquities to boast of; but many of the churches founded in the early days of Christianity are objects of interest to the visitor. Here is shown the tomb of the wild and wonderful Dante; and here Byron resided some considerable time, and composed several of his plays, and other pieces, in frequent enjoyment of the solitude of 'Ravenna's immemorial wood.'

In the province of Ravenna is the city of Faenza, once the great depôt and place of manufacture of the celebrated majolica ware, or *faience* of the French.

The largest and most populous city of the Romagna in time present is Bologna, in which are at least a hundred churches. The university was once one of the highest rank in Italy, and has turned out many *female* professors of eminence. The wonderful Cardinal Mezzofanti, who spoke forty-two languages, was born in the humbler walks of life in this city. The two leaning towers are curious, but frightfully ugly. The colonnaded streets are both handsome and convenient as shelter from sun or rain. A colonnade, three miles in length, leads from one of the city gates to the church of the Madonna di San Luca, at the top of a very steep and lofty hill. The fatigue of the ascent, to those who would not be attracted by the famous *black* image of the Virgin, the ostensible lion of the place, is well repaid by one of the most magnificent views not only in Italy but in the world.

Ferrara, in the middle ages styled 'Most Fortunate City,' and 'Lady of the Po,' is sadly shorn of its mediæval glories. Its grass-grown streets, however, will ever be trod by the tourist for the sake of a view of the abodes of Aristo and Guarini, and the prison of the gifted and unfortunate Tasso. It is comparatively modern, dating only from the 5th century. It was for some ages under the dominion of the house of D'Este, till it passed to the Pope's authority towards the close of the 16th century. It was here that

> 'Parisina left the hall,
> But not to list to the waterfall,'

and here too that she paid the penalty of her frailty by the severance of her beautiful head from her body. In the province of Ferrara, near Certo, is a small village in proud possession of the Assumption, by Guido. In 1797, the French wished to obtain possession of the prize, but the brave villagers one and all rose in arms, and successfully resisted the attempted brigandage.

Forli contains the town of similar name (a contraction of Forum Livii), founded after the battle of the Metaurus, and named after one of the consuls under whom Asdrubal was defeated there. Its citadel is one of those celebrated for its heroic defence by a woman, Catherine Sporza, in the 15th century. In this province is the Rubicon, ever associated with the name of Cæsar. In Rimini still stands the habitation of the wretched Francesca, for ages famous or infamous in Dante's Hell. Rimini is celebrated also as the spot chosen for the meeting of the council held by the Arians and Athanasians in the middle of the 4th century, which eventuated in the drawing up and promulgation of the mysterious and much disputed Athanasian creed.

The history of the provinces of the Romagna is well nigh identical with that of their acknowledged capital, Ravenna. This town, although one of the most ancient in Italy, is little noticed by historians until the Imperial times, when conjointly with Misenum it became the great station of the Roman fleet. The arch of the Porta Aurea, still standing, is a remnant of the wall built by the emperor Tiberius.

Honorius the First, and his talented and intriguing sister Placidia, made it their residence, and after them numerous less celebrated occupiers of the imperial bed of thorns.

In the middle of the 5th century the last Roman emperor, of similar name to the first king, was banished into Apulia, to make way for one who, without sufficient reason, figures as the first king of Italy, as he never professed to assume the regal power, nor were there ever coins or medals struck in commemoration of him. This was Odoacer, who also made Ravenna the seat of his usurped government, as a sort of consul-general of Rome.

Towards the close of that century, the great Ostrogoth, Theodoric, accompanied by the whole of his tribe, bringing with them their wives, children, cattle, and even furniture, advanced towards Ravenna; and having in the brief space of four years subjected all Italy to his yoke, entered Ravenna in triumph, the archbishop at the head of all his clergy meeting him as if the chosen emissary of heaven. Odoacer, stripped of his power, was not long allowed to retain life.

Theodatus, the nephew and unworthy successor of Theodoric, soon terminated both his regal and mortal existence. During his weak rule, the emperor of the East, the great Justinian, had sent Belisarius, afterwards as famous for his misfortunes as for his prowess, to attack the shattered government of the West. The victories in Italy obtained by him, were afterwards consolidated by his successor Narses, who was rewarded for his conquests with the title of Exarch of Italy; and he also fixed the seat of his rule at Ravenna.

For upwards of two hundred years more the capital of Romagna may have been considered the temporal head of Italy, and the abode of a long line of Exarchs; till in the 8th century it fell into the possession of Astolphus, king of the Longobardi, the ancient Lombards.

He was, however, eventually obliged (although it proved but a nominal cession) to yield possession of his territories to the Papal See, by the coercive pressure of a large army of Franks, under the powerful guidance of 'little King Pepin' the great.

From, or before this time, there is inextricable confusion between the temporal and spiritual power of Rome over many of the chief cities of Italy. The mistress of the world was supposed to have included Ravenna, Bologna, Ferrara, &c., in her jurisdiction; but they were virtually each a species of aristocratic republic, with more or less of surrounding territory, whose supremacy was disputed for by the most powerful existing families. At one time, the infamous Cæsar Borgia, after conquering the district by treachery more than force, was created by his father, Pope Alexander the Sixth, Duke of Romandiola; but it was again annexed to the papacy by his successor Julius II.

From the middle of the 15th, till the commencement of the 16th century, the Venetians were lords paramount of the Romagna. After that the French possessed it for a few years, and then, after one of those numerous anomalous battles they claim to have *won*, leaving their general, Gaston of Nemours, and 20,000 men, of whom a large proportion were their own, lifeless on the field of battle, they made a dignified retreat from Italy. A few years afterwards Ravenna and its surrounding territory were again restored to the Pope by a treaty signed at Bologna.

This last named city, formerly the capital of Northern Etruria, under the denomination of Felsina, under which name it is mentioned by Livy, was colonized by the Romans B.C. 189, and its name changed to Bononia. It formed part of the Exarchate of Vienna under the Longobardi, till the victories of Pepin transferred it to the Papal power. The Bolognese, however, stuck by their motto, 'Libertas,' and proved very disobedient children to their spiritual father; constituting themselves an almost independent republic, and their city the virtual capital of what we understand by the term Romagna. In the 13th century the furious contentions between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines so distracted affairs as to eventuate in the surrender of the inhabitants to the Papal authority. Bologna was made the capital of the Cispadane Republic by the great invader, towards the close of the past century. After his overthrow the Pope again became its master; and again, both in 1831 and 1848, the spirited Bolognese boldly but abortively rose in insurrection, each time quelled by the power of the Austrians.

The Romagnese postage stamps of 1859, together with those of the provisional governments of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany, preserved, we may venture to anticipate, for long, long years in the pages of collectors' albums, will serve like medals, as the proofs of the more fortunate termination of the struggle for freedom in recent times.

In the stamps of the Romagna can be traced the downright matter-of-fact character of the majority of the people of the district. They are totally devoid of artistic effect. Just so much is imprinted on them as to denote their use and value, and nothing else; and they bear the same relation to the other postage stamps of Italy, as the dialect of Bologna does to the more polished ones of the North or South.

For some time eight Romagnese stamps only were known to exist; then appeared the 6 baj. and more recently a 3 baj. yellow, the former of that value being green. This latter is possibly merely an essay or modern reprint; but we think it strange that a 7 baj. has never turned up, there being that value in the corresponding Papal stamps. The simplicity of the engraving of these individuals has given rise to several imitations, some of which are extremely difficult to distinguish from the genuine specimens, which are so rare that we vainly endeavoured to procure any, used or unused, from any shop or post office, when in the course of last summer we passed through the territory of the Romagna.

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS.—I.

BY THE REV. HENRY H. HIGGINS, M.A.

WHEN by the simple act of affixing a Queen's head to a letter, provision is made for its safe transmission from one end of the kingdom to the other, it probably seldom occurs to the sender, that the economy, simplicity, and efficacy of the act are the results of progressive changes which have been brought about during the lapse of centuries, by men who have bestowed a vast amount of thought

and labour upon the investigation of the best means of facilitating the epistolary correspondence of the public.

When a thing has to be done by millions of people in the course of a single day, any one who will show how it may be done more cheaply and expeditiously is a benefactor to the community. It would not be easy to estimate the amount of good that has arisen from the present plan of the penny postage. In commercial transactions the advantage has been very great; and the business correspondence of the country has increased to an extent that would hardly have been credited a quarter of a century ago. But it is in quite another field that we may perhaps find the most genuine fruit of the penny postage, namely, in the preservation of the intimacy between families and members who have left the paternal home and gone out into the world; in friendships more firmly cemented; in the relief of anxious hearts by the reception of unstinted intelligence; and in many such like kindly offices. We may fairly take it for granted, that the epistolary arrangements of buying and selling would, under any circumstances, have kept pace with the commercial progress of the age; but it is very different with those more refined obligations which arise from a sense of regard for the memory of things, and times, and individuals, separated from us by distance. In these things, the removal of a difficulty is equivalent to the exerting of a positive influence; and if we could only know the amount of good that has been done, for example, in the present year, by mothers hearing from daughters 'gone to service,' by young men writing to their old schoolmasters, and in a hundred similar ways, we might fairly attribute a large proportion of this good to the promoters of the penny post, and so be led to regard our little favourites, the postage stamps, as drops in a stream which has brought relief, comfort, refreshment, and even new life, to tens of thousands.

It may not be uninteresting to trace the course by which we have received our present facilities for correspondence; and to do this in an orderly manner requires that in the first instance we should take a glance at the state of things, in this respect, prevailing in very ancient times.

The transmission of letters by special messengers was of much earlier origin than the establishment of posts of any kind: it is, however, probable that even the former method of communication was not in use much before 1000 B.C. The first letter on record had a most unhappy origin. It was undoubtedly a sealed communication; for it was sent by King David to his commander-in-chief, Joab, and contained an order for the death of the messenger. About the year 900 B.C., Naaman was the bearer of a letter from the king of Syria to the king of Israel. Something like the organization of a band of letter carriers seems to have been effected before the year 700 B.C.; for in the days of Hezekiah 'the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel.' It is, however, questionable whether this implies more than the employment, for the occasion, of a number of private messengers; more especially because in the earliest plans for postal arrangements the term 'posts' is applied not to the messengers, but to the stations between which the messengers ran.

Much concurrent testimony ascribes to the Persians the first use of posts. Diodorus Siculus relates that on certain great lines passing from various portions of the Persian kingdom to the royal court, stations were made, and towers built, on which were placed sentinels, 'who gave notices of public occurrences from one to another with a very loud and shrill voice; by which means news was transmitted to the court with great expedition.' But it is evident that no secrecy could be preserved with respect to intelligence thus transmitted. To remedy this inconvenience, Cyrus, as Xenophon tells us, greatly reduced the number of the stations, and changed those which remained into places for the reception of couriers, who rode on swift horses; each courier bearing a dispatch which he delivered up to the officer at the next station, who in turn forwarded it in like manner.

These stations in course of time became the nuclei of dwellings, and even of villages or towns; all the inhabitants of which were

subject to the regulations of the station, and were liable to be impressed, together with their horses and all their possessions, into the service of the king's couriers or Angari. Hence the expression in St. Matthew, 'Whosoever shall compel (Angarize) thee to go a mile, go with him twain.' An amusing account of one of these Angarii in more recent times is given by Colonel Campbell. 'As soon as he stopped at a caravanserai he immediately called lustily about him, in the name of the sultan demanding fresh horses, victuals, &c., on the instant. The terror of this great man operated like magic: nothing could exceed the activity of the men, the briskness of the women, and the terror of the children. But no quickness of preparation, no effort, could satisfy the Angary; he would exhibit his power in a still more striking point of view, and fell to belabouring them with his whip, and kicking them with all his might.' Any one of our well-conducted, business-like, quick-footed postmen in the present day would be not a little astonished if such an *angary* were introduced to him as the representative of his official ancestors.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

THIS present New Year's Day has been appointed as the date of the public issue of the new series of stamps for Italy, fully described in our number for November We present our readers with engravings of the journal and one of the letter stamps. The envelopes for Bavaria, as well as those of Denmark, have been notified for issue the same day, but we have not yet seen them.





Another set of stamps for Venezuela has come over by the last mail. The values are the same as those of the two former series of small stamps, but the size nearly corresponds with the later issue. They are printed in colour on white. The device is an eagle bearing thunderbolts,—as far as we can make out, having examined cancelled specimens only;—this is enclosed in a circle. On the top of the stamp is printed, *Federacion;* and below the circle, *Venezolana.* The value is at the bottom,—*medio real, un real, dos reales.* The colours respectively are yellow, blue, and green.

We this month give representations of the green Bahamas shilling, and the red 2 cents of the Confederate States — the latter bearing the head of President Andrew Jackson, well known in his time by the designation of 'Old Hickory.'





It is strange that the foreign collectors seem to have such a considerable amount of information on the subject of British postage stamps. When on the Continent last summer, we were more than once asked for the essays with the head of Prince Albert. We ourselves had never heard of them, but they have lately emerged from obscurity. It seems that one or two sheets only were printed off for specimens, but never adopted. They are in two colours, black and red. The general appearance of the stamps is that of the common penny ones, and the likeness evidently represents His Royal Highness, sixteen or seventeen years since.

We have also had in our possession a resuscitated envelope stamp of the earliest issue of Hanover. The paper is yellow, bordered with a neat black device; post-horn in each corner; and the words, *Bestellgeld-frei* on the top, bottom, and sides. On the left hand, towards the bottom corner, is —hand-stamped in green—a post-horn in a circle, and *Bestellgeld-frei* also around it. On the folded side is an inscription, defining the limits of the circulation of the stamp and the price at which they could be bought at the post-office, viz., four guten-groschen the dozen!



An engraving of one of the new stamps of Norway is subjoined.

A German magazine describes and figures

a new stamp as emanating from Livonia. It is similar in form and design to the rest of the Russian stamps. The inner oval is green, without any device or inscription. The rest of the stamp is filled in with a minute pattern in rose colour. On the top is *Briefmarke*, and beneath, *Wendenschen Kreises*. No value is marked. We have seen the stamp, but think the absence of monetary denomination and of the Russian arms rather suspicious. The same magazine mentions also two other stamps as new, one of which we have seen for sale occasionally these eighteen months or more, though it has never been recognized in any catalogue. They are horizontally oblong. One is covered with a minute pattern in green, and the other in rose-colour. The latter has *Briefmarke des Wendenschen Kreises*, and the former, *Packenmarke des Wendenschen Kreises*, in black print.

We have just received from New Brunswick a 2 c. orange. The design of the stamp is similar to that of the current 5 c. and 10 c. We understand also that a new series and some new values for Van Diemen's Land are on the point of being issued; and that the next emission of Brazilian stamps will bear the emperor's head, instead of the 'sweet simplicity' of the present device.

THE TRAVELLING POST-OFFICE.

WE must ask our readers to follow us in imagination—as they would have some difficulty in doing so *in propriâ personâ*—on a journey in the travelling post-office, which we propose making, entirely for their benefit.

The railway mail-service, which has been gradually developing itself during the last twenty years, has now assumed gigantic proportions: year by year the estimates for conveying mails by railway have largely increased, with a corresponding decrease in the expenses for their means of conveyance. The railway post-office, applied at first to one or two of the trunk lines diverging from the metropolis, is now, or shortly will be, extended to every considerable line of railway in the kingdom; and by means of different junctions throughout the country, an admirable adjustment is maintained between every large district in the kingdom. The successful working of this post-office machinery, as well as the immunity it enjoys from serious derangements, is due in great measure to the absence of the ordinary railway traffic during the time chosen for the conveyance of mails. This traffic disposed of, and ordinary business-hours over, the serious work of the post-office in our largest towns may be said to commence; and through the long night, a score or two of iron horses are whirling through space, besides an immense amount of finished work securely sealed up, a couple of hundred officials of different grades, busily engaged in all the various operations incident upon the reception and despatch of the national correspondence.

The railway post-office proper comprises a number of divisions or sections, and these, generally, are named from the locality through which they extend; as the Bangor and Leeds Division, the Carlisle and Perth Division. These divisional parts have distinct officers allotted to them, the number regulated by the amount of work to be performed. The length of the divisions—the extent of one of which forms a post-office journey—varies slightly, averaging about 170 miles; the average length of time taken to perform the journeys being between five and six hours. It may be imagined that a proper control of this vast machinery of operations, with its scattered staff of officials, will be difficult; but the efficient working of the whole is, nevertheless, thoroughly and promptly maintained. The entire direction of the travelling-officers rests with the mail-office at St. Martin's-le-Grand, presided over by an inspector-general of mails, with a deputy, and to which office is attached a considerable staff of clerks. The connection between the different branches of the travelling-office and the controlling-office in London is kept up by a number of travelling mail-inspectors.

Suppose we are at one of the many termini of railway operations—the hour close upon midnight—and that time is up, and we have just jumped into the travelling post-office to commence our duties.

Imagine, then, a railway-carriage, somewhat larger than an ordinary saloon-carriage, about twenty-two feet long, and as wide and spacious as the railway arrangements will

allow. Seen from the outside, the large, heavily painted, windowless vehicle looks more as if intended for the conveyance of her Majesty's horses than her Majesty's mails; the roof, however, covered with glass or delicate wire-gauze, and other contrivances, forming an admirable plan of ventilation, soon convinces you that it is intended for some description of the *genus homo*. It is night, you remember, and the inside looks warm and cheerful with its row of bright burning moderator lamps—to which the old globular lamp let into the office from the ceiling is fast giving place—contrasting strongly and pleasantly, as far as we are concerned, with the dimly lighted station, through which the cold night-air is rushing. The reader must abstain, however, from imagining anything like luxury in the internal fittings; everything there is requisite for accomplishing the work in hand, but there is no provision for any kind of indulgence; and spacious as the place seems, there would not be found, by looking narrowly, a single foot of spare room. Along the whole length of one side of the carriage, and encroaching materially upon its width, a number of tiers of boxes are arranged for the sorting operations; the smaller ones for the letters, and the larger ones in the centre of the office, more like shelves, for the newspapers and all that vast variety of articles forwarded according to the rules of book-post. Every available inch of space is covered with upright wooden pegs, in recesses made in the carriage-sides, upon which are hung the bags—made of canvas, with the names of towns legibly painted upon them—to be used in the course of the journey. These recesses, as well as the ends of the office, are well padded over, to secure the safety of the officers.

The work has begun: a pile of bags, one from each considerable town in the neighbourhood, has been thrown into the office; one of the clerks is busy opening them, and the rest—each standing opposite to a distinct set of boxes, labelled with the names of different towns on the route—are rapidly sorting away the letters that have been handed to them from the bags. The clerks look rather sleepy, and this is natural enough, for the hour is a drowsy one, and half the world is dozing; but the feeling is only momentary, merely the result of a patient watching for train-time. The work fairly started, they soon warm with it, and the scene becomes one of animation and a pleasant enough sort of excitement, till every bundle is cut open, and the letters composing them are disposed of in the boxes. The sorting finished, there is at once a movement among the clerks, as they busy themselves in collecting from the different boxes all the letters that have been received for the bags about to be dispatched at the first station; the examination of them is careful or more hurried just as the time allows; the letters are then tied up in packets in the sharp, decisive way long practice makes so easy; and the bags are tied, sealed, and ready for delivery just as the train is brought to a stand. Here the bags are given out; fresh supplies are received from three or four towns in the immediate district, and we are again on our journey, and in our second stage. The bags received are at once opened; the same round of sorting, collecting, examining, is gone through; the same process of despatching for the next and all subsequent postal stations is repeated, just as we have described.

During this our second stage, and before we stop again, we pass two or three important towns: not being among our great centres of population, however, they are not important enough for the mail-train to do them the honour of stopping; so other arrangements have been made for them, and the exchange of letter-bags is effected by machinery whilst the train is progressing at its usual speed. This ingenious contrivance deserves a word in passing, especially as it is now being called more and more into requisition. We will just step out into the adjoining van over the iron gangway that connects it with the post-office carriage. The guard is looking out for the familiar object, such as bridge, river, or cluster of trees, by which he tells his whereabouts with almost mathematical precision. Whilst he is busy finding his position, we will take the time to explain that the machinery is arranged so as to secure, simultaneously in most cases, both

the receipt and the dispatch of bags. For the purpose of receiving bags, a large strong net is fixed to one side of the van, to be drawn down at the proper moment; and close to the door, on each side of it, securely fixed to the carriage, are hollow iron bars, inside each of which, working by means of a rope and pulley, an iron arm is fixed, upon which the bags to be delivered, securely strapped in a thick, leathern pouch, are suspended; and where the exchange has to be effected at the station we are nearing, the arrangements are just the counterparts of this. A net is spread to catch each pouch from the extended arm of the carriage, and pouches are hung from iron standards in the ground of sufficient height for the net in the train. The operation itself is just commencing: the door is pushed back into the groove in which it works, and then the guard, touching a spring that holds up the net, it is loosened from its supports, and projects over the carriage-sides; the iron arm, acting on its pulley-rope, is drawn round into the carriage, where the pouch is rapidly fastened to it by means of a catch or spring—but in such a manner that a touch from the net-apparatus at the station will bring it off—and then let down, remaining by virtue of its own weight at right angles to the door. A moment of waiting, and then all the machinery acts its assigned part properly; the pouch disappears from the arm, or arms (if the bags have been heavy enough for both to be used), with a whack; the latest arrival lands in our net with another; and all is over and quiet as before. We mean, of course, *comparative* quiet, as much as is possible amid the din and endless rattle of a train speeding away at the rate of forty miles an hour. We make our way back into the other carriage, the guard bringing with him the treasures we have watched him pick up by the wayside: and these bags opened, and contents sorted off in the orthodox way, we are at the end of another stage.

Here, evidently, comes the tug of war. We have arrived at one of the principal mail-junctions in the kingdom, and an immense number of bags is waiting our arrival. These bags have been brought, somewhat earlier on, by other mail-trains arranged to effect a junction with us; and these, in their turn, have met with other trains running across the country in transverse directions. Bags from towns near and towns remote, with letters for places all along our line of route, as well as letters just passing, *in transitu*, from this office to some other, are here stowed in, till we can scarcely find standing space. The work, however, is resumed with more energy than ever, and it is surprising how soon, by persistent activity, we come to feel comfortable again. The necessity there is for a certain amount of work being accomplished at a certain point, acts as a spur upon us, and we feel the working-spirit of the office has to be exerted to its fullest extent.

The country through which we are now travelling is only thinly supplied with towns, and consequently, the number of letters received into the office is much smaller. The clerks produce from their hiding-places under the blue-cloth covered counter a round kind of swing-seat attached to it, which turns outside ingeniously upon a swivel, and for some time are seated at their work. We take advantage of this break in the character of the duty to observe more closely the various letters that the clerks are examining.

That the office is conducted on the most approved democratic principles, is a fact patent to any onlooker. The same sort of variety that marks Society, here marks its letters: envelopes of all shades and sizes; handwriting of all imaginable kinds, written in all shades of ink, with every description of pen; names the oddest, and names the most ordinary, and patronymics to which no possible exception could be taken. Here is an envelope stamped with the escutcheoned signet of an earl; another, where the wax has yielded submissively to the initials of plain John Brown; and another, plastered with cobblers' wax, with an impression that makes no figure in Debrett, and which, indeed, bears undeniable evidence of having been manufactured with hob-nails! They are all mingling, for a few hours at any rate, in common fellowship—tossed about in company, honoured with the self-same knocks on the head, sent to their destination locked in loving embrace, and sometimes, in the case of the cobbler's, exceedingly difficult to part

at all. Some of the addresses are amusing in their ambiguity; some are absolutely blundering; some say too little, others too much; some give the phonetic system with *malice prepense*, others, because it is nature's own rendering, and they have never known school; in all which cases, the work of examination is necessarily deliberate, hesitating, or slow.

We are at our destination at last; with a feeling of dreamy wonder that something has not happened to us; that, considering the noise and the whirl, our brain is not tied up in a knot somewhere in the head, instead of only swimming; and that our tympanum is not permanently fractured. Dusty, hungry, tired, sleepy, we hurry through the streets, with the day just breaking.

Of course, this post-office machinery, necessarily in some parts so delicate, is very liable to derangement, does get out of order, and has to depend, as we said at the commencement, to a great extent on the proper carrying out throughout the country of an infinite number of railway arrangements. This was clearly seen during the last severe winter, when delays were almost of daily occurrence, and accidents frequent. It is scarcely possible, however, that, so far as prospective arrangements can be made for changing seasons, we shall have a repetition of the failures and delays of last winter. Railway accidents are fruitful sources of discomfiture to the post-office department. It is surprising, however, how fortunate the majority of mail-trains have been in the immunity they have hitherto enjoyed from serious calamities of this nature. When any such calamity does overtake them, it very seldom happens that the post-office arrangements suffer, except on the particular journey wherein the accident occurred. Fresh supplies of men and *matériel* are summoned with a speed that would, or ought to, surprise some other commissariat departments, and the work proceeds as if the equilibrium had never been disturbed.

Reader, you have doubtless read our paper impatiently; you don't like the way the post-office is managed; you never did, in fact, since you lost that last letter of yours, containing a coin or something else of value, and couldn't get it back by demanding it of the secretary! You haven't faith in us post-office officials, and long for some rival establishment—spirited individuals to take the matter up, and get the monopoly squashed! In the meantime, never send such letters through the post in this way again. Pray, remember that in all large departments there will always be some few liable to temptation, and who will not take pains to resist it. As the Money-order Office was established on purpose to meet your case, we ask you, in the name of the ninety-nine honest men, not to *tempt* the hundredth, who will have sins enough to answer for some day!

But you are indignant that a certain letter you ought to have had is not to hand at the proper moment. However, just think how many letters you do get, which come to your desk as true as the needle to the pole; just listen to the old gentleman yonder, as he tells how long the same business-letter from the old-established house used to be in arriving, and what was paid for it when it did arrive; above all, pray, think of the travelling caged officials—those wingless birds of the post-office—and of what they go through o' nights in order that you may have your letter or your newspaper—posted yesterday in some quiet corner of the country, four hundred miles away—with your buttered toast at breakfast in town!—*Chambers's Journal.*

LIABILITY OF POSTAGE STAMPS TO FRAUDULENT RE-ISSUE.

OF the possibility of a conversion of a considerable proportion of the old postage stamps into a condition to pass any but the closest and most inconvenient scrutiny of the sorters and stampers of the post office, and the probability of large numbers being thus fraudulently re-used, we have recently received positive proof, from specimens before us, some of which have actually been posted, and in the ordinary course delivered at their respective addresses. The processes—for there are more than one—of obviating the cancelling marks are simple and effective; several, we are informed, having been so transmitted by way of experiment through the post office, after due warning, without a

single failure, and subsequently forwarded as evidence to the authorities, by a pre-arrangement with the Secretary of the General Post Office, whose sanction was previously obtained by our informant. This discovery, it is explained to us, was the result of a suspicion entertained by the experimenter of the true motive of the persevering collectors of old stamps in such large and unlimited quantities, the pretence for which, for a long period, has been unintelligible upon any other reasonable hypothesis than a fraudulent object. That this investigation will lead to an improved method of defacing the stamp, we cannot doubt. To what extent, during several years, the revenue may thus have suffered, it would be useless to speculate, but we may reasonably infer that, where fraud is deemed impossible and the letter-sorters rendered unsuspecting, a safe business in this petty species of forgery has been carried on by the initiated to an amount in the aggregate which may have been material, since it applies no less to the larger denominations of postage stamps than the lowest; whilst, under detection and public exposure, the offence is one which will have been, by its impunity, in all probability, quietly spreading by communication among the dishonest.—*Globe*.

[The above extract from the *Globe*, kindly forwarded by a correspondent, we think worth reprinting; but are of opinion that a true stamp collector would no more think of such low, mean, petty forgery than the post-master-general himself.—ED.]

OPENING LETTERS IN THE POST-OFFICE.

THE political correspondence in the reign of George III. affords conclusive evidence that the practice of opening the letters of public men at the post-office, was known to be general. We find statesmen of all parties alluding to the practice, without reserve or hesitation, and entrusting their letters to private hands whenever their communications were confidential.

Traces of this discreditable practice, so far as it ministered to idle or malignant curiosity, have disappeared since the early part of the present century. From that period, the general correspondence of the country through the post-office has been inviolable. But for purposes of police and diplomacy—to thwart conspiracies at home, or hostile combinations abroad—the Secretary of State has continued, until our own time, to issue warrants for opening the letters of persons suspected of crimes, or of designs injurious to the state. This power, sanctioned by long usage, and by many statutes, had been continually exercised for two centuries. But it had passed without observation until 1844, when a petition was presented to the House of Commons from four persons—of whom the notorious Joseph Mazzini was one—complaining that their letters had been detained at the post-office, broken open, and read. Sir James Graham, the Secretary of State, denied that the letters of three of these persons had been opened; but avowed that the letters of one of them had been detained and opened by his warrant, issued under the authority of a statute. Never had any avowal, from a minister, encountered so general a tumult of disapprobation. Even Lord Sidmouth's spy system had escaped more lightly. The public were ignorant of the law—though renewed seven years before—and wholly unconscious of the practice which it sanctioned. Having believed in the security of the post-office, they now dreaded the betrayal of all secrecy and confidence. A general system of espionage being suspected, was condemned with just indignation.

Five-and-twenty years earlier, a minister—secure of a parliamentary majority—having haughtily defended his own conduct, would have been content to refuse further inquiry, and brave public opinion. And in this instance, inquiry was at first successfully resisted; but a few days later, Sir James Graham adopted a course, at once significant of the times, and of his own confidence in the integrity and good faith with which he had discharged a hateful duty. He proposed the appointment of a secret committee, to investigate the law in regard to the opening of letters, and the mode in which it had been exercised. A similar committee was also appointed in the House of Lords. These committees were constituted of the most eminent and impartial men to be found in parliament; and their inquiries, while elicit-

ing startling revelations as to the practice entirely vindicated the personal conduct of Sir James Graham. It appeared that foreign letters had, in early times, been constantly searched, to detect correspondence with Rome, and other foreign powers; that by orders of both Houses, during the Long Parliament, foreign mails had been searched; and that Cromwell's Postage Act expressly authorised the opening of letters, in order 'to discover and prevent dangerous and wicked designs against the peace and welfare of the commonwealth.' Charles II. had interdicted, by proclamation, the opening of any letters, except by warrant from the Secretary of State. By an Act of the 9th Anne, the Secretary of State first received statutory power to issue warrants for the opening of letters; and this authority had been continued by several later statutes for the regulation of the post-office. In 1783, a similar power had been entrusted to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1722, several letters of Bishop Atterbury having been opened, copies were produced in evidence against him, on the bill of pains and penalties. During the rebellion of 1745, and at other periods of public danger, letters had been extensively opened. Nor were warrants restricted to the detection of crimes or practices dangerous to the state. They had been constantly issued for the discovery of forgery and other offences, on the application of the parties concerned in the apprehension of offenders. Since the commencement of this century, they had not exceeded an annual average of eight. They had been issued by successive Secretaries of State, of every party, and except in periods of unusual disturbance, in about the same annual numbers. The public and private correspondence of the country, both foreign and domestic, practically enjoyed complete security. A power so rarely exercised could not have materially advanced the ends of justice. At the same time, if it were wholly withdrawn, the post-office would become the privileged medium of criminal correspondence. No amendment of the law was recommended; and the Secretary of State retains his accustomed authority.—*May's History of England.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Standard Guide to Postage-Stamp Collecting. By BELLARS & DAVIE. London: John Camden Hotten.

'Whoe'er expects a faultless work to see,
Expects what never was, nor is, nor is to be.'

THIS time-honoured distich holds good for all human handiwork, postage-stamp catalogues not excepted. Those at present published, having each its own peculiar excellency and compensating defect, the best and safest advice we can give to the postage-stamp collector is, to invest a trifle—and a very small sum will suffice—in all of them, and thus obtain the needful and accessible information desired.

The work under review is unexceptionable in the quality of the paper, clearness of print, and elegance of the ornamental cover, adorned with the portraits of a number of the rarer stamps in their natural colours. For the good effect of this latter feature the names of Day & Son are ample guarantees.

This publication, moreover, affords an addition to the quantum of scientific knowledge directly or indirectly attainable by means of the study of postage stamps. We allude to a species of *memoria technica*, which a complicated table of characters and figures affords the possessor of it an opportunity of learning and applying to obtain an acquaintance with the shape and comparative rarity of the stamps he possesses or desires.

This insight into the marketable value and scarcity of postage stamps is a new feature in books on the subject; and though necessarily in a great measure approximative only, a stamp of exceeding rarity at one time (witness the 5 reis Queen of Portugal, for example) becoming pretty generally attainable when the great demand, in accordance with the laws of political economy, eventuates in the supply.

The compilers of the work adopt Dr. Gray's plan of placing England and her colonies first, and other countries with their dependencies in alphabetical order. This arrangement, when carried out in albums, tends to weary the eye with an almost interminable series of queen's heads, in more than

three dozen varieties of representation. We much prefer the geographical adaptation in Moens' stamp album.

The separation of private offices and proofs from the main body of the volume is a novel and, in some respects, convenient improvement, though open to objection, as marring the simplicity of the catalogue. Having gone so far, it would have been advisable to make a further separation, placing the locals apart from the proofs. We may remark, incidentally, that the authors have confounded proofs with essays. In the former category may be placed the 24 c., 30 c., and 90 c. of the United States, besides numerous others (as those of Cuba, not noticed in the book); and in the latter, the three-halfpenny English, the stamps intended for Paraguay, &c.

The issues of stamps follow each other so fast that no catalogue can possibly keep up with them; we cannot therefore be surprised at the absence of the new emissions of Hong Kong, Jamaica, the Mauritius, envelopes of Austria and Venetia, Italy, Hanover, &c. The *exact* words of the inscription on the stamps is greatly conducive to facility of identification; and the uncouth-looking words denoting the Swedish values, and the queer characters on the Moldavian, Russian, and Polish individuals, copied without error, demonstrate the extreme care with which the work must have been got up. There are but two errata noted for correction; one of which, we submit, is scarcely an error, the word being so spelt on the stamp.

The index and money table appended will be found very convenient; but in some instances the equivalent values in English currency are decidedly incorrect. Under Germany, southern division, 15 kreuzer are represented as worth tenpence English, and in Bavaria and Baden 25 kreuzer are made equivalent to sixpence-halfpenny; the former instance exaggerating, and the latter depreciating their actual value, which is about 3 to a penny. The peso of Buenos Ayres is valued at four shillings and twopence, in lieu of about twopence-three-farthings. It is the peso of Brazil which corresponds in value with the American dollar.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. L. B., Southernhay, Exeter.—Your wish is attended to in the present number.—Your previous communication was acknowledged in that for November.

C. E. P., Maiden Bradley.—Your stamp is now obsolete. It was a local for Stockholm.

LUDOVICUS.—We incline to your opinion that our newspaper stamps, since the repeal of their duty, being exclusively for their prepayment, are admissible into stamp albums.—We have never seen such a stamp as the one you mention.—The impress on the several paper stamps of Natal is always the same size, but there is more or less of the margin left after cutting.

B. D. K., Malta.—The Austrian stamps you describe must be essays. We have never met with their like.—Your black Victoria sixpenny cannot be genuine. The essay of that value is a fac-simile of the blue, being of course printed from the same die.—We have never had an opportunity of comparing the false with the genuine half-anna India of 1854.

R. MELDRUM, Glasgow.—Your black twopenny English has the evident remains of blue on its surface. We fancy some extraneous cause altered the colour to what it is.—The forged stamp of the isle of Reunion, of which you send a specimen, is openly sold as fictitious by continental dealers; the real stamp being, as you say, almost unattainable. You will see both the Reunion stamps alluded to as reproduced in the September number of the magazine.

J. Y., Leicester.—Your stamp is one of the latest series of Austrian postage stamps, all of which we fully described so long ago as in our number for August.—We should imagine a stamp, value one dollar, sold for ninepence, about as genuine as the sovereigns that may be bought in the city, near Fenchurch Street, for one shilling.—The blue and lilac of the present issue of Denmark have dotted, the green and brown wavy grounds.—The pink two annas India is now out of use.—We have never heard where the Victoria stamps are executed. We agree with you that the present sixpenny is a hideous specimen of colonial taste. The new fourpenny is a great improvement.—The August number of the magazine contained the green 3 pfennige of the new issue for Saxony. Some amateur postman must have helped himself to it in its transit.

G. H. S., Exeter.—The sixpenny Victoria, just alluded to, *is* mentioned in Mount Brown's catalogue for 1862, third edition. Our addenda to his catalogue notices the variations in colour of the blue threepenny.

C. B. MCLAREN.—There are shilling stamps of the Cape of Good Hope in three colours,—dark green, emerald green, and what the ladies call the new green.

P. H. J., Grammar School, Boston.—Your Spanish stamp, which is almost a fac-simile of the genuine impression, apparently comes from the cover of a packet of sweetmeats.

W. V., Carlisle.—The telegraph stamps can scarcely be regarded as postage stamps.—Our December number contains a notification of the intended annual publication of the magazine, with title-page and index.

IGNORAMUS.—The red penny Victoria, with letters in each corner, exists at present as a specimen only. We suppose it will be issued as soon as the stock on hand fails.

S. S. B., Stoke Newington Road.—The printing on the back of your Canada beaver shows it to have been cut from the pages of some periodical.—Your Tuscan is four crazie, not one. It appears genuine, but is of a paler green than usual.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

CHAPTER II.

CHANGE OF SCENE.

'The contrast mark:—
Without, the verdure of a princely park,
The glorious sunset, and the perfumed air,
In vain allure the votaries of play:
Within,—dull mimics of the solar ray—
Around the tables lights unnatural flare,
While—health, and time, and money thrown away—
Youthful and manly energies decay,
And reign triumphant Fury and Despair.'

Time passed on. A year and a half had slipped away on fleet wings. I was rapidly rising in my profession, and now head clerk in the firm which I had first entered as a raw, untutored country lad. High in the confidence and esteem of my employers, my salary was large enough to meet all my wishes, and I had a prospect held out of eventually becoming a partner.

I was still unmarried, though my years counted some two or three over thirty; but my celibacy was owing to the simple reason, that I had never seen anyone who came up to the standard of female perfection which I expected in my wife—the future Mrs. William Sotherby.

In my daily journeys to and from the office, I occasionally met my former landlady. She always dropped a respectful and deprecating courtesy. I but slightly returned her civility: the robbery of my precious collection still rankled in my breast; and my animosity against my injurer had not softened or diminished with the months that had elapsed since its loss.

About this time I was entrusted by my employers with a confidential mission to the gay and fashionable watering place of Wiesbaden, which would in all probability cause me to be absent from my native country for some time.

It was the height of the season when I arrived in this lively town, at just the most festive and brilliant time of the year; and I was soon plunged into all the dissipation within my reach. I frequented the faro tables, but merely as a spectator; gambling had ever been distasteful to me, both on principle and inclination.

One evening when, attracted by the unusual interest of the game, I had stayed later than was my custom in one of the public rooms, a young man, who by his tall, manly figure, light flaxen hair, and blue eyes, I concluded at once to be a fellow-countryman, abruptly and hastily entered the room, and, approaching the table, played for some time carelessly and recklessly. I watched his excited movements with keen attention. His face seemed certainly familiar to me; and I repeated to myself that I had seen before those clear-cut features, and the high, white brow, with the rich masses of shining, fair hair tossed back in wild confusion. I was confident I had heard before the deep bass tones of that ringing voice. Chancing to look up, the young man's eye caught my inquiring glance. It instantly fell; he turned deathly pale; and after this played more desperately, more carelessly than ever; and his losings now becoming considerable, with a furious oath he dashed his hand violently on the table, and left the saloon.

All that night, the wild looks, the troubled face, and the livid pallor that overspread the young Englishman's countenance when he first saw me, haunted my dreams. I arose the next morning feverish and disturbed: I resolved to watch over and guard, as far as lay in my power, the man in whose fate I had taken such a sudden and deep interest.

Night after night I repaired to the gaming saloons, and with my back against one of its marble pillars, I quietly but attentively observed the players. Mr. Heywood (I had learnt the young Englishman's name from the doorkeeper, to whom he was well known as one of the habitual frequenters of the faro tables) was immediately under my eye; and I could see the slightest change that passed over his mobile face, and mark the smallest alteration in his manner. His losses augmented each evening, till the total must have amounted to no insignificant sum. This continued without interruption for more than a week, without the fickle tide of luck turning once in young Heywood's favour. At last, one evening—rendered desperate by continual failures, and the taunts and sneers of a dark, swarthy Spaniard, his principal creditor—he rushed suddenly out of the saloon, his teeth firmly clenched, his eyes wildly flashing, and his nostrils dilated. I

hastily followed, divining his insane intentions. He hurried through the colonnades, down the acacia avenue towards the Adler Hotel. Then apparently changing his mind, he passed round the Heidenmaur, and made his way to the dark pond which serves as repository for the waste waters of the town. Arrived, he was preparing to precipitate himself into its black, sluggish depths; but I pulled him forcibly back, exclaiming sternly,—

'What would you do, madman? thus seeking to enter, unbidden and unprepared, the presence of your Maker.'

'Yes,' shrieked he, 'I *am* mad with despair and anguish. Ruin, starvation, dishonour, stare me in the face. I am friendless, forsaken. I have lost all and more than I possess in the world, and thought to end my wretched, degraded life beneath these peaceful waters.'

His voice had sunk at the last few words to a low whisper; but presently he broke out afresh, his tone rapid, vehement, shrill, and full of a horror that froze my blood, as he screamed in my ear:—

'And am I to be turned from my settled purpose by you?—the fiend, the hideous, glaring spectre of the fearful past! Has Satan, my master, sent you as one of his emissaries to haunt, to torture, to tempt me to still greater sin by the sight of your face, which awakens the remorse and agony of long, awful months? Leave me, wretch: let me go, man, imp of sin, or whatever you are!' he yelled, and wrenching himself from my relaxed grasp, he essayed once more to throw himself into the pond; but I was too quick for him; already my hand clutched his shoulders, and exercising all my strength (for Heywood was a strong, powerful fellow, over six feet high), I drew him away from the fatal and alluring spot, and dragged, or rather led him through the now deserted streets to my lodgings. He still stormed and raved, like one demented; but so frenzied and incoherent were his half-uttered ejaculations and broken sentences, that I could gather no sense from them. The influence of the great strain upon his nerves, and the lengthened excitement under which he had for a long time laboured, had for a brief space overthrown his reason, and in that fearful hour by the banks of the dark pond he had been a raging maniac; but when he reached my rooms he had become somewhat calmer, and allowed me to administer to him a soothing opiate, and with my assistance got into bed, and was soon in a deep and heavy sleep.

CHAPTER III.

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND.

'Fond man! To madly rush upon a fate
Unknown,—untried!
Would that he ne'er had found a living state,
Or never died!'

He awoke next morning quiet and collected: his eyes had lost their feverish glare, and the flush of delirium had faded from his cheek, leaving it white and sunken; and I could now see the ravages made by the wild, dissipated life he had been leading. Presently he sat up in bed, and glanced with a strange, bewildered look round the room, and then after a few moments exclaimed, 'Ah! yes, I remember now,' and shuddering sank back on the bed; but soon he roused himself, as if unused to any lengthened communion with his own feelings, and said, in a calm, quiet voice:—

'I know you well; we lodged in the same house, near St. Clement's church, nearly two years ago; we were friendly, though we rarely met; but you do not recognise, in the sallow, prematurely-old man before you, the once gay and blooming Edward Allan.'

'Edward Allan!' I exclaimed, warmly grasping his hand. 'Is it possible? I thought your face wonderfully familiar the first night I saw you, but could not for the life of me tell where I had seen it; and your name of Heywood puzzled me.'

'That is one of my numerous aliases: their name is legion; for, flying from one town to another, in consequence of the debts of honour (the last words were uttered bitterly and scornfully) I had contracted in each place I visited, I changed my name as often as my abode, and finally assumed that of Heywood, to baulk the pursuit and detection of an English sharper to whom I had lost enormous sums in Paris, and who had vowed to follow me through all the world, till he obtained either his money or my life. But I will tell you the story of my past, and

then leave you to judge whether it had not been better to have left me as food for the ravenous carp in those turbid waters, than to burden the earth with the weight of my criminal follies, and let loose upon the world such a wretch as I am, to taint the little that yet remains pure and innocent.'

'But,' I replied, gravely and seriously, 'you may have been spared for new and better purposes, and to give you a chance of making reparation for the sins you have committed. I am convinced and assured that I was the weak and feeble instrument in higher and mightier hands, for your restoration to repentance, and a life more worthy of man's destined mission.'

At my words he smiled faintly, but rather more hopefully and cheerfully; and then, in a low, subdued voice, told me his history.

It was the old tale, of a father's sternness, and a youth's transgressions; and though the only son, and heir to a large estate, he had been turned adrift upon the world, when the knowledge of the wild, reckless life he was leading at college reached the paternal ears; and then, with only a few pounds in his pocket, and *criblé de dettes* to tradesmen and others to whom he owed large sums, he repaired to London; and through the influence of a cousin, a large banker at the West End, had obtained employment as accountant in one of the city firms. He had then taken the rooms above mine at Mrs. Matson's, and had gone on quietly and steadily for some time; till, restless and dissatisfied with the dull monotony of the office where he was confined all day, he threw up his situation and sought the Continent, and finally came to Wiesbaden, where, after, as I had seen, losing at the gaming table all and more than he possessed, he had ventured one final throw. The result I knew: he had sought a suicide's grave, from which he had been rescued by a comparative stranger.

With calm reflection came thankful gratitude for the succour afforded him in his hour of eternal peril; and when Edward Allan—as we must now call him—quitted me, at my earnest instigation, to seek the pardon of his angry father, it was with a heart full of new and penitent hope.

(To be continued).

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

II.—LUXEMBOURG.



When serving our novitiate as stamp collector, some three years since, or rather less, and in possession of the unpretentious number of rather more than a hundred specimens, we often cast a longing glance at a specimen not unfrequent in our young friends' albums, although profoundly ignorant of its proper designation, and hopeless of information from its possessors,—as much in the dark on the subject as ourselves.

It was most usually seen in the page devoted to the Dutch stamps; the head depicted thereon being almost identical with that of the King of the Netherlands. By the way, what a wonderful difference exists between the face represented on the stamps in question, and the full-blown countenance adorning the handsome stamp for Java, on which his majesty of Holland looks as though he fattened on somewhat rather stronger than the copious waters of his dominion.

To return to our subject. Some collectors objected to this locality for the stamp we have alluded to, as being marked *dix cents*, which was assuredly neither single nor double Dutch, and consequently placed it in their French page; but when the rapid spread of the mania brought us in contact with more well-stocked albums, and a very similar stamp showed itself in value *un silbergroschen*, the puzzle became more complicated still, as the veriest tyros were aware that was the designation of a German coin. The then mysterious stamp is now well known to the greenest of juvenile collectors as the old black LUXEMBOURG.

For the last few centuries Luxembourg, either as duchy or city, has made little or no stir among the European powers; the inhabitants appearing pacifically submissive to the will of whatever government may have ruled over them for the time being; but in remoter annals of history, the sages, warriors, heroes, and even heroines of Luxembourg

and its dependencies, have shone forth nobly amongst the noble.

The great commanders selected by poets most usually for elaborate praise, and all the embellishments of flowery verse, will rarely bear the scrutiny of sober history unscathed; but Godfrey, Count of Bouillon, whose small and ancient domains are now merged in those of the duchy we are commemorating, pre-eminently challenges all inquiry.

> 'Born to command,
> Among the noblest will Count Godfrey stand:
> Bold as a lion in the battle's roar,
> Courteous and gentle when the fight is o'er.'

Historical documents record that he fully deserved the celebrity conferred upon him by the exquisitely-beautiful poem of Tasso. Though universally recognised as the first Christian King of Jerusalem, after his conquest of that holy city in the last crusade, he modestly refused the insignia of royalty, and would not 'wear a golden crown where his Master, the King of kings, was obliged to carry one of thorns.'

When he perished, treacherously poisoned by the Emir of Cæsarea, all Jerusalem was filled with grief and consternation. He was buried at the foot of Calvary, a herald crying out, 'King Godfrey is dead;' at which, says the chronicler, Albert of Aix, even the Saracens who were present could not restrain their tears.

There is a splendid bronze equestrian statue of Godfrey, by the Belgian sculptor Simonis, in the Place Royale of Brussels: a fac-simile of which was, we believe, in the Great Exhibition of 1851.

William de la Marck, too, 'the wild boar of Ardennes,' an object of detestation to the young readers of *Quentin Durward*, was quite as brave as our talented novelist represents him, but by no means so black in character,—a good instance of the well-known proverb which we need not here particularise.

It would far exceed the limits prescribed for our slight sketch, to enumerate a tithe of the eminent individuals that the province of Luxembourg can boast of producing. Its princes have become kings and emperors, and its princesses have sat on the thrones of Europe. Its warriors have achieved renown at home and abroad. During the long conflicts between Louis the Great and our William of Orange, one of the counts of Luxembourg, heroic as the rest of his race, but deformed in body, was one of the most redoubted adversaries, on the French side, to our troops. William, after a reverse due to the skill and bravery of his antagonist, exclaimed, 'Shall I never get quit of that hunchbacked fellow?' This being repeated to the count, he remarked, 'How does he know anything about my back? I'm sure he never saw it.' The noble palace of the Luxembourg in Paris—the House of Peers of France—was partly built and completed by one of the dukes of the noble house we are commemorating.

The grand-duchy of Luxembourg is situate between Belgium proper, France, and the Rhenish provinces of Prussia. It contains an area of about 2,500 square miles, with a population of 160 to the mile. It is tolerably fertile in wheat, rye, &c., and produces wine, though of inferior quality. Its mineral treasures are slate, iron, lead, and copper. Some of the remains of the enormous forest, described by Cæsar as the *Arduenna Sylva*, still diversify and improve the face of the country. The forest of Ardennes preserves its name transmitted ages before the Roman conqueror's time: Arden being the ancient Celtic appellation of a forest,—borne in our own country also by a large sylvan tract of land in Warwickshire. The Arden of Shakespear's *As You Like it* is identified with the Belgian forest.

The representatives of Luxembourg in postage-stamp albums are nine of the modern series and five of the obsolete, besides one or two essays. The early issue, previously alluded to, has a grey and a black, in value 10 centimes; and a brick-red, rose, and lake-red, value 1 silber groschen. The first of these last-mentioned stamps is exceedingly rare in good preservation. The current stamps are elegantly engraved with the arms of the grand-duchy; and, from their tasty contrast of colour, always attract the eye even of those who 'see no use in them.' Juveniles and others, ignorant of the complicated values of continental coin, may wonder at the apparently strange amount on the green stamp. This (37½ centimes) is the equivalent for 3 silber groschen, as is 25

centimes for 2 silber groschen, and 12½ for 1 silber groschen, which three individuals do duty for the German correspondence.

The city of Luxembourg — whence the duchy derives its designation—was originally a strong fortress of the Treviri, afterwards enlarged by the Romans, and called Augusta Romanorum. After its conquest by Merovin of France, the name was changed to Lucis Burgum, or City of Light, because the sun had been anciently worshipped there. This appellation still exists in its Germanized form.

Luxembourg, denominated by a recent traveller 'the most bewitching, fascinating, and provokingly-tantalizing place sketcher ever sat down in,' is the most strongly fortified town in Europe, except Gibraltar. Its several successive possessors, Treviri, Romans, Franks, Spaniards, French, and Dutch, have all tried their hands at the improvement of its naturally commanding position.

A double line of outworks, in the heptagonal form, covers the platform of a rock connected on the west alone with the neighbouring country. Precipices, two hundred feet in depth, enclose the lower town in a basin, which is approached from the upper by steep flights of steps, or streets formed in zigzags, like those of Mount Cenis on a small scale.

A projecting headland of rock, called *Le Bouc*, divides the lower town into two quarters, and being perforated with loopholes and embrasures, commands a full view of the valley in every direction. The excavated casements of this rock will contain 4000 defendants. The whole garrison usually consists of 6000 Prussians, commissioned by the Germanic Confederation.

We have previously narrated our own adventure in this most picturesque of towns last summer, and told how nearly we escaped incarceration for our curiosity, but the visitant lately referred to was not so fortunate. He arose with the sun, and having previously spotted some charming localities for sketching, had just commenced an interesting view, when he was pounced upon by a couple of grenadiers, speaking the same vile patois which puzzled ourselves, and hurried off to the guard-house; where the officer on duty informed him that were he found making drawings of any part of the fortifications, he would pay the penalty of his temerity by confinement in a dungeon. Could this provoking embargo be withdrawn, what a fine field would be open for a spirited photographer! How beautifully the stereoscope would exhibit the draw-bridges—apparently hanging in the air, the ravelins, counterscarps, masked batteries, and fortified towers of this seldom-visited fortress!

In the middle of the ninth century the county of Luxembourg formed part of what was called Lotharingia, when ceded to Lothaire I. of France by the treaty of Verdun. About a century after, Henry the Fowler, in whose hands the district then was, erected it into an independent duchy. In the tenth century Bruno, archbishop of Cologne, held the government, and divided it into Upper and Lower; delegating Frederick, Count of Bar, to the administration of the former, and Godfrey of Ardenne to the latter. This Godfrey afterwards received, from his father, Verdun and Bouillon as his inheritance, and his brother Sigifred the county of Luxembourg. A daughter of this last-named prince married the emperor Henry II. of Germany, and his eldest son became Duke of Bavaria, renouncing Luxembourg in favour of his younger brother Frederic.

Conrad, grandson of Frederic, quarrelled with the archbishop of Treves, and went so far as to seize and imprison that dignitary in the strong castle of his capital. But the fulminations of the Church compelled him to surrender the captive, and a pilgrimage to Jerusalem was the condition of his pardon.

On the decease of Conrad II. Luxembourg passed into the possession of Henry the Blind of Namur, as representative of his mother, Conrad's cousin. His daughter Ermesinda, widowed a second time, undertook the sole government herself, introduced many improvements into the administration, and became one of the many proofs how well a woman can manage to rule.

In 1308 her great-grandson Henry IV. was elevated to the imperial throne. This prince contrived to aggrandize his family by several noble alliances. He obtained Bohemia for his only son, by marrying him to

Elizabeth the heiress of that kingdom. His eldest daughter was espoused to the King of Hungary; his second to Charles the Fair of France; a third to the Count Palatine, Rodolph; and the youngest to Albert of Austria.

Elizabeth's husband was that blind king killed by Edward the Black Prince at the battle of Crecy, whose motto, *Ich dien*, and ostrich plume now compose the well-known heraldic distinction of our princes of Wales. His successor, Wenceslaus—son by a second wife, Beatrice—married the heiress of the Duke of Brabant; thus becoming possessed of two duchies,—Luxembourg having just been raised to that rank by the emperor Charles IV. his paternal brother.

The promotion of so many members of the house of Luxembourg to regal and imperial thrones, tended greatly to disturb the regular succession to the duchy. Bohemia, Moravia, Burgundy, Orleans, Saxony, and Poland, by birth or marriage, alternately became its possessors. In the fifteenth century William of Saxony and Cassimer of Poland, joint heirs, ceded their claims respectively to the King of France and the Duke of Burgundy, which latter eventually obtained the sole sovereignty.

The daughter and heiress of this duke, Charles the Bold, marrying Maximilian, Emperor of Germany, Luxembourg with the rest of her dowry passed under Austrian rule; that prince being son of Frederick, Duke of Austria. His grandson, Charles V., uniting the Netherlands to Spain, Luxembourg went with the rest of the provinces. Then followed the Spanish cruelties, and the rule of the infamous Alba.

At length, in the commencement of the seventeenth century, the Peace of Antwerp partially secured the independence of the United Provinces, which the Peace of Münster, at the close of the Thirty Years' War, fully confirmed.

During the French revolution, by the assistance of the republican inhabitants themselves, the country was soon conquered, and figured as the Batavian Republic. Napoleon afterwards formed it into a kingdom, and gave it to his brother Louis, father of the present emperor of the French; but on his resignation it reverted to Bonaparte's overgrown empire, and formed part of France till the great conqueror's own reverses encouraged the inhabitants to throw off the French yoke, and recal the banished Orange family.

In Napoleon's time Luxembourg was the capital of what was called the Department of the Forests. When the Belgic provinces separated from those now forming the kingdom of Holland, the grand-duchy of Luxembourg was unequally partitioned between the two kings. The King of Holland has one-third only of the territory; but the population of that part far exceeds in number, and the title of Grand-Duke, which he retains, gives him a vote in the Germanic Confederation. He possesses, moreover, the ancient capital, Luxembourg. The King of the Belgians owns the western part, including the famous old duchy of Bouillon, the beautiful ruined Abbey and Forest of St. Hubert, and Arlon, the principal town of the district, the *Orolaunum* of the Romans.

THE MORMON STAMP.

In the year 1852 Brigham Young issued an octagonal gold coin, and soon after a postage stamp of the same shape. No value was expressed on it, but its price was 5 cents. The execution is very rough, the impression apparently being taken from a wood-block. It seems to have been cut or punched out by an octagonal die. This stamp was intended for prepaying letters from one part of the Great Salt Lake Valley to another, or to or from the Salt Lake City, the capital. Some letters, however, with these stamps upon them, found their way to the United States, and were immediately repudiated by the postmaster at Washington. They at once fell into disuse; but at the present day a system of posting from one part of the Mormon colony to the other is still employed. This and some other attempts at independent government on the part of Brigham Young and his followers, caused the Washington authorities to despatch a military force to the Great Salt Lake, for the purpose of restoring order and allegiance. It met with but ill success, however.—*The Standard Guide to Postage-Stamp Collecting.*

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS.—II. ANCIENT GREECE.

BY THE REV. HENRY H. HIGGINS, M.A.

HERMES, son of Zeus and Maia, herald of the gods, patron of travellers and of highways, promoter of social intercourse amongst mankind, has, on classical grounds, the best claim to be considered the presiding divinity of postal arrangements. Here we have his likeness, taken by a skilful photographer of the 'immortals:'—'A youth more light-limbed than the stag, whose eyes were like sparks of fire. By his side was a scimitar of diamond, all of one clear precious stone; and on his feet were golden sandals, from the heels of which grew living wings.' But as Hermes did to others, so another has done to himself. He is said to have stolen the bow of Apollo, the trident of Neptune, the girdle of Venus, the sword of Mars, the tools of Vulcan, and the sceptre of Jupiter: but his own turn has come; almost all his honour has been taken from him and bestowed on a Roman divinity named Mercurius, patron of buying and selling and of cheating: last and deepest indignity of all, the portrait of the divine Hermes on the stamps of his own beloved country, appears in our albums as the effigy of Mercury the 'malevolent'!

We look in vain for any traces of a postal system amongst the ancient Greeks: private correspondence, if it existed at all, was rare amongst them; and dispatches relating to the affairs of the state were sent by special messengers, some of whom were celebrated for their powers of speed and endurance. Phidippides ran from Athens to Sparta—about 150 English miles—in two days, and, by his own account, had leisure on his way to receive a favourable communication from the god Pan, who complained that his worship had been neglected, but stated that he was still well disposed towards the Greeks, and intended to help them in their difficulties with the Persians. This story of Phidippides seems to indicate that the Grecian couriers were not mere letter carriers, but were men having an interest in the tidings they conveyed, and from whose personal qualifications something more than mere speed was expected.

Some ingenuity was shown by the Greeks in the means they used to secure secrecy in the conveyance of intelligence. At the siege of Potidæa a traitorous commander within the city received letters by arrows shot from without; but one of these happening to wound a Potidæan, a crowd collected, and the treachery was discovered. But the most ingenious contrivance was employed by the magistrates of Sparta, who, on sending out a general, gave him one of two cylinders of wood made exactly of the same size, the other they retained; and when wishing to transmit secret orders the magistrates used a long, narrow strip of parchment, which they wrapped in a spiral manner closely around their own cylinder: the order, being written on the strip along the cylinder, was unintelligible when the strip was unwrapped, and could only be read when it was twined round the counterpart cylinder: the strip was sent, and the general alone by the use of his cylinder could decypher the message.

It is a very significant circumstance, that ancient Greece—with all her intellectual refinement, her unrivalled galleries of art, her theatres and public games, her orators, and philosophers, and statesmen—had no post. Public life arrived at its climax in Athens, but to her citizens our friend of the daily double tap was unknown; so were infirmaries, and orphan asylums, and schools for the children of the poor. It was not Pallas Athené that set these things on foot; but with them, and from the same source, arose that mighty postal circulation, which by its million streams exhibits how vigorous are the throbs of private enterprise, and friendly interest, and family affection, in the heart of a Christian nation.

THE HAND STAMP OF BOLIVIA.

IT is the subject of much surprise that, notwithstanding the progress made in both the Old and New Worlds in the question of postal reforms, many countries of great commercial importance seem to cling in their public policy to obsolete ideas. Thus Bolivia, a country embracing an area of nearly half a million of square miles, lying adjacent to Brazil, Peru, and the Argentine

Republic (all of which have long adopted the system of adhesive labels for the prepayment of postage), has not introduced postage stamps as part of its postal arrangments. But, as necessity has compelled the resort to some other plan to supply the much-needed want, the Bolivia post-office department requires its officials in the various provincial sub-offices to employ a hand stamp, an impression of which is to be made upon every prepaid letter.

We have lately had an opportunity of examining a number of these impressions. As a matter of interest to our readers, we will give some brief account of them. In general appearance they resemble very closely the hand-stamped impressions of the city of Brunswick. They are mostly oval, and contain always the name of the particular post-office from which issued, and the word *Franca*, to indicate the fact of prepayment. On some of them, the words *Republica Boliviana* appear round the outer margin. The following are the names of the towns from which we have seen impressions:—

Potosi: octagon: vignette, eagle surrounded by laurel: inscription, *Potosi* at top, and *Franca* at bottom: black imp. on bluish paper.

Paz: oval: inscription, *Republica Boliviana* at the top of oval; in the centre, *Paz*, *Franca;* and laurel branches at bottom of oval: green imp. on white paper.

Santa Cruz: oval: inscription at top, *Santa Cruz:* vignette, eagle flying, holding an olive branch in each claw: at the bottom, *Franca:* imp., both red and black.

Cochabamba: oval: wreath of olive running round the entire border: inscription in centre, *Cochabamba*, *Franca:* imp., rose.

Sicef: oval: inscription at top, *Franca*, and at bottom, *Sucf:* vignette, laurel wreath: imp., rose.

Oruvo: oval: inscription at top, *Oruvo*, and at bottom, *Franca:* in the centre, two olive branches crossed: imp., dark-green.

In reference to the character of these impressions, we may remark, in general, that they are coarsely done, and bear no comparison in point of execution with any of the modern postage stamps of recent date. It is to be hoped that, ere long, they may give place to something much more sightly, and much more practical.

STAMPS NEWLY ISSUED, OR FIRST DESCRIBED.

The first month of the year being so frequently chosen for the emission of new stamps, the second is not likely to herald much in the shape of novelty. We can but announce a new series of stamps for Spain. We venture to say series, although we have yet in our hands but specimens of the 4 cuartos. These are similar in design to those of the last issue, but are printed in brick-red on red-tinted paper, and bear the value abbreviated, to make room for the date of the year (1864). No doubt, the companion stamps will have been all seen before this notice is in print.

Engravings of two of the varieties of the dubious Livonian stamps are subjoined, and





we shall be glad of accredited information respecting them from any of our continental or home correspondents.

In our next number will appear a copy of the new threepenny scarlet Mauritius. The green sixpenny and shilling of that most whimsical island appear to have dropped for the present, and to be superseded by the violet sixpenny which came over by one mail only some time since, and the yellow shilling, the first that bore the value on the sides in such minute characters as to have escaped notice originally.

We have to note the resuscitation of what we imagine will prove one of the rarest of our colonial antiquities. It is exactly like

the oblong horizontal British Guiana 4 c., but is of the same colour as the blue of the earliest issue. It is at present unique, and adorns the album of the possessor of one of the finest collections of postage stamps in London.

We have seen the local Bestellgeld Hanoverian horse in blue instead of green; but it is possibly a chemical essay on the gullibility of the credulous.

Amateurs and postal speculators will alike hail with eagerness the following announcement, extracted from the *Presse* :—

'SPECIAL POSTAGE, &c.—Special postage stamps are about to be issued in Egypt for franking letters in the interior of the country. They are to be manufactured in England by a company which supplies such articles to many of the States of Europe.'

A friend has just forwarded us some of the French colonial stamps received from Tahiti. The postmark obliteration is peculiar, and entitles them to the rank of a variety in catalogues. In addition to the usual punctuations, the letters O C N are stamped, and we are informed they are intended as an abbreviation of Oceanie. This will serve as another pertinent reply to the cynical *Cui bono* cry of the uninitiated. Messrs. What's-the-use-of-them & Co. may gain from a little despised postage stamp the information that King George's Island is colonised by the French.



We here give an engraving of the newly-issued two-cent New Brunswick stamp, referred to in our last number. We presume it is intended, like the two-cent stamp of Nova Scotia, for the payment of soldiers' letters.

We have recently seen most excellent imitations of the New Brunswick O'Connell essay. They are photographed from a good specimen of the original stamp, and are precisely of the natural colour. They cannot, however, be mistaken for the genuine rarity, as they are much larger; nevertheless, amateurs will do well to be careful in purchasing the stamp in question; for there is nothing to militate against the production of an equally veritable resemblance in the natural size.



An engraving is subjoined of one of the new series of Venezuela stamps, which are fully described in our last number. The specimen here figured is supposed to be yellow on white.

We think the 2 c. green of the North American Confederate States has not yet taken its place in catalogues.

THE ROYAL ROAD TO LEARNING.

IF a schoolmaster had introduced stamp collecting amongst boys as a 'royal road' to acquiring a knowledge of current history, geography, and national statistics, he would certainly have been considered a very clever person, and would doubtless have received the thanks of a vast body of papas for his ingenuity, and the success which attended his labours. Why, then, shall not these thanks and good wishes be extended at once and at first hand to the collectors themselves, who have originated the pleasant and instructive labour? It has been remarked by a learned and most experienced master in one of our great public schools, that those boys who have cultivated a taste for stamp collecting are more industrious, have a more perfect knowledge of their studies, and, above all, obtain a quicker experience of actual life, AND THE VALUE OF MONEY (for the rarer stamps will generally have to be purchased), than those lads who have no similar tastes.*

These remarks are made as a reply to those persons who, having no taste for collecting themselves, cannot understand why others should find both instruction and rational amusement in the gathering of postage stamps. There are people, high in society, who collect all kinds of odd things—

* Many gentlemen (especially numismatists) collect postage stamps; but collecting amongst juveniles is here especially spoken of, on account of the ease with which a beginning may be made. The formation of small collections of shells, insects, plants, coins, or even crests and monograms, is especially to be encouraged. Either is just as good as postage stamps for the purpose of training the mind to careful discrimination; but the value of the latter, as we have just stated, is 'the ease with which a beginning may be made,' every household affording, at least, some varieties of the national issue.

walking sticks, snuff boxes, shop bills, old keys, old shoes worn by eminent people, and purses of different makes and fashions. A duke once made an immense collection of tobacco pipes; and a merchant at Amsterdam had a great taste for specimen buttons from the coats of eminent men. Surely, seeking after the paper coins of the civilized world, bearing the effigies of the monarchs, or the national badges, and with scraps of the language on the borders, is as instructive and proper a pursuit as either of these.

J. C. H.

INSIDE THE POST-OFFICE.

From the moment that a letter leaves the hand of the sender, and falls into the box, it becomes the property of the post-office, for purposes of delivery, and cannot be withdrawn. If it contains any hasty phrase, any bitterness of tone that the writer regrets; if its weight is considered greater than the head or heads upon its surface will carry; or if any important particular is thought to be omitted in its address, it must, nevertheless, go unaltered through all the allotted stages of its course. What this course is, from the receiving house to the railway carriage (supposing it to be a country letter), it may not be uninteresting or uninstructive to explain.

When Mary Jane, your intelligent maid-servant, takes your letter addressed to your aunt at Bolton, in Lancashire, her powers of reading and discrimination are exercised at the grocer's shop round the corner, where she finds two upright letter-slips in the door-post, one marked 'London and twelve miles round,' and the other, 'Inland and colonial mails.' She first of all has to consider whether Bolton comes within the range of 'twelve miles round London;' and when she has decided this geographical point in the negative, either singly, or by the help of the receiving-house attendant, she then drops the letter into the compartment devoted to the colonial and country post. Supposing the time at which she has done this to be five o'clock in the afternoon, and the receiving house to be within a reasonable omnibus distance of the General Office, in about half an hour your aunt's letter will be disturbed from its short repose, and taken by a couple of faded, gaudy drivers, in a more faded scarlet, hard-worked, dog-cart-looking vehicle, to St. Martin's-le-Grand. Here it will be bundled into a large hall, called the General Sorting Office, not unlike Exeter Hall, furnished with long rows of tables, desks, and shelves, at which are seated a number of active, earnest-looking, time-begrudging beings, every one engaged as if legerdemain had been his sole occupation from the cradle, and as if he had a certain task to perform, with only another hour to live. Taskmasters are passing to and fro, directing and inspecting the work; but the chief taskmaster of all is a large, clear-faced clock, which watches the hurrying crowd with the calm, steady look of a sphinx, and which is glanced at in its turn by some of the labourers, as the conductor of an orchestra is glanced at by timid performers.

Your aunt's letter is at once turned out of the bag on to the top of a large table amongst a heap of other letters—a fortuitous concourse of atoms—mixed and entangled as only a mound of letters can be entangled and mixed. Some fifty men attack them immediately, like eager bone pickers at a virgin dust heap, or rather, considering their playing-card shape and appearance, like maniac gamblers at a scramble when the police are knocking at the outer gate.

All this activity has no other object than to 'face' them; to put those troublesome letters on their backs which are obstinately lying on their faces; and to turn those other letters round upon their legs which are at that moment standing on their heads. As fast as a pack that makes a full handful is scratched into order, it is transferred to another table, where the letters undergo another process of stamping.

This process has to obliterate the postage heads, so that they can never be taken off and used again, and also to stamp the letter with a circular impression, containing the date and the name of London—the town from which the letter is about to be dispatched. This task is confided to a nimble-fingered gentleman, who seems inclined to back himself against any steam engine under the roof, past, present, or to come. Placing a number

of letters before him in an upright position, with the postage head in the upper right corner, he strokes them down gently but rapidly, one by one, under his right hand, which holds the stamping die, and comes down with unerring precision and bewildering rapidity full upon the label. A hundred heads are damaged in a minute by this skilful operator, who requires a new die every evening; and the only partial break that occurs in his labour, is when a letter either wants a head, or contains it in the lower left-hand, instead of the upper right-hand corner. Dipping the die on to the ink brush, or stamping a paper at intervals, that stands at his side, to keep a rough record in twenties or fifties of the letters passing through the office for that night's mail, are eccentric diversions of the head-blotting duty, performed almost too quickly to strike the eye.

After your aunt's letter and its companions have suffered this ring-worm disfigurement, and also the similar disfigurement of the dating stamp, they are parcelled out to be sorted into bags for the different leading towns, or into divisions for the re-sorting on the different lines of railway.

Those letters that are perfect in full payment and clear handwriting, are sent to their final bag, or their temporary division, without further questioning or examination; but those corpulent documents, whose bodies have grown too big for their heads, or in whose cases two heads are officially considered to be better than one, are transferred to the weighing clerk; while those letters whose addresses are faintly conveyed in the yellowest of ink, the most cramped of cramped writings, of the most unknown of unknown tongues, are transferred to a table of officers skilful in solving these passing dark problems, and known throughout the department as the 'blind men' of the post-office.

The weighing clerk is an officer cultivated in sight and touch, whose eye can detect, in an instant, the letter that is attempting to pass on its journey at half price, and whose finger, by merely gliding over the surface of the doubtful letters in the process of counting them, can at once assist and confirm the judgment of the sharp and experienced eye. Not one letter in a dozen, perhaps, that is overweight, requires weighing; and not one half of the suspected impostors are convicted and marked with the postal double-payment fine.

The table of the 'blind men' is the calmest spot in the building. Theirs is no work of mere mechanical dexterity, that can be brought by constant practice to a dazzling rapidity of execution. It requires much searching in directories, much guessing, much mental effort, to solve most of the riddles in writing and spelling that come upon the table. The irregular combinations of the alphabet alone present a boundless field of variety to the ignorant and the persevering; and when the combinations of christian names and surnames, names of towns, and names of counties, as well as the forms of letters, and the parts of a letter's proper superscription, come to be added, arithmetic can hardly convey the result. It is to this table that all those riddle letters find their way, upon whose surface Islington is spelt and written, 'East Linton;' and the late Iron Duke is addressed, long after his death, as the 'Duk hor wellenton, Ip ark corner London, englent, or hulswear.' The 'blind men' are often called upon to decipher such directions as the following, conveyed in the most undecided of handwritings:—'To Mrs. Slater to the Prince of wales in fits Roy place Kinteston London paid.' The 'blind men' decide that this means the 'Prince of Wales' public house, Fitzroy Place, Kentish Town; and their verdict is final.

Sometimes comic boys address their relatives in London in the rudest pictorial form, giving a good deal of trouble to the 'blind men.' A picture of a garden and a street, with a fancy portrait of the person for whom the letter is intended, drawn outside the note by a not very artistic youth of seven years of age, is not calculated to ease the sorting labour of the General Post-Office. Addressed to 'My Uncle Jon, in London;' 'Wilm Stratton, commonly cald teapot Weelin;' 'Mary Ann Street, Red Rive lane Luke St. next door to the ocean;' 'To No. 3 Cros bsbry Row For The Female whith the Infant up Bromley Stairs;' 'Ann Poror

at Mrs. Winhursts No. 24 Next door to two to one;' 'Mikell Goodliff at St. Nouts Printis to a Shoo Maker Mis his name not known Mrs. Cooper is grandmother to the Lad;' 'elixa clarck saxton hotel saintluord hon se;' and 'This fanke Taghe Warkitt ill Wise Comse Wile of Withe,' with many more like them have come, and are constantly coming under the notice of this branch of the sorting department.

The 'blind men' feel a professional artistic pride in mastering every difficulty, although the difficulty is to be taken to the land's end for the small charge of a penny. Failing all attempts to make clear that which is never to be read in this world, the interior (after the proper forms have been observed) is at last looked into, only to present a larger and more enigmatical surface still. The only colourable explanation that can be given of the mystery, based upon the annual average of riddles which come before the 'blind men,' is, that some Irish hop picker, passing through London on his road to Kent, is anxious to communicate with a relative in some part of his native country.

The Sorting Office for newspapers and packets is upon an upper floor, and is reached by an endless staircase, worked by machinery, which revolves and ascends, like the spokes of the treading mill. The business in this department is very similar to that below, except that the sorting proceeds more slowly, and the packets, while fewer, are much larger. The 'blind man' here is chiefly engaged with the newspapers, whose moist addresses have either come off, or been partially torn; and his work, like that of the department, is the heaviest on Friday night, the great newspaper despatch night of the week. He employs himself a good deal in guessing the kind of newspaper which would probably go to certain individuals, when he finds himself with a number of addresses without papers, and a number of papers without addresses. No disappointment is so bitter to the country resident as to miss his weekly budget of news and reading, when he comes down to breakfast on a Saturday morning, or to tear open the cover and find a tory organ, which he hates, in place of the whig organ, which he loves. The newspaper 'blind man' performs his work as carefully as he can; and if he does make an occasional mistake, in sending the wrong paper to the wrong man, his countrymen must forgive him, when they know the difficulties with which he has to contend.

By a quarter past seven the first set of newspaper bags are made up, sealed, and sent gliding down a long, shining slide into the court-yard of the building, where they meet with many companions in the shape of the first letter bags sent from the General Sorting Office, for the railway post-office vans below. These bags are quickly packed in one of the dull red and black omnibus-looking vehicles waiting to receive them, and are driven off to the railway terminus, for which they have been partially sorted and packed. Your aunt's letter, being for Bolton, in Lancashire, is sent to Euston Square some time before half-past eight, where it is placed with a host of companions in that series of glowing carriages which often excites the curiosity of the railway night traveller. Here much of the sorting work of the General Post-Office is merely transferred, and it goes on unceasingly through the night and morning, as well as the reception, resorting, and delivery of the cross-country posts, which are taken in and despatched by the way. A number of clerks and guards, who are relieved at certain stages, attend to this labour, while the carriages in which they stand are rolling along at the rate of five-and-forty miles an hour. Your aunt's letter, after being turned out of its divisional bag on to the green-baize counter of this flying post-office, is sorted into a pigeon hole, where it remains until it collects a certain number of companions to form a bundle. This bundle is then tied up, and dropped into the Bolton bag, which hangs up, with a brass ticket on it, at the side of the carriage. When the time arrives for this bag to be closed, that is, when the train arrives within a few miles of the town, the despatch is sealed up, and put into a rough leather covering, and without stopping a moment, or slackening one degree of a mile an hour in the speed, the Bolton letters are dropped, by the aid of some external machinery, safely into a roadside net. Here the post-office

authorities of the town are waiting to receive them, having dropped, in exchange, a number of full bags into a projecting net of the flying carriage; and by the time the bag is opened, and your aunt's letter is ready for delivery before she comes down to breakfast in the morning, the railway post-office has gone on catching and discharging letters along a further line of two hundred miles.—*Leisure Hour.*

TO THE YOUNG READERS OF THE MAGAZINE.

CHRISTMAS is over, little folks,
You say you've nought to do;
Listen to me, and I will try
And find you something new.

Now, you are very dull, my dears,
And this full well I know;
For Christmas trees and Christmas gifts
Sooner or later go.

You think that school is very dull,
E'en when, with merry play
To cheer you when the lesson's o'er,
You romp on some bright day.

Then I advise you, one and all,
Who've ever weary been,
To pay for having every month
This good stamp magazine.

Then, when you've taken this good step,
Scrape cash enough together
To get a stamp book to amuse
Yourselves in rainy weather.

And—do not do a thing by halves—
Try each your very best
To get a good collection made
With care and interest.

Whoever takes my good advice
May write and tell me so,
In a few verses thanking me
Through Stafford Smith & Co.

O. P. Q.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps. By HENRY WHYMPER. (Forming the Third Edition of Oppen's Album and Catalogue). London: Benjamin Blake.

ON the whole, this is a much better edition than the second. The paper and style of printing were unexceptionable before, and incapable of improvement; but the covers are now more elaborate and elegant. One alteration we think, in the present great spread of emissions, not advisable; we mean the abstraction of a couple of dozen pages from the catalogue. It is true that in the previous volumes some countries—Holland, Lubeck, Mecklenburg Schwerin, St. Helena, Réunion, and, pre-eminently, British Columbia—had more space assigned them than was requisite; the latter, for its solitary specimen, being provided with no fewer than six dozen spaces; but these vacancies might have been bestowed upon other places, such as Spain, Prussia, Saxony, Switzerland, &c., which were deficient in room for their numerous emissions; and moreover, some of them left for the issues of countries such as Egypt, for example, which, we understand, contemplate the utterance of postage stamps.

In the present volume, France, for example, is mulcted of a page, although its numerous stamps and essays were ill-provided with room even before; and Hamburg has no space for its really-accredited locals. Europe, however, is yet a gainer by the new arrangement; a great convenience being ensured by additional pages for Parma, Modena, Romagna, Tuscany, and the Two Sicilies. In Asia, Hong Kong is assigned a separate page, not being crowded into India, as in the previous albums. In the present edition the part devoted to the West Indies is much improved, by the separation of the respective islands; and the useless space formerly occupied by French and Dutch Guiana is more judiciously bestowed. In Australasia, the large proportion devoted to New Caledonia is got rid of; but we miss a page for the Philippine Islands, whose stamps, indeed, seem to be ignored altogether in the album, though they are quoted in the catalogue; and we conclude the stamps of Cuba, and other Spanish colonies, are intended to lie with those of Spain, which has not enough room for those even of the mother country.

A few additional pages are bestowed on the catalogue, which is considerably improved in correctness and detail. A much fuller notice is taken of some of the numerous English essays; many omissions noticeable in the former edition are supplied; stamps since issued are noted; a page or more is

added for the enumeration of the locals of the United States; and several errors have been corrected, and requisite emendations provided.

A sheet containing between forty and fifty engravings of stamps, printed in blue, forms an attractive frontispiece to the work. Some of the specimens figured are of great rarity; one, the Langton's Express, we believe unique.

The album being provided with guards, we would suggest to the publishers to offer for sale some loose leaves similar to those ruled in squares for the book, which could be readily gummed in, and thus uniformly supply gaps where the allowance is at present insufficient.

In reviewing the second edition we expressed a hope that its rapid sale would necessitate another and a superior one. Our semi-prophetic wish has been fulfilled, and we beg cordially to repeat the same.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FIVE Rs APPLIED TO POSTAGE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Will anyone be kind enough to enlighten me as to the relative values of the coins described on the German postage stamps,—as a *guten groschen*, a *silber groschen*, a *neu groschen*, and a *groschen*?

True it is, I have learned the three Rs,—reading, 'riting, and, above all, 'rithmetic. I have also learned the fourth and fifth Rs, which are not quite so common, viz., to remark and reflect; yet with all these advantages—assisted, or, more correctly speaking, mystified, by two or three German dictionaries, and Mount Brown's money table—I must confess myself fairly puzzled.

The *neu groschen* is, if I recollect right, peculiar to the Saxon postage stamps. The other three occur separately in the issues of several German states; but only in the various issues of the kingdom of Hanover are all three to be found together. In the 1851 issue, the envelope stamp equivalent to the adhesive guten groschen, is inscribed *ein guter groschen*, and on the brown quartett stamp of Brunswick it is called a *gute groschen*. Why these vagaries in spelling? *Gute* and *guter* may perhaps be accounted for as the first and second form of declension of the nominative masculine of the common adjective *gut*; but my slender knowledge of the German language does not perceive how *guten* can be explained. However, it is quite possible that the Germans, like ourselves, do not strictly adhere to the rules of grammar with regard to money, but give way to arbitrary custom. For instance, if the price of an article be forty shillings, we say it is two pounds; but if fifty shillings, we say two pound ten, making a plural in one case and not in the other. Again, how common it is to say *a* sixpence, though pence is plural, yet whoever thinks of saying *a* threepence?

Mais revenons à nos moutons. With regard to the relative value of the guter groschen and the silber groschen, the Brunswick stamps seem to throw a little light on the subject. The quartett brown informs us that three pfennige are the fourth of a gute groschen, therefore there are twelve pfennige in a gute or guter groschen. The next but one in value (black on green) states that five pfennige is the half of a (silber?) groschen, therefore there are ten pfennige to a (silber?) groschen. If this assumption be correct, and if, as I believe is generally admittted, a thaler contain three hundred pfennige, how comes it that, while Mount Brown and Oppen reckon thirty silber groschen of ten pfennige each to a thaler, they only give twenty-four guten groschen, or two hundred and eighty-eight pfennige, to the same identical coin. Twenty-five guten groschen would seem more correct. At all events, some explanation is required for the uninitiated.

I observe in Mount Brown's money table, that Oldenburg is placed in the same brace with Hamburg,—surely a mistake. It appears more reasonable that it should change places with Prussia, and that Prussia should be classed with Brunswick; inasmuch as the four pfennige and six pfennige of the present issue indicate a twelve rather than a ten pfennige groschen. It seems somewhat audacious to find fault with so high an authority as Mount Brown, and perhaps, like Colenso, my sceptical arithmetic is carrying me beyond my depth; still, like that pertinacious prelate, I like to say what I think, so will now venture to turn my criticism and scepticism to an assertion at page 143 of your October magazine, wherein, in rather ambiguous terms, you announce that the two grote of Bremen (I presume you mean half a dozen of them) will now free a letter to England.

It strikes me as somewhat curious, as well as inconsistent, that a stamp bearing the local inscription of *Staadt Post Amt*, exactly the same as the three grote blue, which has aways been understood as designed only for the town or district of Bremen, should be selected for foreign postage, particularly as a German groat is worth something less than an English halfpenny, so that at least half a dozen such stamps would be required to free a single letter, unless, indeed, the postage from Bremen to England has been recently much reduced.

I know not whether the much-mooted point as to the reality of the blue Canadian 12½ cent is positively settled. Lewes & Pemberton consider it a fancy article; but then they are equally severe on the one groschen blue of Hanover, which many good judges accept as genuine. Your correspondent of June last is also very sceptical, and naturally so; for he seems to have been so successful in chemical conjuring with regard to colour, that I should not wonder if he doubted the original colour of everything in existence, from green tea to blue diamonds!

I lately purchased a postmarked specimen for a halfpenny, from a boy who has not the gumption, even if he had the inclination, to tamper with it. Therefore it seems clear that the Canadian Post-Office did once upon a time issue a sheet of blues; or else sea air, or sea water, must have a peculiarly potent effect on the colouring matter of the Canadian greens.

Another difficulty which the five Rs have failed to elucidate is, what is the meaning of the letters L. H. P. A. in the four corners of the Bergedorf stamps?—simple enough, no doubt, when one knows it.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

THE PARAGUAYAN ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Judging by my own opinion, I have little doubt that any contributions to the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*

tending to clear up any obscurity there may be in the subject on which it treats, would prove acceptable to the readers thereof. I beg to hand you an extract from a letter lately received by myself, from a cousin who holds an appointment in the medical staff of the Paraguayan army, to whom I had written, asking him to obtain all the particulars he could relative to the essays of Paraguay. He says: 'The other day I got hold of the Postmaster-General, and obtained the whole history of the (so-called) Paraguayan postage stamps. He assures me that they never existed. The fact is, that when the general was in Paris, some enterprising printer called upon him with the design, which, by the bye, is a copy of the impression on the one-real notes—a lion impaled, &c., and a few were printed in various colours as specimens, but they were never issued, and, unless the postage system is entirely changed here, never will be.' Trusting this will be a step towards clearing up this vexed question, I am, &c.,

Westminster. W. E. H.

[The Paraguay stamps have never been recognised otherwise than as essays by collectors, and we are not aware that any doubt on the subject ever existed. The absence of monetary value is a sufficient proof that they were not intended for circulation in their actual condition; and until Paragnay should be acknowledged as a kingdom, they would of course be abortive.—ED.]

THE PRINCE CONSORT STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I enclose two each of the Prince Albert Essays, simply to prove that they are cut from the sheets. You can as readily return two as one.

Of their genuineness there can be no question. You may remember the marriage of her Majesty with Prince Albert, which took place in February, 1840. The Mulready envelopes, issued two or three months after, were a decided failure. New designs were called for, and eventually elicited the stamps still in use. But these were halcyon days with the Queen. She fancied a full compliance with her wishes. She wanted £50,000 a-year for her husband; the title of Prince Consort, if not King Consort; a seat in the House of Lords; and, as regards the Peerage, a precedence before the royal dukes: and as Lord Melbourne was the minister, he was disposed to further all her designs. But they wholly failed. The £50,000 was reduced to £30,000; and as to honours, he had none granted to him—he was prince consort only for the latter years of his existence.

The engraving such a stamp as the Prince Albert Essay could only have been attempted by permission of Lord Melbourne; but which, highly censurable as it certainly was, could not escape prohibition by the Lords of the Privy Council; and many years since I read that such had been attempted, but that the stamp was ordered to be destroyed. Then came on those in pattern the same as we now have.

In July or August last, six black impressions, torn from a sheet, were found among some old letters of 1840-1-2, and a few years onward. I gave a note of this discovery in your September magazine, but that elicited no reply. Among the papers of a person, deceased about three years since, were found two sheets of these stamps. A member of the family took them to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue at Somerset House. It took them quite by surprise; and after considerable discussion among them, in an under tone, they returned the stamps to the party present, with these remarks:—'They (the stamps) certainly were very extraordinary: they knew nothing of their history; but the stamps were of no value for the transmission of letters.' As the stamps had no sanction from the ruling powers, they would not come before the commissioners; and the rest follows of course.

Early last month I was informed, by one of the family, of these stamps, and was also told I might purchase them if I pleased: they would send one of each for my decision. I purchased them.

The engraving is precisely the same as the black and red stamps of Victoria 1840. There is the same want of the white line above the value, as in the first black penny, and the first blue twopenny, now sought for by collectors.

Another interesting fact, as respects the sheets, is shown by the examples in my possession. It was mooted as to the supply to the stationers, that they should have five per cent. for selling them; hence my black sheet has twenty-one dozen on it; so that twenty shillings would be paid by the stationer, and the extra shilling's worth it was proposed should be his profit. My sheet of red stamps has but twenty dozen, not twenty-one; so that these were only indecisive propositions.

I have been thus far garrulous, to convince you I have the fullest reliance on their genuine character. I have the six, discovered as I stated, and the two sheets. I am ignorant of any others, and believe I possess all that remain.

I have told you all, and am, dear Sir,

Your very humble servant,

London. J. H. BURN.

THE THREEPENNY NEW ZEALAND STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have been informed that there will be no more threepenny New Zealand stamps issued. The postage *via* Marseilles is raised from 9d. to 10d.; and my friend in New Zealand was unable to get threepenny stamps, the authorities telling him that the issue had stopped, and that there was a tenpenny stamp in prospective.

Yours obediently,

Bedford. J. HAWKINS.

MR. HUSSEY AND THE AMERICAN STAMP USUALLY DESIGNATED 'BIG-HEAD.'

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have had my attention called to your publication, the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. At page 152, in your November number, you say:—

'New York Post-Office: large rect. This stamp, well known to collectors by the designation of "big-head," was formerly supposed to be a government issue, but is now ascertained to prove one of Mr. Hussey's legions of postal offspring,' &c.

I would hereby advise you to be more careful of your wholesale assertion. To my best knowledge and belief, I never, either awake or asleep, thought of doing that wrong to the community of stamp collectors or dealers. Why you should have selected me as the scapegoat I know not, but can assure you that no man living can be more averse to counterfeiting of the *original*. I had at one time twenty-five, which I sold at prices varying from fifty cents to one dollar: the last I parted with about the time of your November issue. Of the counterfeits I have seen one, and only one. It came, or was brought to my office to be compared with the originals that I was known to have. The said counterfeit came from Boston, Massachusetts. You would be but doing me justice by a

counter statement, as I can fully satisfy any correspondent you may confide in this side the water of my *innocency*, as I have never offered either to buy or sell a single one of those said counterfeits.

Your further remarks about my fertile imagination may, for aught I know of you, apply equally as well to yourself as me; and as I can see no harm to come of its fertility, or its cultivation, will beg you the favour of a copy of your magazine re-investing me as a gentleman beyond counterfeiting a stamp of his Uncle Samuel's.

Very respectfully yours,

New York. GEORGE HUSSEY.

[Mr. Hussey totally misunderstood our remarks. We had not the slightest intention of stigmatising him as a forger of the stamp in question. We were informed, and merely repeated our information in the pages of the magazine, that the 'big-head' was one of Hussey's own stamps; and we meant no sneer in alluding to the fertility of his invention. We forbear repeating one or two well-known proverbs that strike us as applicable in the present case.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Lady C. is informed that her New Zealand penny stamp has every appearance of being a Columbo salvage.

H. B. B., Stratford Green.—We have seen your 40 c. Swiss yellow noted in Continental catalogues, and have no doubt of its being genuine.

Reunion.—The specimens you describe are Spanish, French, Belgian, and German receipt or bill stamps. We would impress upon our correspondents the advisability of always forwarding a doubtful stamp for inspection, with a stamp or stamped envelope for the due return of the same.

J. W. K., Barnsbury.—The black penny V. R. official may be easily identified by noticing that the distinguishing letters are in the *upper* corners of the stamp, and the usual Maltese crosses in the lower angles. We may here caution amateurs against forgeries of this rarity, made in this manner: a black penny stamp is used for the purpose; the two crosses and two letters are cut out neatly; the former are transplanted from above to below; an R is taken from another specimen, and placed in the upper right angle; and, as no V is ever found on our stamps, an A with the cross line scratched out, when turned topsy-turvy, does duty for the wanted letter.

E. S. S.—It is not at all surprising that parties who have lived in India deny the existence of a red half-anna, when, as we have remarked before, even the keepers of our own post-offices have, most of them, never seen, or heard of the existence of the English higher-priced envelopes. A friend of ours at Honolulu had never heard of the 13 cents of the Sandwich Islands, till we wrote asking for it.

F. C. Channing.—We think the Prussian, and we know the French stamps you inscribe are imitations, either for labelling bonbon boxes, or possibly for the more nefarious purpose of taking in the Jolly Greens.

W. S. Beverley, Yorkshire.—We can give no opinion respecting your stamp, in the absence of fuller information.

P. S., Ealing.—We are of your opinion, that the publishers, in providing the elegant covers for binding the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, were too liberal; inasmuch as they gave a 2 c. Nova Scotia for the extra adornment of the volume, whereas a 1 c. of the same country would have cost them less by one-half.

R. F. Wilme, Dublin.—The fac-simile you forwarded is evidently that of the official stamp of a Belgian consul.—There never has been either a 45 c. or 50 c. French stamp.—The Ionian series will of course be no longer used, since the cession of the Islands to Greece.—The stamps of the latter country, not having borne the sovereign's head, are not likely to be changed.

A. M. S., Lowestoft.—We are obliged for the information of the genuineness of the 5 c. blue New Brunswick stamp, proved by your reception of two postmarked individuals direct from that colony.—We have several times observed the Victor Emanuel's head turned topsy-turvy, both on the Sardinian stamps and those for Naples and Sicily. We account for it on the supposition that the head is impressed after the completion of the rest of the stamp.

Alfred R., Birmingham.—In the number of the magazine for last month we expressed our opinion, that newspaper stamps of our own country—serving as they do for prepayment exclusively, without reference to duty, as formerly—are admissible in stamp-collectors' albums.

M. E. S., Carthorpe.—Your Hamonia stamp is one of a series of ten, emanating from the fertile brain of one of the Hamburg speculators upon the credulity of the unwary.

Tony, Birkenhead.—We stated in our last that New Year's Day had been fixed for the issue of the new Italian stamps; but we saw not only the 10 c., but almost all the others, postmarked before that day, and conclude the previous stock had been exhausted in some cities.—With regard to the native places of the numerous locals for the United States, much information is yet required; and we hope the gentleman who contributed the two interesting papers on the stamps in question, will favour our readers with an accredited list marking the places whence they emanated. We possess an American postal-stamp catalogue; but it gives little, if any, additional information to that afforded by Mount Brown's manual.

G. K. A., Beverley.—The presence of an adhesive penny stamp, and the date of the postmark (1843) on your letter, are proofs that it could not have been a frank. It is not unusual for writers to sign their names on the addresses of their communications.—Your other enclosure is evidently some individual's coat of arms, stamped in order to head or seal a letter.

M. A. E.—Your Staten Island stamp is catalogued as genuine in the last edition of Mount Brown.

E. A. M. Fry.—The numbers postmarked on our stamps denote the different towns whence the letters bearing them arrive.—We hope the publishers will follow your suggestion, of publishing a list of the numbers corresponding with all the towns in England.

H. W., London, W.—We believe the series lately issued for Italy is for the postal purposes of all parts of that kingdom under the present dominion of Victor Emanuel; and that, consequently, the stamps employed for Naples and Sicily some little time since are now obsolete.—The twopenny Newfoundland is now dark-coloured, like most of the others, but we have never seen an eightpenny other than bright red.—We believe Mr. Brown will endeavour to clear the almost hopeless confusion observable in the descriptions of the Peruvian stamps, should his manual ever reach a fifth edition.—We are obliged for the kind expressions of satisfaction you evince with regard to the amusement and information derivable from our magazine.

E. F.—Your two large oval Prussian stamps are either for deeds, drafts, or newspapers.—The printing on the back of the Roman baj. 7, proves it to have been cut from some periodical.—The Brazilian stamps are genuine.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

CHAPTER IV.

LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.

'What shades the fields a fairer green,
And lends enchantment to the scene;
Making each object brighter prove;
The airy warblers sweeter sound;
A richer perfume waft around
From ev'ry glowing flower?—'Tis Love.'

FOR some weeks after Allan's departure I was detained in Wiesbaden. The business affairs which had called me hither could not be satisfactorily arranged; and my employers, thinking I should have to pass the winter there, sent me an introduction to a Mr. Davenport, an Englishman of wealth and good birth, who lived in a fine old mansion called the Schloss Rosenberg, situated about a mile from the town, and who had been formerly acquainted with our senior partner, Mr. Clark. Mr. Davenport received me politely, though coldly, and invited me to spend as much of my time as I liked at his house. I gladly profited by his kindness, attracted by the sweet, beautiful face of his only daughter, and forsook all other amusements to pass my leisure hours in her society.

Emily Davenport was tall, and slightly, but gracefully, formed. Her hair and eyes were dark; but her complexion possessed that brilliancy and purity only seen in our lovely countrywomen. Her voice was soft and low, and her manners lively and cheerful, without being noisy or boisterous. She was docile and affectionate to her stern, grave father; gentle, caressing, and tender to a weak-minded and invalid mother; and was the delight and pride of her parents' heart.

Oh! how I now loathed and despised former scenes of revelry: how I thrust from me the recollection of nights spent in hollow mirth; of carousing and dissipation prolonged till the bright, twinkling stars had faded before the light of dawning day! How I abhorred the temptations, the allurements that had drawn me aside in this town from the calm, innocent pleasures of other days. I felt so far removed from the pure, mild atmosphere which surrounded Emily, though perhaps I had not been worse than other young men of the present day; but I felt what an immeasurable gulf, what a deep chasm of low, grovelling thoughts and hidden depravity yawned between and separated the ordinary lives and pursuits of man from those of noble and elevated woman!

I now quickly threw up all other occupation and amusement, to pursue the delightful and intoxicating one of gaining Emily's affections. She regarded me, I imagined, with favour; but of the sentiments of her father and mother respecting my wishes, I could not form the slightest idea; for Mr. Davenport's cold reserve and haughty superciliousness, and his wife's calm apathy and languid inanity, were too much part of their natural disposition to enable me to found the least assumption of disapprobation or otherwise therefrom; yet still, with my fair share of masculine vanity and egotism, I could not imagine for one moment that the addresses of a poor clerk in a mercantile house, without fortune or position, could be acceptable to the father of a high-born, wealthy, and beautiful daughter. Mr. Davenport might reasonably expect his future son-in-law to possess more than a gentlemanly exterior and two hundred a year.

Miserable and wretched at these thoughts, but flattered and gratified at the preference Emily showed me, in her own modest, feminine manner, the winter wore away in alternations of despair and joy; till at last, summoning all my courage and hardihood, and thinking that 'faint heart never won fair ladye,' I went one day to the Schloss Rosenberg, and happening to find Emily alone in the garden, with many tremors and flutterings I managed to pour forth love's undying tale; and there, under the tender shade of a drooping acacia, with the scent of the budding roses and sweet spring flowers, I received the low, murmured assurance of Emily's unalterable affection, and the first and holiest pledge of reciprocated love. I then went to Mr. Davenport, and pleaded my cause with all the eloquence and fervour of which I was master; but he received my suit with haughty surprise and cold disdain; scornfully and contemptuously elevating his fine eyebrows at my astounding presumption in aspiring to the hand of *his* daughter. In

vain I urged that he was wrecking not only my happiness but that of his only and beloved child,—he merely replied:—

'Love does not last for ever, Mr. Sotherby; and when once Miss Davenport is separated from you, filial obedience, duty, and respect will obliterate all feelings not in accordance with my wishes;' and with these words Mr. Davenport, courteously opening the door for me to pass through, politely wished me adieu.

It must not be supposed that I thus tamely submitted to my defeat;—on the contrary, no sooner arrived at my lodgings, than I wrote a long, earnest, and vehement letter to Emily, detailing my rejection by her father; imploring her to use all her influence with him for the mitigation of our sentence; and recounting all my love and anguish.

I soon received an affectionate reply, imploring me to remain patient, and fully confident of her unalterable love; trusting to her availing herself of every opportunity for disposing her father to a more favourable view of our aspirations. We continued for some few weeks to interchange correspondence; and at last I received a welcome communication from her to the effect that her father had at length, though reluctantly, yielded to her tears and supplications, and granted us the coveted desire of our hearts. For once, Cupid had triumphed over Plutus, and we were happy.

CHAPTER V.

ANTICIPATIONS AND PREPARATIONS.

'How calmly smooth the current goes,
A perfect emblem of repose;
Till from the lofty mountain's brow
A falling fragment stops the flow!'

I WAS not long allowed to revel in my new-found joy, or to bask in the sunshine of Mr. Davenport's favour and Emily's smiles; for soon after our engagement I was suddenly recalled to England by Messrs. Clark & Thomson. I obeyed the mandate reluctantly, and left Wiesbaden with the pain of parting somewhat assuaged by the prospect of meeting, after the lapse of two months, in London, where Mrs. Davenport had wished he marriage to take place. The poor woman now clung, with the tenacity of an enfeebled mind, to the idea of passing her last days where she had passed her first and happiest,—amidst the smoke and fog of the great metropolis. I was to take a large and commodious house somewhere in the neighbourhood of Kensington; to furnish and fit it up for the reception of Mr. and Mrs. Davenport, myself, and my future wife. My income not being sufficient to maintain Emily in the style to which she had been accustomed, her father declared that she should live in none other; consequently we were to reside under the paternal roof until I became a rich man.

I had numerous and frequent letters from Edward Allan during my stay in Germany, all breathing a spirit of gratitude and joy for what I had done for him: to me he said he owed his restoration to his father's favour, and the delight of again being united to the sister to whom he was fondly attached. On my arrival in London I wrote and told him of my approaching marriage with Emily Davenport, and invited him to come and pass a few weeks with me before the happy event took place. His answer came, after some brief delay,—cordial, pleased, and consenting: I might expect him by that evening's train from the north: he should be delighted to see me again; but begged, timidly and earnestly, that all the occurrences which had happened abroad might never be discussed; and of course during the whole of his visit I rigorously respected his wishes. He never talked of the past, and seemed to live only for the future; yet his moods were extremely variable,—at one time recklessly gay, at another desponding and moody; but on the whole I enjoyed his society extremely, and found him refined, cultivated, and well-informed in no ordinary degree. He told me that his father had paid all his college debts, but had absolutely refused to acknowledge or liquidate those contracted to 'sharpers and blacklegs over the gaming table.' But these he determined to settle when he came into the estate, both principal and interest. He was evidently a reformed man, and seemed determined to make good use of the life that had been so graciously spared him. Edward had congratulated me

warmly on his arrival upon my approaching marriage, and had since then never even distantly alluded to the subject. At the end of three weeks he left: I then set earnestly about house hunting; and after much fatigue, research, and trouble I succeeded in getting suited to my pompous father-in-law's grand taste; and in continual journeyings to and fro, furnishing, and other arrangements, the time passed until I welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Davenport and Emily to our future home. I was to remain in my lodgings till after the wedding, and to continue in the counting-house up to that day, and during Mr. Davenport's life.

(*To be continued*).

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS.—III. ANCIENT ROME.

BY THE REV. HENRY H. HIGGINS, M.A.

MUCH greater progress seems to have been made by the Romans in the art of writing, than in the method of sending letters. The age and empire of the Cæsars had passed away before a regular public post was established in any part of the world.

The Romans were undoubtedly inferior to the more ancient Greeks in some respects; but in the attention which they bestowed upon the various appliances of social and domestic life, the Romans had no rivals, and may fairly be said to have commenced most of the institutions peculiar to modern civilization. Indeed, it is questionable whether the letters sent by some of the *equites splendidi* of Rome to their friends were not, after their own fashion, as exquisitely 'got up' as the most elaborate 'at home' ever enclosed in an enamelled envelope of De la Rue.

Such Roman epistles bore little resemblance to the earliest specimens of letter writing, in which the materials first used were the leaves or the inner bark of trees, (*liber*). If anyone wishes to try the experiment, he may find that letters traced with a lead pencil on a laurel-leaf, become distinctly visible within twenty-four hours after they are written. But the best of all the primitive antecedents of paper was formed from a plant not unlike our common bulrush, which grew in wet places in many parts of the East, but principally in Egypt: it was called *papyrus*, whence our word paper. The outside of the stem of this plant resembled the wrapping of a cigar. When the membrane was unfolded and laid out straight, other pieces of the same material were laid crosswise upon it; the whole was moistened and pressed; and, when dry, the better surface was burnished with a tusk of a boar, whence the *charta dentata* of Cicero.

For many centuries the papyrus membrane continued to be the material chiefly used for writing, and in the manufacture of books, which in those days were scrolls, kept, as we keep maps, on a roller, whence the word volume, from *volvo*, to roll.

Egypt being the chief source of the papyrus, it was very natural for the Egyptian kings to pride themselves on the facilities they possessed for making many books; but in the days of the Ptolemies an eminent literary character of Pergamus, in Asia Minor, collected a library which bid fair to surpass even that of the reigning Ptolemy, who thereupon prohibited the exportation of papyrus. Necessity was in this instance the mother of so great an improvement, in the method of preparing the skins of sheep and goats as a substitute for the papyrus, that the material thus prepared was called *Pergamena*, whence our parchment. A more costly material was prepared from the skin of the calf; it was called *vellum*; a trace of its origin remains in the similarity between our words vellum and veal.

All these materials were included in Roman stationery, as was also a coarser kind of fabric called *palimsestus*, a name of Greek origin indicating that a wrong word written upon it might be successfully erased.

But for most of the ordinary purposes of writing, and for rough drafts, the Romans used tablets resembling our book-slates, made of some choice kind of wood, or of ivory, and often beautifully framed and finished. the part corresponding with the slate in our book-slates was covered with a thin layer of white or coloured wax, on which the writers engraved their words by means of a sharp-pointed bronze pencil called a *style*: the opposite end of this instrument was made

broad and flat like a chisel, and was used for smoothing over the engraved words when no longer wanted. The Roman gentleman always carried with him his writing tablet and *style*, and was much addicted to a practice which it would surely have rejoiced the heart of Captain Cuttle to have witnessed; for whatever an educated Roman found worth record'ng, he 'made a note of.' The custom, however, had its disadvantages. To attack anyone with the pen was not always a mere verbal aggression: it was not the correct thing for a Roman to wear a sword or a dagger in the city; bowie knives and six-shooters the world was as yet innocent of; but, if we may believe old Suetonius, after a hot dispute the Romans sometimes fought both in and with a style which produced fatal results. Their descendants instead of the *style* use the *stiletto*.

Letters sent by consuls or generals were usually written across the whole sheet of paper or parchment, one side of which only was used; but Julius Cæsar began the custom of folding the sheet, as we fold our note paper, and writing in pages. The example of so illustrious a personage was sure to be followed; and in course of time all writings which conferred any exclusive right or privilege amongst the Romans were executed in this form, which, from its double leaf, gave to the document the name of *diploma* or double-fold. The emperor or his ministers granted the *diploma* as in our own times the state issues letters *patent*, *i.e.*, open to the inspection of all. But according to Pliny the *diploma* was especially used when a Roman citizen wished to avail himself of the public couriers for the more speedy transmission of a private letter. It is true that wealthy Roman families commonly kept a servant whose especial duty it was to carry letters to their destination, whence he was called *tabellarius*, from *tabella*, a letter. But it may readily be conceived that when letters had to be sent long distances, a much more speedy conveyance might be ensured by the employment of the government couriers. For this purpose a *diploma* had to be obtained. The writer of this paper is not able to ascertain whether the *diploma* was affixed to the letter thus sent; but it seems probable that this was the case where the letter had to pass from one courier to another. Here, then, we have the complete prototype of the postage stamp; for what is our penny queen's head but her Majesty's royal diploma authorizing us to make use of her royal mail for the transmission of our private correspondence? It is not the less a royal warrant because it can be obtained for so small a sum. As for the credit of our own times resulting from the invention of postage stamps, it will not suffer from the appearance of a Roman precedent; and perhaps some of our younger collectors may even think that the pages of their albums wear a more dignified aspect when they are regarded as adorned with a series of British and foreign *diplomata*.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ACCUMULATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

SOME time since there appeared in the public journals, a statement to the effect that a certain young lady, under age, was to be placed in a convent by her father, if she did not procure before the 30th of April last, one million of used postage stamps. This caused numerous persons to forward stamps for the purpose of securing her liberty. In March last, a lady, a member of one of the first families in Derbyshire, residing not many miles from Derby, mentioned the conditions to her friends, and in a short time the lady began to receive packages by post and railway from every quarter, which poured in in such numbers, that in ten days during last April, she received parcels containing millions of stamps. The walking postman who was in the habit of delivering a few letters daily at the mansion where the lady resides, became so loaded with letters and packages containing Queen's heads that it was necessary to employ another man to assist him. On one morning, between 90 and 100 letters and packets arrived by post, and on another, between 120 and 130. These were in addition to multitudes which arrived on other days. Boxes, bales, and packages also poured in by railway; and to such an extent that it became necessary to give public notice, by advertisements and printed cir-

culars, that it was urgently desired that no more stamps should be sent, as the young lady had procured the number she required.

The following sketch gives some idea of the packages. One of them is a large wine hamper, another a large wine cooler, next a large clothes basket. The two latter were used to put the smaller packets in as they arrived, being altogether many bushels. Next is a packet from a great mercantile house in London, and contains 240,000 Queen's heads. There was also a tea-chest full sent from another quarter. There were nine boxes between one and two feet long, a foot wide, and about six inches deep. Smaller packets formed a heap two feet six inches long, one foot wide, and one foot six inches deep; and two baskets two feet long, one foot six inches wide, and one foot four inches deep were filled; besides which many boxes were not received but sent back to the railway station. In addition to this accumulation, letters from all quarters arrived, many from persons of the highest rank, expressing the deepest sympathy and the most kindly feeling. Numbers of them stated that large collections of heads would still be sent, if required.—*Illustrated London News, May* 18, 1850.

STAMP COLLECTING AND ITS USES.

IT may be, and often is, objected,—'Of what use is stamp collecting?' The writer is ready to admit that it is not the *most* beneficial occupation of time; but still believes it may claim the merit of being instructive, and that as an evidence of the advance in civilisation of the nations using them, postage stamps are not without interest. The newly-issued Turkish stamps are a visible proof of the onward progress of that barbaric power, and of its wish for more extended intercourse. When Captain Cooke landed at Otaheite,* he little imagined that in less than a century after, the inhabitants of the Sandwich Islands would have so far advanced as to require postage stamps to facilitate their correspondence. Yet such is the case: the half-length portrait of the king of the islands figures on a very respectable stamp issued at Honolulu.

* The writer seems to imagine Otaheite one of the Sandwich Islands.—ED.

The black republic of Liberia, from its little corner in Western Africa, sends forth a set of stamps which would be no disgrace to a European country, and which add another link to the chain of proof that under favourable circumstances the negro will rise. Nicaragua and Costa Rica have issued very beautiful stamps; and the very fact of their being in use, we may hope, points to a more settled state of affairs in those countries. In another direction, also, stamps are useful. They represent to the mind distant nations as actually in existence, whom we previously hardly believed in. To the juvenile, whose idea of a country is generally that it is an irregular space on a map, surrounded by coloured lines, and covered with names and black dots, and who thinks of it only as (in the words of his geography) 'bounded on the north by the Pacific Ocean, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean,' &c., stamps are especially instructive. The Bahamas, for instance, cease to be thought of as mere black-letter words; they become, in the mind of the collector, the actual residence of an industrious community. The queen's head on the Hong Kong stamps shows that her subjects must be there; and the Chinese figures at her side remove all shade of disbelief in the existence of that grotesque language and people, and all doubt as to whether or not the wonderful hieroglyphics on the tea chests are not daubed on by the grocers' apprentices in fits of artistic inspiration. It is, indeed, surprising how few colonies there now are which do not issue stamps. The owners of the boundless pampas of South America frank their letters with curiously-designed stamps. The British Columbian miner ensures the safe delivery of his roughly-scrawled epistle by a stamp. New Caledonia and Reunion can each boast a stamp. Disturbed Mexico has had its stamps. The Moldavian peasant ponders over the strange bit of paper which will carry his letter far away from him. The colony honoured by Dr. Colenso's presence issues a very pretty portrait of our Queen. Prince Edward Island, Queensland, St. Helena, and St. Lucia have all issues of their own. Even the European's grave, Sierra Leone, is not without its emblem of civiliza-

tion. The Papal States delight in a stamp of poverty-stricken appearance; and the convict in Western Australia affixes a stamp, perforated in the centre, to his letters to distinguish them from others.

In another light, also, stamps are interesting. We notice in the successive issues of different countries and colonies a proof of improvement in the engraver's art as applied to stamp devices. The handsomest stamps are in most cases the latest issues. The earlier ones, particularly those of our colonies, being in many cases scarcely more than incomprehensible smudges, several of them having been printed from wood blocks. Probably the most beautiful stamps are those of Nova Scotia: they are of two kinds, one bearing a medallion portrait of the queen, whilst her bust is impressed on the other. Each is engraved with exquisite finish, and the effect is heightened by the simplicity of the design. G. O. T.

THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE AT SIX O'CLOCK, P.M.

THE General Post-Office, which is regarded as the centre of the whole postal network of the kingdom, stands in St. Martin's-le-Grand. It is a compact edifice, built of Portland stone, in a cold regular style, and has three porticoes supported by arches. The central portico, over which is a frieze bearing the name of George IV., leads by a flight of steps to a grand passage or hall, that runs through the whole width of the building, and opens into Foster Lane. In this passage are the boxes to receive the letters destined for the four cardinal points of the world, and behind these boxes are lofty windows, generally closed. I will, however, suppose that the time is a quarter to six P.M. The first window on the left hand, over which may be read 'For newspapers only,' is then wide open. An impetuous crowd, entering from either end of the passage, fills the hall, and the letters fall like hail into the boxes; but it is the newspaper window which will principally attract our attention. The peristyle is blockaded by a band of porters and newspaper boys, lads of twelve or thirteen years of age, employed in the service of the papers. They run up perspiring and panting under bags full of papers, and jostle each other in spite of the efforts of the policemen, who try to maintain some degree of order in the midst of the confusion. Every moment the mob grows larger, for it is well known that the Post-Office clock is faithful and pitiless. The journals, covered with a band, fly like a flock of pigeons round the windows, hurled by a thousand hands. Sacks, packages, and baskets pour, as into an abyss, ream after ream of paper. All this falls pell-mell, thrown from the outside, and is caught in its flight, as it were, by the men inside: they empty the sacks and baskets, and then return them to their owners. It is hard work; and a policeman on duty told me that, a few years ago, before certain precautionary measures were taken, the officials had more than once had their eyes and faces blackened by the avalanche of newspapers hurled upon them. There is even a rumour that in the heat of action, a boy was one day thrown with the bundles, by mistake, into the office.

The clock begins striking six; the eagerness and thronging are redoubled; the newspapers still stream in; but, at the last stroke, the window is sharply closed. 'Too late!' one or two discontented laggards exclaim. Letters and papers, however, can still be sent off the same evening, the former by paying up to seven o'clock an extra penny stamp, the latter one halfpenny, as a fine inflicted for negligence. This exciting scene, called by the English the Newspaper Fair, ought especially to be seen on Friday and Monday, because these are the two days on which the weekly newspapers are sent off. For letters, the great day is Saturday, as the Post-Office is closed on Sunday, and commercial houses generally devote Saturday to their correspondence.—*The English at Home.*

A SINGULAR POST-OFFICE.

HOW CITIES GROW IN AMERICA.—When the first sod of the Union Pacific Railway, for completing railroad communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was dug last month at Omaha city, a citizen gave the assemblage an account of his arrival at that city, or rather at the site, in October, 1854. 'Along

a narrow path,' he said, 'cut by some stalwart men through the tall, rank prairie, I wended my way in search of the post-office. At length I found an old pioneer, seated apparently in solitary rumination upon a piece of hewn timber, and inquired of him for the post-office. He replied that he was the postmaster, and would examine the office for my letters. Thereupon he removed from his head a hat, to say the least of it, somewhat veteran in appearance, and drew from its cavernous depths the coveted letters. On that day the wolves and the Omahas were the almost undisputed lords of the soil; and the entire postal system of the city was conducted in the crown of this venerable hat. To-day, our postal service, sheltered by a costly edifice, spreads its briarean arms towards north, south, east, and west,' &c; but all that goes without speaking. Omaha city is now the capital of Nebraska.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

'Sitting upon thorns.'—*Common Saying.*
'Ne sutor ultra crepidam.'—Phædrus.
'Everything loses by translation, except a bishop.'
—Sydney Smith.

Feeling in duty bound to afford a paper for the magazine every month under some such title as the above, in the paucity of more legitimate objects for note, we must endeavour to eke out sufficient matter from comparatively extraneous sources, to fill the requisite space in the pages assigned us.

We shall offer a few remarks applicable to each of our quotations; or rather, to which each of the quoted saws will form an appropriate motto.

With a solitary exception, the pages of collectors' albums have lately received no additions save a few impressions with change of colour,—as the sixpenny Bahamas, which is now printed with a rich mauve ink; and the penny Natal, now as dark as the Bahamas of the same value. The stamps of these two colonies evidently come from the same manufactory, as proved by the die of the queen's head, the paper used, the perforations so difficult to make use of, and the anti-adhesive nature of the backs. The penny Van Diemen's Land is a rich deep claret; the twopenny Victoria a different shade of mauve; and some of the New Zealand individuals vary in colour.

The single specimen that alone redeems the postal novelties from a barren blank is the new shilling Cape of Good Hope, whose form, no longer triangular, is now what is called in the provinces, with very unmathematical want of precision, a longish square.

We believe the change of shape in the green stamp has also taken place in the sixpenny, though we have not yet seen a specimen; and conclude that the fourpenny and penny will follow suit; leaving the threepenny Newfoundland the sole representative of a triangle out of the couple of dozen hundred different varieties of postage stamps known to collectors.

In the superseded stamp, the figure of Hope, the tutelar symbol of the colony, was very comfortably reclining in the space assigned her; and she does not appear at all comfortable in her change of position, putting us in mind of the first motto at the head of our paper.

She is not, literally, sitting on thorns, but is evidently very ill at ease upon the cold, hard anchor that supports her, on the fluke of which her right arm rests. She is trying to ease herself, as one does when in a constrained position, by resting the left hand on the back of one of the handsome Cape sheep, whose fleece seems the only soft article in the group. There are the hard ground, the hard Cape mountain, the hard iron anchor, and a vine at the right of the figure, as hard as the other objects of the representation, the leaves of which give one the idea of being modelled in iron.

Our second proverb came into mind on perusal of the *Post-Office Savings Bank Almanack* for the present year, in which the very trifling amount of information on the subject of postage-stamp collecting possessed by the writer is evinced by his instancing the number of fourteen hundred stamps that must be found before 'a collection is perfect.' We ourselves had—alas! that we are compelled to use the past tense—upwards of nineteen hundred; and the amateur whose choice collection some two score of ours helped to swell, numbers at present, inclusive

of proofs and essays, a thousand *more* than the almanack's limit to an entire collection!

The writer names the sum of six-and-twenty pounds as representing the value of a complete set of stamps. In our own nineteen hundred, six-and-twenty alone would have commanded that amount in any stamp market! An absurd climax is reached by the quotation of the postage currency stamp of the United States as the most interesting of the whole series. We dare say it is in the land of the almighty dollar, though it enters a few collectors' albums on sufferance only here.

The following extract from the *London Journal* of January 16th, testifies to the truth of the saying of the witty divine constituting our last quotation:—'The cheapest postage stamp is the 1-centime French; the dearest is the *Horse-post* of California, 4 dollars (21 francs); the best engraved are those of France, Greece, and *particularly that of New Caledonia (!!)*, which merits the first place; the ugliest are those of Belgium and the English penny; the largest are those of Siberia (!!); and the smallest, one of Mecklenburg, bearing the head of an ox.'

This astounding paragraph is apparently a translation *from* a translation; and we should have found some difficulty in grasping at the meaning of the original through the thorns and briars of the misapprehension of one or both of the translators, had we not recognised a sentence of our own, extracted from an early number of this magazine, through the distorted media before us.

A German magazine did us the honour of translating our remarks; and Horse-post is a free rendering of the foreign equivalent for Pony Express. The unrecorded stamp of *Siberia* was a sufficient excuse for introducing the matter in this part of the magazine; though the veriest tyro will readily apprehend the clerical misprint of that country in lieu of Liberia, the stamps of which are indeed among the largest issues; but we were almost floored at the audacious claim of the hideous stamp of New Caledonia to the palm of beauty, till we recollected that the German equivalent for that island—thus causing the amusing blunder—will equally answer, as it was of course intended to do, for the home of those specimens of acknowledged beauty,—Nova Scotia!



An engraving of one of the Prince Albert Essays is here given. A letter by Mr. J. H. Burn appeared in our last number; a perusal of which will give collectors a good deal of interesting information concerning these newly-discovered rarities.

We possess another stamp which has till lately most marvellously escaped the researches of collectors, and which we have seen quoted in one manuscript continental catalogue only. It is a Spanish of the issue of 1857, value 12 cuartos; the colour is a rich bright vermilion.



The annexed engraving represents a stamp recently issued by the Confederate States of America, and has already been fully described in a previous number.

This paper will not be so barren in notice of newly-issued stamps as we expected when penning the early part. We have just met with a new series of the New Granada or United States of Columbia stamps. They are four in number; in colours and values the same as the preceding issue; but the shield and branches are white on coloured, in lieu of colour on white ground; and the four vacant corners of the stamps are filled with a sort of *fleur-de-lis* device. We saw the red 20 c. of this series some time since, but were not sufficiently assured of its authenticity to introduce it to notice.

Engravings of the new 4 cuartos stamp for Spain, and the threepenny scarlet Mauritius—both of which were referred to in our last number—are here presented to our readers.





SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

III.—THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.

THE famous astrologer of the sixteenth century, Cornelius Agrippa, is related to have possessed a wonderful mirror, in which his art enabled him to revive the images of the deceased for the gratification of their surviving friends. One evening, he was visited by a stranger in Asiatic costume, desiring the exercise of his power in raising to view the shade of Miriam, his beloved daughter. After some preliminaries, Agrippa bade him name how long he had mourned her death, as his wand must be waved once before the mirror for each ten years that had elapsed. 'Wave on,' was the reply, 'and see that thy hand tire not.' A period representing nearly fifteen centuries passed on ere the amazed magician beheld the mist disperse from the polished surface, and expose to view the resuscitated form of the beautiful and long-regretted daughter of——the Wandering Jew.

For many a decade more must the magician's wand have waved ere he could have raised the phantom of one of the earliest historically known inhabitants of the countries now represented by the pair of uncouth and unartistic-looking postage stamps of which fac-similes are subjoined.





Some centuries before the Christian era, the occupiers of the region at present under the alias of Moldo-Wallachia first started into celebrity, successfully obstructing the passage of the Great Alexander across the Danube. 'Macedonia's Madman' was wise enough to be convinced that the profit derivable from resisting and vanquishing the brave but poor Getæ amounted to *nil*, and prudently turned for conquest in another direction. Forty years afterwards they took Lysimachus, king of Thrace, prisoner during an aggressive attack of that monarch; and Dromichetes, the sovereign of the country, generously restoring the royal captive to liberty, was rewarded with the hand of his daughter in marriage.

These Getæ, better known by the name of Dacians, not very long afterwards were themselves defeated by the Gauls, and many of them sold as slaves to the Athenians and other Greeks. Strabo tells us that the Daci were originally called Davi; and etymologists add that by some extraordinary process of interchange of letters, *c* and *v* are found to be convertible, and instance the English words *quick* as synonymous with *vivus*, and *twelve* with *duodecim!* However this may be, we frequently find the name Davus applied to a slave in the Latin plays of Terence, and in other authors, where their innate northern astuteness is so curiously evinced by outwitting their ostensibly more civilized masters.

It is owing to the exile of the poet among the barbarous Getæ—though the actual spot where he lived and died in banishment from the bitterly-regretted refinement of imperial Rome, is without the boundaries of the region we are actually commemorating—that we owe the beautiful and pathetic *Tristia* of Ovid. The peasants of the district still hold the tradition that ages ago a man of honeyed words died among their ancestors, vainly entreating with his last breath that his remains might be transported to his yearned-for home; and it is not improbable that relics of the poem he composed in the Getian tongue, may yet exist in the traditionally-preserved household rhymes of the region.

To the early emperors of Rome, the warlike Dacians proved formidable antagonists. Tiberius got some slight advantage over them; but an expedition under one of the Cato family was signally defeated; and the tyrannical coward Domitian, after agreeing to pay them an annual tribute, named himself Dacicus, as having achieved a conquest. Trajan, however, after having constructed the wonderful bridge across the Danube, some remains of which exist to

this day, totally routed their forces under Decebalus, and virtually depopulated the country. It was after this victorious enterprise that the beautiful pillar, so well known to tourists, was erected in his honour.

The actual inhabitants of Moldo-Wallachia boast themselves descendants of those Roman colonists who were sent by Trajan to occupy the devastated regions of Dacia. That this boast is not idle—as regards, at least, the fact of a Roman origin—is well proved by the language of the people, one moiety of the words in which—including all the auxiliary verbs, articles, pronouns, numerals, and the major part of the prepositions and adverbs—being Latin. The inhabitants call themselves Roumani, and their country Roumania; and Vlak, from which comes the term Wallach, signifies strong, as does the word Roman, if traced to its Greek root. Some modern writers, who object to all 'received interpretations,' deny their descent from Trajan's colonists, and trace them to the Thracian tribe of Vlaki, who joined others in re-peopling Dacia, after the natives had been exterminated by an invasion of the Mongols in the thirteenth century. They do not deny, nevertheless, that both name and language prove them in some measure of Roman descent. They are, and have been for six hundred years and more, Christians of the Greek Church.

Those writers who claim for them an uninterrupted descent from the Roman colonists of Trajan, are justified by many acknowledged historical and existing facts. Gibbon alludes to the Wallachian as surrounded by, not mixed with, the barbarians. They have ever zealously guarded their nationality. They adopted many of the words of the dialects around them, yet kept their own pure and unmixed. 'They never cut,' says a historian, 'their new-born children's faces, that they might taste iron before their mother's milk, as the Huns did; they never made their women drive the plough, like the Avari; nor cut off the thumbs of their slaves, like the Scythians.' The Romans seldom, if ever, took wives from another nation, and the modern Roumani testify a similar aversion. A Moldavian or Wallachian peasant is never known to wed a Hungarian or a Pole. Pope Innocent III., in a letter, still extant, to Basil, archbishop of Zagora, acknowledges their Roman descent,—though it is possible he meant to be ironical when he writes, 'Prove yourselves Romans, as ye say ye are,' in allusion to their holding the doctrines of the Greek, in antagonism to those of the Papal Church.

Frequent were the persecutions suffered by, and expeditions undertaken against these people, on the part of their *soi-disant* orthodox neighbours, the Hungarians. But they were ever known ready to embrace slavery or death rather than forego the tenets of their national Church. One of their princes, named Octum, was vanquished and slain in a conflict against the Hungarians under the leadership of a fugitive lieutenant of his own. The Hungarian sovereign rewarded the traitor with the government of Octum's capital city and its province, and made slaves of an overwhelming majority of the conquered inhabitants who refused to become Papal catholics. At another time, in the eleventh century, King Ladislaus took their prince and a great part of his army prisoners, and slaughtered the whole, on their refusal to become — what he called — Christians. Both these bright specimens of the Christianity of their age were canonized after death. The former figures in calendars as St. Stephen of Hungary, and is often confounded with the protomartyr of the same name.

From that period, during the run of five centuries, they were now successfully resisting, now nominally subject to the power of Hungary. In the thirteenth century, the invasion of the Mongols necessitated a forced alliance, which was but ill maintained; they quarrelled amongst themselves, and their common enemy devastated both countries. The Tartars retired when there was nothing left to pillage: the scattered remnant of the Wallachians and other inhabitants of Roumania collected together; and after some struggles with the king of Hungary, the principality or duchy of Wallachia was constituted, under Radu Nedru, or Rodolph the Black; whose portrait—representing him in a long robe embroidered with gold and silver, a short mantle trimmed with dark

fur, and a diadem surrounding his jet black hair—still exists.

Rodolph reigned twenty-four years, and his memory is deservedly venerated by the Wallachians to this day, in gratitude for the wise and liberal legislation he accorded them. It was during the reign of his son Dennis, or Dan, that the principality of Moldavia was founded by Bogdan, whose name is the Moldavian equivalent for Theodore or Deodatus. The sovereigns of the two territories, under the name of voivodes or waywodes, became alternately vassals or enemies,—those of Wallachia to the Turks, and those of Moldavia to the Hungarians or Poles, till the commencement of the fifteenth century, when both governments submitted to the protectorate of the former power. During this period, the most famous or infamous of the Wallachian princes was Vlad the Devil, or Vlad the Impaler, as he was often called, in allusion to his favourite mode of punishment. Page after page might be filled with narratives of his cruelty, but we will burden our readers with but one specimen. The wretched tyrant delighted to sit and feast with his whole court in the centre of a circle of his Tartar or Turkish prisoners impaled; and the noxious effluvia one warm summer's day almost suffocating one of his nobles, somewhat more delicate than the rest; 'What!' said Vlad the Devil, 'you do not like the smell!' 'No,' replied the other. On which the human fiend ordered him to be immediately impaled himself, that his delicacy might not be offended in future! Yet this example of the 'good old times' has found his panegyrists, as his cruelties were mostly exercised during nominally religious wars against the Turks and Tartars; and his rule was so inflexibly strict and vigorous that the travelling merchants who passed through his territories were able to leave their valuable commodities exposed in the open highways all night, with the assurance of finding them perfectly intact when they wished to resume their journey.

The Moldavians about the same time enjoyed the sovereignty of Alexander the Good, and Stephen the Great; which latter, with his dying breath, after having nobly combated the Turks during life, counselled submission to that now rising power. We wish we had space for the translation of the beautiful and celebrated speech attributed to him, so replete with wisdom, philosophy, and religion. In Moldavia is yet chanted with pride the warlike *refrain* of his reign, that may be thus freely rendered:—

> 'Stephen! Stephen! great voiwode!
> Arm'd for conquest take thy road:
> Beat the Russians, Turks, and Poles;
> Drive the Tartars to their holes;
> Leave Hungarians dead in shoals.'

In 1493 the emperor Bajazet set Rodolph IV. on the throne of Wallachia. This prince, called by a Roumanian historian the Numa of his country, as Mirza I. was its Romulus, was one of the few unwarlike monarchs who have been dignified by the title of Great. Rodolph made many wise laws and institutions. He constituted different classes of nobility; and made the singularly-imagined and, as far as our reading carries us, unique enactment, which, if carried out by the nations of Europe nowadays, would create a marvellous revolution amongst the rank and titles of modern nobility. It was to this effect, that if the son or grandson of a noble did nothing to merit the continuance of his rank, the latter sank to the condition of a mere private gentleman! His prime counsellor in religious matters was Niphon, formerly the patriarch of Constantinople, who had been imprisoned by Bajazet, but pardoned at the intercession of Rodolph, and invited to his court, where he well repaid the hospitality of his protector by the great reforms he suggested. Before his time the great mass of the commonalty (who had fallen into gross ignorance ever since the burning of all the religious manuscripts that were written in Latin, in the troublous times that ensued after the council of Florence, when they adopted the Cyrilian alphabet, and utterly rejected the Latin) were labouring under the grossest ignorance; their sole knowledge of the faith they professed consisting in the utterance of the words *gospodi gosnitui*, the *kyrie eleeison* of the Greeks; genuflexion; and the sign of the cross. Niphon, however, by adding two extra bishoprics, and taking care that the clergy—the teachers—should themselves be taught,

paved the way for a more enlightened system.

The good understanding between Rodolph and Niphon did not, unfortunately, 'endure to the end.' A Moldavian noble, exiled by Stephen the Great, took refuge in Wallachia, and so wrought himself into the good graces of its prince that he received his sister in marriage. The fugitive, it seems, was already a husband, and the deserted wife complained to the patriarch, who insisted on Rodolph permitting his sister to be divorced. The prince naturally refused; and the indignant prelate publicly excommunicated the newly-married couple at the very moment when they were entering the cathedral. Rodolph, enraged, banished the daring priest, and forbade any of his subjects to afford him refuge. Niphon departed; but before passing the Danube, and retiring to Mount Athos, he launched forth the most terrific imprecations against Wallachia. By a strange coincidence, as though to realise his menaces, a severe famine ensued. A great discord followed, which almost led to a civil war; the nobles siding with their prince, and the priests and terrified peasantry taking the part of the patriarch. The latter, however, before matters arrived at extremity, died, and was enrolled among the saints; and Rodolph, who thought he saw the hand of an angry heaven amidst these turmoils, was stricken with severe disease, and expired in the greatest sufferings both of body and mind, after a reign, says a historian, 'of fifteen years wisely employed in developing the institutions of his country.'

We find we had become too interested in the researches needful for information on the subject of our article, to note that we were trespassing on the space we had mentally assigned ourselves, without having written more than half of a very condensed account of the interesting countries under our consideration. We must therefore take leave to reserve the remainder until the publication of our April number.

[In our article on Luxembourg, by a clerical error, Godfrey is represented as engaged in the *last*, instead of the *first* crusade.]

THE PORTRAIT ON THE MEXICAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

A FRIEND in New Orleans, to whom we had written about the issue of stamps in Mexico prior to the French occupation, informs us that postage stamps were certainly not issued there before 1853. In that year President (or, as he is sometimes termed, General) Santa Anna, who had been in and out of the presidential chair since 1833, was re-chosen, and made dictator for life. In 1861 Juarez was appointed president and perpetual dictator. It is known that Santa Anna had a wooden leg; it is also stated that he had but one eye. The portrait on the stamp does not represent this disfigurement, and the bust, therefore, may be that of Carrera, Alvarez, or Comonfort, all of whom succeeded Santa Anna.—*The Standard Guide to Stamp Collecting.*

STAMP COLLECTING NOT A MODERN IDEA.

COLLECTING stamps is not so modern a pursuit as many persons imagine. Postage stamps are certainly of very recent adoption, but other official stamps have been objects of interest to collectors for more than a century. We find, on consulting an old file of newspapers, that John Bourke, Esq., Receiver-General of the Stamp Duties, Ireland, formed a collection at Dublin in 1774 (in which year the stamp duties commenced in Ireland), arranged in a quarto volume, with MS. descriptions on vellum, for presentation to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Revenue in Ireland. This volume he entitled, *A Collection of the Impressions to be made on every Skin, or piece of Vellum or Parchment, or every sheet of Paper, in manner and form as hereinafter expressed;* and contained samples of Irish stamps from the value of six pounds down to that of one halfpenny. J. C. H.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

WE expected to be able to notice this month a very elaborate continental catalogue published in German by an eminent amateur postal collector, but have not yet received it. We shall take an early opportunity of

making a few remarks on some Parisian publications just issued or now in the press. The greater portion of the numerous English reviews, advertisers, &c., on postage-stamp subjects are principally useful as a medium for advertisements; but Messrs. Gloyn, of Manchester, propose enlarging their paper next month, and raising it to the rank of a magazine.

Of all the monthly tribe devoted to postal-collecting subjects, however, commend us to the ——: we forbear giving its name, fearing all the pence of our own widely-spread subscribers, to the great detriment of our profit, would be applied henceforth to the purchase of it, could they be induced to make the investment once.

The *Saturday Review* did us the honour of quoting our magazine as almost as good as *Punch*, and only a penny dearer. The work we allude to is much better, *i.e.*, much more laughable than *Punch*, and a penny cheaper, which is some object in the present hard times.

For the murder of her respected Majesty's English in the way of diction, grammar, and spelling, we think the writers exhibit great aptness, and deserve high credit for their originality and ingenuity. A few specimens will amuse our readers, extracted from a recent number; and wishing as much as possible to combine instruction with entertainment, they will serve our juvenile subscribers as grammatical, or rather ungrammatical, quotations for correction.

'A great many opinions has arisen.'
'One centesimi green.'
'Van Diemans Land.'
'Stamp Theives.'
'Engendor.'
'The prescription on the celebrated Potsdam vase.'
'The rectangulator red patch.'
'The countries whose stamps assimulate so strongly.'

The story of the Christmas Lark with the Jew is alone worth the twelvemonth's subscription. We will treat our readers with the opening sentence to whet their curiosity. 'On Christmas day a few of my stamps collecting friends amongst which was a Jew who came to my house and had a little supper, determined we were to have a lark with our worthy friend Jacob Levi who had a very bad habit of eating with his fingers from his plate.'

We hope not to be misunderstood as actuated by ungenerous feeling, or motives of jealousy towards a fellow-worker in the same path. Some of the errors are perhaps clerical; and a moderate amount of extra care would easily make the periodical a respectable publication. There is nothing objectionable in the supper anecdote, provided it were 'done into decent English.' A lot of youths might spend the evening in a far less innocent manner than larking with a dirty Jew.

Musgrave's Popular Heraldic Sheets. London: George Musgrave and Co., Turnham Green, W.

These sheets are thirteen in number, and are each and all extremely well and correctly executed. The nature of our publication calls for no remark on any but Nos. 1 and 8; the former comprising the arms, and the latter the flags, of all nations. Either or both of these sheets, when cut up and placed as headings in their albums by those collectors who, like ourselves, prefer one perfectly blank for their stamps, are well worth the moderate amount of purchase money.

They now lie before us: the flags are sixty-three, and the arms fifty-two in number, and are beautifully emblazoned in silver and gold with the proper heraldic colours. Not being professedly designed exclusively for postage-stamp collectors, there are, of course, several coats of arms—as those of the Prince of Wales—and flags—as those of Tripoli, Persia, Burmah, Japan, &c.—which would not come into use. We hear, by the way, that the last-named country is about to issue postage stamps, and met with an individual a few days ago who informed us he had seen a proof of the design about to be employed for that purpose.

These sheets can be procured either from the Messrs. Musgrave direct, or from Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath, in colours with or without the gold and silver emblazonment.

LINES FOR THE 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

BLOW, wintry winds, over the waters
Of the mighty far-spread sea,
Till the mail-ships skimming the surface,
Swift to our green isle flee.

Blow, for we're waiting and longing
For stamps from the distant shore;
America's men, and Guiana's ships,
And Australia's coveted store.

We've plenty of Germans to change with,
If you've but a Ceylon at hand;
And money shall not be stinted
For a stamp from Van Diemen's Land.

Blow, while the mania is rife,
For the fancy may slacken, I ween;
Good luck to the earnest collector;
Good luck to the STAMP MAGAZINE.

S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRINCE CONSORT ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have read with considerable interest Mr. Burn's letter to you about the Prince Albert essays.

As all the collectors in London seem, and I think properly, to give these stamps place in their albums, any information from a sure source is most welcome.

Judging only from the stamps themselves, I should unhesitatingly pronounce them not to be of government origin; or to speak more accurately, from the same source as the stamps used, or the accredited essays of stamps of the period in question.

The engraving is very different: it is much coarser, and the execution altogether rougher. If this be the fact, why may not these stamps be essays submitted to the authorities for adoption, and rejected, as we know by the result they were?

Apart altogether from the foregoing, and also from the paragraph wherein Mr. Burn speaks in very direct terms of certain alleged requirements of the queen, as to which I make no remark, I notice that he proceeds thus:—

'The engraving such a stamp could only have been attempted by permission of Lord Melbourne.' Why so, I ask? The noble lord was then at the head of the treasury: I have yet to learn he had either right, power, or authority to give or withhold any permission of the kind.

I take it to be undoubted law that any person in the realm may engrave and submit any design (provided it be not a fraudulent imitation of stamps in use; in which event the Stamp Acts would be infringed); and neither persuasion nor leave is or requires to be asked or granted of any person whatever. Surely if any one were to be applied to it would be the Postmaster General, who would have the design submitted for his approval.

But Mr. Burn goes on that 'the engraving, highly censurable as it certainly was,' (though why so I cannot tell, except that it shared the fate of others and never was adopted) 'could not escape prohibition by the Privy Council;' and many years since he 'read that such' (prohibition or engraving?) 'had been attempted, but that the stamp was ordered to be destroyed.'

Does Mr. Burn mean to imply the Council did in fact prohibit these stamps? If so, their proclamation was altogether useless: it was void to prohibit their being used, for they never were in legalized use; it was futile to prevent their engraving, as that was already done; nor could such engraving have been prevented by any order or proclamation.

Mr. Burn deserves the thanks of all for his particulars of the finding of these stamps. He does not—nor perhaps was it to be expected or desired he should—state whether the deceased person was filling any official position: in the absence of assertion one may fairly presume such was not the case; and that he either originated this essay, or procured his two sheets directly or indirectly from the designer.

In any view, this in no way lessens the rarity or value of the stamps as essays. They bear on their face marks of being a genuine attempt at a design for general circulation; and as they never were put into use they are in the true sense of the term essays.

Your obedient servant,

The Temple, E.C. A. J. H.

THE EDITOR'S REPLY TO FENTONIA.

The Editor of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, in reply to Fentonia's remarks in the last number, begs to leave Messrs. Mount Brown and Oppen to answer for their alleged inaccuracy with regard to the German silver, new, and good groschen; merely remarking that most probably the former availed himself of the authority of *Murray's Continental Guide*, which puts 24 good, or 30 silver groschen as equivalent to a thaler.

Like his self-chosen model Colenso, Fentonia seems to have rather confused himself in his researches. Oppen does *not* make *ten*, but *twelve* pfennige the equivalent of a silber groschen; nor does Mount Brown place Oldenburg in the same brace with Hamburg.

He, moreover, on turning to page 92 of the magazine will find it there stated that the editor received eight of the Bremen 2 grote stamps on a letter from that town, sufficiently evidencing their capability of prepaying for this country.

The editor thinks Fentonia's suggestions respecting the vague use of the terms 'guten' and 'guter' both ingenious and plausible; and entirely agrees with his favourable opinion of the reality of the 12½ c. blue Canadian.

That a slight change in the relative value of the pfennig to a silber groschen has lately taken place, is proved by the newly-issued green 3 pfennige of Hanover, which bears the inscription 3-10*ths of a silber groschen*, whereas the superseded pink stamp of the same device was labelled 1-3*rd of a silber groschen*.

Perhaps some good authority will be kind enough to interpret the letters 'L. H. P A.' at the four corners of the Bergedorf stamps. We suppose they imply 'Lubeck, Hamburg, Post Office' (*Post Amt*).

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

Sir,—In reading the February number of your periodical, I remarked some questions made by one of your correspondents mostly about German stamps. I hope the following explanation may be of use to some of your subscribers. The first was the difference between a groschen, gutegroschen, silbergroschen, and neugroschen. A groschen and a neugroschen are identical; both are worth one and one-fifth of a penny, and are divided into ten pfennings. A silbergroschen is also worth one and one-fifth of a penny, but it contains twelve pfennings. the value of a gutegroschen is a little higher: twenty-four gutegroschens form a thaler; but a thaler contains thirty of the three other kinds. It amounts to one and two-thirds of a penny, and is divided into twelve pfennings. These differences can be seen in the Brunswick stamps. Some

of them have the value mentioned in groschens, others in silbergroschens and in gutegroschens. The brown quartett stamp bears the inscription, ¼ *gutegroschen, drei pfenninge;* showing that a gutegroschen contains twelve pfennings. Another stamp (black print on white paper) bears the inscription, *Vier silber pfenninge*, and the value, *one-third*, is marked in ovals at both sides. A silbergroschen therefore contains twelve pfennings. A third stamp (black print on green paper) is marked *funf pfennige, half groschen* (not silbergroschen). There are therefore ten pfennings in a groschen. Your correspondent does not seem to know that there are three different kinds of pfennings; those ten of which form a neugroschen or groschen; those twelve of which make a silbergroschen; and those that are the twelfth part of a gutegroschen. On the green envelope stamp of the first issue of Hanover, guter and groschen are printed separately. Guter is an adjective, in the masculine gender, belonging to the substantive groschen. On the brown Brunswick stamp gutegroschen is one word.

The second question was about the two-grote stamp of Bremen. Before the 1st of May, 1863, the postage throughout the Bremen territory (except in the capital, where the one-grote envelopes were used) amounted to three grotes. On that day, the postage between Bremen and Vegesacke,—the largest place on the Bremen territory after the capital—and *vice versa*, was reduced to two grotes. The postage from Bremen to England amounts to ten grotes; so that one would have to use five stamps of the value of two grotes.

The meaning of the letters 'L. H. P. A.,' on the Bergedorf stamps, is *Lubeck, Hamburger Post Amt.* Bergedorf belongs to Hamburg and Lubeck jointly; this is the meaning of these words, and this is also the reason why we find half of the Lubeck and half of the Hamburg arms on these stamps.

Truly yours,
Darmstadt, Grand-duchy of Hesse. F. L.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—A correspondent in your last number wished to know the difference between certain German coins: I think I am able to give the required information.

A groschen is of less value than the other coins, containing only five pfennige, while a neu (or new) groschen (so called from belonging to a new system of coinage commenced in Saxony about fifteen years ago) and a guten, or more correctly a guter groschen, each contain ten pfennige, and a silber or silver groschen contains twelve pfennige, and is the thirtieth part of a thaler or dollar; thus, therefore, a thaler contains 360, not 300 pfennige; seventy-two groschens; thirty-six neu groschens; the same number of guter groschens; or thirty silber groschens. Ten pfennige, or a neu or guter groschen are equal to an English penny, and a thaler is equal to three English shillings. I have the authority of a native of Germany for this, so I think it is reliable information.

The meaning of the four letters 'L. H. P. A.' on the stamps of Bergedorf is most probably this:—*Lubeck und Hamburg Post Amt.—Anglice*, Lubeck and Hamburg Post-Office; and it is probable from the Lubeck eagle and Hamburg castle on the stamps, and from the position of the town at an almost equal distance between these two cities, that they both claim postal, if no other jurisdiction over it.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
Preston-next-Wingham. HENRY JENNER.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In case no other correspondent should give more accurate information, I beg to suggest to your correspondent, Fentonia, that the letters in the four corners of the Bergedorf stamps, 'L. H. P. A.,' mean (I have no doubt) *Lubeck, Hamburg Post Amt.* The Bergedorf stamps have half of the Hamburg arms and half of the Lubeck arms as their device; and the district itself is no doubt closely connected with both cities, in whose territories alone, I suspect, are these stamps available.

Fentonia may rest assured that the 1-groschen blue stamp of Hanover is authentic, as I have seen an official statement from the authorities there regretting that, with an otherwise perfect set of their stamps unused, they could not supply a specimen of the 1 groschen blue, for which they had left a vacancy.

I saw a 5-cent blue New Brunswick just three years since, and therefore think it is a genuine article; if forged, they would be common now.

You are mistaken in supposing that the English official (V. R.) black stamp has 'the usual Maltese cross' at the lower angles: it has letters there like the other English penny stamps.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,
London. W. H. H.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your last number you suggested, in your review of my album and catalogue, that it would be well if loose leaves could be supplied that could be gummed in the album. I have adopted your idea, and they will be supplied by the publisher of the album at 9d. per dozen. Thus any person possessing either of the former editions can now make sufficient space for any new issues. Thanking you for your suggestion, and hoping you will give space in your next for this notice,

I remain, very truly yours,
Burton-upon Trent. HENRY WHYMPER.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your December issue I observe Mr. Davis's letter. I am another who has been victimised by 'A. A. Outram, *Esq.*,' to the extent of 4s. 2d. All my letters, after the one enclosing stamps, have, like Mr. Davis's, been returned through the Dead Letter Office. A notification of this, along with the others in the issue now before me, will, I trust, have the effect of preventing others from being 'sold,' and I hope may lead to the discovery of the party.

I am yours respectfully,
Hartlepool. EDWARD. C. HALL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. B. B., Stratford Green.—The genuine sixpenny black essay, queen enthroned, of Victoria is rather rare. The blue individuals, when discoloured by natural or artificial means, often pass current for the real thing.

G. E., Manor House, Morley.—Citric or any similar acid will extract common writing from a postage stamp; but we know of no preparation capable of neutralising the usual obliterations; nor would it be proper to divulge such knowledge did we possess it.

PINE, Stonegate, York.—It requires no microscope to ascertain, nor was it ever disputed, that the emblem in the left-hand corner of some of the Bahama stamps is intended to represent a pineapple. The discussion was respecting the right-hand figure, which a correspondent imagined to be a yam, but which we pronounced a shell.

M. L. O., Twickenham.—We believe your Confederate stamps are genuine. The engraving is much superior to that of the current forgeries.

J. C. ANDREWS, Belfast.—Your very dark green Ceylon twopenny must have been accidentally discoloured, as we have never met with one like it before. Ceylon stamps of that value are so common that had they been ever issued other than emerald green, they would have been well known in collections.—We have frequently seen a 10-cents United States blue, and we believe they were genuine.—There is no naturally brown New Zealand penny.—The brown and the green Denmark are at present with wavy ground; the other two have never been otherwise than speckled.—The penny red on tinted paper of the Cape of Good Hope is out of use.

The drawing of a stamp sent on a small piece of paper by some correspondent is the so-called express stamp for Berlin, and which is pronounced to be one of the Hamburg impudent and unprincipled forgeries.

J. S., Great Grimsby.—We think the album published by Moens, of Brussels, the best for an extensive collection; but Oppen's will do very well for one of moderate pretensions. Either can be procured at our establishment

H. B., Coburg, Germany.—The English V. R., and the half-anna red India, are so rare as to be seldom attainable.

MARION, Brompton.—The red Turkish half-piastre stamp is for Constantinople only.—We have never seen a Cape of Good Hope stamp with the figure of a lion added to that of the sitting representative of Hope.

MARY ANNE M.—Your black 60 and 90 and blue 10 small oblong stamps are Brazilian.—The pink stamps you describe must be those of Thurn and Taxis north. The 1 s. g. is the present, and the 2 s. g. the preceding issue; but we have never met with a pink 3 s. g. The current stamp of that value is reddish brown.

T. S., Marlborough College.—The 2 cuartos Spanish will most probably be speedily followed by the other denominations after a similar design.

CORREO.—There are as many different newspaper stamps as there are papers requiring them.—We believe there are no French or Spanish gazette stamps.—Crests are of no commercial value.—Should the reputed fac-simile of a stamp vary from the original it cannot be a fac-simile.—The penny English are, the black; the dark red-brown; the red on blue paper; the red with, and the red without perforations; and the red with letters at each corner, some of which have been struck off but are not yet in use.—The value of the green Barbadoes is one halfpenny.

E. W. G., Torquay.—We believe your suggestion is correct as to the meaning of the letters on the stamps of Bergedorf, and we had ourselves interpreted them in the same way.—The English twopenny yellow is unquestionably a chemical.—The Hamonia wine-cup stamp is another essay on gullibility.—If you want the Utah stamp you had better write to the authors of the *Standard Catalogue*.—Most dealers can supply the local for the town of Brunswick.

F. KEILY, London.—The stamp you figure is an Austrian receipt stamp.

E. M. H., Hungerford.—Smith & Elder, of Cornhill, were the first allowed by the stamp authorities to encircle the government envelopes with their name and address. Their example has been followed by several firms. Most continental and many English collectors acknowledge these stamps as varieties.

G. BOLTON.—Your Réunion stamp is merely a fac-simile; the other, a French bon-bon stamp.

K. A. D., Grammar School, Bromsgrove.—We have no faith in your *Pe king* stamp. We have seen its fellows before in very suspicious company; exposed for sale with Cochin China, Mekka, Texas, and other outlandish-looking specimens.

E. S. A., Piccadilly.—The registered Queenslands are in use; but the fivepenny New South Wales has been some time obsolete. Franking letters to the East Indies and Mauritius only, it seldom, if ever, came to this country, which accounts for its great rarity.

R. W., Hornsea.—The stamp you enclosed for inspection is most probably a label for goods. The characters inscribed are certainly Turkish.

T. C., Cavendish Road, London.—The stamps you describe are those usually called Austrian complementary, and which have been occasionally used for labelling returned letters.

J. T. WILLESDEN.—The stamp you enclosed is the ½ real of Peru, and is very rare. Lallier's album *does* give a place for it.

OLIVE.—Dr. Gray is correct in his assertion of the non-existence of Chinese stamps.—Oppen's album gives space for the Hong Kongs.—The early issues of the penny English are brown rather than red.—The higher values of our envelopes can be procured by special application at Somerset House only.

J. C. ANDREWS, Belfast.—We sent your stamp to the address given, but the letter was returned from the Dead Letter Office, labelled, 'not known.'

J. E. M., Tenterden.—The two stamps of the United States described in your letter are of the issue of 1857, and were superseded by the present series in 1861.—The other stamp is the current local for Stockholm, taking the place of the obsolete brown and black oblong *Frimarke for local Bref*.

Miss S., of Maidstone, is informed that the 10-cents greenback of the United States, not being a postage stamp, has no fancy value. Say sixpence.

J. YOUNG, Leicester.—The Austrian gazette stamp of 1861 is superseded by one bearing the imperial arms.—The 1-grote Bremen is not a postage stamp.—The latest issues of British Guiana and of Norway will of course, in due time, supersede the others.—You quite surprised us by observing that there is no mention of the octagonal sixpenny and shilling English adhesive stamps in Mount Brown's third edition; but we find, on reference, that you are correct. There is that *hiatus valde deflendus*. The tenpenny *is* noted.—There is nearly as much difference between the 4 pf. and 6 pf. 1850 and 1858 issues of Prussia, as between the other denominations. The early series is considerably darker than the later. The old 4 pf. is green on green, the other is green on white ground. The old 6 pf. is almost brown, the newer is scarlet.

E. HALL, Hartlepool.—Many thanks for a sight of the variety of the 10-cents Confederate,—*ten* in letters in lieu of figures.

H. B., Rockampton.—Your Nicaragua is genuine.—The blue stamp is the earliest issue of Norway.

E. N., Athboy, Ireland.—Many collectors assign a place for the American Inter. Rev. stamps in their albums.

CAUTION.—Stamp dealers are recommended to make inquiries before entrusting specimens to unknown persons. A fellow wrote to 'Stampede,' requesting some stamps to be sent to Mr. Thomas Jones, 48, Moss Street, Paisley, Scotland. The scamp got the stamps; but a second letter, sent after a reasonable interval, was returned by the Dead-Letter Office, 'not having been called for.' One of the same swindling fraternity, giving the name of 'Newmarck,' procured stamps in a similar way from Mr. Moens, of Brussels. He gave his address as at the City News Rooms, Cheapside; called there for the stamps; but never went for any of the numerous letters sent afterwards by his deluded victim. We could particularize many such instances of knavery.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

CHAPTER VI.

DOUBTS AND FEARS.

'To put the torch of Cupid out,
There's nothing like the breeze of Doubt:
Rare is a lover's heart so stout,
His subtle influence to rout,
And bid him "to the right about."'

One afternoon, shortly after this, being released from the office earlier than usual, I hastened immediately to Kensington, wishing to surprise my betrothed. I entered stealthily by a side gate, and making my way unobserved across the garden round to the back of the house, ascended the stone steps leading from the drawing-room balcony to an open lawn. Esconced behind a large luxuriantly-flowering shrub which grew on one side of the bay window, I played for once the eaves-dropper.

Mrs. Davenport was reclining languidly on her couch; and Emily, seated at the table, was carefully arranging or sorting a large packet of postage stamps: by her side lay a chaste and elegant album.

'I think, mamma,' said Emily, in her own sweet voice, 'that my collection now needs but few acquisitions. I have had so many given me lately; and, indeed, when I had it first, it was so complete as to need but slight additions.'

I could see a crimson flush mounting to Emily's pure, white brow, as she uttered these last words; but suddenly I started violently, and looked long and attentively at the album Emily was now clasping in her hand. I could not be mistaken;—no one, I believed, had ever possessed one like mine. I had had it made expressly for myself, long before they came into universal fashion. It was richly bound in russia leather and gold, and each division separated by a broad band of ornamental chasing. The effect was costly and unique; and I had paid for it a sum far beyond my means. The stamps, too, had surely once been mine,—those rare blue Brunswickers, the Pony Express, the green Liberian, the peculiar stamp of the Sandwich Isles, and various others, both precious and obsolete! Like an arrow shot through my brain came the recollection of many conversations Emily and I had held upon the subject of *timbromanie*, and her laughing confusion and embarrassment when telling me of her stamp album, which had been given her under the proviso that it should never be shown to a stranger; and my fond declaration that I should soon see it, and that when I became her husband I would offer it to the British Museum for public exhibition.

Suspicions, doubts, fears, crowded upon me. That I saw my own stolen property before my eyes I felt convinced; and, my head on fire, distracted with horror and uncertainty, I left the window unperceived; and rushing home in a tumult of feeling, I barred the door and sat down to collect my scattered thoughts, and to fathom, if possible, this strange, perplexing mystery. But in vain I racked my brain and tortured memory;—no guiding clue came to my aid; and finally, as a last resource, I resolved to seek out my former landlady, Mrs. Matson, and discover the names of all those who were lodging in her house when I was there. Quickly, therefore, I sought my late abode: my loud, vehement ring of the bell was answered by a dirty, slipshod girl, with an expression of the utmost vacancy on her ill-favoured countenance; and on my repeating my inquiries for Mrs. Matson in rising tones of passion and impatience, she at last vouchsafed to reply with a broad grin, 'Ain't here.' 'Is she gone?' I resumed, in a milder tone. The answer came with another and still more frightful contortion of her besmeared features:—'She be gun fur good from these parts.' Concluding in my own mind that the girl was a downright idiot, and consequently there would be no satisfaction to be obtained from her replies, I turned on my heel and walked back to my rooms

CHAPTER VII.

PERPLEXITIES.

'Oh, that some kindly, skill'd, and welcome hand,
Some fairy power, or great magician's wand,
Would this most complex Gordian knot untie,
And bid mistrust and fell suspicion fly.'

I could not go again to Mr. Davenport's until my doubts were dispelled, and my harassing suspicions set at rest; therefore I dined at my own home, and spent the

ensuing hours in wild conjecture and useless surmises. But my meditations and reflections resulted in one fixed idea;—to penetrate this mystery clearly and satisfactorily, before I made Emily Davenport my wife. Accordingly I wrote to Edward Allan, telling him all my difficulties, and begging his aid. My letter written and despatched, my mind became somewhat easier; but soon arose the thought, how was I to avoid Emily's presence until I received Edward's answer, without exciting the suspicions of the family, and probably ruining all chance of eventually calling Emily mine, when this torturing secret should be discovered.

'Yes, I will feign illness,' said I to myself; 'write a note to Kensington, saying that I am confined to my bed with a severe influenza which will prevent my leaving the house for two or three days.'

The messenger I had sent with my letter returned shortly, bearing the sweetest and most loving of all delicate rose-coloured notes from Emily, regretting, deploring my illness in fond, affectionate terms, and beseeching me to take the greatest care of my precious self. Its perusal stung me with the deepest remorse: I reproached myself bitterly for daring for one second to suspect my modest, pure Emily; in thought even, to have conceived her capable of anything wrong. No! it was impossible: I would and could not believe it; and once more Pandora's last and best gift to mankind visited with its cheering, brightening rays my clouded and darkened spirit. I would thrust the idea of my betrothed's being associated with the smallest sin from me as it were a poisonous reptile; but then the tempter came again, bringing the recollections of insignificant trifles, and confirmatory proofs; forging a long and subtle chain of evidence, wild, vague, opposed to the dictates of reason and probability; but which found a ready entrance into a mind tossed and buffetted by the winds of dread, distrust, and suspicion. Long I struggled against the demon, which, like the vulture of Prometheus, preyed upon my very vitals. To lose Emily for ever was a thought too terrible to cherish for one moment; and I was in a fever of impatience and anxiety for Edward Allan's answer. On the second morning after the despatch of my letter to him, I received a brief but polite note from his sister, informing me that her brother had been for some days confined to his bed with a serious and dangerous illness: he had begged to have my letter read to him, and had fainted immediately afterwards. The subject, of course, since then had never been alluded to by anyone, as the least mention of my name seemed to throw him into a state of distress and agitation highly injurious in his precarious condition.

I threw down this letter with the most cold-hearted and selfish disgust and annoyance; for how was I now to attain my cherished wish? I did not know, till the disappointment came, how much I had counted upon Allan's answer; what complete satisfaction I had expected it to yield; what cruel doubts, what wretched suspicions I had hoped it would solve. But suspense was a thousand times worse than almost any certainty; I must move, I must act in some way; I could not remain passive; and my thoughts reverted again to my former landlady; I would search her out; she, more than all others, I believed would most likely be able to help me in this dreadful strait.

I was not long in again reaching Mrs. Matson's late abode. The door was answered as before by my former dirty and idiotic acquaintance. On my inquiring who lived in the house at present, she replied with the old vacant stare, 'My missus.' This reply was, to say the least, rather ambiguous; but controlling my temper and impatience as best I could, I requested to be conducted to the presence of her 'missus.' The girl hesitated, stared, and finally muttered, 'Ain't hup yet.' Nothing daunted by this fresh difficulty, I demanded admittance, and was led along a cold, narrow passage perfumed with the scent of onions and every other savoury flavour to which culinary performers are supposed to be attached. I was then shown into a small, close parlour, gaudily and showily furnished. After the lapse of half an hour my solitude was relieved by the entrance of a tall, coarse-featured woman, with hair guiltless of comb and brush, and face innocent of the cleansing properties of

soap and water. She received me with obsequious civility, and vaunted the rooms and accommodation; assuring me that I should not find such clean (?) and comfortable apartments in the whole of London. As it was impossible to check the flow of her volubility, I remained dumb until the poor woman paused perfectly breathless, and then I told her, in mild and insinuating terms (for I have an intense fear and horror of viragos, and the Zantippe-like propensities of this lady were evident), that my object in seeking her house was not to obtain lodgings, but information as to the whereabouts of its former occupant, Mrs. Matson. The woman's tone of cringing servility soon changed to one of suppressed insolence; and telling me that she believed 'the female'—with a particular stress on this unpleasant word—whom I wished to see had gone to live at Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, the virago waved one of her great flat hands; which taking as a signal for my dismissal, I quitted the room and the house, and hastily calling a cab, bade the driver convey me to the Euston Square Station. I was fortunate in finding a train just about to start for Aylesbury. Duly we arrived at our destination; and rejecting all offers of fly or omnibus, I walked on, revolving in my mind the difficulties and obstacles that lay in my path. It was no easy task that I was undertaking; I did not know in what direction to pursue my inquiries; but suddenly I thought of the post-office, and made my way thither.

(*To be continued*).

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

IV.—THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.



After the decease of Radu or Rodolph IV., the government of the Sublime Porte exercised considerably more than a nominal domination over Wallachia. By the treaty of 1460, besides arrogating for itself the privilege of recognition, Turkey claimed that of confirmation, after the usual election of the voivodes by the boyards. But at the period which our sketch has now reached (the early half of the sixteenth century) the Ottoman ambition was not satisfied with this negative power, and took upon itself the rights both of nomination and deposition. In 1541 we find Rodolph VIII. dethroned and exiled into Egypt; soon after, Peter II. was banished to Asia; and again, Mihnes II. to Tripoli. In fact, the nominally independent princes of Wallachia were really governors liable to be dispossessed at the will of their capricious and arbitrary masters.

A gradual increase of annual tribute was the natural consequence of this exertion of Turkish rule. In 1524 Rodolph VII. had raised it to 14,000 ducats; the 5,000 more added by Peter II. did not avail, as we have seen, to secure his principality; Peter III. promised to pay 80,000, and actually laid down a quarter of the sum on nomination; in 1591 Stephen the Deaf allowed a further augmentation. Not content with the peaceable levy of this large tribute, Alexander III. imported Mussulman tax-gatherers into the unhappy country under his *quasi* sovereignty, who are reported to have abused their authority to the utmost, and to have committed the most frightful atrocities under the cloak of a rigid performance of their duty.

In the middle of the sixteenth century we see the Ottomans, in the reign of the ninth Rodolph, garrisoning Giurgevo and other towns with their own troops, as though the country were theirs by right of conquest. In effect, the voivodes themselves were the mere creatures of their savage *protectors*, and obsequiously fought under the banner of the infidel crescent against their kindred worshippers of the cross; and the Roumanian troops are said to have burnt more than three hundred Christian villages!

Throughout the century under survey a continual struggle was taking place between the nobles and their princes; the latter employing every means, fair or foul, to repress the power and lessen the privileges of the former. The wildest sensation romances would fail in portraying from fancy the realities of those terrible times. One of

these exquisite specimens of human nature, with the assistance of three hundred Turkish spahis, during the ceremony of his installation, at a given signal, massacred a large number of the assembled boyards. The boastful epithet of Mihnes the Wicked reads thus:—

'Of robbers and thieves my dominions I purge,
Wielding the sabre of "Mihnes the Scourge."'

In 1532 Ventila I., chancing one day to be out stag hunting, took it into his head to fire at some of his nobles, instead of following the ostensible object of sport: some of them, however, bolder than the rest, turned the tables by attacking the tyrant, killing, and throwing him into the water. They then elected Rodolph VIII., whose election, as we have remarked above, not pleasing the Turkish sultan, he was deposed and exiled.

One other instance of princely cruelty and treachery will suffice. Mirza III. put to death some of his principal officers of state during the very week of his accession: numbers of others escaped only by flight, and organised a rebellion in Transylvania, but were conquered, and their leaders slain. Not long after, Mirza proclaimed a general amnesty, authorising the return of the emigrants. Many were simple enough to trust their enemy, and re-sought their own firesides. They soon, however, paid with their lives for the ill-judged confidence, being massacred openly at the first public convocation of the nobility. The few that escaped took refuge in Turkey; but the sultan, with cruel fellow feeling for his vassal, had them sewed up in sacks and thrown into the Bosphorus. The two sons of this tyrant, who successively enjoyed the sovereignty, and all his successors, till the reign of Michael the Brave, with the exception of Peter I., were merciless persecutors and assassins of their own nobility. One of these cruel rulers, strange to say, was possessed of considerable literary abilities, being an accomplished poet, and able to speak twelve languages. He had been educated in France; had adopted the manners and tongue of that country; and owing to his intimacy with the Chevalier de Germiny, ambassador from Henry III. to the Porte, that nobleman successfully exerted his court influence to get his friend appointed voivode of Wallachia. He was styled 'Peter of the Earring,' from his habit of wearing such an ornament in one ear. This custom may possibly be peculiar to that country, as we remember seeing a gentleman from thence, one of whose ears only appeared to have been bored.

We must now for a while take up the dropped thread of the Moldavian annals. At the commencement of the same century, Bogdan, son and successor of Stephen the Great, obedient to his dying father's policy, sent presents and ambassadors to the sultan. The latter were received with distinction; the former, artfully returned. Alarmed at the increasing power of the Ottomans in Wallachia, the Moldavians, under Stephen V., again renewed their homage, and were again courteously recognised by the crafty sultan. Some years after, while the Grand Seignor Soliman was besieging Vienna, the Moldavians formally offered to place themselves under the protectorate of the Turks on certain conditions; comprising an alliance, offensive and defensive; freedom of election to the voivodeship; a *voluntary* annual tribute; and some minor stipulations. These conditions the sultan accepted; but by gradual encroachment, in less than half a century, the subjection of Moldavia was little, if any, less stringent than that of Wallachia. Little did Stephen the Great expect such a result from his apparently prudent advice; and little could he foresee that the race of the Bogdanides, extinct so early as in the person of his grandson, would yet survive the independence of Moldavia.

During these occurrences the current of home events ran but little more smoothly than among the neigbouring Wallachians. Bogdan was assassinated; his own wife poisoned Stephen VI.; and the reigning dynasty had then prematurely ceased, but a son of the Great Stephen was found in a humble walk of life, and recognised by the impression of his father's seal on the sole of one of his feet! a usage then habitual among the noble families of those parts, when the heirs of rich inheritances were liable to be carried away as slaves by the

Turks, or stolen by the gypsies. This was Peter Rarès, the idol of the people, but the terror of the nobles; once driven by them from the throne, but afterwards received with slavish submission, the head of his rival and predecessor being sent him as a present. His race in the male line terminated with the assassination of his second son, a superstitious but debauched prince; whose sister Roxandra was chosen, from motives of policy, as bride by Lepuchnano, elected next to the princedom, and who adopted her name under the form of Alexander. His reign was such as we have described that of Vlad the Devil. 'In all Moldavia,' says a chronicler, 'was nothing seen or heard but blood, tears, misery, curses, and despair: men stretched along the public roads, asking alms, without hands to hold out, or feet to stand on: women and children, noseless and eyeless, swelled the wretchedness of the groups.'

This despot was attacked, vanquished, and exiled by an adventurer named John Basil, who boasted of being a relative of the princess, and who organised a rebellion against Alexander, assisted by two thousand Poles. He was of a literary turn of mind; being fond of surrounding himself with learned professors invited from Poland or Germany. He founded the university and library of Cotnar. This did not suit the taste of the rude and uneducated boyards, who inciting the populace to a revolt, they set upon him in his palace; when John calmly seated himself on his throne in courtly array, and fell unresisting, pierced by a thousand daggers.

The return of Alexander sufficiently avenged the death of his predecessor. On one or other pretext he decimated the nobility, pillaged their estates, and exiled them without mercy. One Sunday, after church, he invited the chief of the remaining aristocracy to a magnificent banquet. They all arrived, except two youths, Stroica and Spancioc, who cut across the Dniester in double quick time. The repast was sumptuous; salvos of artillery, military bands, heralded every toast. The tyrant seemed actually to be unbending, when a slight incident aroused his tiger nature. At a given signal the whole of the company were massacred by his guards, and seven and forty heads were rolling in streams of gore. Mococ, the confidant and sharer in the cruelties of his sovereign, was the only noble whose life was spared; and the worthy pair were congratulating each other on the success of their diabolical treachery, when the multitude who had been thronging round the palace gates, staring with envious eyes at the soldiers eating and drinking in the courtyard, and listening to the exciting music welling through the open windows, had now become startled by the sudden change from joyous hilarity to the clash of arms, shrieks, and groans, followed by the dread silence of death. Comprehending at length the state of affairs, they were preparing to burst the gates, with loud clamours for the head of Mococ. 'Do you hear?' said the voivode to his minister: 'What shall I say? What must be done?' 'Exterminate the scum,' replies Mococ. 'That would be a pity,' rejoins Alexander, 'for the sake of a single individual. Let me consider.' Then turning to his guards, he ordered them to turn him out amongst the people, by whom he was torn to pieces in a brief space of time.

At last the tyrant's end approached. In pusillanimous terror he assembled the archbishop and clergy; vowed a pilgrimage of penitence should he recover; and begged the priests, if they saw death imminent, to shave his head and clothe him in a monk's frock. Some hours after he was obeyed; but reviving for awhile, and perceiving the state he was in, he flew into a violent passion, and threatened the priests with every vengeance on recovery. At this moment Stroica and Spancioc, the two noble youths who had escaped carnage by timely flight, entered the room with a bowl of poison, and ordered Roxandra herself to administer it. 'God will pardon you,' said the archbishop to her. She held the potion to the dying man's lips, but he would not swallow it; when the avengers pulling her aside, Stroica forced open their enemy's teeth with his poniard, while Spancioc poured the liquor down his throat. He died, as became his life, in rage and despair; 'while he lived,' says Thuanus, 'an object of

horror to his own subjects.' His death took place in 1567; and the state of the country under his successors was not a whit more enviable; for an old chronicler writes that 'The Roumanians, at the close of the sixteenth century, regretted even the tyranny of Vlad the Devil and Alexander Lepuchnano.'

Few, if any, countries have lacked some character of eminence, bursting forth just at the moment when the inhabitants seemed to have reached the deeps of degradation:

'Some bright oasis in the desert road;
Some gleam of sunlight in the darksome glen;
Some welcome easer of the grievous load,
Shows gracious heav'n forgets not struggling men.'

Such a deliverer was Michael the Brave, Ban of Craïova, who revolted against Alexander II. of Wallachia, but was captured and condemned to death. The axe of the executioner, raised for his decapitation, as if by fascination, dropped from his hand; the assembled crowd burst into shouts of joy; and the voivode, either superstitiously imagining a miraculous interposition, or more probably fearing to exasperate the populace by the death of their hero, had him set at liberty.!

Michael prudently retired to Constantinople; and by the assistance of the English ambassador and the grand vizier, managed to get Alexander deposed, and himself elected in his room. He entered the principality at the head of two thousand spahis, under the auspices of that Ottoman power that was hereafter to prove him so inveterate and formidable an enemy! He commenced tactics by cementing an alliance with Sigismund Bathory, prince of Transylvania; Aaron, voivode of the Moldavians; and Rodolph II., emperor of Germany; a league which the Servians and Bulgarians were glad to join. The notes of preparation sounded on both banks of the Danube. On the 13th of November, 1594, every Mussulman in Bucharest and Jassi was massacred. More than two thousand Turks perished in this species of Sicilian Vespers. At this juncture died the sultan Amurath. His successor, Mahomet III., strenuously set about recovering the revolted provinces, and organised so powerful a force that Michael had the mortification of being forced to sign the treaty of Carlsburg, transferring the protectorate of Wallachia to the Hungarians, as the price of their assistance against the Turks. Before, however, receiving the promised assistance, he had the bravery with sixteen thousand troops to attack a Turkish army under the conduct of the grand vizier Sinan. He rushed into the thickest of the fight, and with his own hands carried off the sacred standard. Three thousand of the enemy lay on the field of battle, which was left in the power of Michael.

In a few weeks took place a terrible conflict near Giurgevo, on the banks of the Danube. After Tergovist was taken by Sigismund, the grand vizier Sinan thought best to retire across the Danube with what booty he already possessed. While all the spoil was laid before him, and his ministers were setting apart the twentieth of the cattle, prisoners, &c., for his high mightiness, Michael suddenly attacked his rear guard. Sinan hurriedly remitted the tribute, and passed over the bridge in a very undignified manner. The next morning the bulk of his army who had stood ground all night, seized with panic, took flight in such disorder that they were wedged together on the bridge, and fell an easy prey to the artillery of Michael, which overwhelmed both bridge and fugitives with its thunders. 'The water swallowed what the cannon spared.' Thousands of Turks were engulphed in the stream; and the terrible bands of marauders that had been for two centuries and a half the scourge of Hungary and Germany were almost annihilated.

Sigismund returned to Transylvania, leaving the completion of the campaign to the voivode Michael, now his vassal. To the possession of Giurgevo that general added Viddin and Nicopolis, which latter town was taken by the bravery of one Farcassu, originally a village priest, afterwards absolved from his vows, and become a brave and successful soldier. The late troubles had reduced Wallachia to a sad state of distress. Their lands were ravaged, and the crops burnt; but Michael sent for provisions and seeds from Transylvania, and the country began to recover itself.

The calm, though, was but of short duration. The Turks were not at all inclined to give up what they themselves used to call 'the granary of Constantinople.' They missed the tributary oxen, sheep, cheese, butter, and honey: and the sultan swore to be avenged for the defeat of his prime minister. He thought the better way of acting would be to weaken the Roumanian alliance, and first addressing himself to the Emperor Rodolph, met with an indignant repulse. He next tried to tempt Sigismund Bathory by the offer of the province of Wallachia with a nominal tribute; but the noble prince sent him word he would never desert the Christians for the sake of the Turks. Where, alas! he ought to have met with a still more stern refusal, he found better success. The Wallachian nobles, jealous of the honours withheld by their prince from any but those of true merit, joined with the worthless Christian (?) clergy, to assist the infidel Turk against the regenerator of their country! But their treason was discovered, and arrested by the well-merited death of the ringleaders; and Michael in two engagements again routed the Ottomans.

Successes and reverses followed fast: a futile alliance with the Khan of Tartary, who proved treacherous; a short truce with the sultan; and the abdication of the Prince of Transylvania in favour of the emperor, which annihilated the voivode's hopes of eventually obtaining possession of that princedom. Michael thought it most advisable to succumb to circumstances. This resolution eventuated in a solemn treaty between him and Rodolph; the former acknowledging himself vassal, and taking oath of fidelity in the following words, which deserve recording as a specimen of the forms of princely fealty in those times:—

'I, Michael, voivode of the transalpine countries of the kingdom of Hungary, counsellor of his Imperial and Royal Majesty, swear by the living God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and by the very sacred Trinity in one single God, the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God, all the saints, and the holy Gospel of Christ, to be from this day, for myself and my successors, faithful and obedient to the sacred person of the Emperor of the Romans, King of Bohemia, Hungary, &c.; to be the friend of his Majesty's friends, and the enemy of his enemies; never to do aught against him or his successors, either secretly or openly, by action or advice; never to reveal any of his secrets confided to me by letter or express; to give him good and prudent counsel, and to warn him faithfully against any snares of his enemies falling under my cognizance; promising on my own part to sacrifice life and property rather than take part in their hostile machinations. So help me the Virgin Mary, all the saints, the elected of God, and the Gospel of Christ.'

This treaty of Tergovist was calculated to be of the highest importance to the Wallachians; admitting them to the privileges of European civilization under the tutelary power of Germany. It is alluded to by a Moldo-Wallachian historian in terms of unqualified praise so lately as 1837, when the Austrians were holding occupation of the country as guarantee against the invasion of the Russians, who have ever cast longing eyes upon these rich Danubian provinces.

Michael, strengthened by the imperial alliance, was meditating a further campaign against the Turks, when an unexpected event occurred to derange his plans. Sigismund Bathory had scarcely resigned his crown ere he regretted and resolved to recover it. His demand of assistance much embarrassed the voivode, who neither chose to break the treaty just made with Rodolph, nor by his refusal to throw Sigismund and consequently Transylvania into the arms of the Turks. He temporised therefore, and conditionally promised him a subsidy of three thousand five hundred men.

At this juncture the governor of Nicopolis and the pacha of Silistria were threatening to cross the Danube. Michael sent the Vornic Demetrius against them with a formidable convoy. Twenty thousand Wallachians concealed in waggons covered with red cloth, which the greedy Turks thought contained the expected tribute, being allowed to approach within the intrenchments, committed terrible havoc among the dismayed invaders. Michael shortly after defeated

13,000 of their troops, and carried off all their baggage and artillery. Again, near Viddin, he became victor in a murderous conflict, but narrowly escaped death himself.

Sigismund, once more resigning in favour of his cousin Andrew, the latter was preparing to side with the Turks against Michael, who, aware of the defection, begged assistance from the emperor, and promised to dethrone Andrew, provided that he should be ensured feodal possession of Transylvania. Rodolph readily agreed; and our hero in a few weeks took Hermanstadt after a bloody battle, and on the first of November, 1599, entered Weissenburg in triumph, mounted on a splendid Turkish charger, and glittering with gold and precious stones. Taking possession of the palace of the Transylvanian rulers, the head of the fugitive cardinal-prince Andrew Bathory was brought him by Ordog, the chief of a band of Saxon peasants. 'They who love the treason hate the traitor:' Ordog's reward was——death; and Michael assisted personally at the most pompous obsequies in honour of his now powerless foe.

Basta, one of Rodolph's generals, then arrived to reclaim Transylvania for his master. Michael—alas! for his oath of submission—declined resigning what he had purchased with so much blood, and sent back word that if the emperor disputed possession with him, he would raise as many devils as Rodolph could find men to match. He next took arms against Jeremiah, voivode of Moldavia, who had been induced to declare hostilities, routed him at the head of fifty thousand men, and was crowned at Jassy, as Prince of Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania.

Now sole possessor of all ancient Dacia, he was too powerful for Rodolph to contest his supremacy. The Sublime Porte, moreover, invested him with the standard, sword, and sceptre of authority; and he was beginning to meditate the conquest of Hungary and Poland, in both which countries he counted influential allies; but the topmost rong of the ladder was mounted;—the summit of the wheel was reached; and the general coalition of all his antagonists became too powerful for resistance.

The Transylvanians revolted; the Hungarians, Germans, and Poles invaded and took possession of Moldavia; a battle was fought between Michael and Basta near the village of Misiszlo, which resulted in the total defeat of the Wallachians. The voivode, not yet dispirited, levied a few troops and marched against the Poles, but was again beaten, and in a third conflict his last army annihilated. He fled for refuge to the Carpathians. At the head of a few mountaineers, the still undaunted hero descended from his retreat; but once more, and for the last time conquered, with his family he repaired to Vienna, and threw himself upon the generosity of the emperor.

Sigismund Bathory for the third time was elected prince of Transylvania; but this procedure displeasing Rodolph, he sent for Michael to Prague, where his noble form and manly beauty excited the admiration of all the German nobility. The emperor gave him a hundred thousand ducats and the government of Transylvania, to which he proceeded with his former rival and enemy Basta. A terrible battle resulted in the total defeat of Sigismund. This was the last victory of Michael the Brave. Jealous of his regained power, Basta employed some hundreds of Walloons and other troops to arrest him under a false accusation of treason. Michael would not surrender, and was assassinated.

Thus perished, at the early age of forty-three, on the 19th of August, 1601, the greatest and bravest of the Roumanian princes, the inveterate scourge of the Turks; who, had he lived longer, might have powerfully altered the balance of power in Europe, by the formation of a kingdom of Dacia.

(To be continued).

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

To counterbalance the partial dearth of novelties last month, we have the gratification of introducing several candidates for admission into the stamp-collector's album, not one of which has a chance of being black-balled, besides a host of impostors, of which more anon. The foremost place in the ranks is

claimed by the representative of the country now the general focus of attraction and theme of conversation,— Schleswig-Holstein.



The stamp under survey is but a poor substitute for the provisional issue of 1851 —quite a unique pattern. The present reminds us both of the oldest and actual blues of Denmark. Like the former, it has a white circular centre containing the value, which is one schilling and a quarter current; but the rest of the stamp is almost identical with the latter; having *Post* above; value beneath; *F. R. M.* on the right; and *H. R. Z. G. L.* on the left; post-horns in each corner. We do not comprehend why the value is marked 1¼ *schilling* in the centre, and 4 *S. R. M.* below. The colour is bright blue on white paper. It would seem, from the adoption of the Danish type, that the postal authorities in the revolted provinces at least have Danish proclivities, or they would surely have re-issued the original provisional stamps, or something akin to them. Mount Brown's manual gives the date of the issue of the latter as 1848; but Mons. Berger Levrault names 1851, which is the more probable, as Denmark itself did not employ stamps until the latter date.

A representation is here given of one of the old provisional Schleswig-Holstein stamps, of which there were two values,—the blue one schilling, and the red two schilling.



An engraving is subjoined of a handsome envelope stamp of one of the private offices of New York. It has not been hitherto catalogued, as far as we can ascertain. The stamp is oval, containing embossed eagle in centre, with inscription around: *Boyd's City Post*, 39, *Fulton St., Corner of Pearl.* There are two precisely alike, except in colour; one being white embossed on red; the other is buff on blue.



The values are not noted, and may perhaps be different.

Next comes a new emission of Hamburg. *This* time the local government favours us with a legitimate representative. The design of the stamp is a variation from, but no improvement on, the well-known series. The background is nearly filled with colour, in lieu of being white, which tends to confuse the outline of the castle; and the value, 1¼, disfigures it still more. The graceful curves of the upper and lower scrolls in the pre-existing series give place to a simple crescent ab ve, and straight border below. Each upper corner bears a cross. The colour is mauve on white.



A new value for Costa Rica came over by the last mail. It is precisely like the former stamps, except, of course, in colour, which is bright orange, and monetary worth, un peso. Thurn and Taxis North presents us with a ¼ silbergroschen, black on white; as well as the long-anticipated 2 silbergroschen blue, in lieu of pink. In future the 5 schilling envelope of Mecklenburg is to be brown, not blue; and doubtless the adhesive will follow suit.

An engraving of one of the stamps of the Ionian Islands, which in all probability will become eventually one of the 'has beens,' is subjoined. We heard a juvenile maniac lamenting that the actual and probable decease of the kings of Bavaria and Wurtemburg will not tend to increase his numerical amount; the arms of those countries not requiring a change, as would be the case were the sovereigns' heads on their stamps.



The duffers to which we alluded in the beginning of this article, we need scarcely add, emanate from Hamburg. They are not *professedly* intended to deceive; but are published by Spiro Brothers *as* imitations, for the benefit of those who cannot procure the originals. There is no objection to this, in the same way as connoisseurs are obliged to content themselves with copies of the old masters; but unless collectors are very care-

ful, they will be liable to be imposed upon by unprincipled vendors, who will avail themselves of these counterfeits to foister upon the unwary. We would suggest to the Messrs. Spiro that they ought, for the sake of clearing themselves from any suspicion of encouraging roguery, to imprint their name on the back of every specimen. We see the large Brazil stamps figure in the list, price threepence each! These are most probably the imitations alluded to by an esteemed correspondent on the continent, whose communication we print elsewhere.

We are just in time to describe a complete series of the new issue of Spanish stamps, of this year's date, one of which was figured in the number for March. They are no improvement on the preceding series, the colours being dull and the engraving poor. There are six, as before. Two cuartos, indigo on a pale lilac-tinted paper; 4 c., previously noted; 12 c., green on dirty flesh colour; 19 c., brownish violet on dull lilac; 1 real, brown on dingy red; and 2 r., blue, on pale dirty violet.

THE PRESS ON THE RETIREMENT OF SIR ROWLAND HILL.

THE bearer of a great and honoured name is passing, not into obscurity, but into deserved repose. There was a Rowland Hill who used to draw to a modest meeting-house all the great and all the good in the land, and while he was preaching and praying another bearer of the name was fighting in the Peninsula. Then there came a third Rowland Hill. He had his forerunner—the mere shadow of the coming man—in the shape of one Robert Wallace, who for many years plagued all his friends and acquaintances in the House of Commons with what was considered an absurd plan for a uniform penny postage. In what precise relation he stood to Rowland Hill we know not, but the man of one idea passed away, and the man who added to that one idea a few others, with ways and means besides, took his place, and achieved a very great social revolution, as we call such changes in these days. At his beck the House of Commons shut its eyes, and adopted, blindfold, a penny postage—not a penny postage at once; it had not quite pluck enough for that; but a fourpenny postage first, and a penny postage immediately afterwards. Of course, there were people who said the revenue of the post-office would be destroyed, and that people could not or would not write more letters, especially when they had to prepay them. Even if the letters multiplied, the penny would never pay the expenses. It was proved, in fact—as such things are always proved—that the increased expense must be in the smaller ramifications of the system, and that the ramification cost more than a penny a letter. However, the experiment was tried. But before we ask how it answered, we must follow the example of all historians, who, before they enter upon a period of change, describe the previous state of things. The historian of the Reformation must give a chapter to the corruptions of Popery, and the historian of the Reformed House of Commons must describe the Rotten Boroughs. In this instance how shall we describe the previous state of things in such a way as to move the hard hearts of young gentlemen and ladies just beginning to care more for one another than for themselves, but not as yet caring for anything else in the world? Well, in those days, boys and girls, at school and at college, or at home, had nothing to do with postage. The servant paid the postman at the door, and the charge went into the bill or the house book, and so accumulated into monthly, or quarterly, or yearly grumblings,—except, indeed, that sometimes the postmasters had detected, or thought they had detected, that a letter had an enclosure, in which case, though it were the merest fragment—even a bit of silver paper, or a rose leaf, or a butterfly's wing—the postage was doubled, and then ensued an energetic remonstrance with the postmaster, backed with strong language, and sometimes stronger asseveration. But one of the first trials of life and of temper in those days was when a young gentleman or young lady of limited allowance was away from home on a visit. Every day the servant brought in eightpenny, ninepenny, tenpenny, one-and-eightpenny letters, to be paid in ready money. If a lady had good correspondents at home, several schoolfellows who

cared for her, relations and people whom she had lately seen, or was likely soon to see, she might easily have four or five letters a day. Many a lady will remember that she would have to pay sometimes 8s. 6d. for one budget, and that after a month she would have to write home for another £5 note on account of her letters alone. This was a serious inroad on a small allowance. It was considered no small addition to the rank and position of a legislator that he had a large allowance for what was supposed to be public correspondence. He could frank as many letters as he was likely to write himself, and, if he did not write many, could help his friends. A frank was more than doubly valuable, for it would carry a large extra weight, and was a delicate way of saving postage to those who really could not afford it. A frank among the letters was always an agreeable incident; it saved your money; it suggested aristocratic associations; and, perhaps, the autograph itself was interesting. There were good creatures who sold their day's allowance of franks—the many said more than their allowance—at the stationer's or the hair-dresser's, where they could be bought if you wanted to write to a friend without inflicting a heavy postage. Nobody prepaid in those days except to a downright pauper.

Thus those were days of letters, not notes. Where it was an object to save they were written on foolscap sheets, in the finest of hands, crossed, sometimes corner-wise, sometimes in red ink. All the margins, and spaces, and turn-overs were stuffed with P.S. and additions by other hands, for a letter was often a joint-stock undertaking. A wish to give the most for ninepence led to a diffuse, circumstantial style, and preposterous as it may seem in these days, the so-called letters from Moscow, or Munich, or Italy which constitute the form of some volumes, but occupy severally a dozen or twenty pages, are no exaggerations of the letters which any post might bring forty years ago. Young ladies sat up hours after midnight writing letters up to the worth of their postage. Almost every letter was liable to the redundancies of style and of matter said to distinguish those who speak because they have to say something from those who speak because they have something to say. You could not ask a bare question or give a bare answer without throwing in something to compensate for the fine of ninepence you were inflicting on your friend. People who read the correspondence of the last century often wonder how anybody could sit down to write all that twaddle and gossip. They forget that it cost money as well as time, and had to be made money's worth in quantity if not always in quality. A lord or an M.P. might ask a question, or announce a fact, because he did it gratis, but an unprivileged commoner could not do so without inflicting possibly more loss than the question was worth. The immense descriptions of scenery, of dress, of personal peculiarities and household arrangements, and other infinite details, if they do not date from the days of tenpenny letters, certainly received from them a peculiar dilatation. We will leave others to describe the inconveniences suffered by the poor, who were often positively unable to pay a letter out of the post-office, though from a child at the antipodes. Let others, too, enlarge on the ruinous postage of merchants and tradesmen, and the shifts to which they were driven, often not honest, to give trifling matters of information to their numerous correspondents and customers at a moderate expense.

Such was the state of things before the Penny Postage. To Mr. Rowland Hill we owe the adoption of the idea, its success, and its practical development. Upon the simple foundation of the Queen's head—in fact, a paper penny affixed to the letter—has been built a Postal Reform, which vies with any other reform in this reforming age. The new facilities engrafted on this simple stem are like the gigantic branches of a king of the forest, each itself a tree. The several features of this wide-spreading and still growing change are enumerated in a paper before us with terse and simple brevity. They are the Penny Postage throughout the British Isles; the proportionately cheap rate of postage to all foreign countries, our colonies and our dependencies; the charge by weight; the almost universal resort to prepayment; simplicity of management and

accounts; the book-post, now a most multifarious and ubiquitous affair; cheaper registration of letters; cheaper money orders; more frequent and rapid communications wherever at all possible; a vastly wider rural distribution; very many more free deliveries; postal treaties with foreigners; sorting of letters *in transitu;* prompter despatch and delivery; the division of the metropolis into ten postal districts, and the great acceleration of the deliveries; and, lastly, a great improvement in the pay, the condition, and the prospects of the servants of the post-office. Now, of course, so much could not have been done without railways, but it was Mr. Rowland Hill who, before the London and Birmingham line was finished, saw what railways ought to do for us, and how such improvements could be made good servants instead of bad masters. The results are well known; the revenue has more than recovered itself, though the post is the least of our business expenses, and the cheapest of our luxuries; more than sixteen millions sterling pass yearly through the money-order office; that old sin of contraband letter-carrying, into which the best people were often tempted, is now obsolete; a savings-bank has been engrafted on the post-office—the harbinger, Mr. Rowland Hill believes, of many other useful measures; and England has the gratification of having set an example which the whole civilized world has spontaneously and cheerfully followed. It would be difficult to name so great a work so quietly and thoroughly done. It has not been without immense labour of thought and trial of patience; and Mr. Hill pays a warm and generous tribute to the many public servants by whom he has been assisted, and without whom he could not have achieved his Herculean task. Both he and they have deserved well of their country, and every time we receive a budget of letters, not over voluminous, and not compelling us to dive into our pocket for so much as one penny, we of this generation, at least, are bound to remember that we owe it to a man who had the eyes to see an immense opening for improvement when others could not see it, and the confidence in himself and his country to be certain that it had only to be attempted and would soon be done, with a good many other improvements in its train.—*The Times.*

IT is with keen regret we learn that the state of his health and the advice of his physicians have obliged Sir Rowland Hill to resign the secretaryship of the General Post-office, and to retire from the public service, if not in a critical or dangerous condition, at all events a worn-out and exhausted man, still retaining, indeed, all the inclination and intellectual capacity to be useful, but with a shattered nervous system—the consequence of long and unsparing work, which has established in his case also that discordance between mind and body under which too many of the best servants of the public break down.

To compliment Sir Rowland Hill on his retirement from a career of benefit to his country, and, through England, to the world, is superfluous, when every postman's ring, answered by finding letters, journals, pamphlets, patterns, &c., in our door-receiver, associates, and will keep associated, his name with one of the constant comforts and conveniences of life. We do but anticipate the public regret at losing a servant who united the capacity of devising the largest plans of improvement with the ability of carrying out their smallest and nicest details; whose desire for, and study of further amendment was continuous and incessant; who allowed no personal mortification or disappointment, no ungracious criticism or jealous obstructiveness, to impede his course; who regarded difficulties only as something to be overcome, and who bequeaths to his successors ample and well prepared materials for acquiring distinction and doing the country further service. Calm, self-reliant, indefatigable, resolved, Sir Rowland Hill went on, until nature and strength would no longer respond to his efforts. Six months ago the Government suggested a period of repose, trusting again to have the continued benefit of his exertions; but repose has not brought back the wonted vigour, and Sir Rowland, feeling that his time for work was over, has conscientiously accepted the warning, and, without reference to pecuniary interest, has retired, leaving a name identified with ever-

present familiar benefits, and claims on the nation which it is for the public, in its own interests, to enforce.

The great and good works accomplished in the postal department of the state by Sir Rowland Hill will well bear comparison with the result of any other public servant's career, and for them the nation, as it hopes to be well and faithfully served, has on his retirement to thank their author, and to take care that its gratitude is not recorded in mere words.—*Daily News.*

With these memorials of his triumphs before him—with the consciousness of having given the best years of his life to the service of a public which, though by no means too cognisant of his deserts, would gladly have done more for its benefactor had there been a precedent for such an official sentence as *Detur digniori*—and with the gratitude and respect of his countrymen—Sir Rowland Hill resigns his office and retires into private life. Though this step will come unexpectedly upon the public, we must confess that we have for some time been prepared for it, and rather wondered that it had not come sooner. The public will miss from the department the individual to whom it really owes the post-office as we now know it; and the community, therefore, will watch with jealousy to ascertain how much it is to lose by the change. The next occupant of the vacancy will have to face serious difficulties, not the least being the severe standard by which he will be judged; hence policy will dictate more than ordinary care in selecting the successor, not merely that he may fulfil the duties without reproach, but that the mistrust out of doors may as much as possible be disarmed by the choice itself. It may, indeed, be an ulterior question how far the services of the late secretary may be rendered still available, for it is manifest that that is an advantage which might be secured in various ways. But whatever may happen to the public weal, there is one point on which most persons will just now feel a deeper interest, and that is the welfare of Sir Rowland Hill himself, personally and individually. It is always hard to part with an old friend; but when that friend has been so signal a benefactor—when the warmth of gratitude is literally deepened by 'a lively sense of future favours,' cut short by the unpleasant word, farewell—the regret is all the more keen and painful; and we can only hope that by his retirement Sir Rowland will gain, in rest and happiness, a tithe as much as his country will lose.—*Daily Telegraph.*

In a minute dated 11th of March, the Lords of the Treasury, after recapitulating the long and useful services of Sir Rowland Hill, award him, in lieu of the usual retiring allowance, his full salary of £2000 per annum for life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PORTRAIT ON THE MEXICAN STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—In reply to the question of one of your correspondents, I beg to inform you that the portrait on the Mexican stamp is the 'head of Curate Hidalgo, who raised the first cry of Mexican independence, on the 16th of September, 1810, in the village of Dolores, near Guanaxuato,'—so I am informed by my friend, Mr. Glennie, the British consul in Mexico.

Yours truly,

British Museum. J. E. GRAY.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I have just been informed that some post-marked counterfeits of the large series of Brazilians are in circulation. They are easily recognized on observing that the lines forming the framework of the stamp, which in the originals are very fine, are rather coarse in the forgeries, which is also the case throughout the pattern. In a word, once aware of the existence of the false, the first glance of the eye will readily detect its variation from the real.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

France. B.

HOW TO PREVENT THE SALE OF FORGED STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I have been a collector of something all my days—and I am not a very young man—and am now collecting postage stamps. To my regret, and I fear sometimes damage, forgeries have abounded of whatever I did collect—yes, even of shells, by filing, &c. Now it has occurred to me that the sale, therefore the production, of forgeries of postage stamps might be much stayed by collectors purchasing only on warranty; since if a forgery was sold warranted genuine the seller might be punished for obtaining money under false pretences. Thus collectors may secure themselves; therefore of such as decline to do so, I say they are rightly served if imposed on. Perhaps you will give a place to this in your number for April.

Truly yours,

Douglas, Isle of Man. A SUBSCRIBER.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—May I call the attention of your readers to a piece of impertinence on the part of two dealers? One at Brighton sold a false 2-cuartos Spain, bear on tree, to a collector there, telling him that I had pronounced it 'the only genuine specimen I had ever seen.' This is a most impudent falsehood: I had never pronounced any opinion on the stamp. Another dealer said that I had pronounced an undoubtedly genuine ½-tor. Naples cross to be a forgery. This also was an invention. I am thankful to say that I *do* happen to know most forgeries when I see them; and am not likely to make such assertions as those which have been ascribed to me by these individuals.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Edgbaston.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—As the quantity of different issues of the Hamburg Boten stamps seems to cause surprise in England, I hope the followimg explanation will be of use to some of the readers of your highly-prized magazine.

The Hamburg private post stamps are all issued by the same company; Hamer, Scheerenbeck, Lafrenz, Krantz are names of the merchants forming this company. Most of these stamps are not used for paying letters, and it is a well-grounded suspicion to believe that a great part or all of them are a speculation on stamp collecting. I believe the same thing has also been mentioned of other private stamps.

The following is an exact list of all Hamburg Boten stamps issued up to the present day.

1. Inscription, *C. Hamer and Co.*, with number in the centre: ½ schilling: in eight colours, viz., yellow, pink, light gray, dark green, light green, light brown, dark brown, blue. Envelopes (round), ½ schilling, red on yellow and on white paper; ½ schilling, pink on yellow and on white paper.
2. Inscription, *H. Scheerenbeck:* arms: value not mentioned: ten colours, viz., red, pink, blue, light green, brown, orange, violet, dark green, mauve, yellow.
3. Same inscription: postman: value not mentioned: same ten colours as the preceding.
4. Inscription, 6 *Vereinigte Corporationen Hamburger Boten, H. Scheerenbeck:* number in the centre: ½ schilling, in the same ten colours as No. 2 and No. 3; 1 schilling also in the same ten colours.
5. Inscription, *Th. Lafrenz:* ½ schilling, red, brown, yellow, pink, black, blue, green, violet, orange, gray.
6. Inscription, *Hamburg, W. Krantz:* postman: ½ schilling, in eleven colours, viz., pink, violet, red, blue, green, orange, yellow, light brown, dark brown, purple, buff; 1 schilling, coloured print, the same eleven colours; and black print five colours, red, blue, green, yellow, brown; 2 schillings, coloured print, in eight colours the same as those of C. Hamer & Co.
7. Inscription, *Hamonia, W. Krantz:* goddess of liberty: gold print on coloured paper, ten colours; silver print on coloured paper, ten colours; 1 schilling, silver print, ten colours; gold print, ten colours.

The Hamburg Boten stamps sold under the name of 'Marz Verein' are forgeries, as such stamps were never issued.

Truly yours,
Darmstadt. F. L.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Having read in your paper Fentonia's questions about some German stamps, I will try and give as plain an explanation as possible.

Der gute groschen or *ein guter groschen*, nominative; *den guten* or *einen guten groschen*, accusative, is an old coin still, but very seldom used. *Ein gutgroschen* or *einen gutgroschen* are contractions. If you read the accusative form on the stamp, the words 'this stamp is worth' are implied to account for the case. In twenty or thirty years' time there will be no more of this coin found in Germany, except in numismatic collections.

Brunswick still employs this value on one stamp, worth ½ gutegroschen, but the Hanoverian have been long disused.

Twenty-four gutgroschen are equal to thirty silbergroschen or neugroschen, which latter are identical. Saxony adopts the latter appellation, but in Prussia, Gotha, Weimar, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Hanover, Hamburg, &c., they are called silbergroschen; of which thirty are equivalent to a thaler, or three shillings English. In common parlance they are simply termed groschen, as printed on the Oldenburg stamps.

In that country, in Prussia, and wherever the emissions of Thurn and Taxis are used, the groschen contains twelve pfennige; but in Saxony, Hanover, and Brunswick, it is ten pfennige: you see from this that a pfennig of Hanover is worth more than one of Prussia.

In Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemburg, Frankfort, Coburg, &c., the kreuzer contains four pfennige; but you will see that a Coburg pfennig is quite different from a Prussian or Hanoverian, there being three hundred and sixty of the former, three hundred of the latter, and about four hundred and twenty Bavarian in three shillings English.

It is much regretted in Germany that there is no universal coinage; a commission, however, is in contemplation or action to make propositions for an uniform rate of money, weights, and measures.

As for the Bremen two grote stamps they are used solely for the town of Bremen.* The letters *L. H. P. A.* on the Bergedorf stamps mean, 'Lubeck, Hamburg, Post Amt;' those stamps freeing to Lubeck and Hamburg only. It is to be concluded that letters sent from Bergedorf to other countries are first sent to Hamburg, where there are post offices for most foreign parts, as I have never seen or heard of a letter with the Bergedorf stamps on it sent elsewhere than to its guardian towns.

A new Thurn and Taxis ½ silbergroschen, black on white, will soon be issued, and the expected 2 s. blue is out at last. The 5 sch. Mecklenburg envelope will no longer be blue, but brown. I can get no information about the Bavarian envelopes.

Hoping these remarks will interest your readers,
I remain, yours truly,
Coburg. HERMANN EBERHARD.

* [We beg here to repeat we had and still possess a letter from Bremen with eight of these stamps on it, sent to ourselves in London from that town.—ED.]

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—You have so often accused me of being anti-credulous, that I feel it is due to you to acknowledge one instance in which I have been mistaken in my views. I allude to the double Geneva 10 c. cantonal and local. I have received proof sufficient, even for *my* unbelief, that this stamp has existed. I can fancy you chuckling over this, after my denunciations of the stamp; but please notice I say, *has* existed: after conceding to its authenticity I make another stand, and am of opinion that there

is not a well-authenticated specimen in any English collection,—I almost think, in *any* collection. In support of this idea, I would draw an analogy between this stamp and the essays 1843 of Zürich. The facts connected with the finding of these latter are doubtless well known to many of your readers; but I must just mention them all, or I cannot make out a 'case.' The few collectors there were in Switzerland five or six years ago, had a 'tradition' of stamps for Zürich previous to the issue of 1850, but nothing more was known about them until (I believe in 1860) Lewes communicated the idea to the Zürich postmaster through a friend resident there. The postmaster had no knowledge of any such stamps, but promised to institute a search. This, after the lapse of time, resulted in the recovery of two single specimens, of the values of 4 and 6 rappen respectively. These specimens passed into Lewes' hands, with the assurance from the postmaster that they had never been issued for use, but were essays in the truest sense of the word. As Lewes did not accept essays for his own collection, he parted with these two specimens to a distinguished London amateur. There is not the shadow of a doubt but these individuals are unique. The sensation these 1843 essays caused in Zürich itself was very great: half the old letters in the town were ransacked in the hope of finding specimens,—vainly, as they were essays. It was soon after the resuscitation of these two copies, that Lewes heard to his surprise that they had become quite common in Zürich! The inquiries for them had been so numerous, that the fertile genius of one dealer (I know him, and fear others do to their cost) had hit upon the expedient of making them; but not knowing the exact design of the real things, had imitated the issue of 1850, adding the date 1843 in the corners. The real stamps do not resemble the issue of 1850 at all.

To recapitulate, there was a 'tradition' of the 1843 Zürich, but it was only by the merest chance that it was proved true, and that proof only by unique specimens. I look upon the Geneva as an analogous case, as far as the truth of the tradition goes; but proof positive from an authentic specimen is wanting, as far as I know. The forgeries of the double Geneva appeared about the same time as those of the 1843 Zürich, which makes me think that the forger, whilst employed on the Zürich from his own ideas, proceeded to make the double Geneva from the same fertile source. The forged double Geneva may therefore no more resemble the real stamp, than the forged 1843 agrees with the two unique specimens.

I think that if I am anti-credulous, you are on the other hand *too* credulous. With me, it is scarcely likely that I should be otherwise than unbelieving, knowing so much as I do of the different impositions practised in stamp dealing; and being so conversant with the different dodges resorted to by those who have their manufactures to dispose of. As a natural consequence of this lack of credulity, I seldom believe *everything* that I hear, or that is told me, unless there are very good and sufficient reasons for so doing. As an instance of our difference of opinion, I would mention the Prince Consort *Essays* (I will call them so). You, I believe, look upon these as bonâ-fide essays; I don't. I am of opinion that the utmost that can be said for them is, that they are specimens of engraving, prepared by some one proposing to government to make the postage labels at a less price than was being paid for them; the head of the Prince Consort being used by the engraver, when preparing a sample of adhesive labels to show to those in power. That they were made as early as 1840 I do not credit for a moment; they seem to me quite new and fresh, as if but lately finished.

Fentonia, in a recent letter to you, seemed to have become involved in the mysteries of Mount Brown's money table. I have studied it, and can therefore feel for him. As for the 12½ c. blue Canada, I still consider it a 'fancy article' (and so too does Lewes), and never have thought it otherwise. I must say a few words about these blue stamps. It is most curious that of all these dubious stamps in blue, there are recognised types in green. As long as it is so simple a matter for any muff to make the green types blue, I shall obstinately refuse to believe in them until something more than the fact of their being blue is adduced. Take 12½ c. Canada, Hanover 1 g. gr., United States 10 c., New Brunswick 5 c.;—all these are found in blue, in addition to the regular types in green. I do not think that the authorities would have chosen the peculiarly washed-out shades of blue in the above varieties; or have issued another blue stamp at the same time as the 17 c. Canada, 1-10 Hanover, 1 c. United States, and 12½ c. New Brunswick. I am surprised any one should believe in them. The blue g. gr. is the most important of these blue stamps. It is found in two shades, a light and a dark blue, both of which are enumerated by Bellars and Davie: other catalogues mention but one shade, and it is the dark blue stamp which is meant. The least those can do who believe in the blue g. gr., is to acknowledge both varieties. I am, and always have been, sceptical about this stamp. I acknowledge neither of the shades. You acknowledge the dark blue (you believe in Brown, so I suppose it is the dark one you take), but then what do you do with the lighter variety? Do you dispose of that as a chemically-changed stamp? If so, why is not the dark one the same? I know that when the Swiss administration first thought of adopting one uniform type for all the cantons, they sent to many of the countries then using stamps, for the purpose of obtaining sets of their stamps, and, I presume, in addition, in order to obtain information and ideas. In the Hanoverian set there is the usual green g. gr., but not the ghost of a blue one. This set passed into the hands of a Swiss collector, in whose possession the stamps were seen by my friend Lewes, when he was a resident in that country. Moens gives the date of issue of the blue stamp as Nov. 30, 1850: that is not at all conclusive to my mind, seeing that he gives the Tuscany at Dec., 1859, when, to my certain knowledge, they were in use in July, 1856.

I fear you will not be able to spare me more room in this number, so I will write you further next month.

Yours faithfully,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

CONUNDRUM.—Why is a sheet of perforated postage stamps like distant relations? Because they are but slightly connected.

A ROWLAND AND AN OLIVER.—Should Rowland Hill have a statue? Certainly, if Oliver Cromwell should. For one is celebrated for cutting off the head of a bad king, and the other for sticking on the head of a good queen.—*Punch.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. B., Rochampton.—The Kanton Berne stamp, as we have once previously remarked, *has* been, by mistake or otherwise, occasionally used on letters.

S. S.—We consider the fact of your respective correspondents in Java and Dutch Guiana ignoring the stamps universally accepted as appertaining to those colonies, no proof of their fictitious character. We have frequently

noted the ignorance of our own postal officials with regard to the English envelopes; that of the French on their insufficient postage stamp; and other similar instances. The individuals purporting to come from Dutch Guiana were known to collectors long before the prevalence of *timbromanie* tempted the exercise of forgery. If not from Dutch Guiana, whence come they? We wish some of our numerous correspondents would afford us satisfactory information on both these stamps and those of Java.—There were probably two issues of the former series of Lubecks, which would account for the discrepancy in size of letters, &c. We think a much more suspicious circumstance with respect to those sent us for examination is, their being postmarked, and nevertheless, from their clean appearance and other facts, having apparently never done duty on letters. They may possibly be the remainders of the last issue, sold to dealers cheap, and marked, so as not to be employed for postal purposes.

J. M. C., Harrow.—The black penny English stamp was as much in mourning for Queen Anne, as the first one kreuzer of Bavaria for any sovereign of that country.

J. M. S., Henley-on-Thames.—Your first query is anticipated in our correspondence.—We have never met with forgeries of the italic issue of Brazil.—The 5 cents of the Sandwich Islands we have never seen on pure white, but occasionally on an exceedingly pale tint of bluish paper.—The peso of Buenos Ayres is worth about 2½d.—A centavo is worth about the same as an American cent, or English halfpenny.—We do not profess to be experts in handwriting.

J. B., West Hartlepool.—Your stamps from Belgium are in the same category as those on our own newspapers, which many collectors admit into their albums.

Miss P., of Norwich, forwards a stamp which is one of the Austrian receipt labels, and which, with its numerous congeners, seems to puzzle a good many collectors.

W. C. A., Stoke Newington.—Your 12½ c. Canada stamps arriving on letters cannot be essays. If not originally printed in blue they must have faded, we are inclined to imagine, through the agency of sun, air, or water.

T. GATIS.—Your green stamp is of the actual issue of Hanover, and supersedes the pink of similar device. It was fully noted in a late number of this magazine.—The covers for binding up this periodical are sold only as advertised.

M. J. R., Raithby Hall.—The various emblems seen on postage stamps, as the key of Bremen, &c., indubitably form part of the armorial insignia of their respective countries. Heraldic works must be consulted for information as to the date and circumstances of their adoption.

R. H. O., Nottingham.—The word on the Roman stamps is *Franco*.—There is a difference between the representation on the 4 cuartos Spanish of the present year and that on the previous issue, besides the introduction of the date.—Our advertisements are a reply to your third query.

J. G. P., Regent Road, Jersey.—Your 'Palestine envelope stamp' is a print of the Temple seal; being, as you may see, the arms of the Templars—a lamb bearing a flag and cross, and the legend, '*Templi sigillum*.'

HORATIA.—The date of issue of the red half anna of India was probably coeval with the earliest issue of that country in 1854.—We consider the album of Mons. Moens, of Brussels, the most complete of its kind, and infinitely superior to that of Lallier. No album published with places assigned for every known stamp can possibly be perfectly correct for many weeks, the various alterations in colour and novel emanations being so incessantly on the increase.—Irrespective of the stamps of private firms, a collection of a thousand individuals might be pronounced a good one.

IGNORAMUS, Guildford.—Your Romagna and Modena stamps are unquestionably forgeries, but worth the price you bought them at as specimens of human impudence.

E. ARNOLD, Calcutta.—In answer to your complaint respecting the non-sending of the stamps promised to be given away with the magazine, we must refer you to the notice at the end, which informs subscribers abroad that "the British postal regulations will not admit of any enclosure being sent in a registered publication addressed abroad."

P. N. DE S., St. Edward's College.—Your stamp is one of the series lately issued by the Spanish government for official letters from Madrid to the colonies.

R. F. WILME, Dublin.—The stamps of North and South America may certainly be put on the same page in an album; but we think you would find it rather inconvenient to carry about, as it must be at least the size of one of the double doors in Russell Square.—There are multifarious brown German stamps, we cannot possibly tell which you mean; if the 9 kreuzer of Thurn and Taxis, it was issued in 1862.

C. B., Gloucester.—If you will forward your last year's numbers of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, with 2s. 6d. in stamps, to the office, Queen-square House, Bath, they will be handsomely bound in cloth, and returned to you post free.

F. D., Tunbridge Wells.—Thanks for the Irish Petty Sessions stamp. It has no business in a postage-stamp album, *pace* Lallier.—The other stamp is one of the Hamburg forgeries, professedly a local for Berlin, and is perfectly worthless.

BATON ROUGE, Chesterton.—Your 2-kreuzer Austrian, first issue, lake, may be an essay or a forgery. We never heard of one before. Your second query is answered above to W. C. A.—We have seen a blue 10 c. of the former but not of the later issue of the United States.—We have never heard of a dos reales blue Spain, 1862. It must be a chemical.—The largest collection we know of contains, inclusive of locals and essays, about 2400 specimens, and we consider it well nigh complete. It may lack perhaps 50 of the catalogued stamps.

ST. JOHN.—Your Connell's head is merely a photograph. The real article was sold the other day for three guineas.

JAMES S. M. C.—You are right and Lallier wrong. There are two castles and the same number of lions on the Spanish of 1862.—Boyd's 1 cent black on green is a late issue.—The third stamp you allude to is now disused. It was one of the Italian journal stamps.

D. D., Weymouth.—We shall be happy to receive what you promise. We do not disclaim being one of the 'monthly tribe' ourselves, and merely strive to stand at the head of them.

C. W., Sheffield.—The local Turkish for Constantinople seems as you say to be rarely vended here, except the lowest value which is frequently met with. We cannot tell why.

X. J. B.—You are quite in error if you suppose for a moment that twenty pounds is a large sum for a collection. We hear that our publishers, Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith, have just given seventy pounds for one.

TONY.—We thought it had been long ago an acknowledged fact, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the English penny stamp was the first ever issued. Your query perhaps arises from the fact that a uniform rate of fourpence was set on letters for awhile before the very great reduction eventually made.—We have been informed that the new Italian stamps are for all the dominions of King Victor Emanuel in Italy, including Naples, of course.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE LAST OUNCE.

'Much the burden'd mind will bear,
Gloomy grief, and carking care;
Till the final stroke is given,
And the bands of reason riven.'

IT is needless to recount the numerous failures, the sickenings, the vexations, of that long summer's day; and the hopes which, like Will-o'-the-Wisps, lured me on, but only to fresh delay and disappointment; suffice it to say that not till wearied, disheartened, and almost sinking with despair, did I find the object of my search, in an obscure lodging at the furthest end of the town.

Mrs. Matson received me with the greatest cordiality; but her countenance soon fell when she learnt the object of my visit, and with tears and sobs she assured me anew of her entire innocence. I set her mind speedily at rest on that score, and after much circumlocution I drew from her that a gentleman, his wife, and daughter had occupied rooms in her house at the same time that I had. Eagerly did I ask their names, but Mrs. Matson had forgotten: she thought the young lady had been called 'Miss Emily,' but she did not rightly remember. Here at last was a clue. I remembered hearing Emily say one day, that they had formerly lived in some quiet lodgings in London, before the death of her paternal grandfather had put Mr. Davenport in possession of his fine fortune; but inwardly anathematising old Mrs. Matson's defective memory, which failed to supply the missing link, I took the first train for London, and on arriving at my rooms I found a letter awaiting me, in Mr. Davenport's writing. It ran as follows:—

'Sir,—On visiting you at your apartments this morning, I was informed that you had not been ill, but had pursued your ordinary avocations as usual. Your conduct has both surprised and deeply grieved me; and unless you have some convincing and satisfactory explanation to offer for your extraordinary and, allow me to add, ungentlemanly conduct, I cannot certainly but object to your proposed union with my daughter.

'Awaiting your reply with much impatience and anxiety,

'Believe me, Sir, yours faithfully,
'JAMES DAVENPORT.

'To William Sotherby, Esq.'

The note fell from my hands. Its cold, formal tone struck a death-blow to my heart; for how could I explain all the past without still further incurring Mr. Davenport's displeasure, and drawing down upon myself his just anger and indignation? Would he not deeply resent any aspersions upon his daughter's truth and honour? Could I tell him, the fond and admiring father, that I believed his only child capable of ——? No! I could not pronounce that word in connexion with Emily even to myself.

Staggered, crushed, and bewildered by the new dread that had come upon me, I sank helpless into a chair. I had never dreamed of the matter being taken out of my hands; I had felt free to reject or take Emily as my own arbitrary and sultanic inclination prompted; and now my will and desires were not consulted; Emily would be lost unless I complied with certain conditions impossible for me to fulfil; and my heart sank with a cold, leaden weight of despair. My life seemed suddenly overcast with a thick, dark cloud of mystery and sorrow, never to be dissipated for all the long, dreary blank of years to come. But the effort must be made; with my own hand must I sign the sentence of banishment from all I held dear in this world! My love for Emily Davenport was not overwhelmed in the cruel storms of fear and doubt which had penetrated into its very stronghold, but only loosened at brief intervals from its firm moorings of trust and allegiance.

My letter to Mr. Davenport was short and constrained. I told him that the idea of losing Emily for ever was distracting and intolerable to me, but that unfortunately it was beyond my power to explain what I readily understood had seemed so reprehensible and extraordinary in my conduct. I much regretted the breach that must take place between us, but begged to say that it was totally unavoidable; and thus this epistle—so ill-expressive of the grief and remorse that were devouring me—concluded.

CHAPTER IX.

BEWILDERMENT.

'"What is it?" "How comes it?" "What can it be?"
Short-sighted mortal! wait, and you'll see.
Could we but know what the future may bring,
How many a mourner would cheerfully sing!'

I HAVE no distinct recollection of the hours and weeks that ensued after this fatal day. I must have had brain fever; for when I awoke to consciousness, some couple of months after, I was too feeble either to move or speak. The flow of life in me was too weak and faint for any active sensation; I only felt alive to a vague craving after eternal rest and peace; but this was denied me, for owing to my kind landlady's assiduous care and the strength of a good constitution, I gradually rallied, and after a long and tedious interval before convalescence, I was able to sit up and feel the soft, sweet summer's breezes on my wasted cheeks.

Listlessly and languidly I glanced at the numerous letters which had accumulated during my illness. Careless and indifferent, I took up the first that came to my hand, and found the superscription to be in the handwriting of Edward Allan's sister. Feeling my curiosity and interest awakened by its black seal and deep-mourning border, I tore it open. It contained two enclosures; one, small and thin, addressed to myself, and another, large and thick, to 'Miss Emily Davenport!' Too much surprised and bewildered for speech, I gazed some time at these three astounding words. Surely I must be mad, or dreaming! Had the fever left any lurking insanity in my brain? I doubted the evidence of my senses, and remained for some time in a state of the profoundest astonishment and perplexity. I could not reason and reflect. Deep, mute surprise held all my powers as it were in a vice, and swallowed up every other feeling of my nature; but suddenly rousing myself to fathom this strange affair, I opened the letter addressed to myself, and commenced its perusal.

'Dear Sotherby,—When you receive this my wretched life will be over, and my wild, sinful career ended in a quiet grave; but I could not die in peace with the crime which has been weighing down my heart with its load of remorse and guilt for the last two years, unconfessed and unatoned for. I must, before I go hence, make reparation for this deep wrong; but, Sotherby, when you know all, try to think leniently and kindly of one who was more sinned against than sinning, and whom circumstances—not his own evil disposition—rendered bad and depraved.

'Brought up by a stern, unjust father, and deprived in my birth of the tender, loving care of a mother, I grew early to be cunning, sly, and deceitful. My slightest faults and innocent boyish pranks were punished with hard, indiscriminating cruelty; and thus in my manhood I became reckless and unprincipled, and only dreaded sin and wrong according to the amount of odium and retribution they would meet in the world. I had a sister some four or five years my senior. On her sweet, good disposition this evil training had no effect. On her, all pernicious influences fell harmless; but being naturally of a quick, passionate temper, bold, and self-willed, I needed a careful and judicious parent to guide and correct my early character.

'I am dying, Sotherby, just when a life of hope and comfort seemed opening for me; but I feel that it is only a just recompense for days wickedly squandered in folly and dissipation, and total disregard of any higher will than my own. I do not murmur; I am content to go; all pain is gone; and I welcome my approach to the gates of death, trusting in the mercy and pardon promised to poor lost sinners.

'With my latest breath I conjure you to deliver the letter contained in this envelope with your own hands to the person to whom it is addressed. You will then be as happy as you deserve: she whose name I cannot mention will tell you all.

'My sister, the loving soother of my dying bed, has promised to transmit this to you when I am gone; and now I must wish you an eternal farewell, as my strength is nearly gone.

'Adieu for ever in this world, dearest friend. EDWARD ALLAN.'

(To be concluded in the next number).

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

SINCE the commencement of the year, the stamp market has been inundated with forgeries, coming from all parts. These counterfeits are not confined to rare stamps, but those which are common are imitated to a great extent and in greater quantities than is the case with rarer specimens. Amongst all these manufactured stamps, a collector who has had little experience must be frequently victimised, and those who have had experience are often in doubt; for though some of the forgeries are badly done, some are good in execution, attend to the minutest details, and imitate the postmarks with a certain success. To place some means of detecting these impositions within the reach of the collector, I purpose noticing, month by month, fresh forgeries as they appear, and as succinctly as the subject will allow, giving the safest points of difference between original and forgery. No rare stamp should be purchased by the collector except upon condition that it may be returned if proved forged. Those dealers who do not scruple to sell forgeries, will not hesitate to give a guarantee of genuineness, and to affirm that they *are* real when returned to them as forged; therefore a guarantee is not always a safeguard,—the only means of security is in having the option of returning all specimens.

At the present time the following stamps are met with forged, from various sources:—Austria, Mercury; K. K. S. Z. 1, 2, 4 kr.: Corrientes, 1 r. M. C. and no value: Bergedorf, the old ½ and 3 sch.; the present 3 and 4 sch.: Brazil, large 30, 60, 90: British Guiana, pearl border and sprig border newspaper labels: Cape, 1d. block: Confederate States: Moldavia: Denmark, 2 R.B.S.: and old Schleswig-Holstein, 1 and 2 sch.: Finland: Greece: Hamburg, forged 9 sch., in various colours: India, old ½ a. red: Liberia: Lubeck: Modena, many forgeries, 'Estensi' and 'Provincie:' Monte Video, the old ones: Nevis: New Brunswick, Connell's essay: New Caledonia: New South Wales, view of Sydney: Nicaragua: Norway, old 4 sk.: Parma: Romagna: Reunion: Sandwich Islands: Saxony, 1850, 3 pf.: Spain, 1, 2, 3 c., and many dated; also Cuba: Switzerland, all the cantonal: Tuscany, both issues: Two Sicilies, Naples, ½ gr., 20 gr., and the two ½ t.; Sicily: United States, many of the locals: Venezuela, the last issue. This list is rather overwhelming at first sight; it comprises nearly every rare stamp. I shall take the most important this month, and endeavour to make their detection a matter of little difficulty.

AUSTRIA.—There is a good forgery of the 1 kr. black, arms, newspaper stamp, in circulation; it is difficult to detect. The S in *Stämpel*, Z in *Zeitungs*, and K in *Kreuzer*, differ in the forgery and original. The common 1 kr. brown is from the same die as the very rare black stamp, therefore a suspected specimen of the black 1 kr. may be compared with the brown one, if it differs it is a forgery. There are also forgeries of the 4 kr. red and brown, newspaper. They are badly executed, lettering is poor and thin; there is no stroke after *Zeitungs*, no stop after *stämpel*, and the dots above the ä of *stämpel* do not touch the letter.

BERGEDORF.—Five months ago the old stamps were first forged, but not coming over in any quantity were not suspected; lately they have increased in number. The forgeries are the old ½ sch. on violet, and 3 sch. black on pink. The old stamps may be successfully tested by the number of the small circles around the arms; if the stamp be genuine, the circles will be fifty-five in both ½ and 3 sch., whilst in the forgeries the ½ has forty-six and the 3 sch. fifty-two circles. In addition, the forged ½ sch. has the following differences from the real one,—the circles around the arms do not touch the line (forming the square) on the left side,—the genuine just touch this line; in the arms the left tower is higher than the right one, which is quite clear of the circles above it, and the eagle's head is on exactly the same level as the summit of the left tower, whereas in the genuine the left tower is hardly so high as the right one, and the summit of the eagle's head is a trifle higher than that of the left-hand tower; the figures of ½ touch the lines above and below respectively in the ori-

ginal, but in the counterfeit it is only the upper figure—the 1—that touches. There are plenty of other inaccuracies, but these will suffice to render doubt impossible. There is a very great difference in the waved lines of the background. In the forged 3 sch. the summits of the two towers do not touch, as they do in the original. The stamps now used are from the same dies as these old ½ and 3 sch., therefore the differences can easily be noticed between suspicious old ones, by comparison with those now in use.

British Guiana.—There is a close imitation of the 1 c. magenta, rectangular, now sold. Those I have seen are unused and at a 'long' price. The following points are observed in the forgery, which are just the opposite in the genuine stamp. The D in *Damus* is shaped in the usual way (the D of the genuine is circular, in fact, an O); the first stroke of the V in *Vicissim* is quite true (this stroke is a little curved in the genuine 1 c.); the stern of the vessel is straight (in the real one, the stern projects above and slopes or falls away as it touches the water); the central mast of the small vessel in the distance on the right side is scarcely any longer than the others, whilst in the original the central mast is considerably the longest. This last is the surest and quickest test; the forgery is a much deeper impression than the real stamp, lines are thicker and blotched.

Corrientes.—These valuable stamps, fetching readily a pound each and upwards, present great inducements to the forgers. Simple and rude as is the design, the imitators have not succeeded in making a perfect fac-simile. In all the genuine ones with which I am acquainted, there are at the top of the head three distinct leaves, which may easily be counted; let any one try to count the leaves at the top of the wreath in the forgery, the attempt will be useless, because there are no leaves to be distinguished so high as the top of the head. This test of the three leaves is by far the safest, but there are many varieties of these stamps, and in some of them this peculiarity is far from clear, but still the leaves are there, whilst in the forgery they are not to be counted. The 1 real M.C. were issued in 1856, those without value (5 centavos) in 1861; both are now obsolete. In the forgery of the 1 real, the M (of M.C.) is very curiously shaped and very awkward in appearance.

Finland.—The 5 and 10 kop. transverse oval may be distinguished from the originals by the following marks: In the 10 k. the O of KOП small and separated from the K; the dot which comes between the 10 and K of KOP is small and distinct from both, and is above the level of the base of the K. There are eight round marks (jewels, probably) on the left side of the crown, the lower one being wanting; the lines forming the ground of the shield do not touch the outline of the shield above or below; the forged 5 k. has the jewels on the left side of the crown, and the lines forming the background of the shield identical with the forged 10. The genuine stamps differ in all the above points, the dot (on the left side) all but touches the K in the 10 k., and in both the jewels are nine, and the lines on the shield touch the outline.

India.—The rarity of the ½ an. old, red, has caused many imitations to spring up. One is made from the red 1 an. by erasing 'one' and painting in 'half,' but the ornaments in the top corners differ in the ½ and 1 an., which would betray the imposition however well 'half' had been inserted. There are two different forgeries of this ½ an. One is a very poor attempt, and strange to say imitates the top corners of 1 *an.* instead of following those of the ½ an.; this will at once expose the fraud. The other forgery is better, but is a part imitation of the ½ an. blue, and the 1 an. red: the top corner ornaments like the ½ blue, the marks in the border are like those of the 1 red,—very small and nearly circular dots, whilst those on the ½ blue are four times the size and triangular. In this forgery there is a small line between the eyelid and the eye, the two a's of *anna* are pointed at the top, and the inside white border is very narrow; whereas, in the real ½ blue and 1 red, there is no such line on the eye, the a's of *anna* are square at the top, and the inside white border is wider. Supposing the ½ red and ½ blue to be from the same die—and the contrary cannot be supposed—the best test for

the above forgery would be the large irregular triangular marks in the side borders, instead of small and nearly round dots.

LUBECK.—Two forgeries of the 1859 issue are to be had. The last and best of the two has the following discrepancies:—

Forged ½. No shading after *halber* (to left); the lines at sides which have three short strokes above and below them look too straight; there is no attempt at a graceful curve.

Forged 1. All have a dot before the word *Lubeck*, the eagle's tail is pointed, *ein* is large and clumsy, and the shading which is by it is thick and awkward.

Forged 2. The shading does not touch the Z of *Zwei*. There is a short stroke on the left side, which comes over the dots above u of *Lubeck;* this stroke only comes over the right hand dot. Shading of the labels darker and coarser; dots behind eagle small and too numerous.

Forged 2½. Lettering large and coarse; no shading by *Zwei ein halber;* figures 2 rather square bottomed; the shading of labels is coarse.

Forged 4. Shading very strong below *Vier*. Dots behind eagle not quite regular.

These are not all the differences, but will, I doubt not, suffice. There is a little ornament over Lubeck, the two outer strokes of which are always curved in genuine copies, in the forgeries they are often quite straight.

PARMA, 1858.—The forgery I am going to describe is far from being a new one, but it is a careful and close copy, and if met with would prove very puzzling. The following points if found to exist in a specimen will prove it to be undoubtedly forged. The genuine differs from this description though so very slightly that care must be taken that the signs are not misunderstood. There is no latitude in this description; the points mentioned must be found exactly.

In the branch which is on the right hand side, and the bottom bunch of leaves, the uppermost leaf is pointed downwards, and all the leaves are long. The points of the three leaves forming the top bunch on this same branch are not on one level, the centre one being higher than the other two. The oak leaves on the left hand branch are not veined, and the stem of the branch is formed by one line. In the real stamp the oak leaves are veined, some leaves more than others, and the stem of the left branch is in outline, not filled in. But there is still something on the right hand branch, in the third bunch of leaves from the bottom; the two right hand side ones start from the same level as the one leaf on the other side. This is the forgery; in the genuine the points of the three leaves forming the top bunch on the right branch are on the same level.

SPAIN, 1854.—Correo official, ½, 1, 2 onzas, and 1 libra. The very excellent imitations of these stamps have only appeared lately. The cross at top of the crown, and the shield on the left side, both touch the line forming the border. They do not touch in the real stamps; although in the 1 onza the cross, examined without a magnifying glass, *will* appear to touch, with the aid of a glass it will be seen that it does *not* do so. The crown on the head of the upper lion (in shield) all but touches the edge of the shield above it; whilst there is a clear space visible in the original. The upper fore paw of this lion is very perceptibly longer than the other one; whereas the two fore paws project to the same level in the genuine stamp. The dot after 1854 is, in the forgery, above the narrowest (*i. e.* the inner) *black* line of the border; but in the original stamp this dot is above the *coloured* line of the border. The minute details of these stamps are well done, and pretty faithfully copied. The colour of the forged 1 libra is more red than blue.

There is an excellent counterfeit of the 1850 12 cuartos. It is as well 'got up' as any other forgery I am acquainted with, I shall hope to describe it in a future number.

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS.—IV. ANCIENT NATIONS OF THE FAR WEST.

BY THE REV. HENRY H. HIGGINS, M.A.

AT the time when England was ruled by seven kings, and the empire of the East was in its full vigour, and Mahomet was living, and Gregory the Great had but lately passed

to his rest, in another hemisphere—the inhabitants of which were as little known to the nations of Europe as if they had belonged to another planet—a warlike race of men came from the highlands of the north to the valley of the fine lakes, afterwards known as Mexico. These were the Toltecs, whose skill in agriculture and mechanic arts became the germ of a civilization which, when the Toltecs themselves had passed away, amongst the Aztecs who succeeded them, attained a wondrous development.

On the southern continent of the same hemisphere, long before the invasion of America by the Spaniards, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, another race, the Incas, had established an equal claim to be considered a civilized people.

These two nations, the Aztecs of Mexico, and the Incas of Peru, were entirely unknown to each other, yet in many respects there was a striking similarity between their institutions. When the Spaniards took possession of both countries, that which most surprised them was, to find a system of postal communications in full work, greatly superior to any they had left behind them, when they set out from Europe to subdue the supposed barbarians of the western hemisphere. In Mexico, but more especially in Peru, roads were formed, the remains of which in the present day are objects of astonishment to travellers, on account of the engineering skill which must have been exercised in their construction. One of these roads, in Peru, is described as having been 'conducted over pathless sierras buried in snow; galleries were cut for leagues through the living rock; rivers were crossed by means of bridges that swung suspended in the air; precipices were scaled by stairways hewn out of the native bed; ravines of hideous depth were filled up with solid masonry; in short, all the difficulties that beset a wild and mountainous region, and which might appal the most courageous engineer of modern times, were encountered and successfully overcome. The length of the road, of which scattered fragments only remain, is variously estimated from fifteen hundred to two thousand miles; and stone pillars, in the manner of European milestones, were erected at stated intervals of somewhat more than a league all along the route. The road is said to have been so nicely constructed that a carriage might have rolled over it as securely as on any of the great roads of Europe.'

On all the principal routes, at intervals of less than five miles, were erected small buildings, in each of which resided a number of couriers or runners, whose office it was to carry forward the despatches of government. The *charquis*, or runners, were trained to the employment, and selected for their speed and fidelity; they wore a peculiar livery; and it is said that to increase their speed they were strapped and belted so tightly that if they fell it was only with much difficulty they could rise again. They ran with great swiftness; and messages were carried through the whole extent of long routes at the rate of a hundred and fifty miles a day.

A postal system so skilfully established and maintained would gain our unqualified admiration, but for the fact that its design almost exclusively was to secure the continuance of a combined military and priestly despotism. Private correspondence was unknown: unbounded luxury prevailed amongst the wealthy; but interchange of thought formed no part of the advantage pursued in the construction of their marvellous lines of way, some of which were for many leagues bordered with rows of trees shedding a delicious perfume to gratify the traveller. It was the boast of Montesinos that along these roads, in twenty-four hours, through the incredible distance of three hundred miles, had been brought by the couriers, from the shore of the ocean, fish fresh and in good condition for the royal table.

The Aztecs and the Incas, although unknown to each other at the time of the Spanish invasion, had established very similar arrangements for the transmission of the despatches of their respective states; but the modes in which the two nations expressed their ideas and intentions were altogether different.

The Aztecs described actions and events by a kind of picture writing, in which the

place of words was supplied by rude representations of visible objects.

The material employed was a fine kind of fabric manufactured from the leaves of the aloe: it is said to have been more soft and beautiful than the finest parchment. It is evident that literal imitations of objects would have occupied too much space as well as time in the execution, to serve for writings on an extended scale; the pictures were therefore abridged, and the drawings were confined to outlines. Things which had no type in the material world were represented by visible objects supposed to have some quality analogous to the idea intended. In course of time these symbols, like the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians, came to have only a very obscure connection with the things which they indicated. Thus amongst the Aztecs a serpent typified time, and a man sitting on the ground an earthquake, with as little correspondence between the symbol and its meaning as can be traced in the hieroglyphical writings of the Egyptians, in which the universe was indicated by a beetle, and the words 'son of' were supplied by the figure of a goose.

A Mexican manuscript exhibited grotesque caricatures of the human figure; monstrous, overgrown heads, or puny, misshapen bodies, hard and angular in their outlines, and without the least skill in their composition: colours as well as forms were significant, consequently such colours only were used as presented gaudy and violent contrasts. Yet by this clumsy method of picture writing the Aztecs were able to record all their laws, and even their regulations for domestic economy; their tribute rolls, specifying the imposts of the various towns; their mythology, calendars, and rituals; their political annals, carried back to a period long before the foundation of the city.

At an entertainment given by Cortes to an embassy from Montezuma, the Mexican monarch, one of the attendants of the chief envoy was observed busy with his pencil. His work was found to be a sketch of the Spaniards, their costumes, arms, &c., and was intended for the royal eye. To heighten the impression of the scene Cortes ordered out the cavalry on the beach, and commanded a discharge of artillery, to the indescribable consternation of the Aztecs. Notwitstanding their alarm, the painters faithfully recorded every event after their own fashion, not omitting the ships, the 'water houses,' as they called them, of the Spaniards, who had thus an early illustration of the capabilities of the Aztecs in the use of their celebrated picture writing.

Nothing of this kind was known to the Incas of Peru; but in its place they had their own peculiar contrivance called the *quipus*. The *quipu* was a cord about two feet long, composed of different coloured threads tightly twisted together, from which a quantity of smaller threads were suspended in the manner of a fringe. The threads were of different colours, and were tied into knots: the word *quipu*, indeed, signifies a knot. The colours denoted sensible objects; as, for instance, white represented silver, and yellow, gold. They sometimes also stood for abstract ideas; thus white signified peace, and red, war. The commonest use of the *quipus* was arithmetical; but the variety of purposes for which the *quipus* were made to serve astonished the Spaniards. Though as a substitute for a written language the *quipus* were inferior to the picture writing of the Aztecs, yet they enabled the ancient Peruvians to send messages; and collections of these skeins of many-coloured threads, preserved by men educated in the mysteries pertaining to them, constituted the national records of the Incas.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THIS month we have the pleasure of introducing to our subscribers some stamps—using the language of a distinguished continental chronicler—'worthy the name of stamps, such as are rarely viewed, and whose congeners would be a bonus to the whole world, anything approaching them being seldom met with; meriting for themselves the expense of an appropriate notice.'

After this grandiloquent preamble—and we may avow that the specimens under notice in a great measure deserve trumpeting—we beg, ladies and gentlemen, you will

honour with a favourable reception the new series of stamps of the Argentine Republic, the approaching issue of which was notified as expected so long ago as June last year, in the magazine published by Mons. Moens, of Brussels.

On New-Year's Day last appeared a decree authorising the manufacture of a set of postage stamps, bearing the effigy of Don Bernardin Rivadavia. It was at first proposed England should be favoured with the order; but we are compelled to be unpatriotic enough to congratulate postal collectors on 'second thoughts being best' in this instance: the authorities changed their minds; and the neatness, taste, and elegance of the Paris engravers decided their preference.

We are about to describe, of course, from the essays adopted, as the stamps themselves will scarcely be in circulation even when this notification sees the light. The values and colours of the specimens are respectively as before, viz., 5 centavos, red; 10 centavos, green; and 15 centavos, blue: coloured impressions on a white ground, and engraved on steel. But the colours, we are given to understand, are not definitively fixed on, and a change will probably be made before issue.

Like the half hundred sea nymphs attendant on Doris, so beautifully described by Ovid as differing in feature,—

——'facies non omnibus una,
Nec diversa tamen, qualem decet esse sororum,'—

but all 'to a man,' as an Irishman would say, decidedly evidencing a sisterly connection; and like the latest series of Italians, these stamps bear the same effigy, but vary as to the ornamentation.

The portrait represents a jolly-looking, rather bull-necked, black-haired individual, in the by-going costume of high coat collar, ditto collar, and white choker, having rather the appearance of a respectable, responsible storekeeper, than the head of a government; but not being born a king, we suppose nature was not prophetess sufficient to bestow a regal type upon him.

The representation, then, of the Argentine representative, in the stamps of lowest value, centres an oval within an oval band touching the four sides of a rectangle; said band bearing *Republica Argentina* above, and *Cinco centavos* below; each of these four words being isolated by a small curvilinear triangle. The four corners are filled by figures denoting the value, and a device something like, but not identical with any of those occupying the same position in the new issue for Italy. The effigy does not show the full face, but inclines slightly to the left of the beholder.

The 10 centavos stamp is the least prepossessing of the three. The oval containing the portrait is not set off by a band as in the others. Above and below it, in curved lines, stand *Republica Argentina;* and above and below those words again, in smaller capitals, the value, *Diez centavos*, shows itself. An ornamental device around the oval, and the figures 10 in each of the four corners, complete the stamp.

The palm of beauty must be awarded to the remaining specimen, which is well worth the added prices of its congeners. Between the oval band (having the name of the country above, as in the 5 centavos, and the monetary denomination, *Quince centavos*, beneath) and the portrait, is a narrow ornamental band. The figures denoting fifteen are repeated twice only in this stamp, that is to say, in fancy figures on the right and left, in ovals hiding both bands where they fall. The corners exhibit neat designs of a curvilineal pattern.

We think the page of a good postage-stamp collector's album devoted to the specimens of the Argentine Confederation and Republic—numbering, as it will do when the subjects under consideration are annexed, eleven individuals in three very distinct and peculiar types—will form one of the most singular and attractive objects in his collection.

The beautiful stamps of Costa Rica are further augmented by an impression similar in design to the rest; value, *cuatro reales* (four reals); colour, green.

The Trinidad sixpenny is now printed of a bright verdigris colour; and the penny is deep blood-red.

The Swan River penny stamp has likewise changed colour, being of a darker red, tinged with a *soupçon* of violet. By the last mail we received a new *blue* fourpenny stamp—

the rose coloured one being now out of use. Our correspondent informs us that a brick-coloured fourpenny will shortly be issued.



Re-impressions of the rare old Spanish and Portuguese are in the market, one of which, the 100 reis Donna Maria, we engrave.



The annexed is a representation of Mc. Robish and Co.'s local stamp, franking from Acapulco, in Mexico, to San Francisco, in California. This specimen is printed both in blue and pink.

Next month we shall exhibit an engraving of the new value for Lubeck. It is very like those in present use, but *not* in relief. It is brown on white paper; value, $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling.

A new Hamburg stamp is just issued, $2\frac{1}{2}$ sch., green on white, similar in design to that for $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch.

We have to note, moreover, a medio centavo Venezuela stamp, exactly like the stamps of the latest issue, except, of course, in the words denoting value; colour, a brownish pink.



Last month we figured the stamp for Holstein. In the present number will be seen a representation of that for Schleswig *exclusively*. The figure is description sufficient. It is printed in rose. This employment of two different stamps looks as if the authorities anticipated a permanent separation of the duchies. We understand the present issue is already obsolete on account of the monetary value being in Danish money, and that the Prussian currency will be substituted.

One of the choicest collections in London has just been enriched by a set of essays for Greece, nine in number, same design and value. The colours are, green, pink, mauve, orange, blue, black, yellow, chocolate, and scarlet. They are more attractive than beautiful; and from their large size, which is about that of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamp, are not likely to be adopted. A medallion portrait of King George I. blockades the centre of a view of the Parthenon; underneath which, *Ell. Gramm.*, in Greek characters; and the value (20 lept.) in each of the four corners.

The latest novelty is the shilling stamp—we hope we may call it provisional—for St. Helena. It is—like those of the respective denominations of one penny and fourpence—impressed from the same die as the original sixpenny, with that value crossed off, but one shilling substituted, and of a green colour in the present instance. Collectors have a right to anticipate a regular series for the island.



The 40 cents envelope stamp of the United States, here figured, was, we believe, an essay rejected by the government, and deservedly so, owing to its unrivalled ugliness.



The 20-cents Confederate is a very neat-looking, unpretending stamp, printed in green on white.

We are just in time to inform our readers that another new stamp for Schleswig is issued. Its value is $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling, and of a light green colour. It is similar in design to the 4 sch. Schleswig figured above.

ABUSES OF THE LETTER FRANKING SYSTEM.

IN old records of the English post-office still preserved, we find lists of franked consignments; the following, culled from a number of such, will indicate their character:

'Fifteen couple of hounds, going to the king of the Romans with a free pass.' 'Two maid-servants, going as laundresses to my Lord Ambassador Methuen.' 'Doctor Crichton, carrying with him a *cow* and divers

necessaries.' 'Three suits of *cloaths*, for some nobleman's lady at the court of Portugal.' 'Two bales of stockings for the use (?) of the ambassador to the crown of Portugal.' 'A deal case, with four flitches of bacon, for Mr. Pennington of Rotterdam.'

When the control of the packet service passed out of the hands of the post-office authorities, and when the right of franking letters became properly sanctioned and systematised, we hear no more of this kind of abuses of privilege. The franking system was henceforth confined to passing free through the post any letter which should be endorsed on the cover with the signature of a member of either house of parliament. It was not necessary, however, that parliament should be in session, or that the correspondence should be on the affairs of the nation (though this was the original design of the privilege) to insure this immunity from postage; and this arrangement, as might have been expected, led to various forms of abuse. Members signed large packets of covers at once, and supplied them to friends in large quantities; sometimes they were sold; they have been known to have been given to servants in lieu of wages, the servants selling them again in the ordinary way of business. Nor was this all. So little precaution seems to have been used, that thousands of letters passed through the post-office with forged signatures of members. To such an extent did these and kindred abuses accumulate, that whereas in 1715, £24,000 worth of franked correspondence passed through the post-office, in 1763 the amount had increased to £170,000. During the next year, viz., in 1764, parliament enacted that no letter should pass free through the post-office unless the whole address was in the member's own handwriting, and his signature attached likewise. It is obvious that this arrangement would materially lessen the frauds practised upon the public revenue of the country. But even these precautions were not sufficient, for fresh regulations were rendered necessary in the year 1784. This time it was ordered that all franks should be dated—the month to be given in full—and further, that all such letters should be put into the post on the same day.

From 1784 to the date of the penny-postage era, the estimated value of franked letters was £80,000 annually. No further reforms were, however, attempted, till Sir Rowland Hill advocated the very radical and indispensable reform of entirely abrogating the privilege. In the bill, which through his unceasing energy was introduced into parliament in 1839, no provision was made such as had existed for a couple of centuries.

Writing on this subject, and having mentioned the name of the founder of the penny-post system, we may advert to an anecdote which has been mistakingly reported regarding him.

Coleridge the poet, when a young man, visiting the Lake District, halted at the door of a wayside inn at the moment when the rural post-messenger was delivering a letter to the barmaid of the place. Upon receiving it, she turned it over and over in her hand, and then asked the postage of it. The postman demanded a shilling. Sighing deeply, however, the girl handed the letter back, saying she was too poor to pay the required sum. The young poet at once offered to pay the postage, and in spite of the girl's resistance, which the humane tourist deemed quite natural, did so. The postman had scarce left the place, when the young barmaid confessed that she had learned all that she was likely to know from the letter; that she had only been practising a preconceived trick; she and her brother having agreed that a few hieroglyphics on the back of a post-letter should tell her all she wanted to know, whilst the letter would contain no writing. 'We are so poor,' she added, 'that we have invented this manner of corresponding and franking our letters.' Mr. Hill, having heard of this incident, introduced it into his first pamphlet on postal reform, as a lively illustration of the absurdity of the old system. It was by an inadvertency on the part of a modern historical writer that Mr. Hill was ever described as the person to whom the incident happened.—*Book of Days.*

IT IS WORTH NOTICE that the whole expense of all the provincial post-office establishments in England and Wales is not so great as that for the chief office in London; the provincial expenses being £484,611, while the expenses in London are £497,023.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Beschreibung der bis jetzt bekannten Briefmarken (mehr als 2200 sorten) nebst Notizien über die nachgedruckten Marken und einer Anleitung zur Einrichtung von Sammlungen. Strasburg: Wwe. Berger-Levrault & Sohn, 1864. A Description of more than 2200 different sorts of Postage Stamps known up to the date of publication; with notices of counterfeits, and some hints on the arrangement of collections. Strasburg: Berger-Levrault and Son.

This carefully-printed publication proves that the continental writers *can* get their lucubrations well set up on good paper if they choose. Any annotation may be made in this stamp catalogue without running the risk of making a large shapeless blot, as is usually the case on attempting to correct an error in a book published on the continent.

The author—whose identity will be easily recognised, notwithstanding the veil either intentionally or unintentionally cast over it—having one of the finest and most perfect collections of postage stamps in France, and having been a collector some time before the mania reached this country, has peculiar facilities for compiling such a work as the present. Of these he has thoroughly availed himself; and his manual may be pronounced as near perfection as could possibly be expected. Of course, from the comparatively few English collectors who understand sufficient German to comprehend the descriptions accurately, it is not likely to fall into general use in this country, nor was it to be desired it should, as we already possess the four editions of our old friend Mount Brown, who promises us a fifth in May; but throughout Germany, and wherever the German language is understood, it will most probably command a large sale. Our readers will see by an advertisement in another part of this magazine that copies may be had of Messrs. Williams & Norgate, foreign booksellers, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

The preface explains the plan of the work, and foreshows the author's notices of those specimens not strictly coming under the denomination of postage stamps in the body of the work. These he divides into six heads, first mentioning the *Probedrücke*, or essays proper, which were actually ordered by the post-office authorities. Next come the *Vorschläge*, or essays proposed by private individuals and not adopted by the postal officials. Thirdly stand the *Druckproben*, or proofs; including stamps from the die in legitimate use, but on better paper, and in abnormal colours. Then follow the *Nachdrücke*, or forgeries; comprehending at once such stamps as never existed, and fictitious copies of the genuine. Fifthly, there are the *Fälschungen*, or falsifications: these comprise what we ourselves generally typify as chemicals or colombos, that is to say, purposely or accidentally changed in colour. And lastly come in the very numerous stamps emitted by private firms, which our author, and we think rightly, pronounces as having a perfect right to figure in postage-stamp albums, whenever they have been or may be employed to frank epistolary communications.

There never was a French writer yet who did not add a postscript to his 'lastly'; and consequently we find here an intimation that amateurs may form a supplementary collection of bill of exchange stamps, &c., but that they ought to be strictly excluded from the postage-stamp album.

Three or four pages of directions for arranging collections follow, and then comes the catalogue itself.

The geographical order is strictly—and being really tired of bestowing unlimited praise, we will therefore relieve ourselves by adding, *too* strictly—followed. Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceanica, North America, the West Indies, and South America succeed each other in due course,—an arrangement open to no objection; but we prefer Oppen's alphabetical posing of the several countries included in each of these heads, to that of the publication under review. In Europe, for example, the author begins at the north, proceeding as regularly as possible to the south; but this makes it rather difficult to find the place of which one is in quest. Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, with their appendages, coming first; and followed by Oldenburg, Mecklenburg, Hamburg, Prussia, Hanover, and Lubeck; concluding with Spain

and its colonies, and Portugal; knock on the head all our pre-conceived notions of the relative position of the individuals in all the albums we have ever seen. This inconvenience is, of course, obviated by an elaborate alphabetical index at the end of the volume. A perfect tabular view of the different monetary values, with their equivalents, is also appended, and will be found both interesting and useful to the student.

In the body of the work, which naturally takes up about ten-elevenths of the 114 pages, the descriptions of the stamps are sufficiently minute to prevent the possibility of error in the identification of a recent acquisition. The tedium of repetition is well relieved, and the eye at once gratified, by the adoption of capital letters as a *memoria technica*, to denote the colours and other characteristics of the stamps; and small neat circles, oblongs, squares, ovals, &c., to signalise their forms; much in the same way as employed in the *Standard Catalogue*, published by Hotten, of Piccadilly.

The dates of issues, whenever they could be accurately ascertained, are given; and, in fact, every possible information interesting to the zealous amateur is afforded. Some idea of the number of specimens never hitherto catalogued, introduced to notice in the work before us, may be gathered from the fact that no fewer than ten Belgian essays are chronicled, when we believe never more than two have been yet noted in any previous manual. As for the essays of the French republic and empire, they appropriate four of the duodecimo pages to themselves.

Such a publication as we now have the pleasure of reviewing bids fair to prove that postage-stamp collecting, as many croakers would seem to insinuate, is by no means on the decline. Another proof is the total exhaustion of Mount Brown's fourth edition, accompanied by frequent and pressing calls upon his publisher to furnish a fifth, which will be responded to, as we have before intimated, about the beginning of this month.

Since writing the above we have been favoured by the author with a copy of the work on still superior paper, bound in morocco gilt, with gilt-edged leaves; and we conclude either sort may be purchased, according to the taste and pecuniary means of the amateur.

This manual may also be obtained with blank pages interleaved for any notes, observations, or additions of novel specimens.

Once a Month; or, The Stamp-Collector's Advertiser. Manchester: C. & H. GLOYN.

THE first number of a second series of monthly publications under the above title, on better paper, and with more pretensions to the character of a postal magazine. The world is wide enough, and, we are happy to say, the spread of postage-stamp furore is broad enough to find scope for the circulation of this and many similar periodicals.

An Eton collegian gives the opening paper. The next is a review of rare postage stamps; Part I. containing notices of the rarer issues of Europe, in many cases giving the marketable values. This latter feature would be useful, could any permanency be given to it; but all collectors must be well aware that a stamp at one time common, in comparatively a short period becomes rare, and *vice versâ*. In the former category stand the earlier issues of Oldenburg, &c.; and in the latter, the 5-reis Donna Maria, which we remember not very long since was almost unattainable. The writer is scarcely correct in some of his statements; remarking, for instance, that the envelope stamps of England cannot be procured in large quantities; whereas a shilling's worth or a hundred pounds' worth simply requires the same trouble, irrespective of price, to obtain. He says all the postage stamps of France are easy to be had. We wish he would procure us some of the one franc of the Republic, vermilion.

An article on the Sandwich Islands introduces engravings of five of the stamps of that locality; and some half dozen more are met with in various pages of the number. Reviews, advertisements, and original communications add to the interest; and we rejoice to see, by an extract from the *North British Daily Mail*, that one of the many postal swindlers has met with his deserts.

A notice respecting the first three series of Prussian adhesive stamps, by a London correspondent, quite took us by surprise, as it reverses *in toto* the chronological order in

which the second and third issues have been hitherto, we believe, universally arranged in all catalogues, both British and continental. In common with other collectors, we had ever imagined the three *without* any crossed lines as the *second* issue. The communication we allude to transfers them, however, to the third. We must take leave to doubt the purity of the new light thrown upon the subject. As far as our own experience goes, we perfectly remember those heretofore considered as the third series coming over in shoals upon letters, when the block stamps were seldom to be met with; and just before the appearance of the present issue, on sending to Berlin for specimens of the current stamps, we received none other than those with crossed lines.

The publication of the second number has been deferred until the first of May, and will appear henceforth the same date each month. The ornamental cover, which was not ready before, will then come into use. Altogether the magazine does credit to its publishers, and we cordially wish it every success.

Katalog über die Briefmarken aller Länder. Leipzig: Zschiesche and Köder. Third edition.

It looks well for the spread of the postage-stamp collecting movement, that the enterprising firm of Messrs. Zschiesche and Köder, in Saxony, has already exhausted the second edition of their catalogue. We recommend a careful reading of the English preface, and assure our subscribers they will find it worth their while.

As we previously remarked in our notice of the former edition, this publication does credit to the care and neatness of the German press. The paper is tolerably good; the letter-press unexceptionable; and errata few or none. It is not likely to command a great circulation in this country, as we possess several manuals of the kind in our own language; but no doubt the German postal amateurs will very largely patronise it. We think a priced general catalogue quite a mistake, from the mutability of the value of all things, postage stamps not excluded. Next month we anticipate the pleasure of heralding Mount Brown's fifth edition, which will probably appear ere this sees the light.

THE BRITISH POST ABOUT THE YEAR 1780.

HARK! 'tis the twanging horn o'er yonder bridge,
That with its wearisome but needful length
Bestrides the wintry flood, in which the moon
Sees her unwrinkled face reflected bright;—
He comes, the herald of a noisy world,
With spattered boots, strapped waist, and frozen locks,
News from all nations lumbering at his back.
True to his charge, the close-packed load behind,
Yet careless what he brings,—his one concern
Is to conduct it to the destined inn,
And, having dropped th' expected bag, pass on.
He whistles as he goes, light-hearted wretch,
Cold and yet cheerful; messenger of grief
Perhaps to thousands, and of joy to some;
To him indifferent, whether grief or joy.
Houses in ashes, and the fall of stocks,
Births, deaths, and marriages, epistles wet
With tears, that trickled down the writer's cheeks
Fast as the periods from his fluent quill,
Or charged with am'rous sighs of absent swains,
Or nymphs responsive, equally affect
His horse and him, unconscious of them all.
But O th' important budget! ushered in
With such heart-shaking music, who can say
What are its tidings? Have our troops awaked?
Or do they still, as if with opium drugged,
Snore to the murmurs of th' Atlantic wave?
Is India free? and does she wear her plumed
And jewelled turban with a smile of peace,
Or do we grind her still? The grand debate,
The popular harangue, the tart reply,
The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,
And the loud laugh,—I long to know them all:
I burn to set the imprisoned wranglers free,
And give them voice and utterance once again.

COWPER.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

INDIA PROOF OF THE MULREADY ENVELOPE.—One of the rare impressions from the engraved design by Mulready for a postage envelope has been advertised in the *Times* for sale. It is described as 'an India-proof impression—one of six—from the original block engraved by John Thompson in the year 1840, price *twenty guineas*.'

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 5, 1864, Mr. R. Long advocated a cheaper rate of charge for transmission of newspapers. 'If,' said he, 'a cheaper stamp for newspapers was issued, it would be a boon to the public, and would not be an injury to the revenue;' but the matter was not taken up by the house.

A COSTLY COURTSHIP.—At a public meeting recently held in Birmingham it was decided to erect a statue of Sir Rowland Hill in that town. The Rev. Dr. Miller addressed the meeting, and, in alluding to the benefits of the penny postage, said that he had a very painful recollection—and they would excuse a man who, in these matters, was now in his dotage (laughter), and wished to take the privilege of babbling, as old men did—but he had a very lively recollection of the expensive character of his courtship, which took place he would not say how many years ago. Every letter he received cost him eightpence, and as he was never vain enough to think his love letters were worth eightpence, he always paid the postage himself; and the consequence was, he never exchanged a letter with that lady but it cost him sixteen pence.

SIR ROWLAND HILL has addressed a letter of thanks to the Lords of the Treasury for the flattering notice they have taken of his services in awarding him his full salary as a retiring allowance. At the same time, he takes objection to a passage in their minute intimating that he was not the first to suggest a uniform rate of penny postage, and claims for himself the sole and exclusive credit of having made the suggestion. To show that Mr. Wallace, formerly member for Greenock, had not made the suggestion before him, he quotes from the last speech Mr. Wallace made on postage reform before the publication of his pamphlet, in which he advocates a *minimum* charge of threepence, and an additional penny for every 50 miles.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.—The sum of £574,236 is to be voted by Parliament this session for the conveyance of the mails by railway in the United Kingdom; and the sum of £146,016 for the conveyance of mails by mail coaches, vans, carts, omnibuses, and pneumatic tubes. The chief payments to railways in England for the conveyance of mails in the year are these:—London and North-Western Railway, £82,416; Chester and Holyhead, £30,200; Lancaster and Carlisle, £18,206; Great Western, £49,829; North-Eastern, £39,177; Stockton and Darlington, £1,311; Midland, £35,190; South-Eastern, £23,635; South-Western, £21,620; Great Eastern, £21,367; Great Northern, £9,877; Bristol and Exeter, £9,875; South Devon, £7,479; Lancashire and Yorkshire, £6,900.

WHO ORIGINATED THE PENNY POSTAGE?—One of the London daily journals recently permitted the insertion of a statement respecting the originator of the penny postage rate; but the information given was incorrect. The following is the fact:—William Dockura, a merchant of London, did not 'set up' the penny rate in London for the collection and delivery of messages and parcels. This had nothing whatever to do with the post-office. The party who did so was named Murray. He was an upholsterer, and commenced his private speculation in 1681. In 1683 Murray resigned his interest in the venture to Dockura; but in a trial at the King's Bench bar, in the reign of Charles II., the right to circulate correspondence was adjudged to belong to the Duke of York, as part of the General Post; and in consequence it was then annexed to the crown, and the revenues arising therefrom were made subject to the payment of pensions to favourites at court and other 'distinguished personages.' Dockura was compensated for his loss, and made General 'Controller;' but for subsequent malversation of the funds he was eventually dismissed the public service.—*The Grocer*

FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF OUR READERS we give the following 'English' preface, extracted from a German catalogue of postage stamps:—

'By penning this new edition of our catalogue of postage stamps we have preserved the early division into the five parties of the globe and the alphabetic order of the particular states without regard to their belonging to a greater confederated state; we believe by this manner to facilitate very much, and by means a complete index, the use of this catalogue.

'To this new edition have we annexed the prices principally for the reason for sending it under cross-envelop.

'For avoiding all possible errors we beg now our honoured committers to denote their commands only by the continued number of the catalogue.

'By sketching the emissions, we have us limited but to give the main characteristics, as the names of portrays, arms, emblems, or value, and the colours of print and paper, so that no mistake can take place.

'Some catalogues quote of stamps and envelopes of one and the same emission and of one and the same value different shadings, as light blue, light red, etc.; we have this object not taken in account, than it occurs to often that the colours change under the action of the sun-light; in other cases such differences in the tints find their ground in later reimpressions of an unchanged emission, in which the coloured ink or paper not harmonizes all over with the first print.

'Also have we excluded the so-called Essays, because we cannot think that such stamps which have never come in public use, can have some value for a collection.

'All new following emissions, which are given out after the publication of this catalogue, likewise, perhaps, necessary corrections, are brought, for the future, immediately in our monthly published "Magazin für Briefmarken Sammler."

'By comands we entreat our honoured committers to demand always more stamps or envelopes then is the amont of money; it occurs sometimes that we have not all the desired stamps in store, and in this manner it will be possible for us to equalize the amount of the sum.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. GRAY ON THE PRINCE CONSORT ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In reply to an inquiry respecting the Prince Consort engraved stamps, I may observe that I have only seen two or three separate examples, which were offered to me for sale, and which I declined, as I was then, and am now, convinced in my own mind—both from historical evidence and other circumstances—that the story of their having been exhibited before the Parliamentary Committee on Postage is a fiction.

I may observe that Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill, in the first edition of his pamphlet, proposed that all letters should be charged by weight, and that when weighed the postage should be paid in money over the counter: the payment by means of stamps was urged by other persons, and was considered by Mr. Hill before the Post-Office Commissioners, and even in the second edition of his pamphlet, only as a subsidiary or secondary way of paying the postage. Mr. Hill's Committee of Merchants and Traders, who treated the question after the plan the Reform Bill had been agitated, were at first wished to use an envelope, and one printed on a particular kind of paper, made by one manufacturer, was the favourite, but the other paper makers and the stationers objected, and to meet their objection the Committee circulated a party-coloured stamp, like a medicine stamp, as a specimen of the stamp they recommended.

Some other person proposed an envelope with an embossed head, somewhat like the embossed head now so much in use; but this stamp was not adopted by Mr. Hill's friends until after the Mulready design, which was Mr. Hill's favourite form of envelope, had been rejected by public opinion. The engraved Queen's head small stamp, sold in sheets, now used, was not suggested until long after, and was never shown at either the Parliamentary Committee or the Committee of Merchants and Traders.

I think that is conclusive, that the stamp with the Prince's head, and which is a mere imitation of the engraved Queen's head, could never have been proposed or shown at the Parliamentary Committee, as stated by some person as a proof of its authenticity.

For these reasons, I regard the Prince Consort Stamp as a modern imitation of the common stamp, produced by a person who had not studied the history of the question, or he could not have produced, as an early essay, a stamp that proclaimed so distinctly its modern origin.

Speaking of imitations or pretended stamps, it may be recollected by visitors to the Exhibition of 1862, that there was exhibited in the gallery, by an engraver of bank notes, &c., a series of imitations of postage stamps—English, American, and European, which did not pretend to be 'essays,' but only specimens of his art. I have seen some of these engravings in postage-stamp albums!

British Museum. J. E. GRAY.

AUSTRIAN AND SWISS STAMP FORGERIES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I think I shall be rendering a service to some of your subscribers, by signalising a recent stamp forgery. It is the old Basle dove, 2½ rappen. The distinguishing characteristic of the counterfeits hitherto known was the uniform bright blue ground of the stamp; whilst in the genuine article the groundwork was formed of very minute lines of blue, closely crowded together, yet not so much so as entirely to hide a white ground.

In the counterfeit now before my eyes, the forger has perfectly succeeded in imitating this distinctive mark of the authentic issue; but he has missed the slight swelling in the middle of the fleur-de-lis.

In the original stamp this swell is formed by a strong black mark, above and below which are observable two small parallelograms composed of fine lines, and consequently exposing a small but evident white space; whilst in the falsity these lines are coarsely made, and, in fact, all the white lines noticeable in the fleur-de-lis are wanting in clearness.

I have likewise ascertained the existence of counterfeits of the Austrian journal stamps, head of Mercury. The representative of the yellow is printed of a dull brownish yellow; and the forgery of the rose is a dirty red.

There are few collectors who do not possess an authentic specimen of the blue Mercury. On comparing that, it is very easy to identify the fictitious stamps, by noticing the upper part of the wing on the cap. In the counterfeits may be remarked a line forming a continuation of the upper stroke of the wing, and lengthening, so to say, its curve; this line will not be found in the genuine copies.

Postmarked yellow Mercuries are also on sale, which are evidently falsifications. The paper is patchy, the impression almost invisible; and I have every reason to conclude that these impostures are produced by chemical agency from the genuine blue stamp.

I remain, Sir

Yours very faithfully,

France. CAROS.

THE HOLSTEIN STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As 'straws show the way the wind is blowing,' I feel that a sentence in your last article on 'Newly-issued Stamps' may mislead some as to the way the wind is blowing in the Duchies. Your sentence is, 'It would seem, from the adoption of the Danish type, that the postal authorities in the revolted provinces have at least Danish proclivities, or they would surely have issued the original provisional stamps or something akin to them.' The explanation of this is that the government of these provinces (particularly of Schleswig) although not nominally is really in the hands of the two powers who are now at war with Denmark; and they have repeatedly announced that their object is the redress of certain violated conditions, and by no means do they desire the severance of the duchies from the kingdom,—and so their reason for keeping the Danish type of stamp is quite apparent. But let not this be taken as a sign of the feeling of the people of these 'revolted provinces.' That feeling is as strong as it has ever been, and their severance from Denmark will be the only satisfactory settlement of the affair as far as the Schleswig-Holsteiners are concerned. When the government of these provinces is allowed to fall into the hands of the inhabitants, then may stamp collectors reasonably expect some better thing in the shape of a newly-issued variety of the old stamp.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

London. A. W.

DEALERS' 'BLACK LIST.'

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In consequence of the great number of frauds respectable stamp dealers have recently suffered from, I would suggest to those that have been thus victimised, an exchange of the addresses of all persons who have obtained stamps from them without payment. I have not come off myself unscathed in the matter, and shall be therefore happy to furnish anyone in the trade with the names and addresses of those who have imposed upon me in this manner, provided he furnishes me with his 'black list' confidentially. Would it not be well to advertise the names in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine?*

Yours obediently,

Belfast. HENRY R. VICTOR

THE SYDNEY POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE following interesting letter from one of our correspondents appeared in *Notes and Queries* in February last; and though the first question is satisfactorily answered, yet the remainder of the inquiries have as yet received no further elucidation in the pages of that periodical. It occurs to us, therefore, that if brought under the notice of our numerous readers, some one among them may perhaps be sufficiently conversant with the official history of the colony of New South Wales to be able to furnish us with some instructive information on the subject. Several of the subjoined remarks, it will be observed, were evidently suggested by Dr. Gray's comprehensive article on the Sydney stamps, published in our first volume, page 26.

YOU cursorily notice this earliest of Australian stamps by explaining to a Bristol querist the exact motto, *Sic fortis Etruria crevit.* It is said to be a quotation from a Latin poet. If so, I should be glad to know where it is to be found.* Having made a fine collection of foreign and colonial postage stamps, I have been lucky enough to secure an almost new specimen of this generally dirty stamp. The landscape, motto, and legend are quite perfect; the former is said (I believe on the authority of the present local postmaster) to be a view of Sydney, but on comparing it with the various engravings of that town in Collins's *Account of New South Wales*, 4to., 1798, there is not the slightest resemblance between the two. I am aware that it is only within the last ten years or thereabouts that our Australian colonies have used postage labels, but as the legend states that it represents the great seal of the colony, it would be interesting to ascertain when this thriving settlement first felt of sufficient importance to adopt a national seal, and why these rough sons of enterprise recurred to classic Latium for a motto, who probably knew no language but their own.—FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W., Lewes.—The photograph you forwarded for view appears to represent a Russian bill or receipt stamp.

M. CHRISTIAN.—The only difference we have ever remarked between perforated and unperforated stamps is, that the former *are* perforated, and the latter are *not*. You must apply to more acute discriminators than ourselves to detect any other variation.

C. E. P., Ch. Ch., Oxford.—We have heard of Madeira cakes and Madeira wine, both which are very agreeable; but the pleasure of seeing a Madeira stamp in our albums is yet to come.

* See Virgil, *Georg.* ii. 533.

A. W. P., Yeovil.—Your Parma 9 centesimi is genuine. Not so the green 5 cents Confederate.—The perfect sheets of most postage stamps contain at the bottom a figure similar or akin to the small cutting you enclosed. We have seen them on the sheets of the French, English, Hong Kong, Liberian stamps, &c.—Forged stamps require a volume to themselves, which want is supplied by Messrs. Moens' or Lewes & Pemberton's works.

T. H.—The value of the black and blue Mulready envelopes is rapidly increasing. Proof impressions in India paper were advertised in the *Times* a few weeks back at twenty guineas each. Obliterated copies fetch a shilling or eighteenpence.

W., Belfast.—Your three Brazilians may be of those alluded to by our French correspondent in the April number of the magazine.—The New Granada is almost, but not perfectly, identical with our genuine specimen.

WILLIE, Ansley.—We should be sorry to imitate the Paris catalogue you hold up as a model. Many of the specimens noted do not, nor ever did, exist; and the compiler has not, nor ever had, an overwhelming proportion of the stamps he prices for sale.—We admit the Dead Letter Office stamp, or any other franking a letter, into our own collection.—The stamps signified as *Timbres-Papier-Monnais* in Lallier's album, are the new paper currency of Federal America.—Those called, *timbres de retour* of Austria, are what are styled here complementaries.—The stamps of Vaud, Winterthur, and all other Swiss locals have been most extensively forged, and are difficult to meet with genuine, even in Switzerland.

R. H. O., Nottingham.—The black penny Victoria is a Colombo.—We know nothing of Nicaragua & Co.

J. Y., Leicester.—The 3-öre Swedish has long superseded the bistre Frimarke.—Much information is yet wanted respecting the United States' local stamps. It is possible that the different colours of Hussey's, Floyd's, and others, may have been used for different beats or districts. We shrewdly suspect that a great number of these emissions were repeated in divers colours, simply to meet the demands and tickle the fancies of collectors.

The Vancouver's Island stamp franks letters to the confines of British territory only, or is employed for local postage. British Columbia letters usually go to San Francisco, whence they are prepaid in the stamps of the United States.—The current opinion respecting the stamps of Nevis is, that the three female figures are intended to typify active benevolence.—It seems to be taken for granted that the head on the Chilian stamps is that of Columbus. If such be the fact, which we may take leave to doubt, we conclude it was intended as a compliment to the discoverer of America.—The twopenny blue (New South Wales, overarched) issue came out in 1861.—The impression on the two-cents stamp of the Sandwich Isles represents the lately deceased king, according to some, and his minister, Prince Lot, according to others; in the former case it will most probably be superseded by that of the present sovereign. The likeness of King Kamehameha the First is on the scarlet and blue emissions.—We can only account for the changes, without apparent necessity, in some of our own colonial stamps, as Swan River, when there has been no alteration in value, or in some continentals, as the Danish, early Prussian, &c., when the colour has not been changed, on the supposition that the postal authorities, from motives of caprice, court favour, or otherwise, chose to patronize a different or exercise the taste or ingenuity of the same engraver.—The values of the green, blue, and rose Barbadoes are one halfpenny, one penny, and fourpence respectively.

J. O. S., Liverpool.—Yours is an Austrian bill or receipt stamp.—We have more than once quoted instances—as the Jamaica shilling, for example—of receipt stamps being designedly or carelessly allowed to pass for postal purposes.—Writers of queries are expected to enclose a postage stamp, if they wish specimens returned.

E. F. J., Paris, sends a drawing of an oblong stamp, having a steamer in an oval, below which is the word, *cents*. At each bottom corner is 12; and a small device which we cannot decipher at each top corner. Can any of our readers oblige us with information respecting such a stamp?

P. N. DE S., Everton, Liverpool.—A black penny postage stamp, with V. R. in the upper corners and other letters below, *is* the rarity so much sought after.—The stamps of Zurich with 1843, one figure in each corner, are Swiss essays in the gullibility of postampomaniacs.

E. M. H., Hungerford.—We have no doubt of the genuine character of your Geneva envelope. We had long since heard of it. It is catalogued by Mons. Levrault in his manual, which we review this month, and will be found in Mount Brown's fifth edition, as also the double Geneva stamp. The other stamp you enclose is a local for Stockholm, since superseded by the brown of the same pattern, which in its turn has given way to the 3 öre. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

HORATIA.—We recommend Mount Brown's catalogue for English collectors, a fifth edition of which is now advertised.—The price of Moens' Stamp Album varies from 8 to 18 francs, according to the style of binding. The body of the work is the same in all prices. The plan is pretty much the same as Lallier's, but carried out in a more satisfactory manner. We consider it the best we have seen.—The stamps given with the magazine are not interchangeable.

J. STOURTON, Henley.—We should have said, most continental dealers, as Moens of Brussels, Zschiesche and Köder of Leipsig, &c.—We have before asked for and should be glad of reliable information respecting the Wenden or Livonian stamps.—The old Lubeck have been forged in shoals.—We have seen no imitations yet of the new Venezuelas.—Our collection was far from complete.—A collection of upwards of 1,000 specimens, including 40 locals only, and 350 of which are uncancelled, may be pronounced a good one.—We have before said we do not appraise stamps. A penny Van Dieman old is valuable.

HOCUS-POCUS.—We fear the reason for the similarity between the arms of the Isle of Man and those figured on the Neapolitan stamps lies hid in the obscurity of the prehistoric annals of Europe. The progenitors of the Manxmen may have emigrated from Naples, or penetrated thither from their own island.

J. C. D., Cheltenham.—The segna tassa in Italy answers the same purpose as the 10 centimes à percevoir in France.

LUDOVICUS.—Should such an utopian consummation as a *complete* collection of postage stamps be ever attained, it would be cheap at two hundred guineas.—We believe the idea intended to be conveyed by the representation on the Nevis postage stamps is, that Nevis being poor, either was, is, or ought to be supported by her sister islands.—The 12½ cents blue Canada, and 5 cents blue New Brunswick, if genuine, are valuable; if chemicals, worthless.—English newspaper stamps may with propriety fill one or more supplementary pages in a postal collection, as also franks, &c.—We suspect your Trinidad sixpenny blue must have had its normal colour extracted.—The 12 cuartos Spanish you mention, as we have once previously remarked, must have been taken from the cover of a bonbon box.

THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

CHAPTER X.

ALL SERENE AGAIN.

'At length are stilled the heavings of that breast:
After life's fitful fever he's at rest.
Doubt, fear, anxiety for ever cease;
Henceforth be welcome pure and perfect peace.'

ALLAN'S letter contained a few words in his sister's writing, telling me, in sad, affecting terms, that her brother had died sleeping calmly and peacefully like a child. Tears filled my eyes and grief my heart, when I finished its perusal; but despite my sorrow, which was deep and earnest at the untimely death of one whom, though brief our friendship, I loved sincerely, I lost no time in discovering Emily's whereabouts from the woman they had left in charge of their house at Kensington, and found, as I had expected, that they had gone away suddenly for their former home at Wiesbaden. Though still weak and debilitated from my long illness, I travelled night and day till I reached the Schloss Rosenberg, and demanding admittance, was shown to the room where Emily was sitting alone, with a look of earnest, gentle melancholy and sweet resignation on her beautiful features. At the sight of me she started to her feet, made one step forward, then suddenly recoiled, and stood like a statue of surprise, with fixed, eager eyes and clasped hands, too much agitated and overcome to speak. I silently placed Edward Allan's letter in her hand: in silence profound as mine she read every word, then looking up, said gently and simply,—

'I should like you to read this also, Mr. Sotherby.'

I did so, and never before had I been so completely astonished and amazed. Transfixed with surprise, I perused its extraordinary contents. It detailed, with many expressions of penitence and remorse, his robbery of my stamp album and its valued contents. Some few days previous to this act of meanness he had received a note from Emily Davenport, whom he had known for years, requesting him to obtain for her some rare and precious stamps. Knowing that I possessed them, the idea of taking mine, and thus gratifying the wishes of the person he most loved on earth, had by degrees entered his mind. Long had he struggled against its insidious whispers; fiercely had he combated with the stealthy promptings of the evil spirit; but finally, on hearing me leave my room that disastrous night, the temptation had proved too strong, and in a fatal moment he yielded to it. The fear of detection if he took only the most esteemed had induced him to possess himself of the album containing the entire collection; but then hating the very sight of his ill-gotten treasure, he despatched it by the next morning's parcels delivery to Emily, making it a strict condition at the same time that it should never be shown to a stranger. Shortly after this, encouraged by the affectionate, cordial tone of her letter of thanks, he had written and proposed marriage, pleading his long and ardent devotion. He was firmly but kindly refused, and then it was that, disgusted with the dull monotony of his life in the counting-house, he had thrown up his situation and gone, miserable and reckless, to seek oblivion and distraction in continental scenes of gaiety.

I read no further, for with a low cry of joy I clasped the sobbing, trembling girl in my arms. But I will not weary the reader with an account of all the explanations, the delight, and reconciliation that ensued. Suffice it to say that my fair and noble Emily, with many a merry laugh and arch joke at my doubts of her lawful and rightful possession of my stamp album, freely forgave me all, having, as she said, always thought there must be some misunderstanding between her father and myself, but believing also always in my love and faith; and with a pretty, modest hesitation avowing that my absence had made her very wretched. I sincerely hope I took this lesson of trust and devotion to my heart: I know I took Emily there, and amidst her tears of joy was sealed a fresh compact of renewed peace and love.

Much as I appreciated Emily's delicacy and womanly feeling in never having mentioned Edward Allan's offer, still I gently and tenderly warned her how nearly a want of perfect openness and candour on both sides had wrecked our happiness; and

acting on this principle, I went to Mr. Davenport, whom I found in the library. He received me with all his customary coldness and haughtiness, but he heard me calmly to the end; then, overcome with the fervour of my pleadings, or some vestige of human sympathy and kind feeling yet left in his stony breast, after a slight show of anger and resistance he yielded, and once more gave his consent to our union.

L'ENVOI.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

'The tale is finish'd, readers. Now
Our being's end and aim—a wife—
Achieved, the Hero makes his bow
And bids you farewell.—Such is life.'

MONTHS have passed: Emily is now my wife; and as I sit in the gathering twilight with her soft hand clasped in mine, we talk with a tender regret of the dead; with sweet, bright hope of our happy future; and of the long years we trust to spend together, hallowed and blessed by mutual, confiding love. Then gradually and imperceptibly the conversation glides into another channel, and we talk with gay mirth of the follies of the past; and Emily laughs one of her musical, ringing laughs when she recals my suspicions and doubts of her truth and honesty, and mischievously asks good, worthy Mrs. Matson, who now presides as cook in our happy little home, whether she resembles the 'Miss Emily' whose identity had so strangely puzzled me, and who passes our door very often clad in all the colours of the rainbow, her light auburn (?) curls and broad, red face shining in the sun. Mr. Davenport has returned to the Schloss Rosenberg, since poor Mrs. Davenport has at last gone to her final rest, and Emily and I occupy the house which was formerly taken at Kensington, and where we are often visited by Edward Allan's sister, now the wife of a London merchant. She is a pretty, gentle, and amiable woman, and she and Emily are already sworn bosom friends. Charles Lawson, too, whom I had in other and absorbing interests lost sight of, turned up the other day, and often dashes in to see us. He is the same good-hearted, noisy, hair-brained fellow as ever.

I have but one excuse to offer, patient reader, for thus wearying you with this recital,—I am henpecked! and have been obliged therefore to yield—as many better and wiser men have done before—to the wishes of my wife, in thus presenting to the public THE HISTORY OF MY STAMP ALBUM.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

IV.—THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.

WITH Michael the Brave expired the greatness of Wallachia. His successor, Serban, was an amiable man, but neither clever nor powerful enough for a ruler of such turbulent subjects. From this period the princes of both the Danubian provinces were mere puppets in the hands of the Turkish sultans. It is true that occasional rebellions and insurrections took place; and in 1633 five thousand perished in a bloody battle between the Turks, their allies, and the Wallachians. Their voivode, Matthew, sustained his advantage for many years, and considerably reformed the government; but the exactions of two of his principal ministers excited a revolt, under pressure of which he died in 1654.

At the same time reigned Basil the Wolf in Moldavia. A few of the enactments of his celebrated code of laws may amuse or interest our readers. They were forty in number. The first would have suited the slave owners of America. It prohibited anyone from harbouring a fugitive slave. The fourth severely punished employers of false weights or measures. The fifth sentenced the injurer of any fruit tree to have both his hands cut off. The eighth was very singular: it permitted a farm labourer or any of his family to steal a fowl, a goose, or other such *trifle* occasionally, but nothing of higher value. The next allowed a naked or starving wretch to steal clothing or food; and the tenth, to rob the enemy, or any wicked person or criminal. The fourteenth confiscated all treasures discovered by means of sorcery. The next punished the murder of a sucking infant more severely than that of

a man. The sixteenth deprived a husband who did not send for a medical man, or refused necessary physic to a sick wife, of any benefit derivable from her death. A traitor was punished more rigorously than a parricide, a poisoner, than any other assassin. A recognised surgeon was to be believed rather than a barber or a sorcerer. A procuress had molten lead poured down her throat. A judge was directed to resign office rather than obey an unjust order of his sovereign. A fault committed under the influence of love was not to be punished; that passion being considered, like drunkenness and madness, as diminishing the responsibility of the offender.

The wise administration of Basil had a wonderful effect on European civilisation; for two of his learned *proteges* became tutors to the celebrated Peter the Great of Russia, and to them must be attributed the vivification of the germs of intellect in that remarkable sovereign. The close of the seventeenth century witnessed the reign and assassination of another Serban, who had introduced the culture of maize and the manufacture of cloth among the Wallachians.

The czar Peter must have entertained grateful remembrances of his tutors, as we find him in 1711 concluding friendly relations with Roumania. He was, however, powerless to protect his allies against the sultan; and one of the best of the Roumanian princes was, with his son, first tortured, then beheaded in Constantinople. His vast treasures, to the value of thirty millions of crowns, including a golden service and the ancient diadem of Wallachia, became the property of the rapacious Ottomans. His successor, the last native sovereign of Roumania, was also beheaded in Constantinople: his wife and her young children, after begging in the streets of that capital, and taking refuge in several other countries, finally found a home in St. Petersburg, where they were pensioned by the czar.

A Greek proverb pronounces it easier to find a green horse than a clever man in Chios; nevertheless, as if nature had reserved all her productive powers for the perfection of a few individuals in that island, Alexander Mavrocordato, on whom the sultan bestowed the hospodarship of Moldavia and Wallachia, was one of the most accomplished princes of his own or any age. In him commenced the sway of the Phanariots, which existed for upwards of half a century in three families only;—that of Mavrocordato, Racovizza, and Ghica. In the latter part of the century, and in the present, other Greek families occasionally came into power.

In the present month we have space but for a very cursory view of the events of the last hundred and fifty years; principally noticeable as evidencing the gradual but untiring efforts of the Russians to establish an abiding footing in the south-east of Europe; and directly or indirectly conducing to the astounding complication of circumstances in our own times, which brought the natural antagonists of eight centuries—the Frenchman and the Englishman, the Protestant and Papist—to combine with the worshipper of the false prophet in strict and successful alliance against those Christians of the Greek Church, whose aggressions resulted in the temporary destruction of their long-cherished aspirations at the storm and capture of Sebastopol.

Ever since the time of Peter the Great, the orthodox Greeks of Roumania have inclined to the insidious intrigues of Russia. The idea of again forming Byzantium the capital of an empire of the East was just suitable to the gigantic genius of Peter; but, unlike other conquerors, he was at the same time too astute to see that the hour for that consummation was not yet come. His successors, it is notorious, would be only too ready to carry out their great progenitor's views; and 'The Road to Constantinople' may yet connect the chief cities of the same empire. Priestly influence has been brought into vast exercise; and to this day, whatever Greek church or monastery the traveller enters in Turkey, are shown him with pride a massive golden candelabrum or missal enriched with precious stones, the gifts of the czars of Russia. Were he not one of the heretics more hateful in the eyes of the cicerone than even a mussulman, he would be further treated with a sight of one of the small catechisms printed at Moscow, in

which absolute obedience to the czar of Russia, and his recognition as chief of the orthodox church and veritable successor of Constantine, are among the articles of faith!

In 1720 Peter concluded a treaty with the Porte, stipulating protection for Russian pilgrims or ecclesiastics throughout Turkey. In 1737 the empress Anne demanded—though, sooth to say, vainly—the recognition of the protectorate of Russia over Moldo-Wallachia. In the reign of the empress Elizabeth emissaries appeared there, secretly exciting anti-Turkish feelings. Some years later these intrigues took effect; and in the time of Catherine II. the Russian successes eventuated in the congress of Fokchani in 1772, when considerable encroachments on the rule of Turkey over the Danubian principalities were agreed to, although that power still retained nominal authority over them.

In 1787 the court of St. Petersburg joyfully hailed the declaration of war by the Turks, exasperated at the usurpations and menaces of Catherine. The latter suffered considerable reverses; but at last England and Prussia interfered, alarmed at the increasing influence of the great northern power; and Austria, taking fright also at the evident ambition of its ally, fell in with the views of Western Europe; and the treaty of Jassy was concluded in 1792, the Dniester being the acknowledged boundary of the two antagonistic empires.

This treaty virtualised the domination of Russia over the Porte, including of course its Roumanian dependencies. The right of protection over all the Greek subjects of the sultan, paved the way for almost unlimited interference. The coachman of the prince of Wallachia's secretary was publicly stripped of his livery, because, forsooth, it too much resembled the Russian uniform. A French refugee was arrested in the streets of Jassy, and, notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of the hospodar, carried off prisoner to Russia at the expense of the principality.

The victory of Austerlitz, the peace of Tilsit, and the treaty of Bucharest, with all their complications, left the Danubian principalities much in the same condition; but yet the Russians contrived to secure a further accession of power. About this time the Hetæria, or society of Greek patriots, from whose exertions an Utopian amount of success was anticipated, started existence; one of the principal leaders of whom, Alexander Hypsilantis, some years later, gained considerable pre-eminence; and had he joined to the other requisites of a great conqueror, which he *did* possess, the necessary qualifications of prudence and good luck, which he did *not*, a material modification of incident had touched the destinies of south-eastern Europe. The enthusiasm pervading men's minds at this time in favour of this Greek revolution, was considerably heightened by the splendid poesy of Lord Byron. The aspirations of liberty, however, proved futile; the Heterists were annihilated; and Hypsilantis died in exile at Vienna in 1828, at the untimely age of thirty-three.

The peace of Adrianople was favourable to the privileges of Moldo-Wallachia, allowing the hospodars to be appointed for life, instead of being liable to deposition at any caprice of their protectors. The vexatious tribute paid in kind to the Ottomans, and which gave cause for grievous exactions, was abolished, and a stated annual sum accepted in lieu.

A few comparatively uneventful years passed, and the French revolution of 1848, imitated by so many minor powers, kindled enthusiastic ardour in Moldo-Wallachia; and a bloodless revolution of two days resulted in the establishment of a provisional government. The constituent chiefs were scarcely equal to such a crisis, and a counter revolution supervened. This in turn succumbed; and, finally, three members of the former provisional government were nominated by the people, and recognised by the sultan as 'Lieutenants Dominant of Roumania.'

This adjustment of matters by the Turks, irrespective of any view of Russia, alarmed the dignity of that power. Threats, flimsily veiled under guise of expostulations, obliged, though unwillingly, the court of Constantinople to rescind its recent enactments. A short campaign resulted in the siege and capture of Bucharest; the banishment of the 'lieutenants' and their partisans; and the

re-establishment of what was styled 'legal order' [illegible]

Our own times, and the Crimean war, whose consequences still loom in the remote, are now reached. Moldavia and Wallachia were in Russian armed occupation in 1853. Under the brave Omar Pacha, 'the sick man' shewed himself not so powerless as he seemed, and the enemy could not cross the Danube till the next year; but the arrival of the French and English allies of the sultan soon forced their evacuation, and an Austrian army guarded the Danubian principalities.

Though unnoticed ostensibly, they were not forgotten in the treaty arranged by the great European Powers, at the conclusion of the Russian war in 1856; but it was not till the supplementary convention of Paris, two years later, after the report of a commission of inquiry despatched for the purpose of sounding the inclinations of the inhabitants of those provinces, that a definitive—or what purported to be such—arrangement was made respecting them. It might have been expected that these inquiring commissioners would have reported faithfully, but the event proved otherwise;—that is to say, if the inclinations of the Roumanians were consulted at all. The convention settled that Moldavia and Wallachia should continue disunited as before; but the two hospodars dying a few months afterwards, nearly at the same time, Alexander Couza was almost unanimously elected to reign over both provinces united. The Great Powers were too much occupied with what seemed to them more serious matters to start objections; and to this cause Prince Couza owes his recognition.

His highness, nevertheless, has exhibited himself as virtually ignoring the fact of the passive toleration of his right of power. The treaty of 1858 stipulated for his continued allegiance to the Porte, and other matters in which he seems inclined to waive all participation. The Turkish suzerainty in Moldo-Wallachia is now pretty generally acknowledged to be a dead letter; and the prince—in defiance of all rights, all engagements, and in real, if not avowed, antagonism to the remonstrances and expressed wishes of the Great Powers—has signalised his administration by an arbitrary confiscation of the large revenues of the rich monastic properties of Roumania.

It must be borne in mind that these valuable religious endowments are not solely the property of the indigenous ecclesiastics of Moldo-Wallachia, but comprise likewise considerable possessions, representing the bequests of wealthy devotees of past ages for the benefit of the monasteries of Mount Sinai, Mount Athos, and numerous other religious establishments, churches, and shrines throughout the Turkish empire. The imbroglio, in common with the numerous other startling topics of the present eventful times, occupies attention in its turn among the councils of Europe; but of the adjustment can be obtained no glimpse in the remote perspective. For private and particular reasons of his own, the French emperor sides with Prince Couza, the Italian government subserviently following suit; while the remaining 'powers that be,' patronise law, justice, and religion, which, in the present singular conglomeration of antagonistic atoms, are somewhat anomalously represented by Turk, Greek, and monk.

(To be concluded in our next).

THE RECEPTION OF THE CORRIENTES STAMPS IN PARIS.

TRANSLATED BY PERMISSION FROM THE 'TIMBRE-POSTE' OF MONS, MOENS.

One fine morning, about seven or eight months since, when nature seemed prepared to hatch everything except what we are going to talk about to the reader, appeared, for the first time in Paris, a gross caricature of the French republic stamps, printed in black on dark blue paper. At the top could be read *Corrientes*; at the bottom, *un real M. C.* This stamp was ugly,—so ugly and unprepossessing that nobody would have anything to do with it. At last came forward a collector who, after much hesitation, bought it for eight francs. This new comer was soon known to every one, and became the subject of conversation among all the amateurs, as soon as one of them acknowledged that he was not ignorant of the existence of the stamp in question, and that

a specimen was known to be in London. From that moment they were ready to scramble for the first Corrientes that should appear. But as none came, they begged and prayed the person who had provided the former, and who was known to have inhabited the native country of those stamps, to try to procure more; and by degrees, thanks to the instrumentality of the precious metal, one, two, three, four, five, six Corrientes were forthcoming, on which the amateurs laid violent hands,—glad to exchange a napoleon for one of those burlesques of the republic.

There were then at Paris seven collectors lucky enough to possess the Corrientes stamp. They excited the envy of many; and really, on looking back, was it worth while to make such a fuss about them?

However, either from conceit or some other reason, people were found who had enough time to spare for contesting the authenticity of those stamps. Connoisseurs, who, speaking parenthetically, knew nothing at all about the matter, rejected them with imperturbable obstinacy, metaphorically trampled them under foot, and by dint of high-sounding words influenced the weaker-minded, and took it upon them to ride the high horse as postage-stamp critics.

Unfortunately for these wiseacres—who, as we said before, absolutely knew nothing at all about it—not much more than three months afterwards some more Corrientes stamps arrived, not from the same source as previously, but by means of a personage whose very name guaranteed their genuine character. There was the letter of explanation and official signature: nothing could be clearer: these queer Corrientes had veritable existence. These new arrivals were few in number. The value was obliterated with a pen stroke, and the stamps were sent as new ones. We shall see afterwards how that was.

Paris dreamt about Corrientes for three more months, and was beginning to despair, when all on a sudden it was reported in the city that the stamps in such request had arrived in numbers; that all the collectors would be satisfied; and that there were no fewer than two hundred specimens of these long-expected individuals. It was, in fact, no false news; there they were in Paris, and, moreover, with the same guarantee as the former, for they came from the same source.

We have had whole sheets under our eyes. This time these stamps were without indication of value. Each sheet bore thirty-two stamps, eight different impressions each four times repeated. We have collected the Corrientes that we had from the influential personage who sent the last importation, and we have been able to recognise each of the eight types observable in these, in those that came from the source first quoted. From that moment we felt for a certainty that the earlier stamps were not the result of a dishonest speculation.

In the same envelope as these two hundred Corrientes was enclosed a letter containing some information.

Everybody * knows that the state of Corrientes forms part of the united provinces of Rio de la Plata, or the Argentine Republic. The chief town, of the same name, is situated on the Parana, and now reckons twenty-four thousand inhabitants. The commerce of this city is active and flourishing.

The first postage stamp appeared on the 16th February, 1856. It was one real in value, current money, and in eight different impressions. About 1860, in consequence of a depreciation in paper money, the postage of letters was raised to three reals, but the same stamps were employed as formerly, only with the value obliterated by a pen stroke. A short time after, a rectification was made in the plate employed for printing them off, and the part where the value used to appear was left empty.

It follows therefore that the selfsame plate was used both for the stamps marked in value, one real, and those without monetary indication. The former remains rare in Paris; the other, which is at present current in Corriontes, is worth one franc thirty centimes.

Some counterfeits of these stamps have just appeared, coming nobody knows whence; and, strange to say, the first two copies we saw were in the hands of those

* Query.—Ed.

very parties who were so inveterately opposed to the earliest known and perfectly genuine stamps of Corrientes.

No. I.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Brunswick.

ENVELOPES.

Inscription [ST. P. FR.] *in a circle, value* ($\frac{1}{2}$ *sgr.*) *not indicated. Red imp. on col. paper; circular.*

Yellow.
Pink.

Canada.

Name, bust of Prince Albert in oval. Col. imp.; rect.

Proof 6d. blue.
Proof 6d. bluish-green.

Name, bust of Cartier to right in oval. Col. imp.; rect.

Proof 10d. black.

Same device. Col. imp.; rect.

Proof 17 cents black.

Costa Rica.

Same device as 1863. *Col. imp.; large rect.*

Proof $\frac{1}{2}$ real black.
Proof 2 reales black.

Denmark.

DUCHIES OF SCHLESWIG AND HOLSTEIN.

April, 1864.—*Inscription* [HERZOGTH. SCHLESWIG], *figure in white relief indicating value. Col. imp.; oval.*

$1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling green.

Inscription [H.R.H.G.L. POST FERMK.] *in square frame containing value* ($1\frac{1}{4}$ *schilling crt.*). *Col. imp.; square.*

$1\frac{1}{2}$ S.L.M. blue.

Hamburg.

Same device as issue of 1863. *Black imp. on col. paper; rect.*

Proof $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling yellow.

April, 1864. *Similar device, inscription in rectangular frame. Col. imp.; rect.*

$2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling green.

Hanover.

Same device as issue of 1858, *fine reticular pattern; rect.*

$\frac{1}{10}$ thaler orange.
3 pfennige blue.

India.

1854.—*Name, diademed head of Queen Victoria to left in oct. frame. Col. imp.; oct.*

8 annas blue (red head).

Italy.

ESSAYS.

Values same designs as No. 4, *page* 40. *Col. imp.; rect.*

1 centesimo brown.
5 centesimi mauve.
10 „ lake.
15 „ red-brown.
30 „ blue.
40 „ light-green.
60 „ brown.
2 lire black.

Same devices. Black imp. on col. paper; rect.

1 centesimo rose.
5 centesimi buff.
10 „ „
15 „ pale-blue.
40 „ white.
60 „ yellow.
2 lire green.

Modena.

Same device as first issue. Black imp. on col. paper; rect.

Var. 10 cnet rose.

Montebideo.

April, 1864.—*Inscription* [REPUBLICA ORIENTAL] *encircling arms supported by standards. Col. imp.; rect.*

06 centesimos lake.
08 „ green.
10 „ yellow-brown.
12 „ blue.

New Brunswick.

Name, engine and train in oval. Col. imp.; oblong.

Proof 1 cent black.

Name, diademed bust of Queen Victoria in oval. Col. imp.; rect.

Proof 10 cents black.

Name, steamship in oval. Col. imp.; oblong.
Proof 12½ cents black.

Nicaragua.

Same device as issue of 1862. *Col. imp.; oblong.*
Proof 2 centavos green.

Nova Scotia.

Name, bust of Queen Victoria with diadem, in oval. Col. imp.; rect.
Proof 8½ cents red.
Proof 8½ „ black.
Proof 12½ „ green.

Peru.

Same design as No. 3, page 55. Col. imp.; rect.
½ peso rose-pink.

Portugal.

April, 1864.—*Same device as issue* 1862-3, *Col. imp.; various forms.*
50 reis green.
100 „ lilac.

St. Helena.

Same device as 1859.—*Col. imp.; rect.*
Proof 6d. carmine.

St. Lucia.

April, 1864.—*Same device. Col. imp.; rect.*
(6d.) pale emerald-green.

Tasmania.

1864?—*Name, St. George and Dragon within a garter inscribed with value. Col. imp.; rect.*
2s. 6d. lake-red.

United States of America.

ESSAY.

Same device as No. 2, page 77. Col. imp.; rect.
3 cents red.

SPECIAL, OR PRIVATE POSTAGE LABELS.

Saint Louis post-office. Similar device. Col. imp.; rect.
5 cents black.

Western Australia.

March, 1864.—*Same device as* 1862. *Col. imp.; oblong.*
4d. indigo blue.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.



The essays of which the two engravings are here offered, were among those proposed for adoption to the Italian government. In our humble opinion, either of them—at all events, that bearing the king's head, as well as the well-known and exquisitely imagined series published by Pellas, of Genoa,—would have been preferable to those eventually selected. But our opinion was not asked.



In the partial lull in the issue of novel types, we are compelled to offer another representation of an essay, a Grecian, one of those we described in our paper for last month. The long-anticipated green and lilac Portuguese with the present king's head, as we remark in another part of this number, have come forth to enhance, by their delicate colours and elegant appearance, altogether, the beauty of the page devoted by collectors to their congeners. The blue 5 kreuzer and yellow 18 kreuzer of Wurtemburg we have not yet seen, but have authoritative vouchers for their existence. The blue 5 schilling adhesive of Mecklenburg, as we anticipated when commemorating the change of colour of the envelope of the same value, gives place in this instance, most decidedly, not to its betters. The pale brown is no improvement on the bright blue, and we regret Prussian taste and Prussian influence had not let the colours of the German stamps alone. An engraving of the last emanation from Lubeck, promised in our last, is here appended.







A correspondent has kindly forwarded specimens of the new issue for Monte Video, one of which, the 08 centesimos, we engrave. There are four values only in this emission:—06 c. pink, 08 c. green, 10 c. orange, and 12 c. blue. It will be remarked that they are very like the current issue of the Argentine Republic. The inscription is *Republica Oriental*.

Postal collectors may be interested in knowing something of what they have to expect in the forthcoming new series for Belgium. The design for these stamps professes to be open to general competition; but, 'from information we have received,' as the police say, the authorities, as usual in such cases, will most probably make choice of the lucky individual who actually fills the post of government engraver. We can only earnestly hope, and we think all collectors—except the patriotic Belgians, who swear by their own stamps—will echo our wish, that they may be something far superior to those in present use. We would also, humbly suggest that he should do as the Sicilian engraver did, viz., make a proviso that his stamps should not be spoiled by the hideous mode of annulation in present use.*

The dies are to be steel, in two parts; one for the medallion—bearing the king's head, and the other for the framework; implying that they are to be impressed in two colours, like the Russian and some others. The upper portion is to have the word, *Belgique*, and the lower, *Postes*. A figure denoting the value in each of the two lower corners. The ornamentation is to be left to the inspiration of the artist. All designs to be given in before July 1st of the present year. The die is to be the whole and sole property of government, after the adjudication of a premium of eighty thousand francs. The, as yet, scanty range of stamps on the Belgian page, will thereby receive a very large accession, from the host of essays that will most undoubtedly come flocking in; if not really to compete for the prize, still from a certainty that the sale of the rejected impressions to the large numbers of collectors scattered over the whole world, will amply remunerate any speculative engraver with sufficient means and talent for designing and engraving a sheet of essays.



The present paper is what the French call *toujours perdrix*. Essays in the beginning, essays in the middle, and an engraving of the anecdotically interesting, exquisitely engraved, and very *recherché* Connell essay at the end.

* We think our suggestion has been anticipated, and that the postal authorities of Belgium have taken measures to modify their cancelling mark, greatly to the disgust of the furnisher of the government ink.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

In addition to the forgeries enumerated last month, I have heard of the following:

BRITISH GUIANA, 1860.—24 c. green.

TUSCANY.—A new forgery, hard to detect, of the old stamps bearing the lion.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—All the old stamps and the present sixpenny.

I have not seen the above, so cannot speak positively about them. The old 18 kreuzer Wurtemburg has been wonderfully imitated; there are even two forgeries of this stamp now offered. The least successful of the two was—when first shown to me—by far the best forgery I had seen, and is only surpassed in beauty of finish by the second imitation of this stamp, which is evidently done by a first-rate engraver. The No. 1 forgery (the worst) fails principally in the colour of the paper. Real 18 kr., 1850, Wurtemburg are always of a dull neutral tint, light and dark, the dark ones look as if they had been inked; this imitation, No. 1, has a decided tinge of red in the paper. In the genuine stamp, the marks over the U of WURTTEMBERG are decided strokes, just slanting a trifle; in the forgery these are shapeless dots. In the forgery, the last stroke of the M in WURTTEMBERG is a trifle long and not acute (or angular) enough, the last R of the same word is not finished, whereas the first one is properly shaped; of course, in the

genuine stamp both the letters E are alike perfect. In the forgery, there are fifteen lines between the lowest point of the diamond and the base of figures 18; the genuine stamp shows but thirteen lines. The lines *within the open parts* of the figure 8 touch the figure in original specimens, whereas at least half the lines do not touch the figure in the imitation. The figure 1 differs in this forgery. If a straight piece of paper be held so as to cover the exact right-hand half of the central diamond, the genuine will just show two bits of the figure 8, whilst in the forgery this will leave two good-sized parts of the 8 visible; the lowest right-hand part of the 8 is pretty close to the border line in the genuine stamp, but in the forgery is some distance off—quite the twelfth part of an inch. I am assured that this forgery is lithographed; few would think so, but I believe that it is. The No. 2 imitation is block-printed, consequently nearer the original; it has the figure 8 placed as in the genuine (see above). The following will be a good test for a genuine 18 kr.:—The scroll ornament in the upper left-hand angle out-side the diamond, touches the border line, when clearly printed; otherwise look at the small mark on the ornamental scroll which is nearest the angle; it points directly to the extreme point of the angle; we may say ditto, as regards the scroll in the angle below. In the No. 1 forgery that part of the line below W of WURTTEMBERG is slightly crooked.

SPAIN.—Bear on tree, 1, 2, 3 cuartos. I have met with different forgeries of these rare stamps. The oldest forgery shows the two arms of the bear very clearly, both are equally clear, and the foliage of the tree is equally shaded throughout. Forgery No. 2 is better done; it may be known by the following points:—The O of INTERIOR larger than any of the letters D in CORREO; R of INTERIOR very large, in comparison with the N; the cross on the top of the crown comes just below the first stroke of the N of INTERIOR. No. 3 forgery is Spiro Brothers' revolting fac-simile,—a horrible thing. No. 4 is a fine forgery, it is not much sold, but many collectors who would not be taken in by the other three forgeries, would place this at once in their albums. The following are the clearest points of difference. (1.) The crown shows three small ornaments, with parts of two others, in the lowest portion of it; these in No. 4 are all rounded ovals, in the original stamp *the central one* is a well-defined diamond. (2.) The horizontal strokes around the octagonal shield are, in the left-hand upper corner, nine in number, counting the point in the corner—or, eight strokes and a point would be a more correct description—this is the real stamp; whilst the forgery shows nine clear strokes, no point in the corner,—the last stroke being distant from the corner. (3.) The third bunch of leaves, on the left-hand side, in all genuine stamps, has two little ornaments, below, one on each side; in this forgery, No. 4, there is but one little ornament below the bunch, that to the right-hand is missing. (4.) In the genuine stamps, there is a star in the oval, which is exactly opposite the small ornaments below the third bunch of leaves; this forgery has the star placed lower, upon a level with the top of the leaves of the bunch below.

The 2 cuartos was never issued, it is consequently an essay. I believe that it is rather different in the lettering to the 1 and 3 c. The 3 c. was issued first, and was only in use for a few months, it was superseded by the 1 cuarto.

AUSTRIA.—1 kreuzer, black, K. K. Z. A. I incidentally mentioned this forgery last month, and have since had an opportunity of examining one; I find numerous differences: the original stamps are wood-block engravings, the forgery is lithographed. They have a German origin; I have heard them ascribed to Coburg.

(1.) Forgery, lower part of K. in KON—and, to a less degree, in KAIS—is longer than the upper part; the K of KAIS of the real stamp is not so high in the lower half as the small A which follows it. (2.) Genuine, the dot after KON very nearly touches the small pointed diamond ornament just after it; in the forgery the dot is distant. (3.) Genuine, the small ornaments round the corner circles never touch the circles, there is a dash after ZEITUNGS, which if continued would strike into the elongated part of the

diamond ornament after it. In the forgery, some, if not all, of the ornaments touch the circles, and the stroke after ZEITUNGS would miss the elongated part of the diamond ornament. (4.) Genuine, the small cross on the summit of crown is never clear; in the forgery it is very distinct. Very many other differences might be given, but these will suffice for detection of a counterfeit. The K. K. P. S. 1 kr. black and blue, 2 kr. red and brown, 4 kr. red and brown, are all from the same die; the 2 kr. green is totally different to the others.

POST EXPRESS.—There are many forgeries about; the following is a sure sign of a genuine stamp, no forgery has imitated it. The space in which the figure of value is placed, immediately over the man's head, is not true in shape, especially on the left side, there there is a double line, as if the engraver's tool had slipped; this double line I have never seen upon a forgery. A forgery I have lately seen has the lines of shading at the back of the lettering drawn from right to left, the genuine stamp is never otherwise than from left to right; in the genuine the whole execution is beautiful, the lines of background are very fine, also those behind the horse; the breath is shown as issuing from the horse's nostrils, the dust, too, is rising under his fore feet; the shading above the horse's head and neck is by simple lines, never by any oblique ones crossing them.

BAVARIA, 1849.—1 kreutzer black. There are two varieties of this stamp, the commonest of which is a decided lithograph; the other is much better done and seems a woodcut. The forgery now sold is an imitation of the woodcut stamp, but is lithograph. The following are the differences between the genuine lithograph and woodcut:—

Lithograph.—The outline of the figure 1 is not perfect, at the base especially broken.

Woodcut.—The *extreme* outline is formed by a black line, so that the shape of the figure is clear and unbroken throughout.

Forged and genuine.—The forgery is a decided lithograph, printed in very black and rather shining ink; masework larger and coarser than in genuine of either sort; the small corner figures are merely outlined, whilst two out of the four are invariably shaded in the genuine. The ground upon which these small figures are placed is of small diamonds, arranged in alternate rows of black and white. Now in the genuine stamp the right-hand lower corner has one of the diamonds large, white, and pointing directly into the lowest right-hand angle of that corner; the diamond above this large one touches the small figure 1 with one point, and the outline of the square containing it with the other. (I have called them diamonds, from courteous motives, but they are very badly formed ones.) The forgery has not a large diamond pointing into the corner, there is a small one which nearly points into the lower right-hand angle, and the diamond above this one does not touch the small figure.

MODENA.—Provisional 5, 20, 40, 80 cent. This is not a new forgery, but is the best I know of these stamps. It is from the same source as the forged 1858 Parma, described last month. (1.) The forgery has the lower part of the crown ornamented as in the real 1 cuarto Spain (see above), with a *very clear* diamond and *two* dots; the genuine stamp never has a *clear* diamond. (2.) Forgery, ball at the top of crown rises considerably above the level of the top of the crown, cross upon the ball is very clear and all but touches the border line; genuine has the ball indistinct and the cross still more so, and some distance off the border line. (3.) Forgery, M of MODONESI printed badly; I is not like the real one, where the top finishing stroke is much elongated on the right-hand side. (4.) Forgery, the cross in the shield is not true at the point below, and the horizontal stroke is broader than the upright one of the cross; in the genuine these are noticeable in a very trifling degree, they are exaggerated in the forgery. (5.) Forgery, the leaves upon the right-hand branch are acutely pointed, and the shading is too deep; the leaves in the real stamp are anything but pointed, and they boast very little shading. The old forgery is simply told by the shield being divided in unequal fields by the cross, the lowest right-hand one being the smallest.

British Guiana 1 c. magenta, described last month as a forgery, turns out to be

genuine. It was sent me for an opinion without any information respecting it, and the stamp was unused. I had it compared with a genuine specimen known to me, and seven points of difference were found from that specimen, six of which I described. When a stamp is sent to me for an opinion, I naturally presume that there are doubts as to its authenticity. This stamp is of the highest rarity (I know of only four copies), it was compared with one of the four I knew, and differed as shown, hence I do not think the judgment was precipitate; I now know that the old 1 c. B. Guiana all vary more or less.

THE MORALITY OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

'ALL dry morality!' there's no use in that,' once said a bishop of our Church to us, when we were praising *Blair's Sermons* in his hearing. Being early trained to behave lowly and reverently to all our betters, especially our spiritual pastors and masters, there was nothing for it but submissive acquiescence; but had it been competent for us to have argued the point with his lordship, we need only have referred *him* to the analogy of nature in his own daily breakfast for an illustration of the absurdity of undervaluing morality as dry and useless, simply because it does not and cannot furnish the whole pabulum necessary to religious existence. Bread by itself is dry and unsatisfactory to the palate; and it is said on medical testimony that bread and water diet alone would kill a man in six weeks. It is the butter that makes the bread wholesome, nourishing, and palatable; but we doubt whether either his lordship or any of his flock could make a very satisfactory breakfast on slices of butter alone, however important an article it may be in its proper place. So it is with morality. As the butter without the bread whereon to spread it is of very questionable utility; so the higher doctrines of religion, without the dry but necessary basis of morality to support them, can be beneficial to no one, either for time or for eternity.

But it may be asked, what has all this long preamble to do with postage stamps? and how can such little scraps of engraved paper be connected with the science of ethics? Timbro-ethics! Well! what next?

That there is a morality in postage stamps, and that they have had a tendency to improve, and doubtless here improved, human nature, may be demonstrated in several ways: of course, the fact of cheap postage being identical, or at least coeval with postage stamps is included in the theory. In the first place, the uniform penny post has done away with all those perpetual contrivances to elude heavy postage, which called forth into exercise the lower qualities of our nature, such as cunning, deceit, &c.—that deceptive ingenuity, whether of word or deed, which in our servants and dependants we stigmatise as *slyness*, but which in ourselves we commend as *tact*. Formerly it was a branch of juvenile education—now happily become obsolete—instilled by anxious papas and mammas, to teach a child to underdot, with such crow-quill neatness as to defy detection, separate letters in a newspaper, so as to form the words of the intelligence they had to communicate when absent from home; while those whose dulness or whose patience was unequal to the task, were taught the more harmless expedient of hoarding up old newspapers to send home periodically, with the understanding that the beloved handwriting having directed them was an indication that all was well. Cheap postage is also a great advantage to the lower classes (in keeping up an intercourse between various members of the family dispersed in search of work, thus maintaining kindly affection towards each other, which before had but a very limited scope. Formerly it was common to meet with old people who had for years lost sight of all their grown-up family; now, such a case is comparatively rare. Again, there is less hypocrisy in correspondence than under the old system. The high price to be paid by one's friends on receiving a letter necessitated a large sheet of paper; a large sheet of paper necessitated a large amount of subject-matter, true or false, to fill it; and this necessity of filling one's

paper caused a great many false professions, and a great deal of trash to be written; while those not over-gifted with ideas, or well up in the elegant epistolary style of Sir Charles Grandison, were obliged to resort to the *Polite Letter Writer* for assistance, though they would not for the world have owned the obligation. Now, thanks to the constant exercise of our epistolary abilities, introduced by cheap postage, these books, which might not inaptly have been called 'onibs,' are only to be found on the dusty shelves of some luckless old book shop as useless lumber.

The taste for collecting postage stamps, if not directly connected with ethics, is certainly more intellectual and beneficial to the mind, if steadily pursued, than most other hobbies. Autographs, the one half illegible, the other half scrawled,—what improvement can be gained from them? Photographs, some smudged, most of them representing persons one does not care for,—what improvement can be derived from them? Butterflies and beetles, stuck all of a row upon pins, are a degree higher in their power of exercising the intellect, still it is in a pursuit requiring the destruction of life, which lessens its pleasure to many sensitive minds. The collecting of shells, minerals, and ferns, may perhaps compete with postage stamps for the power of exercising and improving the intellectual faculties; but we think the study of postage stamps may advantageously challenge comparison with any or all of them; for it combines a reference to history, chronology, geography, drawing and design, colouring and minute details, politics, and the fate of nations.

But to return from this digression to the morality of postage stamps, it must be admitted, that as far as regards collecting, there is a slight shadow cast upon our theory by the occasional lack of honesty in postal dealings, especially in the large amount of forgeries continually ushered into the market, which, if something decisive be not done to check their increase, will become a serious drawback to the cautious collector, particularly to those whose wits are not sharp enough to protect themselves from imposition. We have also heard it whispered that boys at school are given to neglect their lessons for these fascinating little rectangulars; and we know a recent instance of a ruthless schoolmaster who made a seizure of more than two hundred stamps and, terrible to relate, condemned them to the flames as the only means of restoring discipline in the school!

Let no one, then, despise the morality of postage stamps. Acorns may produce lofty oaks, or they may only go to feed the pigs. It depends on what we do with them. So it is with postage stamps. They may help to form the character, or they may help to spoil it; and who knows but some future Aristotle may add an extra chapter to his treatise, on Timbro-ethics.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. By MOUNT BROWN. Fifth edition, revised, corrected, and augmented, comprising upwards of 2400 varieties. London: F. Passmore.

LITTLE more than two years have elapsed since the author of the above useful and elaborate publication presented to the view of postage-stamp collectors the first English catalogue with anything approaching the stamp of authority. As far as the imperfect knowledge attained, or, we may add, attainable at that period—the infancy of the postal mania in Great Britain—it was a creditable publication, evincing the industry and *savoir faire* of the ingenious author, but no more comparable with the present edition than the first crude labours of the statuary are with the perfected image.

Very few works not of general interest—we mean, not appealing to the sympathies of the multitude, but merely to the really vast but comparatively insignificant number patronising the subjects on which our magazine treats—can boast of having reached a fifth edition in the short space of time that it has taken to swamp all the copies of the four preceding ones. It has, in fact, been clamorously called for for some weeks, nay, months past, and, we have no doubt, will be so quickly absorbed as to afford us the pleasant task of heralding, at no distant

period, the advent of an edition making up the number of half a dozen.

The title page notifies the present manual as revised, corrected, and augmented; and were we to fill pages with commendation, the gist of the argument would simply testify to the truth of that assertion. We may, however, slightly glance at each of the three improvements offered.

A notable one under the first head is the substitution of Roman for States of the Church. One used naturally to look for the stamps of Rome among the Rs, and always felt at a loss for a moment where else to look. Another is the removal of what have been hitherto styled the earlier issues of Italy to their proper place under the heading of Sardinia. What have so long laboured under the misnomers of old Italian stamps, were in effect never intended for, nor current in, any part of Italy but Sardinia proper. Another useful improvement is the distinction drawn between proofs and essays. For instance, in British Guiana we read, 1 cent red, proof black; 4 c. blue, proof black. These proofs were previously but erroneously called essays. Examples of essays proper will be found under Canada and Nova Scotia, which two beautiful and, we believe, unique specimens, formerly graced our own, as they do now the collection of a well-known amateur, who numbers at present, inclusive of essays, proofs, and varieties, about four hundred more individuals than are even catalogued in the present largely augmented edition of the manual.

The corrections are comparatively few, so much care and attention having been bestowed on the previous edition, that little, if anything, remained requisite in this. Some few emendations have been made with regard to the colours ascribed to some stamps hitherto known to the compiler only from faded or soiled specimens. One correction was rather unfortunate. The author had been blamed by ultra-critical commentators for noting expectant stamps, such as the green and lilac Portugal of the present reign. Having inserted these in the two previous editions, he was unluckily overpersuaded to omit them in the present. Of course, in accordance with the usual contrariety of human events, the two long-looked-for stamps and Mr. Brown's fifth edition expunging them made their appearance simultaneously! The 60 crazie of Tuscany, for which every vendor has had so many futile applications, and which we have never seen either in a continental or home collection, is also exiled; although the last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Review*, on the authority of a Leghorn correspondent, states positively its existence. We shall believe in it when we see it.

The remaining improvement, in augmentary shape, is proven by the fact asserted in the preface, that whereas in the first edition about twelve hundred stamps were described in sixty-two pages, in the present, twice that number are noticed in ninety-five pages. These additions have, of course, been gradual, extending through all the editions, but the present is considerably in advance of the preceding.

An edition has been just published for the use of high-class collectors, bound in morocco and interleaved with blank paper; moreover, provided with a revised money table, and enriched with useful prefatory remarks. There are also to be had a few copies on superfine large paper, for the ultra-exclusive postal amateurs.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

IT IS STATED THAT THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT has just given an order to a Paris printer for 400 millions of postage stamps.

GENERAL PALMER, for his invention of mail carts, received a pension of £3,000 a year, and a parliamentary grant of £20,000.

AMONGST THE MATERIALS collected by the London Rag-collecting Brigade were the following items:—Useful hats, horse trappings, old aquariums, and in one bag a *million of postage stamps!*

CURIOUS POST-OFFICE.—Many years ago, at the desolate Island of Ascension, in the Atlantic, between Africa and Brazil, there was a peculiar crevice in a large rock, termed the Sailor's Post-office, in which the crews of vessels passing to India or returning, left such letters as they wished to send back, and which were punctually taken to their destination by the next ship that passed in a contrary way.

THE EMINENT SERVICES OF SIR ROWLAND HILL, K.C.B., in the creation of the penny postage and other postal reforms, have been honourably recognised by the Society of Arts, who have adjudged to him the gold medal established by them in memory of their late president, the Prince Consort, and called the "Albert Medal," to be awarded "for distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures, or commerce." The present is the first time the medal has been adjudged.

A VALUABLE DEAD LETTER.—The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon has been known to receive as many as four hundred letters in a day. Many of them are anonymous, and on many the postage is not prepaid. The reverend gentleman now refuses all the latter. One of these, a short time ago, after having been in the Dead Letter Office, and opened there, was sent again to Mr. Spurgeon, with a statement that the letter was anonymous, and therefore could not be returned to the writer, and that it contained a valuable enclosure. The reverend gentleman paid the postage, and found a £20 note in the letter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. BURN'S REPLY TO DR. GRAY ON THE PRINCE ALBERT ESSAYS.

VERITAS TEMPORIS FILIA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill's proposition, in 1837, for a uniform postage rate of one penny having been adopted by the Government, he was officially employed to conduct its introduction, under the instructions of Sir Francis Baring, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. For the design of the envelopes and stamps, there were about three thousand plans and suggestions sent into the Treasury. Mulready's design—a favourite with Mr. Edwin Hill—for the covers and envelopes was adopted, and placed for engraving in the hands of John Thompson, a name pre-eminent among wood engravers.* The penny postage stamp was designed by Messrs. Bacon and Petch.† The portrait of the queen was taken from Wyon's City medal, a drawing having been made of the head, by Henry Corbould, and engraved on the steel die, at a cost of sixty guineas, by Charles Heath. From this die as the parent source have been derived all the plates from which all subsequent penny and twopenny stamps have been taken and printed.‡

The penny postage began, by prepayment, January 10, 1840. The envelopes and the labels were not in use, but in the hands of the engravers, in February. Few persons have been induced to look with a microscopic glass at the beautifully wrought engine-turned field of the penny stamp, as introduced after Heath's engraving of the queen's portrait, by Messrs. Bacon and Petch; it defies competition, and could not be executed by hand.§ The contract for one year for the printing of these stamps, by Messrs. Bacon and Petch, on sheets containing 240 on each sheet, and gumming the back, was dated on April 13 in that year; the terms were sevenpence halfpenny per thousand stamps. These were first used on May 6; a fact doubtless interesting to many a devoted and enthusiastic collector to learn.

Later, the difficulty of subdivision of the sheets became in many instances an annoyance; and in the autumn of 1847, Henry Archer, a native of Ireland, who had been postmaster, managing director, and secretary of the then defunct Festiniog, or North Wales Railway Company, proposed to the Marquis of Clanricarde, postmaster-general, a machine for the piercing or puncturing of the sheets, so that each stamp could be readily separated. Archer derived the suggestion at a printing office, where he saw some perforated paper being worked upon at press; but his idea of piercing the paper was not sufficient, and his first two machines failed. A third, that punched out certain globules, was more successful, but the Lords of the Treasury awarded him a remuneration so far short of the original cost that he rejected it altogether; and, after having in May, 1850, presented a memorial in support of his claims, entered into a contract with Robert Edward Branston, who with his father had long been engravers to the Board of Excise, to engrave a die from which impressions might be taken on the surface principle, and stamps produced at a lower rate than those supplied by Messrs. Bacon and Petch. In this matter Branston appears to have availed himself of the assistance of S. W. Reynolds, a distinguished engraver, now deceased;* and by Archer's letter to the Marquis of Clanricarde, September 12, 1850, this die of the Prince Albert's head, as also the proofs of the specimen sheets, are thus noticed:—'In the month of May last I handed a copy of my memorial to the Secretaries of the Treasury, on the understanding that it was not to be acted upon until I was in a position to supply the specimen sheets therein referred to; the engraver, however, whom I had employed to prepare the plates, being at the period engaged in other works of importance, was unable to supply the specimen sheets until after the Lords of the Treasury had referred back the matter to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.' The proofs of the specimen sheets were, however, as stated, then ready.

March 26, 1851, Archer and Branston proposed to print, gum, and perforate the whole of the postage label stamps required by the Inland Revenue Office at fivepence the thousand stamps, which would effect a great saving to the Post Office; or at fourpence halfpenny per thousand, if allowed to print them on the surface principle—the same as adopted in France and Belgium—and of which the Prince Albert's head was a specimen. Archer was to sink all claim to remuneration for his machines and lost time; but the Secretary apprised Messrs. Bacon and Petch of the overture, and asked if they were disposed to lower their price to fivepence per thousand,—to which they assented, on condition of a five years' contract at that price. This was granted, to take effect from July 5, 1851, and Archer's proposition ignored; the perforation of the sheets, or the public convenience, seemed to be of no consideration. Archer prayed for parliamentary inquiry, and a committee, consisting of the following persons, Mr. Muntz, chairman, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Ormsby Gore, Sir John Tyrrell, Mr. Geach, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Grogan, Mr. Rich, Marquis of Chandos, Mr. Henry Drummond, and Mr. John Greene, were appointed. Their inquiries were in March and April, 1852. The minutes of their proceedings were printed.

March 29, 1852, Mr. Muntz presiding, surface printing on dry paper being the subject of inquiry, the chairman asked Mr. Branston, the engraver:

'516. "Have you any specimens of postage stamp heads made by your printing?" "We were ordered to destroy all the impressions, and therefore they have been destroyed. These [*producing the same*] are the heads of Prince Albert."

'517. "Are those surface printing?" "Yes."†

'518. "Were they done to show the capability of doing it on your principle?" "Principally to show how they [the Prince Albert heads] might be combined to make one sheet, and the size being always the same; they were not intended as imitations."

*Mulready's original design—a pencilled outline drawing, with an impression from Thompson's wood-block, sold at the artist's sale on the 28th inst. for twenty guineas. An India proof impression, said to be one of six which were taken from Thompson's wood-block, was advertised in the *Times* newspaper, March 17th, for sale at twenty guineas.

† Minutes of Evidence, 1852; 1602, 1607, 1008.

‡ The whole process is minutely defined. Minutes, as *supra*, 726. The colour was at first an unsettled point. Collectors will find twopences printed in black, but like the black penny V.R.'s, they are excessively rare.

§ Minutes, 1852; 1005.

* Minutes of Evidence, March 29, 1852, 834. This examination of Mr. Edwin Hill, refers in particular to the Prince Alberts heads. To the question (816) of Mr. Muntz, chairman of the Committee, that Mr. Reynolds, the engraver, never made any with the Queen's head upon them. Mr. Edwin Hill replied, 'No. I cautioned him as soon as I knew what he was doing.

† The Prince Albert issues deserved attention, from its being the first attempt to introduce surface printing; which is now in general use at Somerset House, for the shilling, tenpenny, and other stamps.

'584. Marquis of Chandos, "Were those specimens printed on dry or damp paper?" "We invariably take our proofs on dry paper, and those are the best impressions we get from engravings in relief; the less size there is in the paper, the better the impression, and there is an absence of all size in India paper."

'615. "Are not these instances upon rather thin paper?" "These are mere proof impressions."

The proofs here referred to, as having been printed on thin dry paper, the backs being laved with pure white gum, as adhesive now as when first applied, are the sheets in the possession of the writer, and proffered to collectors as PRINCE ALBERT ESSAYS.

March 30, Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill being examined, Mr. John Greene placed the Prince Albert stamps before him.

'1010. "Is that a respectable forgery?" "No, it is not a respectable forgery; in the first place, it is not an imitation of the stamp: it is the head of Prince Albert."

'1011. Mr. Spooner, "That is, not a forgery at all." "I should like to examine this with a magnifying glass, because the security of the other stamp [the Queen's head] depends very much upon its background; it is a particular pattern, which can only be seen by a magnifying glass."

'1012. Marquis of Chandos, "It is engine-turned?" "I believe it is engine-turned."

These few extracts from the Minutes of the Parliamentary inquiry are simply to establish the validity of the PRINCE ALBERT ESSAY, interesting in history and to the collector, as the pivot on which turned the introduction of Archer's patented right of perforation, for which he was paid £4000; and to prove that no fraud has been attempted by the writer. Henry Archer died at Pau, in France, March 2, 1863.

J. H. BURN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great interest some remarks made in the April number of your magazine, on chemically transformed stamps. I have another specimen to add to the list of those which make their appearance in blue besides the genuine green. It is the one kreuzer Thurn and Taxis, blue print on white paper, which is mentioned even in the *Standard Catalogue* of Messrs. Bellars and Davie. The postal authorities here have assured me that such a stamp never existed, even as an essay. It will be remarked, that in either of the issues in which this 1 kreuzer blue might be placed there was another blue stamp; in 1859 the 3 kreuzer, and in 1862 the 6 kreuzer stamp had that colour.

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

Darmstadt. F. L.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOEL, London.—Hamey's and Scheerenbeck's local Hamburgs are genuine: not so the other names. We retain them, however, in our collection, as specimens of ingenious impudence.

TIMBRE.—The thirty cents stamp of Hong Kong you will find noticed, together with the several values of four and six cents, in our magazine for the month of November last.

C. F., Liverpool.—Your French stamp is one of those figuring on the tops of bon-bon boxes. If found on a letter, it must have been placed there in joke; probably on the first of April.—Your collection must be a very good one, but without examination it would be impossible to give even its approximate value.

SPECIMEN, Bear Street, W.C.—Mr. F. S. Jerningham, Rathfarnham, Dublin, to whom you sent a selection of postage stamps, for which he took care to call at the post office there—but not for your letter requesting payment,—must be nothing more or less than a swindler.

W. V., Alston, Cumberland.—This correspondent received a letter from the United States with postage stamps on it amounting to twenty-nine cents, and a one-cent Inter. Rev., which was postmarked as well as the others. This stamp was placed apart from the rest. He would like information on the subject from any of our qualified readers.

ETON COLLEGE.—We can offer no decided opinion on an unknown stamp without inspection. You describe a French stamp, value one franc, partly blue and partly green. There is a one franc of the empire entirely green. The one to which you allude may be partially discoloured.

W. W. E., Portishead.—The current penny postage stamp, stamped with the initials of and exclusively used by the Oxford Union Society, is decidedly admissible into albums as a variety. We have seen unused specimens in the collections of a few individuals.

GENERAL PEEL, Chesterton.—The 'Colombo' was wrecked on its way to the West, consequently could have contained no Canada stamps.—Nothing but the closest inspection could distinguish a genuine blue essay from a chemical. It seems that there exists a method of turning blue to black, as we often see stamps normally of the former colour make their appearance as black essays. Such is possibly the twopenny English, fourpenny Cape, &c.—The market value of a stamp, as we have remarked before, depends partly on scarcity, partly on conscience.—The postal authorities at Somerset House always stamp *any* value on *unfolded* paper, so that either covers or envelopes can be made up. When envelopes first came into general use in England it was sometimes a subject of commercial plaint that, the body of the letter being separate from the address, there was no proof of such letter having been written to the party professing to have received it; and to this day we believe some mercantile houses make a point of never using envelopes for letters of legal consequence. To remedy this, half sheets of paper were issued, with threads, like the first envelopes, on which was the pink penny stamp, with directions to fold it so that the stamp should appear on the right-hand corner. In accordance, however, with the usual official management, or mismanagement (vide letter to the *Times*, which we well remember reading), no possible exercise of ingenuity could manage to fold the sheet of paper in the manner suggested, the position of the stamp not allowing it. It must be one of these sheets—and exceedingly rare they are—which you have seen. Some time since we used a great many of them, little imagining how valuable they would become.—Your enclosed stamps are all for bills or receipts.—The one penny is simply a hand-marked newspaper stamp.

J. Y., Leicester.—The stamp you kindly forwarded, as mentioned so long ago as in the December number of the magazine. You will find it in Mr. Brown's fifth edition. We will give an engraving of it in the next number.

R. H. O., General Hospital, Nottingham.—Your communication was replied to in our last.—We always return all stamps forwarded us by the publishers.

H. H. H.—Many thanks for your interesting information respecting the Nevis stamps, to the effect that the device is intended to represent the goddess of health, administering the water of a mineral spring existing in the island to a sick person. It is certainly a novel idea,—that of advertising a mineral spring all over the civilized world, by means of postage stamps.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER I.

IN WHICH I MAKE MY BOW,—INTRODUCE THE READER TO MR. BROWN,—AND LEAVE ENGLAND.

My readers will excuse me, if I begin my narrative by introducing myself, Jabez Jones, to their notice, as the son of the late Ezekiel Henry Jones, formerly of Cheapside, draper, and afterwards of Violet Cottage, Brompton, esquire; and further, as possessed of a moderate fortune, a roving temperament, inclined to meditation, an ardent stamp collector, and aged twenty-eight. In the year 1862, my most intimate friend, who bears the illustrious name of Brown, has attained to the mature age of seven-and-thirty, and lives within a quarter of an hour's walk of my residence, called in (as I perceive on reference to my diary) at 8.15 p.m. on the 2nd of March, and, inspired perhaps by a glass of punch made after my own particular recipe, proposed that we two bachelors should cross the water and wander over the continent, after our own irregular fashion, where we list; and I, being similarly inspired, consented, the more willingly because Brown represented in glowing terms the excellent opportunity such a tour would give for making desirable additions to our stamp albums. Collecting was then, in this country at least, in its infancy, but we bethought ourselves before starting that, as there were probably a few collectors on the continent, it would be advisable to lay in a stock of the rarer varieties of English stamps. We therefore hunted in the dustiest corners of the most antiquated chests of drawers, and in old boxes and trunks, for the black penny, and my friend Brown (who was once foolishly enslaved by a member of the other sex, but who has since grown superior to any weakness of that kind) even detached those obsolete English from the once-cherished letters of his first and only love, his deceitful Barbara, and deposited them carefully—I grieve to say, almost reluctantly—in his portemonnaie.

About a week before our departure, I visited a respected maiden aunt of mine, and, by dint of much coaxing, persuaded her to unlock a certain reverend old box in which letters from the year 1815 down to the then present time were stored—letters from old school-girl friends, of the days of short bodies, long skirts, and classical pet names, in which my sedate relative was addressed as 'Charming Clarissa' (her real name, be it known, being Jemima Jane); letters from juvenile beaux of the same time; and, later, the lengthy epistles of more staid correspondents, who always considerately gave as much as possible for ninepence. Amongst these ancient treasures my aunt plunged her hand, and after hauling up nearly fifty letters, she at length discovered no less than four Mulready envelopes—valuable treasures then,—and all undoubtedly genuine, which she ceremoniously gave, and I, joyfully received. As for Brown, he had a friend at Somerset House, and by dint of his good offices, he was pretty well supplied with the old high-priced envelope stamps.

As we sat together the night before starting, each of us drew out his purse,—temporary repository of the newly-gathered treasure, and displayed his acquirements to his companion. We dared not reveal our stamp love to our friends, for at that time few and far between were stamp collectors, dealers were rare, forgeries unknown, and the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* had not then arisen to enlighten the public on the benefits which accrue from collecting. So we gloated over the despised mementos of the spread of civilization, and went to bed to dream about them. Early the next morning we took the train to Folkestone, and were soon on our way to France, with which country we intended to commence our tour.

I am not going to dilate to you on the glories or the miseries of the voyage to Boulogne, for I beg to inform my readers that both Brown and myself had wandered far out of hearing of Bow bells, even unto classic and dirty 'St. Vincent-on-Avon' (as *Punch* has rechristened the western metropolis), and farther had voyaged even unto Chepstow, we, therefore, did not fear the Channel; suffice it to say we kept below, and *believe* there was a terrible storm during the voyage.

CHAPTER II.

CONCERNING A STROLL IN THE LUXEMBOURG GARDENS, AND CERTAIN PURCHASES MADE THERE BY MR. BROWN AND MYSELF.

IF the reader expects me to give him full details of all the minutiæ of travel—where we stopped, what we ate, and what we saw—he is very much mistaken, for I hereby flatly refuse to do so. Of tourists' 'lions' I thought less than I did of stamps, but were it otherwise, I would not chronicle my opinions and spread out my pen-and-ink sketches; thousands have done the like before, with the effect of acquainting people with nearly all that they can care to know, generally speaking, about the continent; and as I am writing to stamp collectors, I will, as a rule, only mention such matters when they are connected with or suggested by stamps. I therefore pass over my short stay at Boulogne and my journey to Paris, and will beg my reader to consider me and friend B. safely installed in the house of my old acquaintance, M. Durot, No. 5, Rue de ——

The day after our arrival, being Thursday, we two islanders began our wanderings through the gay capital, and turned, as to the most interesting place, towards the Gardens of the Luxembourg, where for a long time a considerable traffic in stamps had been carried on. We made our way to the spot where Ney was shot by the allies after Waterloo, and to the supposed scene of a nocturnal butchery of peaceable men on the present emperor's accession. We observed here and there gentlemanly young men, stamp book in hand, and occasionally a member of the fair sex, poring over her collection or displaying its wonders to an admiring acquaintance. Upon this, Brown drew out his album, in order perhaps to show claims to brotherhood; and his appeal was not without its effect.

Ere long a suave spoken Frenchman came up to us, and, with a superfluity of bows, opened his book and showed my friend a stamp about half an inch square, roughly executed, of no indicated value, with the head of 'l' empereur' impressed in a deep blue on white ground.

'Monsieur,' he commenced, speaking in a jumble of French and English, 'you are un Anglais—vare good friends, les Anglais; dis vare fine stamp, vare fine.'

'What do you call it?' said Brown, in a gruff tone, in order the better to conceal his delight at the prospect of acquiring this unknown variety.

'Monsieur wish to know de name of dis vare fine stamp: can monsieur keep un secret?'

'Why there can't be much secret about the name of a stamp, if that's what you want to confide me with,' returned friend B.

'Ah, ma chere, you no understand me, it is not de name; I have got dis stamp from vare good quarter,—does monsieur perceive? [Brown nodded] and it would me bring great disgrace on if it is known dat I have sold it.'

'Oh! if that's what you mean, I shall not do you any harm,' replied my friend, 'if you have honestly obtained it.'

'Ah, monsieur, you are vare good, you are vare noble. I did have given me dis stamp, and I vill sell it for de som of twenty francs; monsieur is angry, he does not know de grandeur of de stamp; he will not speak of it if I tell him, it is de stamp of de gouvernment, de stamp which de members do use, like dat of de members of de gouvernment de Angleterre; it is un grand favour dat a great man did gif it to me, but I will sell it to you, because, mi lord, you are vare noble and vare generous, for un twenty francs.'

'I'll give you fifteen francs, and not a sou more,' replied Brown.

'Ah, monsieur is irresistible,' answered the charming Frenchman, smiling; 'les Anglais are great friends; monsieur sall have dis grand stamp for fifteen francs.'

Brown hated a long talk, so without more ado pulled out his purse, and in a few moments the stamp vendor went his way with fifteen francs in his pocket, and Brown had become possessor of the French cabinet stamp. I was not so fortunate as to obtain a second specimen of this 'grand stamp,' but was able to exchange a Mulready for a handsome essay, which I have not since seen catalogued. It was a red impression of the head of Liberty, facing to the left, on puce ground, with the value, 20 centimes, at the top, and

the words REPUB. FRANCE at the bottom. I believe that there is also a similar essay on blue ground.

Having now made, in our respective estimations, capital bargains, we turned our way homewards, rejoicing. At supper we produced our purchases, but the conversation and revelations which followed require a separate chapter.

(To be continued).

No. II.

ADDENDA to MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Argentine Republic.

1864.—*Name* [ARGENTINA REPUBLICA] *and value in col. letters in oval frame, containing bust of President, figure of value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.*

5 centavos rose.

Bust of President in oval frame, name [ARGENTINA] *above and* [REPUBLICA] *below in white letters, figure of value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.*

10 centavos green.

Name [REPUBLICA ARGENTINA] *and value in col. letters in oval frame containing bust of President, figure of value each side. Col. imp.; rect.*

15 centavos blue.

? Bolivia.

? LOCAL ENVELOPE.

Inscription [POTOSI FRANCA], *eagle between two branches, value not indicated. Col. imp., hand stamped; oct.*

Green.

Canada.

PRIVATE POSTAGE LABELS.

? Winslow & Co. express, No. 3, Place d'Armes, Portland, Montreal. Black imp.; circular.

White.

Yellow.

Green.

Red.

Confederate States of America.

MEMPHIS.

Inscription [PAID T. H. GLASS P.M.] *figure of value on plaid ground in oval. Col. imp.; rect.*

5 cents blue.

CHARLESTON.

Inscription as page 16, figure of value in oval. Col. imp. on col. paper; fancy oval.

5 cents blue on yellow.

Denmark.

Inscription [KGL. POST. FR.M.], *sword and sceptre in saltire crowned, in oval, value in each spandrill. Col. imp.; rect.*

4 s. rose-pink.

Germany.

NORTHERN STATES.

Same device as 1850. *Black imp.; square.*

¼ silbgroschen.

Hamburg.

PRIVATE POST LABELS.

Inscription [CHARLES VAN DIEMEN BRIEF PACKET AND GUTER EXPEDITION HAMBURG] *over large white numeral of value, figure indicating value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.*

1 (sch.) rose.
2 orange.
3 lake.
4 green.
6 blue.
8 vermilion.

Holland.

Head of King William III. to right in plain oval, inscription [POST ZEGEL] *below, value in upper angles. Col. imp.; rect.*

10 c. lake-red.

Modena.

Same device as first issue. Black imp.; rect.

var. 10 CENT.

United States of America.

Inscription [NEW YORK POST OFFICE] *bust of Washington in oval. Col. imp.; large rect.*

proof 5 cents vermilion.

proof 5 „ green.

Inscription [U. S. POST OFFICE] *bust of Washington to right in oval.. Col. imp.; rect.*

proof 10 cents green.

ESSAYS.

Same device as No. 1, page 77. Col. imp.; rect.

var. 3 cents green (smaller head).

Inscription [U. S. POSTAGE] *bust of Franklin to right in oval. Black imp.; rect.*
6 cents.

Same inscription, bust of Franklin to left with fur cap, on fine elaborate engine-turned pattern, letters in upper angles. Col. imp.; rect.
3 cents vermilion.

LOCAL LABELS.

Bazaar post-office [*eagle on branch*]. *Col. imp.; rect.*
10 cents blue.

City express G & H paid. 423, *Washington St. S.E. cor. Sansome. Col. imp.; oblong.*
Blue.

Kidder's city express post [*courier*]. *Black imp.; oct.*
2 cents blue-green.

Penny post. Col. imp.; oblong.
Blue.

Venezuela.

1864.—*Same device as* 1863. *Col. imp.; rect.*
½ centavo rose.
1 „ slate.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

BRITISH GUIANA, 1860.—1 c, black; 2, 4, 8, 12, 24 c. In the forgery the lines forming the sky are not very close together. They may easily be counted, whereas in the genuine ones they are very close together. (1.) The U of DAMUS is exactly upright in the genuine, C of VICISSIM rounded; in the forgery the U slopes rather to the left, and the C of VICISSIM is rather square bottomed. (2.) In the centre of each of the two star ornaments upon the garter is a dot always clear, in the forgery the ornaments themselves are by no means clear, and the dots are wanting. (3.) The extreme border of these stamps is a white line; in each corner of the genuine stamp is a small square (each containing a figure of the date), which on the outer sides are close to the extreme border line, and the border line is always more or less shaded where it comes close to these squares. In the forgery the border line *is* shaded at the corners, but by only a single *line*; the shading in the genuine stamp is generally solid, it is never by a very distinct line. (4.) The G of GUIANA very clumsy, and different from that of POSTAGE, not so large: this is the counterfeit. The real stamp has the two letters G alike. The colours of the forgeries are very washy, and they are lithographed impressions.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—1 p. black, 2 p. orange, 6 p. violet-carmine. On the 2 p. forged the swan has no leg visible. The lettering on the real stamps is of the same thickness throughout; the type of the 2 p. orange and 6 p. green (genuine) is a trifle bolder than on the other stamps. In the forgery the A of POSTAGE and those in AUSTRALIA are none of them alike; in the genuine the letters A all have the same character on the same stamp; other letters are the same. The beautifully-turned background is imitated by very coarse-looking dots; the 1 d. stamps have the lettering upon a network ground, which is very badly imitated in the lithographed forgery. The lettering of the 2 p. and 6 p. is upon a plain solid ground, in the forgery very smooth, in the genuine rather rough.

TUSCANY, Provisional Gov.—1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 c. These forgeries are characterised by a remarkable smoothness in the face of paper, and an absence of any watermark in the paper; in the forgery the shield is scarcely pointed below, the cross on the summit of the crown is not clear, being an indistinct, shapeless mark rather to the right of the T of POSTALE; in the real stamp the cross is occasionally quite distinct, and is always rather to the left hand side of the T of POSTALE.

TUSCANY, first issue.—All the issue on white. The imitations of these Tuscany stamps resemble those of the Provisional Government, in the smoothness of the paper and absence of any watermark. Few genuine Tuscany of the first issue are upon paper without a watermark, and none are upon a

perfectly smooth paper. In addition to these fundamental differences, I may mention that the lion's upper paw has no distinct toes; that paw, the top of the shield, and the creature's mane, all run into each other in an indistinct manner; the various letters o in the inscription all differ one from another. But the paper and the absence of the watermark will be the quickest test. These forgeries are mostly offered as unused; this will be a guide, when the collector remembers that unused *sets* of Tuscany can only be had upon the breaking up of some very old collection. The Tuscan stamps have never been reprinted, and there is no probability of a re-issue taking place.

SICILY, whole issue.—This forgery is like the last, in the paper and execution; very white, smooth paper, which would never deceive any one conversant with Italian stamps. In this imitation, the dot after SICILIA is always distinct, and is the same size as those by the value; now in the genuine stamp the dot after SICILIA is the merest point and is seldom distinct, the dots by the value are usually a trifle larger; in the 20 g. they are very much larger; on the 10 g. the dots by the value are smaller than on any of the others. The background of every genuine Sicilian stamp is of crossed lines, *never* solid as in the forgery (most genuine Sicilians require a strong glass to show the crossed lines of the ground); the extreme outline of these forged specimens is too sharp.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.—A good forgery has lately appeared, but the colours are too bright. (1.) In this imitation, the E of CONFE- is too large for the rest of the word; the dashes under ON almost touch the E of CONFE on one side, and the A of ARGENTINA on the other; the genuine has the dashes shorter than in this forgery, and the lowest dash is above the level, though only slightly, of the base of the letters. (2.) The E and N of CENTAVO nearly touch in the forgery, whilst in the genuine stamp there is almost as much space between them as there is between the A and V of the same word. There are two other forgeries of this stamp very inferior to this, and both of which have been elsewhere described.

BADEN LAND-POST, 12 kr.—(1.) The hyphen between LAND and POST is, in the genuine stamp, below the centre of the letter P. (2.) The scrolls in the corners touch the outline nearly everywhere, where they do not touch they go very near indeed to the outline. (3.) Lower finishing stroke to the figure 1 is not so long as that at the top of the figure, this is the forgery; in the genuine stamp they are nearly of the same length. (4.) The leaf to the right of the figure is of the same size as the one opposite to it; in the forgery it is considerably larger. The whole execution is inferior to that of the real stamp.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—1, 2 c., figures. These are very good imitations, which, owing to the extreme simplicity of the stamps and the variations in the 1 c., render detection rather a difficult matter. The 2 c. may be told by the following signs in the forgery. The tail of the 2 projects beyond the level of the back of the figure; the point of the tail is turned upwards, but with rather a rounded turn; the figure 2 is very ugly; the small 2 below is equally awkward; the central 2 is not so thick and broad as in the real one; the point at the bottom of the down stroke of the central figure 2 is pointed outwards. The genuine stamp has differences from the above, as follow. The tail of the central 2 does not project at all beyond the level of the back of the 2; point of the 2 a long straight one, is turned upwards, and is quite straight, not curved, as in the forgery: the small 2 is a reproduction of the larger one. In the 1 c. the numerous forgeries will fail in some or all the following points. The C of CENT, if made all round, will be a circle; one variety has IN of INTER printed on a different level to that of the rest of the word; the W of HAWAIIAN very sharp and rather pointed; the various letters A invariably alike. There are two very clear varieties of this stamp; one has the top of the figure 1 pointed (formed by an acute angle), whilst the other shows the top with a curved line, and then a very small portion of a flat top.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—1848 1 sch. blue, 2 sch. pink. The original stamps have a thread woven into the substance of the paper; in the forgery this is imitated by a thread placed between two pieces of thin

paper, which are then gummed together, and the stamp printed upon the double paper. In all genuine Schleswig-Holstein of 1848, there is a sort of shadow over os of POST, and over parts of all the letters in SCHILLING. On examining a genuine one it will be noticed how very dark the eagle appears against the background, although both are of the same colour. From the shadow over many of the letters which cover parts of the eagle, I infer that the darker colour of the eagle is caused by a further application of colour to the eagle after it has been printed in the colour of the background. On close inspection the eagle will appear printed upon a blue-tinted paper, the rest of the stamp being evidently upon a white one, which clearly proves that the eagle has been coloured after the stamp was printed; this the forgery cannot imitate; and besides this absence of colour upon the eagle, the shield in the forgery—embossed—is made with one point at the bottom, whereas the genuine stamp has three points at the bottom, one at each corner and one in the centre. The thread in the forgery may easily be exposed by carefully wetting the back of the stamp, and scraping away the paper with a penknife. Every line of the genuine is distinct; the forgery is a great contrast in that respect. Postmarked 1848 Schleswig-Holsteins are seldom seen (the forgeries are almost always postmarked); the great majority of the specimens known are perfectly clean and unused.

THE OBSOLETE SPANISH STAMPS.

FROM MOENS' MAGAZINE.

ON lately perusing a notice in a largely circulated English stamp magazine, in which the writer (who afterwards sung his palinode) denied the existence of the double stamp of Geneva, we took it into our head that a crowd of things, much less simple, forsooth, either unknown or uncomprehended, would render the publication of the following reflections not uninteresting to the postal world.

It is worth remarking that hitherto amateurs have confined themselves to an earnest quest—sometimes fruitless, sometimes very partially successful—after the long disused stamps of Spain, the *ne plus ultra*, so to say, of a collection; but it strikes us that, apart from possession, they have never attracted any individual interest respecting their emission. We imagine, therefore, we are on untrodden ground in examining the famous type of the bear climbing a tree, the well-known arms of the city of Madrid. This stamp is usually catalogued as issued in 1848 or 1849, but it is now generally understood that it did not appear till much later. In fact the 3 cuartos preceded it as special for Madrid, in November, 1853. This was employed till March, 1854, when the 1 cuarto replaced it, destined in its turn to be superseded by a rival; odd numbers being apparently less suitable than even ones to mortal taste. The 2 cuartos, then, bearing alike the Madrid arms, was started. But this impression of medium value, issued as a feeler by the postal authorities, was cut off in the flower of its youth. Nevertheless the essays being first made (for we possess copies both of the essay and the stamp), the latter, gilt, not bronzed like the preceding issues, appeared; but there its career ended: legal currency was denied, and it remained like the Duke of Augustenburg, a pretender without a crown.

Projection and rejection once again. As the suppression of the Madrid bear had been decided on, for the purpose of extending to all the towns of Spain the privilege of a local post, an essay was designed to bear the Spanish arms, inscribed CORREO INT^E above and FRANCO 2 cs. below. This essay, which, when attainable, finds place in our collections printed in black on white, did not seem to meet the required exigence; for, soon after, in November, 1854, came out the 2 cuartos, green, such as we all know it, with armorial bearings; in this respect similar to the essay with CORREO INTERIOR just mentioned, but differing inasmuch as the upper portion of the stamp simply showed the word CORREOS preceded and followed by an asterisk. These appeared to be lucky stars, for under this form the impression lasted undisturbed among its congeners till a new series turned them all together to the right about.

About the same time, this device, with some modification in the inscription, and the

addition of the date, was adopted for the 4 cuartos and 1 real stamps, which were used till March, 1855. As for the other stamps with armorial bearings and heraldic mantles —the 6 cuartos, 2, 5, and 6 reales—their duration was limited to the year 1854, and moreover the 6 cuartos itself speedily gave place to the 4 c/ cited above.

Finally, we would beg to remark in contradiction to a current opinion affirming the reimpression of the old Spanish stamps, that, as far as regards the 2 and 4 cuartos, and 1 real of 1854, such revival is physically impossible, for the plate underwent material alterations when the changes we alluded to took place; and moreover another metamorphosis to fit it for the government stamp affixed to official documents in the colony of Luçon. The inscription, top and bottom, was then altered; the former consisting of the words DRO. JUDICIAL; the latter, the valne of the stamp according to the importance of the deed. Our own specimen, lilac coloured, shows the legend, DIEZ. RS. FTES. As a finishing stroke the lions, turrets, &c., were scratched out of their field, and the sword and balance, emblematical of justice, substituted.

We may conclude by adding that the blocks of 1852 and 1853 were likewise so altered, and totally damaged by filing as to be for ever useless. In this state they have been inspected by a friend of our own; and it is more than probable, though we dare not vouch for it as a truth, that the other blocks underwent a similar fate. G. H.

This interesting article gave rise to a supplementary communication from J. B.

READING your article on the obsolete Spanish, I fancied the following additional details would prove no less interesting to your numerous readers.

A decree of October 24, 1849, established a mode of prepaying letters hitherto unknown to Spain, by the emission of postage stamps divided into two categories.

The first, according to the decree, consisted of two stamps; 6 cuartos and 12 cuartos in value, to frank letters for home postage.

The second was to comprise two sorts: 5 and 10 reales for home, and 6 reales for foreign postage.

A royal order of December 1, 1849, approves of the postage-stamp institution, and appoints it to take effect on January 1, 1850.

By a ministerial order of December 14, 1849, these stamps were to be manufactured in the national manufactory of deed stamps, and sold by the tobacco vendors with an allowance of 3 per cent.

The postal service for Madrid was instituted by a royal decree of November, 3, 1852. To this end were established post-offices at the extreme points of the city, and a special stamp bearing the city arms was created, in value 3 cuartos. The decree declared that every letter not prepaid with this stamp, or even if insufficiently so, should not be delivered to the address. All correspondence was to be specially collected twice a day, and distributed within two hours afterwards.

Independently of these offices, iron pillars with a hole at the top for the purpose of depositing letters, were set up in divers quarters of the city.

The 1 cuarto stamp—bear and tree—created by a decree of May 29, 1853, was circulated on the 15th of December, 1853. The 3 cuartos, superseded by this new emission, could be changed at the offices for the 1 cuarto stamps.

In 1853 were sold—

1	cuarto	stamps	14,110
3	,,	,, ...	2,389
6	,,	,, ...	1,104,261
12	,,	,, ...	10,921
2	reales	,, ...	211
5	,,	,, ...	4,990
6	,,	,, ...	899

The 2 and 6 reales then may be considered as the rarest, judging from the small number circulated. As to their reimpression it is perfectly impossible, the plates having been destroyed, as testified by a legal document to that effect.

[NOTE.—Very slight discrepancies may be observable in the communications of the two writers; but nothing at all deteriorating from the value of this apparently authentic and interesting information. On glancing at the statistics of issue, we need not be surprised at the enormously disproportionate shoals of the 6 c. stamps we

meet with, in comparison with the other denominations. A supplementary bit of postal gossip will amuse our readers, to the effect that our enterprising publishers (than whom no one, we are confident, will be more surprised at the announcement) have successfully negociated with the Spanish government for the purchase of the original dies of the early issues, for the purpose of reprinting them for sale; and also with the Brazilian authorities for those of the large figured series.—ED.]

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We remember being once puzzled as to the signification of the abbreviations 'Do. rep.,' which were intended by the writress (is there such a word?) to imply 'Ditto repeated.' They will do as a motto for the present notice, introducing ——— essays again.

A new sovereign necessitates in most cases new postage stamps—much more, then, a new dynasty: anticipations have thus been naturally realised in the appearance of essays for the new empire of Mexico. Reader, look at the fac-simile of one of them. It is the 25 centimes. We write *centimes*, concluding that monetary denomination is meant by the abbreviation *cent.*; but whether cents or centimes, we suppose the hundredth part of a Mexican dollar is intended to be designated.



The stamps are, by a Milanese artist, we are given to understand; we fancy it must be the same who has lately inundated the stamp world with so many Italian essays, in every possible shade of colour. This will show the new emperor perfectly devoid of prejudice (always providing they are adopted), as he cannot be supposed favourably inclined towards a people whom the Austrians must regard as rebels.

They are very similar to, but not identical with, each other; the full face of the emperor Maximilian showing itself in an oval. The impressions are in three values,—10 c., 25 c., and 40 c.; and each denomination is reproduced in eight different colours,—black, brown, scarlet, green, reddish-lilac, pink, violet, and gold. In the 10 c. and 25 c. the head is in an oval, and the rectangle completed by ornamental filling in. The 40 c. has the head enclosed in a fancy square frame.

The photographs of his Imperial Highness have been faithfully copied, but we think a profile or three-quarter face would have had a much better effect, the likeness as it is being so exceedingly stiff. There have evidently been three distinct engravings, the three portraits having decided, though extremely slight, discrepancies.

The same artist furnishes us with a series for Greece. We like them better than those of which one was figured in our last number; but they are very, very far from the almost faultless perfection of the current issue. The same description would almost suffice for them as for the Mexicans. They are in three denominations—5, 20, and 40 lepta; a portrait of King George (not full face, but slightly to the left) in an oval for the highest and lowest values, and in a fancy rectangle for the intermediate one; LEPT. below. The 20 is in the middle on the right and left, and the 5 and 40 at the lower corners. Outside the frame the rectangle is completed, as in the case of the Mexicans, by ornamentation. These essays are reproduced in the same colours as we have instanced above.

We should not omit mentioning that these essays could not reasonably be expected to approach in excellence the present Greeks, being not, like them, from a steel die, but, as well as the Mexicans, from stone, and, certainly, triumphs of lithography.

Besides these two sets of essays, forty-two in number, we have the pleasure of announcing several *bonâ fide* issues, anticipated or otherwise.

In the former category we must place first, as in patriotic duty bound, the English penny with letters at the four corners. This stamp has existed for many months in a few choice collections, but has only been officially issued for a few weeks. In fact, within the past month an unconscionable dealer made a zealous amateur pay him a crown for a specimen. We can but add, we wish it had fallen to our lucky lot to chronicle an entirely new issue superseding the present odious red blotches. We are told they are a marvel-

his specimen of the engraver's skill; we can only say, as Dr. Johnson did, after listening to a long, uninteresting, monotonous fantasia, 'It may be very wonderful, but I wish it was impossible.'

For a couple of weeks of years have the three stamps of Holland had an albic page to themselves. True, we have managed an infinitesimal addition by inserting a light and a dark blue; and we ourselves have always patronised a pink on pink, as well as on white paper. Latterly, too, the Java stamp, as a Dutch colonial, has figured in many collections on the same page. The first instalment of a new issue, however, now appears, and is here represented. Description is needless, as the eye can judge for itself. The colour is red, like the superseded stamp of similar value. The stamps are perforated; and doubtless, if they have not already appeared, the blue and yellow will soon show. The specimen engraved was presented to the public on the 12th of May.



The 6 kreuzer blue and the 18 kreuzer orange of Wurtemburg, long anticipated, are now what the French call, each an accomplished fact.

We think the old Hanoverian stamps have not yet been officially noted as having in some instances the reticulations vertical in lieu of horizontal. One might imagine this variation arose from the die being impressed when the fancy paper chanced to lie in a different position; but the network in the instances we allude to is so much finer as to preclude that natural supposition.



The Appended engraving represents one of Barre's beautiful essays for the French republic. The colour is the same as the current 10 c.

The 1 centavo brown of Venezuela is, as we anticipated, now superseded by an individual of the same denomination, bluish green, similar in type to what is called the newspaper series.

The stamps of St. Lucia are changed in colour. The sixpenny is bright verdigris-green; the fourpenny, though apparently lighter in hue than before, is really printed in indigo; and the penny is of a more rosy red. In fact, we think, from the general sharpness of the device and letters, that the plate from which they are engraved must be a new one.

Belgium is expected, when its new issue appears, to present those who choose to pay for them with the additional denominations of 60 centimes, 1 franc, and 2 francs.

The advance guard, *q. v.*, of a new series for Denmark has started forth quite unexpectedly; people imagining the poor luckless Danes had something else to think about at present. The subjoined representation will show the points both of similarity with, and difference from, the former emanations of the same country. The great convenience of perforation seems to have struck the Dutch and the Danes at the same time. The stamp figured is pink on white.



Holstein starts a third candidate for circulation. It remains to be proved how long this will last. From the other two it slightly differs in the monetary value. In the present instance it is placed in a curve, not straight, as in the former issues. The colour is still blue, but it is printed on a fancy ground of rose and white.



We believe the current stamps for Luçon have not yet been chronicled in any English journal, at all events not in ours. They are fac-similes of the present issue of Spain; the head of her Spanish majesty, the oval frame and other ornamentation, as well as the upper inscription being identical. There are four values—25 cent. P° F° scarlet on flesh; 12 4-8ths cent. P° F° blue on pale orange; 6 2-8ths cent. P° F° green on flesh; and 3 1-8th cent. P° F° black on yellow. We will give an engraving of one in our next.

We might swell this paper beyond bounds,

were we to note all the new issues, proofs, &c, we have seen or heard of; but will make simple mention of a penny envelope, queen's head to left, pink impression, and a penny adhesive, very like our own fourpenny,—both for New South Wales; and finally, whet our readers' curiosity by the announcement of stamps started by a hitherto unrepresented locality of Central America.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

VI.—THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.

HAVING traced the history of the Moldo-Wallachian provinces from their earliest records, followed it through the Dark Ages—and darkest of the dark they were—and carried it down to our own times, nothing remains to be given but a slight notice of the extent and produce of the regions, the principal cities, the antiquities, a sketch of manners and customs, and, last not least, the postage stamps.

Moldavia and Wallachia together cover a surface of nearly 6000 square French leagues; one-third only of which constitutes the former province, a region more generally broken and mountainous than the latter, whose rise is gradual and continuous from the immense Danubian plains to the topmost peak of the Carpathians. The climate is ever in the extremes, without intermediate seasons; the five months of winter presenting the cold of Moscow, and the seven summer months the heat of Greece. Few European countries, nevertheless, are so favoured by nature. The combination of plains, meadows, woods, and mountains, with few, if any, intervals of unproductive soil, renders the appearance of the country that of a terrestrial paradise. Ornamental timber is abundant; salt, sufficient to supply all Europe; wines, capable of emulating those of France; mountains storing up in their depths, mercury, iron, copper, sulphur, and bitumen; and rivers often depositing flakes of pure gold. Wax, honey, tobacco, hides, flax, corn, wool, silk, large and small cattle, poultry, and game, swell the riches of these favoured regions. No marvel that their possession has been, and is so eagerly contested. The average increase of wheat is twentyfold, that of millet three hundredfold. Fancy whole forests filled with pear, apricot, and cherry trees! How pleasant must be the rambles of schoolboys on a half-holiday!

The capital of Wallachia is Bucharest, a large city containing a hundred thousand inhabitants, about ten thousand houses, nearly one hundred and fifty places of worship, with monasteries, schools, hotels, and a college. Giurgevo, a corruption of San Giorgio, is a much frequented port, owing to the numerous steamers plying between the Black Sea and the Danube, on which it stands, as does also Braila, another thriving port. Tergovist, the ancient capital of the principality, the residence of Michael the Brave, must not be overlooked; nor Craidva, the chief town of lesser Wallachia. The chief cities of Moldavia are Jassy and Galatz, at both which, as well as at Ibraila, are consuls or consular agents for England, France, Austria, Russia, Greece, and Italy. The united population amounts to four millions, five-eighths of which are numbered by Wallachia.

Of the population, nine-tenths is composed of the descendants of the aboriginal Dacians and the Roman colonists engrafted by Trajan. They are a fine, handsome, intelligent race, whose countenance bears the impress of their warlike ancestors, tempered with a melancholy expressive of the sufferings and humiliation of ages. Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians, Jews, and Tsigani, comprise the remaining tenth. This last named people, known as *Bohemiens* or *Egyptiens* in France, *Zingari* in Italy, and gypsies in England, are ascertained to have existed in Roumania for upwards of four hundred years, whence they have spread over all the countries of Europe; but their origin, notwithstanding recent researches have thrown some light on it, is still buried amid the obscurity of remote antiquity. There are about two hundred and fifty thousand of this singular and mysterious race in the two provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia.

The most evident relics of the ancient

Dacians are the fosses and earthen ramparts, of similar nature to those usually formed by barbarian or semi-barbarian nations. In some parts are the traces of mining operations, far anterior—as evinced by their primitive style of operation—to those known as appertaining to the time of the Romans. The medals and coins of ancient Dacia, have the legend now in Greek, now in Roman characters. Some of them bear the representation of the tutelar genius of the country, in various forms and attitudes, but invariably wearing the cap of Mithras or the sun, whose worship was introduced thither from Persia. Some exhibit the head of the urus, or sacred ox, the aboriginal divinity of the country; a representation of which is still to be seen impressed on the postage stamps, both obsolete and in actual use.

Numberless Roman remains stud the principalities. The principal are the bridge of Trajan and the tower of Severinus. For an appreciation of the beauties of these celebrated edifices, recourse must be had, however, to the pages of the historians who have so well described them, as little but the bare foundations exist to testify to their original grandeur. The sites of some of the towns founded by the Romans are rich in antiquarian debris, at times restoring to light perfect statues, and other objects dear to the artistic eye. The wonderful and almost perennial roads laid by that people wherever it penetrated, to this day attest their indomitable energy and perseverance.

The vestiges of the middle ages, are, of course, in much larger proportion. The church built, and that founded by Rodolph the Black, are well worthy the traveller's visit. The latter ranks as one of the most beautiful edifices of the Renaissance period in the whole world. Roumania is rich in the possession of fine monasteries, of which that of Tismana, in Wallachia, contains the grotto and tomb of Nicodemus; but the most celebrated of all is that of Niamtzo, in Moldavia, to which a forest of oaks, like those of Fontainebleau, serves as an avenue. It is the best endowed also, and possesses a printing house, a library, hospital, elementary school, and several industrial establishments, particularly a manufactory for serge.

The Moldo-Wallachians (we mean, more particularly, the rural population, which is naturally less affected by the influx of foreigners) not only preserve the physical type, but the customs and national dress of their ancestors. Looking at a peasant of the Carpathians, you might imagine yourself transported far back to the times of the Roman emperors. In face, figure, and costume, he is a fac-simile of the Dacian captives on Trajan's pillar, or those whose statues adorn the halls of the Louvre. A coarse linen shirt, and pantaloons of very peg-top cut, a girdle and sandals of goat's skin, and a lamb's-skin Phrygian cap, surmounting a head of long black hair floating over the shoulders, is his habitual dress, to which is added, on fête days and in winter, a vest or overcoat of lamb or sheepskin.

Till little more than twenty years since, the villages were in a very primitive form, being merely holes dug in the ground, and roughly roofed over. These roofs being covered with earth on which the grass grew, gave a village the appearance of an assemblage of mole hills; and, unless betrayed by the curling smoke, a traveller would have long vainly sought for the resting place he was walking over. These habitations are now replaced by rather more pretentious cabins, but the household furniture and domestic and agricultural implements remain as rude as ever.

The Christianity of the rustic population is at a low ebb. The priests, seldom able to read or write, are obliged to learn their breviary by heart. They keep up, with many traditionary ceremonies, the great feasts of Christmas and Easter, some few saints' days; and, moreover, the pagan feast of Flora, observed there from time immemorial, on the first of May.

The ceremonial observances in betrothal and marriage are peculiar, as are also those appertaining to the funeral rites; but to enter into them would trench too much on our space, and we must confine ourselves to a sketch of the opening ceremony usual before affiancing. A young man having found a fit object for the bestowal of his affections, sends messengers and music to her parents' house. The spokesman gives his

message to the effect that the honourable youth * * *, when out hunting, has seen a deer, who timidly fled his presence, but that they, his friends, have traced her to that house, and demand that she shall be given up to their employer. The parents deny any reception of the fugitive. The others persist. Then the greatgrandmother of the damsel is brought forward, and it is asked if they mean her. Of course not. Then the grandmother is produced, and ignored. Afterwards, the maiden's mother, who, of course, meets the same reception. The oldest, ugliest, dirtiest servant in the house. —'This *must* be the one you are in search of.' 'No, our deer has hair like gold, teeth like pearls,' &c. At last, the damsel is produced, in her most elaborate attire; the betrothal takes place; and she retires to her room, where she must henceforth remain till the day of her marriage. The nuts thrown about the room during the ceremony of marriage, to betoken that the bride and bridegroom renounce childish amusements evermore, and the piece of money placed in the hand of a corpse previous to interment, testify to the Roman origin of both their marriage and funeral rites.

These and other remains of paganism, mingled with the northern superstitious belief in fairies, evil genii, and monster-dragons; and in astral influences, introduced from the far East; tempered with such Christianity as they are yet privileged to understand, makes their religious system a strange and almost incomprehensible hotch-potch.

Come we, at last, to the crude and semi-barbaric group, whose birth and parentage have given rise to so long but, we trust, not entirely uninteresting a dissertation,—the postage emissions of **Moldavia and Wallachia.** Destitute of beauty, elegance; nay, almost shapeless, and uncouth-looking as they are, these anomalous individuals invariably come in for a larger share of attention from the uninitiated, in consequence of their very singular appearance, than do many of their more pictorially attractive comrades in our albums. And here, *apropos de bottes*, as our channel neighbours say, may we venture to enter our humble protest against the barbarous, unclassical, and most uneuphonious plural termination so inconsistently but conventionally appropriated to that word. As no one ever talks of datums and erratums, and comparatively few even of memorandums, it is a pity any should patronize albums. What happy introducer of novel appellations, like Sydney Smith, will restore the legitimate plural *alba*? But, *revenons à nos moutons*; which muttons, by the way, in the present instance, happen to be splendid bulls; those magnificent animals so graphically described by the greatest of Roman conquerors, upwards of eighteen hundred years ago, as ranging the vast forest of Hercynia; and whose descendants, though somewhat lacking the *animus*, alias the savage ferocity, of the aboriginal stock, retain its *physique*, or form and beauty, and still corporeally fill and adorn the vast steppes, and pictorially figure on the postage stamps of Moldavia and Wallachia.

It is rather more than three years since we first set eyes on one of these queer specimens. It was a blue 40 paras, postmarked, and, in total ignorance of its legitimate locality, placed among the stamps of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, owing to its apparent consanguinity with the small red ½ groschen of that duchy. Very few collectors in this country could then boast of more than one, if that even, of these individuals; and the existence of a former issue was totally ignored. On the faith of a mention in one of the continental catalogues, our first manualist introduced the mythical 62 p.; which we think will probably turn up, or something very much like it, one of these fine (stamp) days, as it is not likely the idea of the existence of such an article could be wholly groundless. In the summer of that year, we saw in one of the choice Parisian collections, with the old Spanish and other then priceless specimens, a set of the oldest round Moldavians. We noted them, but could not persuade their insertion in the second or third editions of the manual; and it was not till the fourth accredited them to the world, that the ancient, or so-called ancient, issues of Moldavia, were looked upon in England otherwise than with suspicious eyes.

We write, so-called ancient, because—

whether current, remainders, or reprints,—they can yet be procured uncancelled from the post-office of Jassy. We must take it for granted the postal officials there do not forge their own stamps; but, being one of the few individuals fortunate enough to possess a genuine postmarked specimen of these emissions, very rare in that state, we must say the discrepancy is so great as totally to preclude the possibility of their having been stamped from the same die. This cannot proceed, as in the instance of the Corrientes, local Melbourne, &c., from the engraver having made several designs on one plate; the stamps of the Danubian principalities, then and now, being individually and irregularly hand-stamped on sheets of tissue paper. The early and later Moldavian issues bore alike a representation of the urus, a star, and a post horn; the former with legend in native, the latter (except the monetary designation) in Roman characters.

The stamps for the principalities, as united under Prince Couza, in addition to the former emblems, sport an eagle crowned, and holding in his beak a sceptre. Of this issue, there seem to be two distinct colours, in the 3 p. and 30 p.; the one yellow and orange, the other light and dark blue. The whole of the inscription in these is in Roman letters.

We may conclude by hoping, for the sake of postal amateurs in general and postal merchants in particular, that Prince Couza, having displayed his Parisian partialities by the adoption of a *coup d'état*, which we see has gained the approbation of his subjects by an overwhelming majority, will follow the example of his neighbours, both Turks and Greeks, by commissioning one of the tasteful engravers of Paris to prepare him some designs for a less uncivilized-looking series of postage stamps for the united principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Standard Guide to Postage-Stamp Collecting. Giving the Value and Degrees of Rarity. By Messrs. BELLARS and DAVIE. Second edition. London: John Camden Hotten.

THIS is not a mere reprint of the previous edition, as considerable pains seem to have been taken for the improvement of the work. In our review of this manual as it originally appeared, we took occasion to note the unique excellency of rendering a verbatim and literatim copy of the various inscriptions on the several specimens described; thus greatly facilitating the identification of a doubtful individual by the most ignorant of tyros. This is peculiarly noticeable in the Russian and Polish envelopes; there being no possible means of distinguishing the latter from the former of the same colour, without such additional aid.

We think the compilers of this work err on the right side, in adducing many doubtful specimens; as one can expunge with much more facility than supply an individual. We should be much pleased with information respecting the grounds for accrediting the Mormon stamp, and also as regards the twopenny blue Cape, and fivepenny blue New South Wales, to which a correspondent called our attention, and to which we have elsewhere alluded.

The removal of the large series of New Granada back to the earliest date must be an error: the 20 centavos of that issue is red, not brown, and the 1 peso is altogether omitted.

The combination of index and money table is both ingenious and highly useful. The ornamental cover, lithographed by Messrs. Day, is singularly appropriate and attractive.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE MOST DISTANT POINT to which mails are conveyed by British packet is Auckland, New Zealand, about 15,000 statute miles from Southampton; the nearest is Calais, 26 miles from Dover.

A NEW MAIL CONVEYANCE.—Some of the country postmen, who have long distances to travel, to distribute letters to widely-detached houses, are using velocipedes to assist (?) them in their labours.

THE DIES FOR THE STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE States, bearing portraits, were made in England, and ran the blockade. They are printed in the Confederate States; but there are numerous forgeries of them.—*Standard Guide.*

THEFT OF FOREIGN STAMPS.—On May 13, G. Mann was charged with stealing from £25 to £30 worth of stamps from Messrs. Steinau, Jones, & Co., of Manchester, by whom he had been employed; he had been discharged about three weeks, when a great quantity of stamps was missed. A search was made, and about £5 10s. worth found in Mann's possession. Committed for one month with hard labour.

SELF-CANCELLING STAMPS.—An ingenious gentleman has proposed a stamp which he calls 'self-cancelling.' The impression is upon a thin oil paper. After it has once adhered, you can only remove a piece of blank colourless paper, the impression being left upon the envelope.

THE DISTANCE OVER WHICH MAILS ARE AT PRESENT conveyed within the United Kingdom, by railways, mail carts, steam packets, &c., is about one hundred and fifty thousand miles *a-day*, or more than six times the distance round the earth; and the number of letters delivered annually is five hundred and thirty-nine millions.

A COUNTRY POSTMASTER had a letter put into his hand through the office window, together with the following message delivered with great emphasis: 'Here's a letter; she wants it to go along as fast as it can, cause, there's a feller wants to have her here, and she's courted by another feller that's not here, and she wants to know whether he is going to have her or not.'

ACCIDENT TO A PILLAR LETTER BOX.—A singular accident befell one of the pillar letter boxes at Montrose. The street gas pipes having been opened for the purpose of examination and repair, an escape took place, and some of the gas found its way into the letter box. The night watchman, to light his pipe, struck a match on the top of the box, when a violent explosion took place, forcing out the door and doing other damage, but fortunately causing no injury either to the watchman or to the letters.

A WONDERFUL POSTMAN AND AN EXTRAORDINARY PONY.—Mr. James Cross, the Great Eccleston postman, has in his keeping, and to all appearances as fresh as ever, a pony which he has driven 17½ years. The animal is 20 years old; and during the time that Mr. Cross has been its owner it has travelled 78 miles a week, or 3952 a year. In the aggregate, it has travelled 66,160 miles. The pony is now stout and hearty, and like its master, never had a doctor, and never took a dose of medicine in its life. It never missed its day's work, except on one occasion, when it is said a clumsy blacksmith pinched its foot with a nail whilst shoeing.—*Morning Star.*

MAURITIUS 'NAXIVE' STAMPS.—The adhesive labels, issued at Mauritius in 1858, with the Queen's head on a ground of diagonal lines, appear to have been executed in the island, and are very roughly made. As the old block became worn out, a fresh one was cut, and consequently there are not only differences in the head of the Queen, but the letters in the inscription vary in size, and the diagonal lines are more or less coarsely marked. The word MAURITIUS in these labels commences at the right lower angle, so as to read from below upwards on the right side of the stamp. Most of these remarks will apply to the issue on a ground of vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines, except that the word MAURITIUS begins at the right upper angle.—*Mount Brown.*

INVENTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—The invention of postage stamps is generally ascribed to the English, and certainly they were first used in England. But a Stockholm paper, the *Fryshitten*, says, that so far back as 1823, a Swedish officer, Lieut. Trekenber, of the Artillery, petitioned the Chamber of Nobles to propose to the Government to issue stamped paper specially destined to serve for envelopes for prepaid letters. 'The fact,' it adds, 'is duly recorded in the minutes of the Chamber, under date of 23rd March, 1823.' The proposition was warmly supported by Count de Schwerin, on the ground that it would be both convenient to the public and to the post-office, but it was rejected by a large majority.—*Galignani.*

[This fact is briefly alluded to at page 58 of the first volume of our magazine.—ED.]

ADVENTURES OF A NEWSPAPER.—An apprentice lad on board an English vessel in Calcutta, had lately a packet presented to him through the post-office, the postage of which amounted to twenty rupees, or about £2 sterling. It merely contained a newspaper, which some friend of his in London had enclosed in half a sheet of paper, and addressed to him when his vessel was in London, expecting that it would find him in St. Katherine's dock. His vessel, however, sailed before the letter could be delivered, and it followed him—first to Hobart Town, next to Sydney, thence to Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, thence to the Mauritius, and finally back again to Calcutta, where it caught him, after having travelled 30,000 miles, and occupied on its tour one year and eight months.

STATE OF THE NEAPOLITAN POST-OFFICE IN 1860.—'To give an illustration,' says Count Arrivabene, the special correspondent of the *Daily News* in Southern Italy during the Garibaldian war, in his work on *Italy under Victor Emmanuel*, 'of the confusion which prevailed in one of the branches of the administration [of the Provisional Government]—the Post-Office, I will relate a circumstance which happened to Sir James Lacaita, towards the end of 1860. That gentleman arrived at Naples in the beginning of December, and was astonished at not receiving letters from his friends in England. Every day he went regularly to the post-office himself, and the answer was, "No letters." At last, one day he went with the determination to look himself into the box marked with the letter L. His inspection soon led to the discovery of a dozen letters which had been lying there since the 10th of the month. When the chief clerk was appealed to, to explain the circumstance, he merely said it could be a matter of no importance whether a man received a letter one day or another, provided he got it at last. I have also heard of Garibaldians who at the period I am speaking of had not received a single line from their friends since they left home, although they had been assured by friends who had come to Naples that their families had written regularly once a week.'

PUNCTUALITY OF MAIL PACKETS.—Several instances occurred of remarkable punctuality in the delivery of mails conveyed over great distances, even when such punctuality was dependent on packets arriving at a point of junction by different routes. Among them were the following:—1st. The arrival of the mails *via* Marseilles despatched from Sydney, New South Wales, distant nearly 13,000 miles, on the 22nd September; from Calcutta, distant 8,000 miles, on the 10th October; from Shanghae, distant upwards of 11,000 miles, on the 19th, and from Hong Kong, distant upwards of 10,000 miles, on the 27th September. These mails were all due in London on the 13th November at midnight, and they arrived one hour and ten minutes before that time. 2nd. The mails from the West Indies and Central America, despatched from Southampton on the 17th September, were delivered at the Danish Island of St. Thomas, distant more than 4000 miles, at the precise moment at which they were due, viz., at 6 a.m. on the 2nd October. On the same voyage, the mails for Jamaica and Demerara, conveyed in each case by a separate branch packet, were delivered within a few minutes of the time at which they were due, while the mails for parts of Central America and for the Pacific were delivered at Colon on the Eastern Coast of the Isthmus of Panama, distant 5400 miles, 30 minutes after time, the packet having been detained at sea that precise time by H.M.S. *Orlando*; and the mails for Chili, after having been conveyed with others across the Isthmus of Panama, were delivered at Valparaiso, distant nearly 9000 miles from Southampton, two hours before the appointed time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRINCE CONSORT ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I am much amused that Mr. Burns should call his observations on the Prince Consort Stamp a reply to my note, when he confirms my idea in every respect; showing distinctly that they were never shown at a committee *on postage*, were never intended for *postage stamps* or ever suggested as such, and, therefore, have no more right to the name of 'essay' than the emperor Napoleon's heads that are sold on hom-boms.

It is odd that a person who professes to have such accurate information of the secrets of the stamp office and the post office, should not have told his reader that the original wood-block, cut by Thompson, is in the Museum at South Kensington. India-proof impressions of that block are not so rare as his foot note would lead his readers to suppose: I have seen many of them, and have one in my collection. When I saw the advertisement in the *Times* I concluded it was a hoax, or an attempt of some unscrupulous dealer to find a rich simpleton to fleece.

Mr. Burns seems to forget that pierced paper, pierced cards, and pierced tin and other metals were in use before Mr. Archer applied it to the separation of postage stamps.

Yours truly,

British Museum. J. E. GRAY.

PROSECUTION OF STAMP FORGERS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Seeing in your magazine so many remarks on forged stamps, I think it is not generally known that there is no existing law in Great Britain against forging or vending forged *obsolete* stamps. Mr. E. L. Pemberton, in a letter to the *Liverpool and Newport Stamp Advertiser*, writes, 'I wonder none of those who are so largely engaged in the disreputable traffic have not been prosecuted.' Now any one being prosecuted for selling forged obsolete stamps is nonsense, unless they guarantee them genuine; but all dealers will find it the safest plan not to guarantee their stamps genuine, there being many forgeries so well executed that even very experienced hands have been taken in, and some poor duffer may come to grief by inadvertently guaranteeing a forged stamp genuine.

Glasgow. VERITAS.

[Persons selling forged stamps as genuine may be prosecuted in the County Court or otherwise, for obtaining money under false pretences; but we question its being worth any one's while to do so. Collectors must be on their guard, and if once intentionally deceived steer clear of the offending party in future.—ED.]

QUESTIONABLE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In continuation of my last letter, I have lately met with a shilling blue, triangular Cape, which exactly matches the fourpenny blue in the shade of colour—a shade which 'doctoring' will never produce. I have, too, seen many other blue shilling stamps, but they were chemical effects; this blue shilling is of course accidental, and probably but one sheet was printed. But still I do not see why there being a shilling blue Cape, should be any reason for believing in the other blue stamps mentioned in my former letter.

Talking of these Cape stamps, I do not know of an authentic specimen of the fourpenny blue-black. Two dealers who have had thousands of Cape stamps passing through their hands—I am not exaggerating when I say thousands,—and amongst those were the old block penny blue and fourpenny rose, as well as all the other block and die printed ones, have never met with any such stamp as the fourpenny blue-black, other than a few accidentally discoloured—by sea water and otherwise—fourpenny blue. I think that all the specimens in collections would turn out to be such specimens upon investigation. I see, in your replies to correspondents in No 14, that you have never met with the 5 cents Sandwich Islands upon pure white paper; it is as rare as the 60 cruzie Tuscany upon pure white paper, but it does exist. The 1 and 2 cents (each in blue and black) of the Hawaiian Islands are excessively variable in the figures and letters, and are difficult stamps to detect a good imitation of.

The first issue for Lubeck had the 4 sch. stamp in *black*; this 4 sch. was used for two or three days, and then it was changed to the green stamp, which was used until last year. I do not think the Lubeck vary so much as to show any discrepancies in the size of the figures and letters; as far as I have observed there is but one type. The Spanish official (without date), ½ onza, is found both lithographed and die printed; the first is on deep yellow paper, the latter upon a paler shade. I see you speak of a collection of 2400 as the largest one you know. I heard of one containing the vast number of 3900 specimens; what minute differences must be made to swell up the numbers in that manner; all sorts of doctored shades, faded colours, and 'fishy' stamps must be acknowledged to produce such a sum total. I should think the owner accepted all those Hamburg private labels which I saw set forth so accurately by your correspondent, 'F. L.,' to the number of 117 different specimens! It is too much to ask us to believe in *every one* of them.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Edgbaston, Birmingham.

OPPEN'S STAMP ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your valuable magazine, to suggest to H. Whymper, Esq. the following improvements (or what I, with others, think would be such) in Oppen's album. First, that the colours of the old stamps be given; * and, secondly, that space be assigned for the insertion of the flags and arms belonging to each country; and that a sheet be added at the commencement of each country, marking spaces for the flag, and coat of arms, and also the portrait of the reigning sovereign. Hoping you will excuse me for trespassing on your space,

I am, yours respectfully,

Preston. H. W.

* They are.—ED.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. S., Trinity St. Mary, Ipswich.—We do not know to what you allude.—We never received any Nova Scotia stamp from you.

R. J. W., Hornsea, Hull.—Like yourself, we see the Wenden stamps advertised for sale; and, like yourself, are destitute of any authentic information respecting them, although we have more than once stated our desire of obtaining such. We would thank the advertisers of them, who certainly must be supposed to know whence they come, for some inkling thereupon.—The only way, or at least, the best, of obtaining knowledge of the value of a collection, is by forwarding it to a dealer for that purpose.

IXION.—Your head must be rather dizzy from turning round so often on your wheel, or you would be fully aware that the impressions you mention have, like all objects of *fantdisie*, only an artificial value; in other words, they are worth as much as you can possibly obtain for them. Many amateurs would pay a good price for such, others would not admit them at all. If you really wish to dispose of them, you had better advertise, or send them to a respectable vendor for sale.

NOBODY, Dublin.—The 25 c. French empire very dark blue, is the earliest issue of that stamp. The shades of light and dark blue, and that colour on tinted paper are a later issue.—The Mauritius five-shilling and 2 c. green Confederate States, mentioned by Mount Brown but not in Bellars & Davie's manual, were either not issued or unknown to those gentlemen when their book was published. —The 5, 15, and 40 cmet, 15 cents, and 40 cent of Modena, being merely accidental varieties, we suppose they were not deemed worthy of note.—As for the stamps mentioned in the *Standard Catalogue*, and which you have vainly hunted for in your Mount Brown, such as the twopenny light-blue of Natal and the Cape of Good Hope; Austrian Italy 2, 3, and 15 soldi; 20 c. and 80 c. French colonies; fivepenny blue New South Wales; and bust of Davis 5 c. rose Confederate States, you will find them nowhere else but *in nubibus*. The French colonies and the 15 s. Austrian Italy were indeed expected, and even catalogued by Brown in some of his editions, but they never appeared. —We have seen a stamp which may answer to the description of the dos reales of Mexico.—We have also seen the 5 reis of Don Pedro, hair parted; but not a 25 r., nor a 50 r., or 100 r. with hair curled.—The 5 n. gr. Saxony, king's head, stamp and inscription to *right*, noted by Messrs. B. & D., *did* exist, as well as the 1, 2, and 3 n. gr., but not the 10 n. gr.

NEVILLE A. B. B., Bury St. Edmund's.—The colours of the current Italian series are: 1 c., sea-green; 5 c., dusky-green; 10 c., dull-orange; 15 c., blue; 30 c., chocolate; 40 c., rose; and 2 lire, scarlet.

HORATIA.—Your green Norway is evidently a Hamburg chemical, alias chemical humbug.—The 6 kr. Wurtemburg blue, and 2 s. gr. North Germany of the same colour have just started into being.—The stamp prepaying your Prussian returned letter, may be introduced with propriety into a collection.—No compound English stamps but the ninepenny and tenpenny are procurable.

T. J. C., Cavendish Road.—The sixpenny and shilling octagon adhesive English stamps were unaccountably omitted in Mount Brown's fourth edition, but you will find them in their proper places in that just published.—The light and dark varieties may be deemed accidental, but the sixpenny on yellowish paper is a decided variety. —When cut close, there is, of course, no means of ascertaining which were adhesives and which from envelopes. —We have seen the 4 a. old Indian both on buff and white paper.—All the Spanish greens and blues vary exceedingly in hue.—The sixpenny Victoria of 1862 is both yellow and orange; but we suppose it would almost require a double-sized manual to note every trifling or even palpable variety.—The demand will probably create the supply.

STEMPEL.—On publication of your name and address, no doubt many collectors will be ready to exchange specimens.—We wish success to your unpublished publication.—The advertisements in our columns will give you the desired information on the subject of stamp albums.

J. M. STOURTON, Henley-on-Thames.—Thanks for your information respecting the Madeira stamp.—You will see the Danish stamp you mention figured and described in the present number.

F. H., Wolverhampton.—Your black twopenny English shows no evident remains of the original blue to be entitled to distinction. We saw a perfectly black stamp of that value in a gentleman's collection last week, which was taken from an old letter. It is most decidedly not artificially changed, but *may* have been so from natural causes.

A. C. M., Eastbourne.—On looking at the *Postal Guide*, you will see numberless instances, or at least, too many for quotation, in which employment may be found for the threepenny and ninepenny English stamps. The former in many cases is the foreign book and newspaper charge, and the latter prepays to Moldavia and other places. Again, many ship letters cost sevenpence for prepayment, necessitating a fourpenny and threepenny combined. Some postages are elevenpence, requiring a ninepenny and twopenny.—As for those letters demanding—as in the case of Poland—elevenpence-halfpenny, and others with an odd halfpenny, we are not aware if a penny is permitted to be cut in half for the requisite sum. If not, it is one of our official farces to fix a payment that cannot be made but in cash, entailing a loss of that or of time at the post-office. The heart-shaped English essay, if adopted, would have well answered such requirements.

WILLIE, Ansley.—The 1 groschen white of Hanover was issued, April 1, 1860.—BESTELLGELD-FREI may be rendered, Prepaid, free. Its value is also 1 groschen.—The stamps were impressed on English newspapers ere since a tax was set upon them, years and years before the introduction of a letter stamp.—The album of Moens, of Brussels, is a vast improvement on that of Lallier.—The publishers wish all communications to be sent on or before the 10th of the month.

A SUBSCRIBER.—The black English envelope, Queen's head, no date, one penny in value, is generally admitted into collections, though banished from the later editions of Mount Brown. We have seen several of them.

D. D., Weymouth.—There is no way of recovering your money from a lad under sixteen, except by applying to his father; and it is possible that that individual, if not a man of honour, may repudiate the debt, and as in a case that came under our own observation, abuse and insult you for 'trying to deprive a boy of his pocket money.' Perhaps the better way would be to trust to the young collector's honour.—We agree with you that it would be very difficult, if not impossible before most magistrates, to prove the genuineness or falsity of a stamp, without having recourse to the expensive machinery of a postal *expert*. This the forging scamps are well aware of, and this renders them all the more fearless in their nefarious traffic.

BLAIR ATHOL.—The shilling blue Cape is recognised by many collectors, and the idea is prevalent that there was one sheet of them printed and employed.—We have never given our attention to 'Her Majesty's Service' envelopes.—Mobile being a flourishing seaport, the representation of sailors in her stamp is easily accounted for.—Krantz's stamps are understood to have been made to sell.—We conclude the peculiar paper on which the second issue of Hanover was printed, was for the prevention of forgery.

JACOBUS, Charlton.—The Hamburg Boten *are* used for local letters, and are, as such, admissible.—We have often answered the question you propound.—The stamp given with the June number was the Austrian newspaper label.

A. C. Y., Tonbridge.—Your yellow stamp is one of the Baden local postage labels. The other is an Austrian bill stamp.

G. O. P.—The Spanish official stamps are for official correspondence, and government packets generally.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER III.

WHEREIN BROWN RECEIVES DISCOURAGING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FRENCH CABINET STAMP, AND I DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF POSTAGE LABELS TO MY OWN SATISFACTION.

We were assembled around the hospitable board of M. Durot—which, by the way, was presided over by his lady, a lively and amiable little Frenchwoman, as I am bound to confess—when Brown exclaimed:—

'I've got a treasure of a stamp, Durot—a jewel; a stamp hitherto unknown to collectors.'

Our host smiled and requested to see it. 'With all my heart,' replied my enthusiastic comrade, and immediately producing and opening his note book, displayed his valued acquisition. M. Durot examined the stamp, and then gravely inquired where our friend Brown had obtained it. Whereupon Brown eloquently described the appearance of the stamp vendor, and repeated his statement that the stamp was used by the French ministry to frank their letters, and concluded by declaring his firm belief in the genuineness of his purchase.

'I fear,' said Durot, 'that Monsieur Brown has been imposed upon: this impression is only a bonbon stamp, that is to say, a label placed by confectioners on their little bonbon boxes.'

'You must be mistaken,' replied Brown, somewhat staggered, nevertheless; 'my informant positively stated that it was the cabinet stamp.'

'The proofs are, I am afraid, too convincing against its authenticity,' said our host; 'for here' (taking from a plate on the chiffonnier a box with a similar label) 'is a fac-simile in all respects of your dearly-bought jewel.'

Brown looked anything but gratified at this information. No man likes to throw away twelve shillings for absolutely nothing, and this our friend had done. It was no wonder therefore that he appeared slightly discomposed, particularly when he remembered his own previous elation at his good fortune. But, as M. Durot remarked, his mistake was pardonable.

'You have been,' said he, 'so short a time in our capital that it is not surprising that you were deceived. But I should hardly have thought you would have suspected us of perpetrating such a barbarous stamp as that.'

'I might certainly have considered that point,' replied Brown, 'for I must acknowledge your stamps are truly handsome. Our own labels (to use a homely English phrase) could not hold a candle to them.'

'No, no, I cannot admit so great an inferiority as you imply,' returned our host; 'but I may remind you that our nation excels in the execution of works of art.'

'And even your stamps,' I ventured to reply, 'bear witness to your natural aptness in design. To me it appears that those issued during the republic are models of beauty. The Grecian profile of the head of Liberty, moreover, gives them such a classical appearance as none others possess.'

'Yes,' said my companion in an undertone, 'and it would be much better if they were still remarkable for that classical style.' But this rather ill-timed remark passed unnoticed, as Madame Durot, who had been hitherto a patient listener to our conversation, now turning to me exclaimed:—

'Pardon me if I inquire, Monsieur Jabez, why you should thus collect. It seems to me that our stamps are merely incidental to the postal system, and therefore of very little consequence.'

'Permit me, madame,' I replied, 'to question the correctness of that opinion. I do not know the system pursued in France prior to the establishment of cheap postage; but in my own country the fee for transmission had to be marked on each letter by the *employés* in our post-offices, after the weight had been ascertained by them,—operations which occupied much costly time; and as much more was consumed by the postman, in the collection from door to door of the amounts thus marked. Now all this labour is saved by each writer affixing a stamp which prepays his letter. But had a cheap postal system been introduced without some such plan as the use of stamps having

been adopted, it would have been a failure, because of the number of persons who would be required to mark the letters. In fact, it could no more exist than society without coin as an equivalent for goods and labour.'

'When are you going to pull up?' inquired Brown; an inquiry which immediately reminded me of the length to which my explanation had run. Our hostess, however, declared herself convinced, and I rested on my laurels contented, whilst Brown sipped his glass of claret (not Gladstone's) with increased gusto.

CHAPTER IV.

WHEREIN WE LEARNEDLY DISCUSS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FRENCH STAMPS, OBSOLETE AND CURRENT.

We remained about ten days in Paris after the occurrence of the events narrated in the last chapter, and then started for Lyons the provincial, after visiting and admiring the lions metropolitan, as orthodox tourists are in duty bound to do. Upon arriving at the southern capital, and immediately after partaking of a needful meal, we sallied out to the post-office, and purchased a dozen 40 c. stamps, wherewith to frank our letters to England, and a couple of each of the other values for our albums. It appeared strange at first to have to inquire for the imperial labels instead of the accustomed queen's heads; but the value we set upon our new acquisitions was greatly enhanced, and a reality imparted to them which they might otherwise have lacked, by our obtaining them at the office; for there we saw the postal system—which is merely indicated by a French stamp when seen in England—in actual operation.

Upon returning to our hotel we immediately began to remove the obliterated specimens which had hitherto represented the *timbres postes* of our ally on the page devoted to France in our albums, and to mount our unused purchases. Whilst thus employed I observed Brown scrutinising one of them very closely; and after a while he exclaimed with energy:—

'Jabez, whoever says there is no good in stamp collecting is a——is a nincompoop. Why, sir, there is a world of history in one of these stamps. They are evidences of the achievement of a life-long aim. The head of Louis Napoleon is upon them; but before it superseded that of Liberty there was rough work in Paris. Men used to think the present emperor was not quite sound in brain, but they have found out their mistake. For years he worked up towards his present position, which he vowed to attain to, and his vow is accomplished.'

'Quite right, Brown,' I replied, 'touch up that bit a little more and it would do for a *Quarterly*. But to come down from history to physiognomy, don't you think the portrait of the emperor on the stamps is very unlike him?'

'Yes,' said friend Brown; 'to judge him from that you would suppose him to be a man who paid more attention to the correct parting of his hair than to the affairs of a nation.'

'Exactly so,' I remarked; 'he appears to be a fashionable beau—a "lady's man"—anything, in fact, but a ruler.'

'In reality care has marked him strongly,' replied Brown; 'but still he looks a thoughtful and an energetic man.'* The engraving of his head, by the way, appears to have been an exact copy of that on the presidential stamp.'

'Barring only the B for Barré,' I remarked. But Brown was down upon me.

'That won't do, Jabez,' he exclaimed, 'that won't do. That pun will never pass muster. I was about to remark that the republican issue is a worthy exception to the general rule, that the first issue of a country is poorly designed and executed. The engraving of the head of Liberty is very good; and the appearance of the stamp is altogether clear and well defined.'

'Yes,' I replied, 'and far superior to our own labels, which are but mediocre specimens, notwithstanding that the length of time they have been in use has allowed opportunity for alteration.'

'But,' said friend Brown, 'as we remarked at Durot's, the French are more handy than ourselves at this kind of work.

* As I am writing *ex post facto*, it may not be out of place to remark that the 2 c. and 4 c. bear a very different portrait to those on the earlier issued stamps, and quite as unjust to the emperor in the other direction. Upon these he appears an enervated, worn-out man, which he certainly is not.

All their stamps look well. The imperial issue is very handsome: the design stands out clearly, and the colours are bright and decided;* but our own stamps are unworthy of the nation which introduced the postal system.'

'And two of them are of less value than the English penny,' I remarked. 'In fact, in cheap postage the French have outrun us; for though they commenced with a 25 centimes or twopence-halfpenny stamp, they now have a 5 and a 1 centime stamp, whilst a penny is still the lowest value of ours.'

'Certainly,' said Brown, 'we are behind many other countries in this respect. We require a halfpenny stamp for district letters, and our government could well afford to introduce a cheaper rate.'

Our discussion might have continued much longer, had not a letter for Brown arrived, which had followed him from Paris, into the study of which he at once plunged, leaving me to finish in silence the arrangement of our French stamps.

(To be continued).

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

VII.—LIBERIA.

'Nil admirari.'

'Seeing is [not] believing.'

The primal aim of the light literature of the day appears to be the creating a *sensation*. Not wishing to be ranked amongst the heavies, we must bend to the fashionable current by favouring our stamp readers with a grand surprise.

The greatest of satiric poets, from whom we quote the above much-hackneyed maxim, would, we imagine, have had his philosophic equilibrium much agitated, if not entirely upset, had he been told that what he had been in the habit of seeing and handling for three or four years was, after all, a non-entity! Yet such it seems is actually the case, and, spite of the trite old English common sense and plain, hearty proverb, 'seeing' is *not* 'believing'!

This curious and apparently impertinent prelude to our notice of Liberia and its stamps was induced by the astounding information we have just received, that——Liberia never had any stamps!

Ay, readers, young and old, you may well stare at finding that the poetically-designed, and once very rare and much-coveted specimens, *one* of which even was considered to grace an album, and of which, not very long ago, few could sport a whole series, are gross forgeries!

We do not ask you to credit this marvel, remember; in fact, we do not believe it ourselves; although we were gravely informed of the fact that a gentleman of high literary attainments, the brother of one of our most eminent scientific treasures of knowledge, who has lately returned from a three years' sojourn in Liberia, says he never saw a postage stamp all the time he was there; that the natives do not want, nor ever had any; and that all the so-called Liberian stamps in all the countless postage albums of collectors are neither more nor less than ingenious impostures!

To combat such an erroneous impression we need not take up a heavy cudgel. An envelope lies before us from a correspondent in Monrovia, officially posted, postmarked, and stamped with some of the maligned individuals. See a specimen of one, the six cents. There are three values known—that represented, the 12, and the 24 cents. The latter is found of two different shades of green, light and dark, and also, whether accidentally or designedly, olive-coloured. The specimen represented is a much more rosy red than that value formerly was. The difference is very palpable when the two colours are in juxtaposition. The blue sixpenny was once printed in lilac, but we believe on one sheet only, which makes that variety very rare. They are all three known as proofs in black on India paper. Continue in your belief, then, and—



* Of the last issued stamps, the 2 c. is of a remarkably rich hue, whilst the 4 c. is an exception to the rule, its colour being, as most collectors are aware, a dull lavender.

Doubt that the earth is round;
Doubt that the sun is fire;
Think ocean is not salt,
And truth herself a liar;
Doubt that the ice is cold;
That Russia owns Siberia;
Doubt anything you like,
But do not doubt——

LIBERIA.

In the then United States of North America a Society was formed in 1821, under the style and designation of 'The American Colonization Society, for the Settlement of the freed Coloured People of the United States.' The board of this society was composed of four directors, a president, a secretary, a treasurer, a registrar, and twelve elected members. A citizen's annual subscription was one dollar, and thirty dollars ensured a life membership.

The western coast of Africa was chosen as the fittest spot for founding this experimental colony, both as suited to the constitutions, and grateful to the patriotic feelings of the hitherto almost disregarded beings scarcely recognised as 'men and brethren.' The idea was also most probably entertained that a settlement of free blacks, by influence and example, would materially tend to the furtherance of African civilisation.

In the December of the year mentioned the first steps for localising the new settlers were taken on the banks of the Mesurado, about two miles from the cape of that name, on a tract of land then covered with almost impermeable forest, which the agents of the society had purchased from the aboriginal inhabitants.

The American emigrants, who had been awaiting the result of the negociation at Sierra Leone, were transported, in two small schooners belonging to the colony, to a small isle called Perseverance, bought likewise by the agents from the son of an English merchant named John Mills.

As is not unfrequently the case in such instances, the natives, having received the price of purchase, conspired to drive off the settlers. The latter could not have stood ground unaided, but a native king named George, and Boatswain, the chief of the Condoes, one of the most powerful of the neighbouring tribes, lent their valuable protection.

King George afterwards became inimical, and severe were the struggles of the poor immigrants. Patience, perseverance, and industry at length prevailed; and a singular contract is still preserved in the archives of Monrovia, to the effect that King Peter, King Governor, King Zoda, King Long Peter, and King Jemmy, under consideration of a certain number of muskets, beads, iron bars and pots, hats, shoes, glasses, knives, forks, plates, spoons, pipes, umbrellas, and nails, with some calico, kerchiefs, tobacco, gunpowder, beef, pork, biscuit, and rum, did give and assign for ever to Capt. Robert Stackton and Dr. Eli Ayres, twenty thousand acres of rich and fertile land.

At a prayer meeting held on the 20th of December, 1816, in the parlour of Elias Caldwell, a pious citizen of Washington, a few friends of the despised negro had sued for Almighty aid, preliminary to a great public assembly to be holden the next day, for the purpose of discussing the best means for bettering his condition; and on the 25th of April, 1822, the schemes then broached eventuated in the planting of the American flag in the free coloured colony of Liberia at Cape Mesurado.

Monrovia, the chief town, was so named in honour of the President J. Monroe. It is now a flourishing seaport, with court-house, library, churches, schools, stores, wharves, a fort, and a lighthouse. There are some other towns doing considerable trade along the coast, and some in the interior, one of which, Caldwell, perpetuates the name of the benevolent projector of the colony.

On the 19th of August, 1824, the laws of Liberia were approved and confirmed by the American company. Sedition, mutiny, insubordination, or disobedience to the constituted authorities, were punishable by the courts of justice. Quarrelling, rioting, drunkenness, sabbath breaking, impiety, and libertinism were to be considered as infractions of the public peace, and judged accordingly. Petty theft, if the stolen property did not exceed a dollar in value, was atoned for by a fine four times the amount, and bail to twenty times that of the value abstracted. More serious robberies and felony were punished with whipping,

imprisonment, hard labour, and the galleys. Every able-bodied male receiving government allowance was to labour twice a week at the public works. Confiscation and exile settled all agitators. No colonist was admitted without the permission of the society. Judgment by jury as in Great Britain and the States. Free testamentary powers. A third of all property granted was reserved for state exigencies. Non-residence not allowed; and a good house was to be erected on every estate. Ten acres must be the limit of a property; and no lands were to be purchased from the natives.

The device of the public seal of the colony is in many respects identical with that of the postage stamps. There is the view of the ocean with ship under sail; the sun just emerging from the water: a flying dove holding an open scroll in its claws: a palm tree shading a plough and a spade; the words, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA below; and the national motto, THE LOVE OF LIBERTY BROUGHT US HERE, above. The national flag displays six red and five white longitudinal stripes alternately. In the upper angle of the flag is a square blue field covering five stripes, and in its centre a white star.

Liberia is supposed to be one of the most productive countries on the face of the earth. Its hills and plains are ever green, affording good provender all the year round to cattle, swine, fowl, ducks, goats, and sheep. Cotton, coffee, Indian and Guinea corn, millet, rice, indigo, coffee, and the sugar cane, with abundance of fruit, grow with very trifling amount of cultivation.

The principal exports at present are palm oil, dye woods, ivory, and rice, with gold, tortoise-shell, gums, hides, wax, ground nuts, ginger, and pepper.

The negro settlers seem to respond to the care that was taken for their welfare. A missionary wrote that a drunkard was a rarity in the country, nor did he ever hear an oath, or witness any desecration of the sabbath. The Scotch, even, would find nothing to cavil at in that respect, as, when on the occasion of the visit of the Prince de Joinville in a French frigate, his royal highness proposed to exchange salutes in token of his respect for the colony, the authorities declined the courtesy on account of its being the sabbath day!

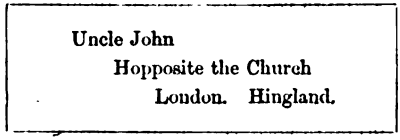
At different periods many of the native chiefs or kings of the vicinity have amalgamated themselves and their people with the now flourishing colony, which bids fair to radiate civilisation far into that beautiful but barbarous region. A specimen of native poetry may form an appropriate conclusion to our brief notice:—

'All hail, Liberia, hail!
Favour'd of God, all hail!
Hail! happy land!
From virtue ne'er remove:
By peace, and truth, and love,
And wisdom from above—
So shalt thou stand.'

THE BLIND LETTER OFFICE.

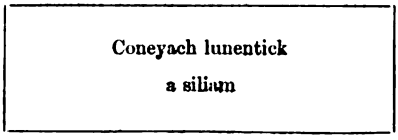
THE Blind Letter Office is the receptacle for all illegible, misspelt, misdirected, or insufficiently-addressed letters or packets. Here the clerk or clerks, selected from amongst the most efficient and experienced officers, guess at what ordinary intelligence would readily denominate insoluble riddles. Large numbers of letters are posted daily with superscriptions which the sorters cannot decipher, and which the great majority of people would not be able to read. Others, again, are received with perhaps only the name of some small village; the writers thinking it a work of supererogation to add some neighbouring town, or even a county. Numberless, for instance, are the letters bearing such addresses as 'John Smith, gardener, Flowerdale,' or 'Throgmorton Hall, Worcestershire.' Circulars, by the thousand are posted in London and other large towns without hesitancy, and with the greatest confidence in the 'final-perseverance' principle of the Post-Office people, with addresses not more explicit than the foregoing. Many country gentlemen would seem to cherish the idea that the names of their mansions should be known equally far and near from their manorial acres, and somehow they seem to inoculate their correspondents with the same absurd notion. If, however, it be possible to reduce the hieroglyphics on some strange letter to ordinary every-day English, or find, from diligent search in his library of reference,

information relative to imperfectly-addressed letters (information which might have been given much more easily by the senders), our readers may be sure that the cunning gentleman of the Blind Office, justly known for his patience and sagacity, will do it, unless, indeed, the letter be 'stone blind,' or hopelessly incomplete. As a genuine example of stone-blind letters, take the following, the first of a batch which has been known to pass through the blind-room of the General Post-Office:—

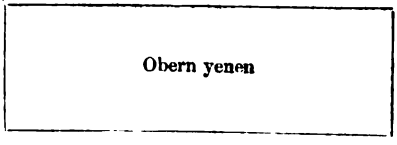


It would certainly have been a wonderful triumph of skill to have put this letter in a fair way for delivery: for once the blind officer would acknowledge himself beaten; and then the dead-letter officers would endeavour to find 'Uncle John's' *relative*, intimating to the said relative that greater explicitness is needed if 'Uncle John' must be found.

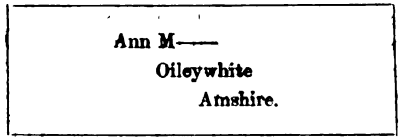
But they manage better with the next letter in the batch.



is part of the address of a letter which the sorter no doubt threw away from him with some impatience. The blind officer, however, reads it instantly, strikes his pen, perhaps, through the address, and writes on the envelope, 'Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum,' and passes it out for delivery.

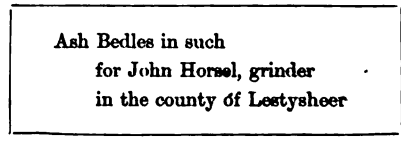


is seen in an instant to be meant for 'Holborn Union.' 'Isle of Wight' is, in like manner, written on a letter improperly addressed as follows:—



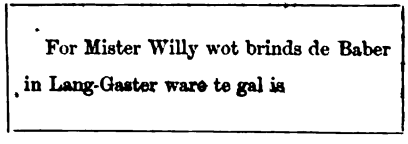
The probability is that the last-mentioned letter will come back to the Dead Letter Office, on account of no town being given in the address; still, the usual course is to send it out to the local district designated, there being always the possibility that certain individuals may be locally known.

'*Ashby-de-la-Zouch*' is a town to spell which gives infinite trouble to letter writers; but the post-office official is especially lenient and patient in cases of this kind. There are fifty different ways of spelling the name; and few letters, except those of the better classes, give it rightly spelt. 'Hasbedallarsuch' is the ordinary spelling among the poor living at a distance.



is the copy of a veritable address meant for the above town.

The blind-letter officers of an earlier date succumbed before the following letter:—



but the dead-letter officers were enabled from the contents to make out that it was meant for the editor of a Lancaster paper, 'where the gaol is.' The communication enclosed was an essay written by a foreigner against public schools!

The blind officers are supplied with all the principal London and provincial directories, court guides, gazetteers, &c.; and by the help of this, their library of reference,

added to their own experience and intelligence, they are generally able to put again into circulation without the necessity of opening them, five out of six of all the letters which are handed over to them. The addresses of some letters are at once seen to be the result of mistake on the part of senders. Letters addressed 'Lombard Street, Manchester,' 'St. Paul's Churchyard, Liverpool,' both obviously intended for London, are sent out for trial by the letter carriers at what are believed to be their real destinations. (See *Ninth Report*). Letters, again, for persons of rank and eminence, dignitaries of the Church, prominent officers of the army or navy, whose correct addresses are known, or can be ascertained, are immediately sent out for delivery to their right destination, however erroneously directed, without question or examination of contents. The following strange letters, meant for the eye of royalty, would not be impeded in their progress in any way:—

Keen Vic Tory at
Winer Casel

and another—

Miss
Queene Victoria
of England

would go to Windsor Castle without fail; while the following, posted in London at the breaking out of the Polish insurrection, would find its way to St. Petersburg as fast as packet could carry it:—

To the King of Rusheya
Feoren, with speed.

When the letter carriers and the blind officers have expended all their skill upon certain letters in vain, the next step is to send them to the Dead Letter Office.—*Her Majesty's Mails.*

No. III.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Greece.

ESSAYS.

Inscription [ΕΛΛ ΓΡΑΜΜ] *bust of King William George I. in oval within a fancy engine-turned frame, figures indicating value in lower angles. Col. imp.; rect.*

5 lepta rose, red, brown, bronze, black.
40 „ „ „ „ „ „

Same inscription, bust of King William George I. within a fancy undulating frame, figures indicating value each side. Col. imp.; rect.

20 lepta rose, red, brown, bronze, black.

Mexico.

ESSAYS.

May, 1864.—*Inscription* [POSTES] *bust of Emperor Maximilian I. in oval design for each value different. Col imp.; rect.*

10 cents; 25 c.; 40 c.; bronze.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; lake.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; rose.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; violet.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; blue-green.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; red-brown.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; brown.
10 „ 25 c.; 40 c.; black.
½ real; 1 real; 2 reales; slate.

United States of America.

LOCAL LABELS.

Adams' city express post. Black imp.; oct.
2 cents yellow-brown.

The American letter mail Co. [*eagle in oval*].
Drab.

Barr's penny dispatch. Black imp.; oblong.
Pale-green.

Boyd's city express post. Col. imp.; oval.
2 cents black.

Brattleboro V. T. P. O. Black imp.; oblong.
5 cents buff.

Brooklyn city express post. Black imp.; rect.
2 cents stone.

California penny postage from the post-office paid 5, care of the penny post Co. Col. imp.; large oblong.
Blue.

California penny post Co. paid 2 to the post-office. Col. imp.; oct.
Blue.
Carrier's stamp, bust of Franklin in oval. Col. imp.; rect.
Red-brown.
City dispatch post. Black imp.; rect.
3 cents.
Cumming's city post. Black imp.; square.
2 cents yellow.
Franklin city free dispatch post. Black imp.; oct.
Green.
Hall & Neill's free dispatch post. Black imp.; oblong.
Green.
International letter express Co. Black imp.; oblong.
2 cents green.
International letter express. Black imp.; small oblong.
2 cents green.
Jones' city express post [bust]. Black imp.; rect.
2 cents rose.
Letter express free [man with flag]. Black imp.
10 for a dollar, drab.
Letter express free. Black imp.; oval.
20 for a dollar, green.
New York city express [eagle on globe]. Black imp.; oval.
2 cents green.
Swart's city dispatch post. Col. imp.; rect.
Lavender.
Swart's rough-and-ready city dispatch post. Col. imp.; rect.
Green.
Blue.
United States city dispatch post. Black imp.; rect.
3 cents french-grey.
Warwick's city dispatch post, floral bordering. Black imp.; square.
2 cents green.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our last monthly paper under this title we commenced with a notice of the claimants for the honour of representing postal Mexico; we now beg leave to introduce the actual possessors of that dignity.



They are five in number; their monetary values the same as those of the former issues; and, commencing with the lowest denomination, are, brown, blue, yellow, green (represented), and pink. They are printed in colour on white. A crowned eagle to the right, holding snake's head in his mouth, right claw clutching the tail, and left claw bearing a branch. This device is in an oval frame, encroaching on the square one bounding the stamp: ornaments in the four corners: CORREOS MEXICO above: value beneath. A correspondent informs us that, a decimal coinage having been introduced, a new issue with the value in cents [illegible] consequently anticipated.

The Cape of Good Hope has not yet adopted the square shape for other than the shilling value; possibly because there still remains a stock of triangulars on hand. More probably, however, the die for the shilling is worn out, and not those of the others, as the penny and sixpenny have evidently been recently printed, the colours being quite changed; that of the former is now very brown-red, and that of the latter light, instead of dark violet. Both, in fact, approach much nearer the hues of the earlier than the later issues.

Van Diemen's Land transmits a peculiar series of similar but not identical pattern, printed in colour on white. The values are high, being half a crown, pink; five shillings, brown; and ten shillings, yellow. The device is St. George and the Dragon, in circles of various sizes. The highest value has it in a small circle, in the centre of an oval frame containing the name (TASMANIA) above, and monetary denomination below. The brown has it in a smaller circle, enclosed in an oblong oval garter, value marked

therein. The name is above, exterior to this. The lowest value, bears the same device, surrounded by a circular belt nearly filling the whole field of the stamp. Name above. These impressions are designed for bills and receipts; but we were informed they might be also used for heavy letters.



We ourselves possess an impression of the very rare old stamp of Finland here engraved, printed of a greenish-slate hue instead of black, the usual colour. We have also noticed an individual of the oblong oval 20 kop. of the same peculiar shade. We have been told the stamp last mentioned was an essay only, and never current.

The stamps lately emanating from New South Wales, to which we briefly alluded in our last number, are each one penny in value; one is a label, the other an envelope, principally designed for newspapers.



We append an engraving of the former. The adhesive is very like the present series for India. Queen's head crowned to left, in oval band containing NEW SOUTH WALES above, value beneath: ornamentation round this belt: scarlet impression on white paper.

The penny newspaper stamp has the head of our queen slightly in relief to the left: white on an oval scarlet ground with four white stars: NEW SOUTH WALES below, POSTAGE ONE PENNY above: an oval belt, also in white relief, and circumscribed by a scarlet line.

The Hamburg local here depicted is one of a series of six; and in appearance has a decided advantage over any of its legionary congeners. It is printed in colour on white; and the monetary denomination is very ingeniously and curiously introduced. The 1 sch. is lilac, 2 sch. yellow, 3 sch. pink, 4 sch. green, 6 sch. blue, and 8 sch. scarlet.



We received an essay from and for Belgium, which we suppose has no chance of being yet adopted, as we understand it was a *sine quâ non* that the new series was to bear a representation of the reigning sovereign's head. It has the Belgian arms in the centre: name above: value beneath in letters, and at the four corners in figures. It is printed of a very red violet or puce colour on white; and the comparatively small portion of ground covered by the device gives the stamp a very delicate as well as effective appearance.

On the coast of Venezuela, washed by the southern waters of the Caribbean Sea, are two ports—La Guaira, the harbour belonging to Caraccas, the capital, and some miles distant from it; and Puerto Cabello, in the province of Caribobo, one of the safest roadsteads in the world, said to derive its name from the circumstance that a hair (*cabello*) is sufficient to moor a vessel in its placid waters. These two ports, in conjunction with San Tomas, appear to have started postage stamps on their own hook, specimens of which we are about to describe. They evidently emanate from the well-known makers of the Guiana stamps; the paper employed, the colours, general appearance of the stamp, and, notably, the provokingly uneven mode of perforation, reminding one strongly of the individuals of that colony.

The two we have seen are printed in colour on white; medio real, colour of the 48 cents, and dos reales, colour of the 24 cents Guiana. The date 1864 fills the four corners as in those stamps. On the left side is SAN TOMAS; on the right, LA GUAIRA; and at the bottom, PTO. CABELLO. A steamer is represented on the upper portion of the remaining space; below this is PAQUETE in a semicircle; and below that the value. We will endeavour to get one engraved next month.

POSTAGE-STAMP COLLECTING IN ITALY.

[The following translation of a letter from a correspondent in Turin to the publisher of the *Timbre-Poste* may not be uninteresting to our readers, as illustrating the spread of the movement.—ED.]

POSTAGE-STAMP collectors are not very numerous as yet in Italy; perhaps something under a dozen in Turin; about the same

number in Modena; and a few more in the other principal cities—Genoa, Verona, Milan, Leghorn, Perugia, Naples, and Palermo. I must be understood as meaning real collectors, entering into the spirit of the pursuit with taste as well as eagerness, methodically and scientifically; for we have hosts of schoolboys who manage to scrape specimens together, but rather from imitation or speculation. We nickname them *racoglitori scimie* (monkey collectors). These young fellows congregate at the post-office, which has a vast central courtyard, sheltered by a glass roof from rain and cold. There they transact no end of purchases, sales, and exchanges: it is our Postage-Stamp Exchange.

Although this place is not over-suitable for such as ourselves, who are no longer schoolboys, we often avail ourselves of the opportunity of getting advantageous bargains. A collection of 150 to 200 specimens can be bought there for one or two francs, though, if the truth must be told, these stamps are of the commonest. By these statistics I mean simply to show how little these sucking amateurs care for their collections. They do not give themselves much trouble about their books; and after having renewed them ten or a dozen times, generally get tired and leave off. I must say they are rather annoying to the general public, accosting you quite unceremoniously with '*Signore, mi favorisca il franco bollo della sua lettera.*' 'Please give me the stamp off your letter, sir.' Sometimes they get nothing by their motion. The annoyance these young chaps occasioned gave rise to an article in the *Gianduja* (the Italian *Punch*); and latterly the post-office authorities no longer allow their territory to be invaded by these barbarians, who now congregate in the inner court of the House of Parliament, which is close to the Post-office.

Collectors of this sort have largely sprung up of late, to the great annoyance of their parents, who complain sadly of studies being neglected for the sake of bits of coloured paper.

It is a pity they are not more persevering and ardent in a regular way of collecting. I have often tried to encourage them by promising an Italian manual, but without success. As for ourselves, we use a French manual, sold at all the libraries here.

This want of energy is the more astonishing when we call to mind that Italy has always been the native country of the fine arts, of music, and of love. But the fancy for collecting takes no deep root there: the Italian is too impatient, too restless. He would like to get every stamp at once; whilst a well-stored album requires the patience of years—the steady pertinacity of the Northern nations—the perseverance of a German or a Swiss. We own that we are sometimes driven to discouragement ourselves, and lay aside our stamps for a few months; but our acquaintance with the Duchess di ———, who possesses a magnificent album, re-induces our persistence.

We keep up correspondence also with our fellow collectors of Italy, but they are very supine, and Turin may be justly styled the head-quarters of *timbromanie*. Out of something like fifty of my collecting acquaintances in different towns, I know scarcely ten possessing albums; the rest have their stamps stuck in small copy books, not always in the cleanest condition. I must except my Modena friends, four of whom sport albums, and hope they will continue to go on and prosper.

The real collectors of Turin, besides the Duchess di S———, are all young clerks or students, owning pretty good collections. Some English and Polish residents at Turin admire our albums very much, though the earlier editions of Moens and Lallier, particularly the latter, are not too correct. M. B. T. of Lyons, who so judiciously pointed out the errors of those gentlemen in a former number of the *Timbre-poste*, is particularly thankworthy.

A few words on the Italian stamps. We ourselves, in Italy, do not possess them all. The blue ½ tornese of Naples is excessively rare here; the early 5 centesimi of Sardinia are difficult to meet with, and are sold at fabulous prices. These stamps, generally employed for newspapers, were mostly destroyed or burnt. This accounts for their rarity. However, hosts of Italian stamps of nearly every kind are now in circulation, thanks to the foresight of an individual who

rescued a number from the flames; for you must know that at the annexation of the new provinces in 1859 and 1860, everything appertaining to the despotic Bourbon governments was destroyed, innocent postage stamps included. A year ago I received this—to a postage-stamp collector—very tantalising announcement, in reply to a request for some rare obsolete specimens:—

'*Thank God, the postage stamps with the effigy of the Bourbon no longer exist: we have made an* auto-da-fé *of them to the glory and honour of the nation and the king of Italy!*'

CHARLES C.

THE PLEASURES OF THE POST OFFICE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'THE RECREATIONS OF A COUNTRY PARSON.'

It is to be lamented, that the very fresh and sensible enjoyment which we derive from very little things when they are new to us, passes so completely away when they grow familiar. I remark that my fellow-creatures, who inhabit houses in this street, are very far from being duly thankful for the great privilege we possess, in having a post-office at the end of it. You write your letters in the forenoon, after you have completed your more serious work; and upon each envelope you stick the representation of a face which is very familiar to us all, and very dear. If you are a wise man, you post your letters for yourself; and accordingly the first thing you do daily, when you go forth to your out-door business or duty, is to proceed to that little opening which receives the expression of so much care, so much kindness, so much worry, so much joy and sorrow, and to drop the documents in. Not many of the human beings who post letters and who receive them have any habitual sense of the supreme luxury they enjoy in that familiar institution of the post-office. Into that little opening goes your letter; a penny secures its admission, and obtains for it very distinguished consideration; and in a very little while the most ingenious mechanism that has been devised by the most ingenious minds is hard at work conveying your letter, at tremendous speed, by land or sea; till next morning, unerring as the eagle upon its eyrie, it swoops down upon the precise dwelling at which you aimed it. When I say it swoops down upon a dwelling in the country, I mean to express poetically the fact that it comes jogging along in a cart drawn by a little white pony, which stops for the purposes of conversation whenever it meets anybody in the wooded lane I have in my mind. But in saying that the inhabitants of this street are not duly thankful for the post-office at the corner, I did not merely mean that they fail to understand what a blessing to Britain the system of postal communication is. Everybody, on ordinary days, fails to understand *that*. I was thinking of something else. I was thinking of the luxury of having a receiving house so near. When I lived in the country, the post-office was five miles distant; and if you missed the chance of sending away your letters in the morning by the cart drawn by the white pony, you must wait till next day; or you must send a special messenger to the old-fashioned town of red freestone dwellings, standing by a classic river's side. When I came from the country, to live in this city, I felt it a great privilege, and something to be enjoyed freshly every time, to take my letters to the post-office two hundred yards off. It was delightful. Not once in the day, but (if need were) half a dozen times, could you write your letter, and in three minutes have it in the post-office. There was something very fresh and enjoyable in the reflection, as you stood by the receiving house window. Now here in these minutes I am in the same position in which half an hour's smart driving, or an hour and a quarter's steady walking would have placed one in departed days! Wonderful! But now, after several years of the enjoyment of this privilege, the fresh wonder has worn away. The edge of enjoyment is dulled. And though I try hard, in going to the post-office, to feel what a blessing it is, I cannot feel it as I would wish. Yes, the enjoyment of the post-office is gone in great measure: even as the unutterable greenness, discerned by the stranger, goes from the summer trees among which you have come to feel yourself at home; even as the sound of Niagara becomes inaudible to the waiters at the Niagara Hotel; even as the bishop who was plucked at college gradually

ceases to be astonished at finding himself a bishop; even as Miss Smith, in a few weeks after she is married, no longer feels it strange to be called Mrs. Jones; even as the readers of what is with bitter irony called a *religious newspaper* lose their first bewilderment at finding a human animal writing an article filled with intentional misrepresentation, lying, and slandering, and ending the article by taking God to witness that in abusing the man he hates for his success and eminence, he is actuated by a simple regard to the Divine glory.—*Fraser.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage-Stamp Album. By J. B. Moens. London: Grumel & Michel.

This is simply an English reprint of the excellent album of the well-known Brussels postage-stamp merchant and chronicler.

In our number for December last we bestowed a full and flattering, but not undeserved encomium on this well-got-up and handsome requisite for the postage-stamp collector; to the perfection of which Mons. Moens has devoted, and successfully, much time and attention; and, as far as lay in his power, the English reprint is equally deserving patronage. Unfortunately, however, it was not translated into English by an Englishman, and several renderings are incongruous, and in one instance perfectly nonsensical.

The printer has done *his* duty: the clerical errors—some of them, most probably, transcripts from the French translator—are very, very few; and, altogether, the volume is exceedingly well printed, bound, and illustrated, and will doubtless command an extensive sale in this country, leaving Lallier far in the shade.

The spots in the sun we alluded to—such as Europa and Grecia for Europe and Greece, great-duchy for grand-duchy, East India for East Indies, and the egregiously absurd rendering of '*suite*' by 'following'—may cause a smile, but will certainly be no bar to the circulation of this excellent publication, which we hope will be so large as to cause speedy need for a second edition.

Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. By Mount Brown. Fifth edition. London: F. Passmore.

Since our notice of this publication we have seen the interleaved copies, handsomely bound in morocco and gold, gilt edges, with prefatory remarks and revised money table. The frequency of new issues renders this edition almost a *sine qua non* with collectors, otherwise they may stand a chance of forgetting their desiderata; and we would recommend them to copy the author's monthly supplement therein, as it appears in our magazine. The quarto impression, bound in straw-coloured satin paper, is simply an *ouvrage de luxe*, exclusively designed for aristocratic boudoir tables; and in far, ye will add, very far, remote periods,—when the world shall have become too wise to indulge itself in any such interesting pursuit as *timbromanie*, after having had its eyes opened to the folly of it by some publication as replete with good sense, kindly feeling, true wit, and acute discrimination as that feeble imitation of *Punch* which attempted a sneer at us last week,—a copy of this last mentioned edition will stand a chance of being preserved in the collections of the bibliomaniacs of the day, as a worthy specimen of the printing, publishing, and literary art of the nineteenth century.

A Penny Poem on the Penny Post. By Owen Howell. Clapton.

This poetical effusion, which we print in a very condensed form in the present number, is well worth the modest price prefixed. It is really replete with high-toned thought and beautiful imagery; breathing a spirit of poesy, piety, truth, and sense not often found together in the verse of the present day. The abstract we give is simply the parts most appropriate to the subject matter of our own magazine, all the higher flights of fancy being omitted.

Fac-simile of the Connell Stamp for New Brunswick. London: Alfred Whitmer.

Those collectors who are not rich enough to purchase, or fortunate enough to obtain this essay, so costly to the essayer, will do well to content themselves with the excellent imitation offered to the public.

A PENNY POEM ON THE PENNY POST.

BY OWEN HOWELL.

I sing the Post-Office—a theme not sung
By other bard, but no unworthy one;
The subject, letters, newspapers, and books.
Men, women, children, all alike are stirred
When the loud double knock makes known to us
The postman waits, and brings us to our doors
Tidings, we know not what, of weal or woe;
Perfumed and glazed, perhaps, the letter comes
To tell of love and newly-married joys;
Perhaps, edged round with black, to tell of death.
Mine be the muse, who, at her own free will,
Wanders among the homes of men, and speaks
Of earthly things and mortal deeds alone:
Then, should I fail, it will be that with wings
Not eagle-like, topping the mountain peak,
But with the curlew, skimming the lone moor,
I pleased my flight, and did not far to fall.
Progress is law. When the Creator first
Studded the skies with stars, and bade the sun
Flame through the dark profound, the fiat was—
All should advance; and as the ages pass,
Slowly and by degrees, improvement comes.
In the young morning of the infant world,
When mankind, in the woods, followed the chase,
Untaught, unskilled, and ignorant of books,
The noble savage sought the bear or wolf—
These were the teachers under whom he learned
Heroic courage, patience, fortitude.
Progress is law!—and, therefore, in due time
The savage left his woods—the woods were cleared—
The wolves were killed—the post-office was built.
In times not so remote, from court to court
The solitary horseman, armed to the teeth,
Galloped along the road. In those dark days,
No newspapers with him, no notes addressed
To damsels fair by their adoring swains;
No letters with the rise and fall of shares,
The price of merchandise, or news domestic;—
But warlike proclamation, warrants, writs,
Sealed with some dreadful seal, heraldic, large,
And signed by men whose very signatures
Were terrible to look at. Presently
Commerce put forth her claims; a German count,
Descended from the ancient house of Thurn,
Established the stage coach, and brought the post
Into domestic and commercial use.
The rest of Europe followed where he led—
Unwilling, though—and then our Cromwell came;
Great in all things, so he was great in this,
And, if he did not found, reformed the post.
And such was he, Palmer of Bath, who first
Harnessed the flying steeds to the mail coach,
To carry news and letters through the land.
Delightful travelling then! Comfortably
The passengers inside and out arranged;
Four prancing steeds, trimly caparisoned,
High-stepping, full of blood, drew forth the coach.
But this has passed away. The sounding horn
For thirty years echoed along the roads;
The high-bred coursers, flying at full speed
Before the smoking wheels of the mail coach;
Fast as they fled, still faster followed time—
Time the destroyer, whose indiscriminate scythe
Mows down, remorseless, all the things which are,
To make room for the things that are to come.

Then Rowland Hill developed how we might
Improve the post-office. It has been done:—
The railway carriage, flashing down the lines,
A moment seen, then in the distance lost,
Scattering ten thousand letters everywhere,
Shows that it has been done. The postman comes,
No herald now only to lords or kings;
The postman's knock is heard by rich and poor;
And like the printing press, the post-office
Has risen but to bless this troubled world.
Trouble is everywhere: we are begirt
By ever-present cares and anxious thoughts;
And our eyes swim with mournful tears when we
Look out upon the world, full as it is
Of woeful sights, sad, lamentable things.
The waters ever in desponding tones
Seem to complain; the melancholy wind
Howls dismally, like spirits vex'd in pain;
The clouds are often black; at the midnight
Often is heard the dreadful thunder crash.
Our friends are far away, and we are vexed
By many fears in life, and fears of death;
And to assuage these dread anxieties,
Millions of letters travel through the post.
Rock-ribbed and huge, the solid land upheaves
Out of surrounding seas its giant sides;
On this firm land the mountains rear their heads.
And through this land the rivers roll their streams;
Divided by great oceans, rolling round
The separated coasts. States, kingdoms, thus
Have their appointed places, thus are shut,
As it were, in themselves, and shut out from
Other and rival powers. To all these,
Over the mountains, over the deep sea,
From the wild regions of scorched Africa—
From Asia's populous realms—from Europe's crowds—
From Austral lands—and from the continent
That lies towards the West—America—
From and to each—east, west, or north, or south—
The welcome letter comes, brought by the post.
The sun pours down his beams alike on all;
Nature's best gifts are near to each of us,—
Hope, peace, light, sleep, health, love. Man little wants,
Save health and love, and the approving voice
Of conscience, to be happy. Wealth and fame
Are hard to win, and little worth when won!
But peace, contentment, and a tranquil mind
In a small cottage may be found; and there
Still may the postman come, bringing with him
Letters most welcome, full of all good news,
Thanks to the PENNY POST!

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LETTERS delivered in the United Kingdom last year was 606,471,000.

WHY IS A LETTER POSTED TO A FRIEND like a small American coin? Because it is one sent (one cent).

WHY IS THE OBSOLETE ENGLISH FOURPENNY like an ignorant man? Because it is unlettered.

WHY ARE THE OLD ENGLISH BLACK STAMPS with V. R. on them like policemen? Because they are not very often to be found.

ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY THIS YEAR no less than 430,000 *billets doux* passed through the London offices alone,—a number said to be unprecedented.

THE GROSS COST OF THE MAIL SERVICE TO AUSTRALIA is a little over £200,000 a year; whilst the gross loss on that outlay is £120,000.

It is a remarkable fact that one-fifth of the whole number of criminals in Newgate is supplied by the General Post-Office.

A Merciful Change.—The Postmaster-General announces that the money-order office at Rhosllanerchrugeg will in future be called Pant.

Machines for Letter-Stamping have been in use for some time in London and Paris. They are not yet perfect enough for general use.

The New York Papers say that men are so scarce in Richmond, that women have been called on to act as clerks in the Post-office and other government departments. At Mobile the post-office is said to be entirely served by women.

A wandering Letter.—The writer of a communication which appeared in the *Times* of the 18th ult., on 'Misdelivered Letters,' says, 'A friend of mine lately received a letter which had travelled three times between the Bahama Islands and London, all because there was a slight mistake in the direction.'

It is a matter of notoriety, furnishing a fruitful subject for reflection and comment, that the great majority of complaints reaching the post office authorities take their rise with *clergymen*. As offering a curious commentary on the Divine injunction to be merciful, and to forgive 'seventy times seven,' we once saw a requisition from a clergyman for the dismissal of a post-office clerk—a man with a wife and several children, by the way—on the ground that he had twice caused his letters to be missent, in each case losing the clerical correspondent a post. —*Her Majesty's Mails.*

The Manchester Mail to London in 1721.—The following announcement from the postmaster, of Manchester, as given in a bill dated 1721, contrasts strangely with the latitude allowed now. 'The post goes out to London,' says he, 'on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, at nine o'clock in the morning. It will be best to bring the letters the *night before the going out of the post*, because the accounts and baggs are usually made up *overnight*.' In these days, when we may post up to within five minutes of the despatch of a mail, and letters for America may be posted within ten minutes of the sailing of the packet, we cannot be too thankful for our privileges.

A Fatal Letter.—A letter once posted can never be recalled. Mr. Lewins, in his history of the British Post-Office, gives many examples of the results of this regulation, from which we take one:—'A tradesman's daughter who had been for some time engaged to a prosperous young draper in a neighbouring town, heard from one whom she and her parents considered a credible authority, that he was on the verge of bankruptcy. "Not a day was to be lost in breaking the bond by which she and her small fortune were linked to penury." A letter, strong and conclusive in its language, was at once written and posted, when the same informant called upon the young lady's friends to contradict and explain his previous statement, which had arisen out of some misunderstanding. "They rushed at once to the post-office, and no words can describe the scene: the reiterated appeals, the tears, the wringing of hands, the united entreaties of father, mother, and daughter for the restoration of the fatal letter." But the rule admitted of no exception, and the young lady had to repent at leisure of her inordinate haste.'

Curiosities of the Post-Bag.—Most of our readers will have heard or read stories of curious articles passing through the post, and without doubt the records of the Returned-Letter branch of the London office will present strange appearances in this respect. Sir Francis B. Head, who was permitted to peruse an extraordinary ledger in the General Post-Office where several notable letters and packets were registered, has strung together a catalogue of them, which reminds us of the articles passing through the post before the revocation of the franking privilege. He tells us he found amongst the number—two canaries; a pork-pie, from Devonport to London; a pair of piebald mice, which were kept at the office a month, and duly fed till they were called for by the owner; two rabbits; plum-pudding; leeches in bladders, 'several of which having burst, many of the poor creatures were found crawling over the correspondence of the country.' Further, there was a bottle of cream from Devonshire; a pottle of strawberries; a sample bottle of cider; half a pound of soft soap wrapped in thin paper; a roast duck; a pistol, *loaded almost to the mouth with slugs and ball;* a live snake; a paper of fish-hooks; fish innumerable; and last of all, and most extraordinary of all, a human heart and stomach.—*Head's Essays.*

What we learnt in a Country Post-Office.—The post-office official often, and in spite of himself, learns more than he cares to know. For a great deal can be known from the outside of a letter, where there is no disposition to pry into the enclosure. Who would not be almost satisfied with knowing all the correspondence coming to or leaving the hands of the object of his interest? From our long training among the letters of our district, we knew the hand writing of most persons so intimately, that no attempt at disguise, however cunningly executed, could succeed with us. We noticed the ominous lawyers' letters addressed to tradesmen whose circumstances were growing embarrassed; and we saw the carefully ill-written direction to the street in Liverpool or London, where some poor fugitive debtor was in hiding. The evangelical curate, who wrote in a disguised hand and under an assumed name to the fascinating public singer, did not deceive us; the young man who posted a circular love-letter to three or four girls the same night, never escaped our notice; the wary maiden, prudently keeping two strings to her bow, unconsciously depended upon our good faith. The public never know how much they owe to official secrecy and official honour, and how rarely this confidence is betrayed. Petty tricks and artifices, small dishonesties, histories of tyranny and suffering, exaggerations and disappointments were thrust upon our notice. As if we were the official confidants of the neighbourhood, we were acquainted with the leading events in the lives of most of the inhabitants.—*Reminiscences of a Post-Office Official.*

THE COUNTRY POSTMAN.

O! the postman's is as blessed a life
As any one's I trow,
If leaping the stile o'er many a mile
Can blessedness bestow.

If tearing your way through a tangled wood,
Or dragging your limbs through a lawn;
If wading knee-deep through an angry flood,
Or a plough'd field newly sown;

If sweating big drops 'neath a burning sun,
And shiv'ring 'mid sleet and snow;
If drenched to the skin with rain be fun,
And can a joy bestow!

If toiling away through a weary week
(No six days' work, but seven)
Without one holy hour to seek
A resting place in heaven;

If hearing the bells ring Sabbath chimes,
To bid us all repair
To church (as in the olden times)
And bend the knee in prayer;

If in these bells he hears a voice
'To thy delivery!'
God says to every soul 'rejoice,'
But, postman, not to thee.

O, the postman's is a blessed life!
And sighing heavily,
'Ha, ha,' he'll say, 'alack a day!
Where's Britain's piety?

Heigho! I come and go
Through the muck and miry slough;
Heigho! I come and go
Heavy at heart and weary O!

Heigho! Heigho!
Does any one pray for the postman? No!
No! no! no! no!
Or he would not be robbed of his Sabbath so.'

CAPERN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRINCE CONSORT ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Mr. Mount Brown observes: 'the term "Essay" means a stamp or device suggested, but never officially issued.' The Prince Albert essay was that which Archer and Branston proposed to render in competition with the authorised stamp; the surface printing, the colours being those they intended using; and the adoption of pure white gum on the back, to obviate the general complaint of the insufficiency of the adhesive power on those of the ordinary issue. They were precluded by Mr. Edwin Hill from depicting the Queen's head, and they consequently adopted that of the Prince Consort. The fact being as here stated, is it, or is it not, a stamp or device suggested but never officially issued, quite as truly an essay as many others which are now sought for with eager anxiety?

These sheets were shown before the Committee instituted for the amendment of the postage labels and stamps, their security, and a more general utility in their delivery.

No profession being made by me of official secrets, why affect surprise? I did not tell my readers that the original wood block, cut by Thompson, is in the Museum at South Kensington. (See p. 111.) Where would have been the probity of my describing a wood block when none was engraved? Mulready's design, of which Mr. Edwin Hill has the credit of being the selector, was placed in the hands of Mr. John Thompson, one of the best, if not the best wood engraver of the day, to be produced for general use. No better appointment could have been made. Thompson was the distinguished pupil of the Robert Branston who died in 1827; but wood blocks cannot give the almost interminable number of impressions which can be taken from a metal block; electrotyping, a process brought into use within the last five or six years, was not then known; and the block to be used in printing was therefore of brass, cut with all the excellence of a skilled workman—some bookbinder's tool cutter—under Thompson's superintendence. As an obsolete specimen of art* this is placed in the South Kensington Museum by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue, accompanied by two of the first proofs on India paper, showing that the single brass block served for the printing of both the penny and twopenny covers and envelopes; an elongated hole being pierced in the block to admit of these designations in type.

Mulready's original pencilled design, very faint, from having been in the tool cutter's hands, has been recently placed by the purchaser, Mr. Arthur W. Jaffray, of Eaton Square, among the drawings by that artist, now being exhibited in the South Kensington Museum.

I attract Dr. Gray's invective for having in the foot note (p. 95), simply stated from the *Times* advertisement, that the stamp for sale was 'said to be one of six which were taken from Thompson's wood block.' I had not to vouch for the truth of the assertion. Few or many as these may be, as the Doctor states he has one in his collection, long, very long may he enjoy its possession.

Whence Archer derived his idea of separating the postage stamps, as noticed by me (p. 95, col. 1), did not admit of any such castigation as the Doctor (p. 111), has been pleased to make of my ignorance. I know as well about pierced paper and pierced cards as he does. He may rail and scold on. The Doctor will fail to effect any defamation of the Prince Consort Essays: they are gradually wending their course to all parts of the world—the Continent, India, and America, and will ere long be found only in collections.

London. J. H. BURN.

* Like many other objects in that magnificent depository of art, this is misdated; it is there dated 1841. Impressions from this block, surface printed, as the Prince Albert Essays were proposed to be issued, were delivered to the public for the first time, May 6, 1840.

THE BRITISH GUIANA NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—There being so little known about the so-called 'newspaper' stamps of British Guiana, I beg to send you some slight information which I hope may be of use. It is difficult to say which are the genuine ones, there being such numbers of forgeries, of which I have seen no less than five or six different sets. These stamps appear to have been in use for a very short time only; and the one I have in my collection was taken off a *letter*. About the time they were in use, I had continually numbers of British Guiana stamps from newspapers, but they were all of the ordinary issue of 1860; nor can I find that they were used solely for newspapers, which is proved by my having received one on a letter. The set with the pearl bordering is alone genuine; all others are fictitious; but there are one or two forgeries of this also. In the genuine stamp the shading in the little balls forming the border is towards the inside, and the ball is seen with two fine outlines, which almost gives the appearance of the circle's being drawn with one thick line. The T in POSTAGE, the H in BRITISH, WO in TWO, and the S in CENTS, are slightly lower than the other letters; the O in TWO is also more like a C, and altogether the letters are very irregular. The eight lines forming the inside square are very uneven, the two outside ones to the right and left reaching to the top and bottom of the bordering. There is, moreover, a slight blotch of red in the centre of the stamp. As for the postmark of this series, it is exactly the same as always used: A.O. 3, three lines at the top and bottom, with two rounded ones at the sides; the forgery having sometimes the letters A.O.B., sometimes A.O.I., and more often four or five very blotchy straight lines.

Yours respectfully,

London. O. FLEUSS.

THE HAMBURG LOCALS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—As Mr. E. L. Pemberton, in his last letter to you, seemed rather to doubt the authority of my remarks on Hamburg locals, I beg to offer the following explanation. Those stamps are sold by Mr. Scheerenbeck (one of the proprietors), who would certainly not forge his own stamps, in sets of a hundred specimens, as mentioned in my letter. The remaining seventeen which I named, are slight variations in colour, print, or paper.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
Darmstadt. F. L.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—Although I quite agree with Mr. Pemberton that a collection of 3900 stamps is an absurdity, I certainly do not with respect to the fourpenny black Cape of Good Hope,—as I possess an undoubtedly genuine one in my own collection; as well as the excessively rare 6 c. Sandwich Islands on white paper. I have also yet to learn why 'essays' and 'proofs' are admitted into a *postage* stamp collection, never passing or being allowed to pass the post. There is already a forgery about of the now obsolete 1½ blue Holstein, issued March, 1864. All the letters, with the exception of the value, which is rather smaller, are larger than in the original. Trusting you will find a space for the above in your August number,

I am, yours truly,
Henley on-Thames. J. M. STOURTON.

[There are two distinct issues of the Holstein stamp, value in circle. We fancy our correspondent mistakes one of these for a forgery.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

N. L., Burton-on-Trent.—We believe we have before stated that the Berlin Express stamps are impudent interlopers.

Heron.—The Boyd's City Express Post local United States 1 cent, silver impression on dark-green glazed paper, is one of the numerous fancy reprints of the original stamp.

J. L., Bern, Switzerland.—If you will refer to our remark respecting the 60 crazie of Tuscany, you will observe that we doubted the existence of the impression on *white* paper. (See answer to H. S. below.) That on blue is well known and not very common.—Thanks for your information respecting the inquiry of W. V. Alston, Cumberland, as to the U. S. Int. Rev. stamp which he received on a letter, to the effect that the stamp representing a duty of one penny to government was allowed to pass current by the postal authorities. The Jamaica shilling receipt stamp, and the bear of Bern, with a few others, have been occasionally accorded the same privilege.

J. Y. Leicester.—There is nothing unusual in your having one of the *block* Prussians bearing a date so late as May, 1863. In fact, your argument founded thereupon proves too much; for the eagle series appeared in 1861, and we imagine no one doubts the block issue to have been anterior to that. We mentioned previously that we sent to Prussia for the then current stamps just before the present ones came out, and we received what is almost universally understood as the third series only. We may add, as a case in point, that we had a letter a year and a half ago from Paris, bearing a 20 centimes of the republic side by side with one of the empire; but this does not prove that the two governments were cotemporary.—According to Moens, whom we believe to be a good authority as to the date of different issues, the Tuscan lions were printed indiscriminately on white and blue paper at the same time.—Thanks for your notice of the misprint respecting the Portuguese stamps. The error was the printer's. The sentence as we wrote it was, 'we have seen the 5 reis of Don Pedro, hair parted, but not a 25 r. *rose*.'—You will find the dates of issue of almost all the postage stamps specified in your communication, in the English translation of the *Timbres Postes Illustrés* of the above author, which will shortly be published.—The 2 cents Nova Scotia came out last year, as also the 2 cents New Brunswick. Both were primarily designed for the postage of soldiers' letters, which are privileged to be carried by the mails from any British colony to Great Britain for the value of one penny.

A Correspondent.—When your St. Petersburg communicant hears from his Riga friend, we shall be grateful for information respecting the dubious Wenden stamps, if you will kindly transmit it to us.

H. S., Birkenhead.—A second communication respecting the well-known 60 crazie Tuscan stamp induced us to refer to our remark thereon, when we found, much to our surprise, that the omission of the word *white* had hitherto escaped our notice. We wrote that we had never seen a Tuscan 60 cr. on *white* paper.—The omission of the dots in the small circles at the corners of the 1856 series of Spain is not sufficient to constitute a variety.—We agree with you that the variety of the 2 reales of 1863 on tinted paper ought to have been catalogued. The 12 quartos of the same group is also found both on white and tint.

One of the Five, St. Neott's.—It is customary with 'crack' collectors to place the 4-4thls brown Brunswick uncut in their albums.—We have never seen other of the Greeks than the 10 l. and 40 l. on coloured paper.—The Ionians are now out of use.—What do you mean by the 'figure' on the Monte Video stamps? If you allude to the representation of the rising sun, it is the armorial emblem of the country.—The rarest obsolete stamps are the red Austrian Mercury, some of the first four issues of Spain, the two blue provisional of Naples, the earlier series of British, and pre-eminently those of Dutch Guiana. Stamps in actual use can only be rare from their high price or distant habitat. The rarest of the essays is the Connell.

Alice, St. John's Wood, asks why the Swan River convicts' stamps are perforated; the date of issue of the Connell essay; what stamps are used in Ascension Island; and why French stamps on Smyrna letters. We shall be thankful for information to enlighten her ignorance and our own.

Veritas, Glasgow, writes that the Nevis stamps are copies of the great seal of the island, and represent a charitable lady giving bread to the once starving inhabitants. What queer bread they must have in Nevis, to be of such a consistency as to be poured out of a pitcher!

'Current Stamp Forgeries.'—In consequence of the illness of Mr. Edward Pemberton, we are obliged to omit his usual article on 'Current Stamp Forgeries.' We hope, however, that his speedy restoration to health will enable him to resume his pen in time for our September number.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER V.

BEING A DIGRESSION AND A CONVERSATION.

WHO has not heard of Marseilles, the thriving seaport and notable post town? Who has not read, whilst waiting the attention of the clerk in the local post-office, the words, 'Viâ Marseilles'? Many of my readers may have endorsed letters of their own with those magic words which, with the all-powerful label, has sufficed to convey the lines of friendship over alien lands and distant seas, to (let us say, for instance,) that fine fellow, Robinson, of the 150th, as he is enjoying his tiffin beneath the cooling draught of a punkah; or that good old chum, Johnson, the Mofussil judge, at Something-or-other-abad, after his daily legstretching in the heated court. To us Marseilles is no longer a dream; its town, its harbour, its islets, and its ships are enduring realities.

Whilst at Lyons, we had some idea of turning off to Geneva, but voted that neighbourhood too common-place, and Marseilles far more interesting. So down through the delicious valleys, where of old the gallant troubadours chanted their ditties in the soft Langue d' Oc, we rolled behind the iron horse and soon found ourselves in the great southern outlet of France.

To me, as a collector, the place had much interest, and my brother-amateurs will pardon my digressing for once into a brief description. Marseilles is no upstart of yesterday. Long before the Christian era, a band of mercantile Greeks had settled there, and still not a few of the descendants of the same race hold prominent positions amongst its inhabitants. Situated as it is at the bottom of a gulf, covered and defended by several islands, it very early became of commercial importance; and though it has many times in its history changed masters, it has never sunk into obscurity. At the time of our arrival, the harbour was filled with the vessels of all nations, whose variously coloured flags diversified the scene; whilst the town was crowded with the subjects of every potentate. Indeed, it is seldom that it is not thronged with travellers. All who choose the overland route must pass through it,—Indian officers returning to their regiments, ladies going out to join their husbands, adventurous travellers bound for the Nile or Palestine, and a crowd of miscellaneous pilgrims halt here on their eastward journey; whilst from Greece, and Turkey, and from the Algerian colonies swarms of turbaned gentlemen constantly arrive. The city is situated on the declivity and at the foot of a hill between the sea and a chain of mountains; and we were surprised to find that the upper portion, although naturally the most healthy, was inhabited only by the lower classes, whilst the later-built district, reaching out almost to the sea, was chosen for the residences of the 'upper ten,' and had been, therefore, greatly beautified.

But I may not enter into details which would be out of place here. It is time, indeed, that I should mention to my patient reader a windfall which happened to myself and Brown; being no less than an introduction to a Swiss gentleman, the possessor of a great number of old letters posted in different Swiss cantons. He very kindly detached and presented us with all the stamps, and we were much charmed with the work of assorting them, which occupied us for a morning. Brown was especially pleased with his new acquisitions, which were very clean and in good condition. He remarked upon the handsome effect of the white cross on red ground, which appears upon all the old federal stamps, and also on the Neufchatel and others, and regretted that though the cross was still retained, it no longer formed a prominent feature.

'Truly the present issue is more pretentious, but I doubt whether it is handsomer than the one it superseded, for without any straining after effect, there was undoubted beauty in their design,' I replied; 'the many curves and the shaded lines gave boldness to the whole. In fact, those Swiss stamps were picturesque, like their country.'

'There are none of those solemn big figures in the middle, as on the German,' said Brown, 'except in the case of those funeral Zurich, and even they look extraordinary.'

'You see,' I replied, 'the Germans are very practical, and prefer the useful to the ornamental, even in stamps. At any rate, such is the case with the Thurn and Taxis, and the Baden, and Bavaria; there is a change for the better in the Saxony and in the Oldenburg, and Wurtemburg is tired of the solemn figure in diamond.'

'Their "arms" series is better,' remarked Brown, 'but a young collector, uninformed, would not know to what province they belonged, for the name is left out.'

'That is true,' I answered, 'but your Swiss are open to the same objection. The most precocious schoolboy could not divine from the inscription, POSTE LOCALE, that the stamp which bore it circulated in Neufchatel; and a young Turkish collector, should the subject ever be pursued by the followers of Mahomet, would not learn from the words, PENNY POSTAGE, on the stamp which bears our queen's head, that it was intended to do duty in Great Britain.'

'I see I must retreat,' said Brown, 'behind the acknowledgment that the designers have not had their duties towards collectors sufficiently explained to them.'

'It is a pity,' I replied, 'that you are not permitted to enlighten them, or still better to sketch for them a model stamp.'

'No, sir, I would rather not,' exclaimed Brown, gravely; 'I should not wish to be considered a *designing* person.'

The laugh which followed this sally was interrupted by the dinner-bell, and we closed our books intending to complete the arrangement of Swiss stamps in the afternoon; but a variety of circumstances prevented the conclusion of our task till we sat together in the house of Signor Torrezzio, at Genoa.

CHAPTER VI.

A SURPRISE ON THE SEASHORE.

THE day after the conversation detailed in the previous chapter took place, I was seated upon a bank not far from the quarantine hospital—a fine building, by the way, situated on the coast at some distance from the city—in the serene enjoyment of my stamp book and a choice Manilla, admiring the beauty of the Russian stamps, the clear design of the Norwegian, and the fine portrait of Leopold on the Belgian stamps, when I was surprised to perceive a female figure behind me. I turned, and confronted a tall and graceful girl neatly but poorly dressed, whose olive skin and dark expressive eyes bespoke her a daughter of the South. She held by the hand a little child, evidently her sister, and upon finding herself observed, she advanced and, timidly bowing, addressed me in French.

'Pardon, monsieur, my apparent rudeness in intruding myself upon your notice, but I observe that you collect *les timbres postes*. We have some kinds which you may not possess, and would gladly part with them if monsieur would condescend to do us a favour.'

Between surprise at the unexpected appearance of the girls and their request to favour them, I was in a fix, and could only return, that I should have pleasure in placing myself at their service in any manner they would mention. It is true that I had vowed eternal enmity to the so-called 'gentler' sex; it is true that I had determined never to be inveigled into their company; but what could I do, when a pair of pleading brown eyes were bent upon me, anxiously waiting for my reply? I am free to confess my courage fled, and I was at their mercy.

'If monsieur would oblige us, both we and our parents would be very grateful. We have a brother in the Algerian army. He, after a long silence, has just written to us, and we wish to answer his letter. Would monsieur object to write the reply, for we are poor and illiterate. We have little to offer in return, but if he would accept some of *les timbres postes* of Algeria we would be proud to offer them.'

Yes, it was all very well for Brown to say afterwards, that he would have respected himself and his vows, had he been in my place; but (I make no secret from my readers) I did not, and I do not believe him. Besides, were not the promised French colonial stamps in themselves a sufficient inducement to agree to the request, for they were then very scarce? Suffice it to say, I got up at once, expressed my willingness to do what they wished, and, pocketing my

stamp book, prepared to accompany them to their home.

On the way, Eulalie—for such, I learnt, was the name of my elder companion—informed me that her brother Regnault had been conscripted about three years ago; and that previously he had assisted his father as a carpenter, in a village about five miles from Marseilles. He had been sent directly to the African coast; had written home several times during the first nine months, and had then entirely neglected to do so until a month ago, when he had written to inform his parents that he had been raised to the rank of a sergeant, and was hopeful of further promotion. Meanwhile the old people had removed to Marseilles, and occupied the second floor of a house in the Rue de ——, which I now entered along with Eulalie and her sister.

OUR NATIONAL POST-OFFICE.

LATE in the afternoon of the 14th of February last past, an individual who bore not the smallest resemblance to a despairing lover, or, indeed, to a lover in any state of mind, was seen to drop into the box of a Fleet Street receiving-house two letters folded in flaming covers. He did not walk round to see if he were observed, but walked boldly into the shop with a third epistle, and deposited thereon one penny. Considering the suspicious appearance of this document—for its envelope was green—he retired from the counter with extraordinary *nonchalance*, and coolly walked on towards Ludgate Hill.

Long paces soon brought him to St. Martin's-le-Grand, for he strode like a man who had an imminent appointment. Sure enough, under the clock of the General post-office he joined another, who eagerly asked:

'Have you done it?'

The answer was, 'I have!'

'Very well. Let us now watch the result.'

Most people are aware that the Great National Post-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand is divided into halves by a passage, whose sides are perforated with what is called the 'Window Department.' Here huge slits gape for letters, whole sashes yawn for newspapers, or wooden frames open for clerks to frame their large faces, like giant visages in the slides of a magic lanthorn; and to answer inquiries, or receive unstamped paid letters. The southern side is devoted to the London District Post, and the northern to what still continues to be called the 'Inland Department,' although foreign, colonial, and other outlandish correspondence now passes through it. It was with the London District Branch that the two gentlemen first appeared to have business.

Having been led through a maze of offices and passages more or less dark, they found themselves—like 'knights-errant in a fairy tale—'in an enormous hall, illumined by myriads of lights.' Without being exactly transformed into statues, or stricken fast asleep, the occupants of this hall (whose name was legion) appeared to be in an enchanted state of idleness. Among a wilderness of long tables, and of desks not unlike those on which buttermen perform their active parts of legerdemain in making 'pats'—only these desks were covered with black cloth—they were reading books, talking together, wandering about, lying down, or drinking coffee—apparently quite unused to doing any work, and not at all expectant of ever having anything to do, but die.

In a few minutes, and without any preparation, a great stir began at one end of this hall, and an immense train of private performers, in the highest state of excitement, poured in, getting up, on an immense scale, the first scene in the 'Miller and his Men.' Each had a sack on his back; each bent under its weight; and the bare sight of these sacks, as if by magic, changed all the readers, all the talkers, all the wanderers, all the liers-down, all the coffee-drinkers, into a colony of human ants!

For the sacks were great sheepskin bags of letters tumbling in from the receiving-houses. Anon they looked like whole flocks suddenly struck all of a heap, ready for slaughter; for a ruthless individual stood at a table, with sleeves tucked up and knife in hand, who rapidly cut their throats, dived into their insides, abstracted their contents, and finally skinned them. 'For every letter we leave behind,' said the bag-opener in

answer to an inquiry, 'we are fined half-a-crown. That's why we turn them inside out.'

The mysterious visitors closely scrutinised the letters that were disgorged. These were *from* all parts of London *to* all parts of London and to the provinces and to the far-off quarters of the globe. An acute postman might guess the broad tenor of their contents by their covers:—business letters are in big envelopes, official letters in long ones, and lawyers' letters in none at all; the tinted and lace-bordered mean Valentines, the black-bordered tell of grief, and the radiant with white enamel announce marriage. When the Fleet Street dispatch appeared, the visitors tracked it, and the operations of the clerk who separated the three bundles of which it consisted were closely followed. With the prying curiosity which now only began to show itself, one of the intruders actually took a copy of the bill which accompanied the letters. It set forth in three lines that there were so many 'Stamped,' so many 'Prepaid,' and so many 'Unpaid.'

The clerk counted the stamped letters like lightning, and a flash of red gleaming past showed the inquirers that one of their epistles was safe. Suddenly the motion was stopped; the official had instinctively detected that one letter was insufficiently adorned with the Queen's profile, and he weighed and taxed it double in a twinkling. Having proved the number of stamped letters to be exactly as per account rendered, he went on checking off the prepaid, turning up the sender's green missive in the process. He then dealt with the unpaid, amongst which the lookers-on perceived their yellow one. The cash column was computed and cast in a single thought, and a short-hand mark, signifying 'quite correct,' dismissed the Fleet Street bill upon a file, for the leisurely scrutiny of the Receiver-General's office. All the other letters, and all the other bills of all the other receiving-houses, were going through the same routine at all the other tables; and these performances are repeated ten times in every day, all the year round, Sundays excepted!

'You perceived,' said one of the two friends, 'that in the rapid process of counting, our stamped letter gleamed past like a meteor, whilst our money-paid and unpaid epistles remained long enough under observation for a careful reading of the superscriptions.

'That delay,' said an intelligent official, 'is occasioned because the latter are mistamped. Such letters cause a great complication of trouble, wholly avoided by the use of Queen's heads. Every officer through whose hands they pass—from the receiving-house keeper to the carriers who deliver them at their destinations—has to give and take a cash account of each. If the public would put stamps on *all* letters, it would save us, and therefore *itself*, some thousands a-year.

While one of the visitors was receiving this information, the other had followed his variegated letters to the next process; which was that of stamping on the sealed face, in red ink, the date and hour of despatch. The letters are ranged in a long row, like a pack of cards thrown across a table, and so fast does the stamper's hand move, that he can mark 3000 in an hour. While defacing the Queen's heads on the other side, he counts as he thumps, till he enumerates fifty, when he dodges his stamp on one side to put his black mark on a piece of plain paper. All these memoranda are afterwards collected by the president, who, reckoning fifty letters to every black mark, gets a near approximation to the number that have passed through the office.

While one visitor was taking a general survey, the other deliberately watched the coloured envelopes. They were, with about 2000 other General Post letters, put into boxes, and taken to the tunnel to be conveyed into the Inland Office upon a horizontal band worked by a wheel. The two friends now took leave of the District Department to follow the objects of their pursuit.

It was a quarter before six o'clock when they crossed the Hall—six being the latest hour at which newspapers can be posted without fee.

It was then just drizzling newspapers. The great window of that department being thrown open, the first black fringe of a thunder cloud of newspapers impending over the post-office was discharging itself fitfully—now in large drops, now in little;

now in sudden plumps, now stopping altogether. By degrees it began to rain hard; by fast degrees the storm came on harder and harder, until it blew, rained, hailed, snowed newspapers. A fountain of newspapers played in at the window. Waterspouts of newspapers broke from enormous sacks, and engulphed the men inside. A prodigious main of newspapers, at the newspaper river head, seemed to be turned on, threatening destruction to the miserable post-office. The post-office was so full already, that the window foamed at the mouth with newspapers. Newspapers flew out like froth, and were tumbled in again by the bystanders. All the boys in London seemed to have gone mad, and to be besieging the post-office with newspapers. Now and then there was a girl; now and then a woman; now and then a weak old man; but as the minute hand of the clock crept near to six, such a torrent of boys, and such a torrent of newspapers came tumbling in together, pell-mell, head over heels, one above another, that the giddy head looking on chiefly wondered why the boys springing over one another's heads, and flying the garter into the post-office with the enthusiasm of a corps of acrobats, didn't post themselves nightly along with the newspapers, and get delivered all over the world.

Suddenly it struck six. Shut Sesame! Perfectly still weather. Nobody there. No token of the late storm—not a soul: too late!

But what a chaos within! Men up to their knees in newspapers on great platforms; men gardening among newspapers with rakes; men digging and delving among newspapers as if a new description of rock had been blasted into those fragments; men going up and down a gigantic trap—an ascending and descending room worked by a steam engine—still taking with them nothing but newspapers! All the history of the time, all the chronicled births, deaths, and marriages, all the crimes, all the accidents, all the vanities, all the changes, all the realities, of all the civilised earth, heaped up, parcelled out, carried about, knocked down, cut, shuffled, dealt, played, gathered up again, and passed from hand to hand, in an apparently interminable and hopeless confusion, but really in a system of admirable order, certainty, and simplicity, pursued six nights every week all through the rolling year! Which of us, after this, shall find fault with the rather more extensive system of good and evil, when we don't quite understand it at a glance; or set the stars right in their spheres?

As to the rooms, revealed through gratings in the well, traversed by the ascending and descending room, and walked in by the visitors afterwards—those enormous chambers, each with its hundreds of sorters busy over their hundreds of thousands of letters—those dispatching places of a business that has the look of being eternal and never to be disposed of or cleared away—those silent receptacles of countless millions of passionate words, for ever pouring through them like a Niagara of language, and leaving not a drop behind—what description could present them? But when a sorter goes home from these places to his bed, does he dream of letters? When he has a fever (sorters *must* have fevers sometimes) does he never find the Welsh letters getting into the Scotch divisions, and the London letters going to Jericho? When he gets a glass too much, does he see no double letters missorting themselves unaccountably? When he is very ill, do no dead letters stare him in the face? And yonder dark, mysterious, ground-glass balcony high up in the wall, not unlike a church organ without the pipes—the screen from whence an unseen eye watches the sorters who are listening to temptation—when he has a nightmare, does he never dream of *that?*

Then that enormous table upon which the public shoot their letters through the window-slits—do the four men who sit at it never fancy themselves playing at whist, gathering up an enormous pack of red aces, with here and there a many-hued Valentine to stand for a court card? Their duty is termed 'facing,' or turning the ace-like seals downwards, ready for stamping.

The system of stamping, sorting, and arranging is precisely similar to that in the District Branch, and by his recently acquired knowledge of it, the person who posted the

coloured letters was able to trace them through every stage, till they were tied up ready to be 'bagged' and sent away. While thus employed, his companion made the following observations:—

In an opposite side of the enormous apartment, a good space and a few officials are devoted to repairing the carelessness of the public, which is, in amount and extent, scarcely credible. Upon an average, three hundred letters per day pass through the General post-office totally unfastened; chiefly in consequence of the use of what stationers are pleased to call 'adhesive' envelopes. Many are virgin ones, without either seal or direction; and not a few contain money. In Sir Francis Freeling's time, the sum of five thousand pounds in bank notes was found in a 'blank.' It was not till after some trouble that the sender was traced, and the cash restored to him. Not long since, an humble postmistress of an obscure Welsh post town, unable to decipher the address on a letter, perceived, on examining it, the folds of several bank notes protruding from a torn edge of the envelope. She securely re-enclosed it to the secretary of the post-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, who found the contents to be fifteen hundred pounds, and the superscription too much even for the hieroglyphic powers of the 'blind clerk.' Eventually the enclosures found their true destination.

The bustle in the adjoining rooms had now reached its climax. It was approaching eight o'clock, and the 'Miller and his Men' above stairs were delivering their sacks from the mouth of the ever-revolving mill at an incessant rate. These, filled nearly to the mouth with newspapers, were dragged to the tables which the brass label fastened to the corner of each bag marked as its own, to have the letters inserted. Our friends rushed to where they saw 'Edinburgh' painted up on the walls, and there they beheld their yellow, green, and red letters in separate packets, though destined for the same place, just as they had come in at first from Fleet Street. The bundles were popped in a trice into the Edinburgh bag, which was sealed and sent away. Exactly the same thing was happening to every bundle of letters, and to every bag on the premises.

The clock now struck eight, and the two visitors looked round in astonishment. Had they been guests at the ball in *Cinderella*, when *that* clock struck they would not have been more astonished; for hardly less rapidly did the fancy dresses of the postmen disappear, and the lights grow dim. This is the most striking peculiarity of the extraordinary establishment. Everything is done on military principles to minute time. The drill and subdivision of duties are so perfect, that the alternations throughout the day are high pressure and sudden collapse. At five minutes before eight the enormous offices were glaring with light and crowded with men; at ten minutes after eight the glass slipper had fallen off, and there was hardly a light or a living being visible.

Such is the substance of information obtained by our friends before they took leave of the mighty heart of the postal system of this country.

In conclusion, they beg it to be understood that their experimental letters were *not* Valentines.

NOTES ON THE AUSTRALIAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

It is related that upon the opening of a bridge in a remote district of the United States, a person commenced his maiden speech with the words, 'Ladies and gentlemen, forty years ago this place was a howling wilderness,' and stopped; the audience cheered; and he recommenced with the announcement of the same fact; again stopped and was again applauded. A third time he made the same statement, and then, unable to get any farther, sat down. Now we may copy this bashful orator, so far as by setting out with the remark, that forty years ago Australia—with the exception of the small portion of the eastern seaboard occupied by the convict settlements—was a barbarous and uncivilized region; inhabited only by rude savages, whose sole occupations were hunting, eating, and sleeping, and, by way of occasional diversion, killing each other. But we need not stop there, for the sight of

several variously designed postage stamps emanating from that part of the world, is an evidence of the existence there of a very different state of things at present. English enterprise and English perseverance have changed the scene, and now large cities stand upon its soil, many ships float in its spacious harbours, railroads spread their network over the land, thousands of hardy Celts and Saxons earn their daily bread there, and last, but not least, postal communication has been established both between the several colonies and between them all and the mother country. Fourteen years have now elapsed since it first became a necessity, and the rare Sydney stamps form the initiatory issue of the now numerous Australian series. As is the case with most of the first issues of colonials, there are several strongly marked varieties of these stamps, of which a full description is given in the second number of this magazine. All of them have, however, a rough and primitive appearance, but the design in the majority is tolerably clear.

The second, or 'laureated,' series is of a simpler type, the government engraver being content in designing them to take a hint from the home stamps, and place upon them the head of our queen, encircled, however, with a wreath instead of the crown. It is quite evident that the draughtsman must have drawn considerably on his imagination in portraying her majesty's features, and it would appear that a separate drawing was made for each stamp. In all, however, the effect is perfectly ludicrous. In the sixpenny on white paper, the head of the queen is almost without lips, whilst that on blue paper possesses a prominent pair. A long straight chin characterises the eightpenny, a short round chin the twopenny, and so on throughout the series. The first two of this emission were the sixpenny brown and eightpenny orange on blue paper, which we believe were issued in the year 1851. In 1852 the remainder of the series followed, and it remained current for ten years, when it was superseded by the present issue; which, so far as regards the higher values at any rate, appears to have been an "advance backwards," both in size and design. As noticed in a late number, a new penny stamp has lately been issued, which is a great improvement; the colony has also issued a rather queer envelope.

Although we are not in possession of the date of issue, we may safely assume that Victoria came next to New South Wales in the adoption of postage stamps. In that colony there have been no less than eleven alterations but no corresponding progress in design or execution. Indeed, some of the earlier stamps are of a far handsomer appearance than the current issue: *e. g.*, the penny green (queen enthroned), which, we venture to say, is not equalled in richness of hue by any other known stamp of the like colour, and which is engraved with great attention to detail. The 'half-length' series is very roughly done; and the subsequent issues are as a whole insignificant and without originality, if we except the present sixpenny black, which certainly exhibits an unparalleled originality of ugliness, and which we hope we may shortly reckon with the obsoletes. The new fourpenny stamp, issued last year, and the new twopenny, are really well designed; and we trust the vanguard of an entire new issue.

Notwithstanding the less advanced position of Western Australia, it has succeeded in producing stamps of considerable merit, and which have been much coveted by collectors. The first issue was made in 1855, and the individuals of that series, though wanting in polish, are far from deficient in beauty. In them the background is white, and the swan is represented sailing between tufts of reeds. This representation is more picturesque than that of the present series, wherein the background is composed of diagonal lines, and the reeds are absent. In the choice of colours, however, the postal authorities have been happy.

The South Australian stamps are of a negative character: they are not remarkably handsome nor remarkably ugly. They belong, together with a crowd of others, to the mediocre class. There is nothing at all striking about them; neither is there anything very noticeable in the colony in which they circulate.

Many stamps which, when the pursuit of stamp collecting first became popular, commanded very high prices, have descended in the scale until they are now within the reach of every juvenile possessor of an album; but the old penny Van Diemen's Land still remains rare; and we have information from Launceston that it has become scarce even there. Quaint and simple, it will always be a valued stamp, together with its companion, the old fourpenny, which, however, is ugly, though more pretentious. The present issue is a specimen of elaborate engraving, and the design, such as it is, made the most of; but it is doubtful whether her Majesty ever bore much resemblance to her portrait on it, and still more doubtful whether she ever wore the awkward crown which towers above her head. In the sixpenny and shilling the letters straggle about the stiff border in an ungraceful fashion. Altogether the issue merits the adjective tawdry.

Queensland, the youngest and most promising colony, if we may believe the agents sent over by its government to stimulate emigration, possesses a very fair set of stamps, elegant and simple, and of well-chosen colours, presenting no trace of primitive incompleteness and no salient points on which to remark.

There is still a large part of Australia uncolonised—in fact the whole of the centre—and we may reasonably expect that at no distant date it will become the seat of new and flourishing states; and it is also very probable that the older colonies may be subdivided, in which cases the collector's album may be enriched with the issues of yet unborn offspring of the mother country.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Just too late to include it in our last paper, we received intimation of the appearance of a twopenny Victoria; same colour as the preceding issue, pattern similar to the current fourpenny. We hope to announce soon that that most repulsive-looking of all known stamps—the sixpenny of the same colony—has 'followed my leader.'



We engrave the New South Wales envelope, alluded to in our last number.

Respecting our remarks on the peculiar colour of the old Finlands, having since observed one of the same shade post-marked, we are inclined to believe that the peculiar greenish-slate hue is really the normal colour, and that the black ones are all reprints.

The blue 5 cents Dutch is now patterned and perforated in accordance with the pink 10 c., and ere this sees the light the set will most probably be completed by the 15 c. yellow. The halfpenny Ceylon newspaper stamp has also taken the benefit of the art of perforation, as have likewise the penny and fourpenny provisionals (we hope we are right in the appellation) of St. Helena. These latter are, moreover, slightly but unmistakeably changed in hue,—the penny is of a much richer red than before, but the other is scarcely so bright a carmine. Our sixpenny of the same island were not perforated, but will of course be so when the present stock is exhausted.

We have received some Corrientes stamps direct from the capital. They are not like the former on *blue*, but on *green* paper. A sheet containing eight lies before us. It has been remarked before that the several impressions are not identical, some of them so varying as to have given rise to the belief of their being forgeries, at the time when but few of these then peculiarly rare stamps were known to collectors. An engraving of one is subjoined. They are, in fact, so dissimilar that the place of any individual cut out of the sheet could be easily identified on comparison. Most of the noses are Grecian, but one is a Roman. The expression of the eyes and that of the mouth are different in every instance, and no two of the wreaths are at all alike. The most decided contrast, perhaps, is presented by the second on the top row and the two right hand top and bottom impressions.



The Belgian essay, described in our last as

mauve on white, has been printed also in black, red, blue, and green. A few genuine old New Caledonian stamps have been rummaged out of some forgotten recess, which circumstance has considerably reduced their price. The Prussian government, at the instance of a few influential timbromaniacs, consented to the re-issue of a certain number of their earliest stamps and envelopes. Those which remained after the favoured applicants had been supplied, have been all bought up by a dealer, and are to be had by any collector for a 'consideration.'



The new series of Argentines, of which we engrave the 15 centavos, are now in actual use. The blue and green are well printed, and have a handsome appearance; but the 5 c. pink are very poor in colour, and are by no means effective.

The newly-issued series of Russians, postmaturely announced by a correspondent elsewhere in the present number, is really, as the Scotch proverb has it, 'a sight for sair een.' We give a description of them, as in duty bound, and engravings of the 1 and 3 kop., in accordance with our custom of introducing all new stamps to notice as soon as possible; but neither description nor engraving can give a correct idea of the extreme elegance and attractive appearance of these beautiful stamps, in which beauty and simplicity are so marvellously combined with the most elaborate execution. They are described in a few words: bearing simply the Russian arms, in black on a coloured ground; value beneath. There are three monetary denominations: 1 k., yellow ground; 3 k., green ground; and 5 k., lilac ground. Size, the same as that of the previous issue, and perforated. The grand peculiarity in these stamps is in the ground work, which though at first sight apparently of uniform colour, is found by the naked eye (if an acute sight) or at all events by the microscope, to be composed of an innumerable number (poetically speaking) of minute figures, representing the current value of each denomination.



Our next figure represents a stamp, of which we are promised, and hope to obtain further information. The subjoined will give a good idea of this stamp's appearance, though throwing no light upon its history. There are three sorts: the 10 cents blue, 20 c. green, and 30 c. black.

Some envelopes have made their *début* in Paris, purporting to be Spanish, and bearing the head of the Queen of Spain; CORREO, above; 4 CUARTOS, below; embossed on pink, green, yellow, and red. We cannot vouch for their authenticity, and simply chronicle the fact. The same lively city boasts possession, moreover, of the first issue of Japanese stamps. If Hamburgian humbugs, the concoctors evinced their worldly wisdom by waiting the departure of the ambassadors before launching forth the impostors, as those individuals would doubtless have detected the cheatery. The stamps in question are of different sizes, printed on the same sheet of paper, variegated with all sorts of colours, and all unlike each other. We think the last circumstance especially suspicious. The impression gives the idea of a barbarous imitation of a French horn. Similar impressions on envelopes likewise put forth claims to notice. The truth, or otherwise, time will soon show.

In our last number we promised our readers an engraving of one of the new La Guaira stamps. We now give a representation of the medio real, pink. Since our last notice, we have met with a one centavo purple, very rough impression, with English inscription.



A limited liability parcels' delivery company has lately started, head office in the Strand, delivering small packages for the moderate

charge of one penny. A stamp represents this value. Of course it will be a moot point with collectors whether to include this in their collections; but those who give a space for *all* the United States' locals, cannot reject ours—many of the New York stamps having been designed not for letters, but for small parcels exclusively. Higher-priced denominations will, we understand, be issued, when the company is more fully matured. The stamps may be bought and affixed to parcels under seven pounds weight, just as postage stamps are on letters; the packet being then taken to the nearest receiving office, is duly delivered. We think the arrangement very convenient and economical, and hope it will prove remunerative to its enterprising proprietary.

No. IV.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Baden.

Same device as 1862, *on white ground. Col. imp.; square.*

6 kreuzer blue.

Italy.

ESSAYS.

Same devices as No. 4, *page* 40. *Black imp.; rect.*

15 cent. buff.
30 „ white.
40 „ yellow.
60 „ blue.
2 lire buff.

Mexico.

Crowned eagle and serpent within oval frame, inscribed [CORREOS MEXICO] *and value in words. Col. imp.; rect.*

½ real brown-pink.
1 „ blue.
2 „ orange.
4 „ pale-green.
8 „ lake-red.

Modena.

Same device as first issue, page 45. *Blk. imp. on col. paper; rect.*

Var. 40 cene blue.

New South Wales.

Diademed head of Queen Victoria to left in oval frame, containing inscription [NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE] *and value in words. Col. imp. on glazed paper; rect.*

1d. rose.

ENVELOPE.

White embossed head of Queen Victoria with diadem, to left, and four eight-rayed stars on red disc within an oval frame inscribed [POSTAGE ONE PENNY] *above and* [NEW SOUTH WALES] *below, in coloured sunk capital letters. Col. imp.; oval.*

1d. vermilion.

Prussia.

ESSAYS.

? Crowned eagle holding bugle-horn, within an octagonal frame inscribed [POST. FREI MARKE], *value in shield at lower angles. Black imp.; rect.*

2 silber gr. yellow.
2 „ rose.

Russia.

Arms, black on a coloured lined disc within inscribed oval frame; inscription in Russian characters, figure indicating value in circle at each angle. Impression in two colours; rect.

1 kopec yellow and black.
3 „ green and black.
5 „ lilac and black.

Spain.

POSSESSIONS.

PHILIPPINES.

Same device as on Spanish labels of 1864, *page* 68. *Col. imp. on tinted paper; rect.*

6⅔ cent. po. fe. green.
25 „ „ „ scarlet.

Same device. Col. imp. on amber paper; rect.

3⅓ cent po. fe. black.
12½ „ „ „ violet.

United States of America.

LOCAL LABEL.

Broadway post-office (steam engine). Black imp.; square.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

VIII.—OLDENBURG.

ELEVEN hundred years have glided by since the great Charlemagne crusaded against the then pagan Saxons. To oppose their common enemy that people chose for their leader the hero whose name is so celebrated in the lays of the time—Witikind. He pertinaciously continued a successful resistance to the emperor, till the latter, fairly wearied out, induced his foe's submission under highly favourable conditions. The warrior, under the title of Duke of the Saxons, was eventually baptized with all his family.

Many of the existing sovereign dynasties of Germany claim descent from this celebrity; but none do so with more just foundation than the house of Oldenburg, whose genealogy may be traced therefrom in the female line.

Two of this Saxon chieftain's descendants became the heroes of the nursery tales of Germany. One was Count Otto, to whom a fairy is reported to have presented the silver-gilt horn still exhibited in the museum of Copenhagen, and known by the name of 'The Horn of Oldenburg,' which said horn figures on the postage stamps of Denmark, Hanover, &c.

Count Frederic, another offshoot, bravely proved the innocence of a maligned father by undergoing the ordeal of single combat with a fierce lion, which he slew in presence of the assembled diet of Goslar, presided over by the emperor Henry IV.

From this young hero's heir springs the ducal house of Oldenburg; and on the postage stamp here engraved may be observed the representation of the vanquished animal, ferocious as he appeared when Count Frederic attacked him.



Christian the Warlike, his great-grandson, building a castle near the ancient city of Oldenburg first took its name. Three hundred years afterwards a marriage of one of his descendants with the sister of the reigning duke of Schleswig, ensured his eldest son the kingdom of Denmark and the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. Hence the additional complication in the already sufficiently *questio vexata* of the Danish duchies.

In 1570, Antony, the reigning count, willed a transfer of his dominions to the king of Denmark and the dukes of Schleswig-Holstein, in case of the extinction of his male posterity.

In 1667 the country actually fell into the possession of Denmark, then represented by the house of Holstein Gottorp, the elder branch, as we stated above, of the Oldenburg family. On the accession of that branch to the Russian throne, Denmark received Oldenburg in exchange for the Schleswig-Holstein family possessions.

The grand-duke Paul of Russia, in whom the Oldenburg states were invested, solemnly assigned them, according to convention, to his cousin Frederic Augustus, representative of the youngest branch of Gottorp, and at that time bishop of Lubeck. The emperor of Germany confirmed this settlement, and raised the territory to the rank of a duchy.

The second duke was deranged, and his cousin Peter Frederic Louis, the bishop of Lubeck, acted as regent. This was in the time of Napoleon's campaigns, and Oldenburg did not escape the results of his restless ambition. In 1815, however, after the fall of the disturber of Europe's peace, Oldenburg, by decree of the Congress of Vienna, became a grand-duchy, and the principality of Birkenfeld was amalgamated therewith. On the death of William, the deranged sovereign, Peter took the title of Duke of Holstein-Oldenburg.

His son and successor, Paul Frederic Augustus, the late sovereign, did not assume the title of grand-duke till August 28th, 1829. The ex-queen of Greece was one of his daughters, and the daughter of the great Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and the beautiful but unfortunate Queen Frederica Wilhelmina his third wife.

The lordship of Kniphausen—the smallest of all the European states, with two square leagues of superficies, a population of three thousand souls, including an army of thirty men, and a capital containing fifty inhabitants,

formerly appertaining to the house of Oldenburg, which still exercises a species of feudal authority over it—gives a vote in the Germanic Confederation to its proprietor, the Count of Bentinck.

The major part of the country is damp, foggy, and barren, not producing sufficient corn for home consumption. The small principality of Lubeck and Eutin, with twenty-two thousand five hundred inhabitants in twenty-five square leagues, enjoys the only fruitful soil in the country. The twenty-five thousand five hundred people of Birkenfeld are almost exclusively engaged in iron works, or in cutting and exporting agate, jasper, and chalcedony, of which the soil furnishes them with a prodigious quantity.

The Oldenburgers speak what is called low Dutch. They are mostly Lutherans, but there are many Catholics, some Protestants, and a few Jews.

In the marshy district of Saterland reside the descendants of the ancient Frisii, whose language and manners they still in great measure preserve. From the age of five to the most advanced period of life, both sexes are engaged almost solely in knitting worsted stockings.

The small island of Wangeroog, in the circle of Jever, supports about two hundred and fifty sailors and fishermen, the descendants of the ancient Angles, having a peculiar dialect of their own.

Peter, the reigning sovereign, was born in 1827, and succeeded his father in the twenty-seventh year of his age.

The Oldenburg stamps afford an excellent exemplification of the theory of mutual accommodation. All collectors are grateful to the administrators of the postal arrangements of the country for the frequency of novel issues, and the great variety of device, form, and colour of the stamps in question; and we think it highly probable that the immense quantities of specimens purchased exclusively to figure in collections must form a very considerable item on the profit side of the ledger of the Oldenburg post-office. In fact, we imagine the expense of a new plate for any government stamp would speedily be covered by the sale of such issue to dealers or collectors alone.

In the infancy of *timbromanie* in England, one of our first and most zealous collectors—before postage stamps had engaged the attention of commercial speculators, and *changing*, not *buying*, was the order of the day—having connexions in Oldenburg, was enabled to import numbers of its admired stamps, and by so doing obtained many a choice, and at that time almost unattainable, individual.

We think the pages in our album, devoted to the Oldenburg impressions, exhibiting all the known issues and their varieties, clean and uncancelled, among the most attractive of the book.

There have been four series of adhesives and two of envelopes. The latter, with the arms of the country in high relief on a rich coloured ground, are particularly noticeable for beauty, both of design and execution. The two issues vary only in the colours assigned to the different denominations. The earliest set of labels, now rarely met with unused, of which the yellow recently cost us a thaler at the Oldenburg post-office, is nearly square, and consists of four values only. The arms depicted thereon are the same as those on the envelopes, with a cross in lieu of the dagger.

The second series, same colours and values as the first, is rectangular, and exhibits a variation in the coat of arms, having, among other additions, the lion previously alluded to. It is an individual of this group which is represented above, the blue 1 groschen.

The next set introduces two additional denominations, the $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen and $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen. With the exception of the crown, which, in fact, is different in nearly all the issues, it is identical with the preceding, but is printed in colour on white, not black or colour like its predecessors. Besides the five individuals normally composing this series, there is an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen, the colour of which is a much darker green; and the whole group, previously to its cessation from circulation, looked as if struck off from a new plate, the lines of shading and general appearance of the stamps being much more pronounced.

The current adhesives—monetary denomi-

nations but not colours the same as their predecessors—though much less sharply executed, are nearly fac-similes of the envelopes, if viewed through the large end of an opera glass. They were the first to show Prussian proclivities by slavishly following the lead of that country, and aspiring to assist in the unity of Germany, even in the colours of the postage stamps. We suppose yellow is the revolutionary colour, or significative of something very frightful to the Germans, as it seems permanently excluded from their postage stamps, being now superseded in favour of that hideous washy-washy colour known to continentals under the name of bistre.

Should the reigning duke succeed in substantiating his title to the mooted duchies, we may anticipate another issue of Oldenburgs, with armorial bearings commemorative of the double line of ancestry, and including both the horn of Otto and the lion of Frederic.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste. Paris: M. Maury Fils.

STRANGE to say, although Paris was the head quarters of postage-stamp collectors some time before the mania was so generally spread in Great Britain, this is the first magazine devoted to postage stamps that has appeared in that city. As far as we can judge from the first number, it bids fair to prove a boon to those French collectors who are not able, from ignorance of the language, to appreciate our own. It is but a *feuilleton* at present; but most probably, if found to answer, will be enlarged in due course. The one before us contains an introductory address, followed by a chronicle of newly, or at least lately, issued stamps; and contains some information of which we have taken the liberty to avail ourselves in another part of our own current number. There are then some *facts*: the first is, the announcement of the decease of the king of the Sandwich Islands: if we mistake not, neither does our own Queen Anne survive. The last article is on false stamps, and there is much sense in one of the remarks therein, to the effect that by pointing out to notice the minute differences existing between forgeries and realities, guiding hints are afforded the concoctors for modifying their old or making new dies still more difficult to be detected from the genuine article. The safest way to avoid being cheated is, never to purchase but of those individuals whose characters are a guarantee for their good faith. Part of the third and the whole of the last page are devoted to a price list of stamps for sale at the author's repository.

Allgemeine Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung. Coburg: Ernst Roschlau.

THREE numbers have now appeared of this, the second postage-stamp magazine published in Germany, as far, at least, as we have had the opportunity of ascertaining. There may be, and possibly are others. At all events, like its French congener, it is but in its infancy, and thus sufficiently silences those croakers whose cry is ever that the postage-stamp-collecting fancy is fast fading away. Were that the case, small encouragement would be afforded to new publications of this kind; and we can scarcely imagine that the supply has not been created by the want, in accordance with the usual course of things. We wish all success, then, to the present or any similar claimant on public patronage, and hope very shortly to be the chroniclers of something of the same kind emanating from Italy. The contents of the publication under review are, notices of new stamps and falsities; several articles in reference to collectors and collecting; a tolerable sprinkling of advertisements; and a short price list of the publisher's. Like the French journal previously noticed, this publication comes out on the 15th of the month, as does also that of M. Moens, of Brussels.

Postage-Stamp Album. By JUSTIN LALLIER. Fourth edition. Paris: Lenègre.

WE have not seen a copy of this edition, which we understand has been carefully revised and considerably improved. In fact, we have never seen any edition of this album in which there has not been considerable room for improvement. The emendations announced have not come before they were required.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE POST IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—Letters posted at Drangan, in the south riding of this county, for Cloneen, a distance of two miles, take two days and travel 222 miles to reach their destination.—*Newagh Guardian.*

A PENNY POST SUGGESTED TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—It is a curious coincidence that nearly 200 years ago a penny post should have been suggested by a writer of the same name as the well-known promoter of that great modern reform—Mr. Hill. In the library of the British Museum is a small work, entitled *A Penny Post; or, a Vindication of the Liberty and Birthright of every Englishman, in carrying Merchants' and other men's Letters, against any restraint of Farmers of such Employments.* By John Hill. London: printed in the yeare 1659. MS. from the library of the late W. F. Newman, Esq., the late solicitor to the city of London; purchased at the sale of his books, by Southgate & Co., July 19, 1835.

RESULTS OF CHEAP POSTAGE.—The public will be interested to learn that penny postage in all probability accelerated the repeal of the corn laws; that it overcame the home-loving Zetlanders' disinclination to leave their stormy islands for places in which they could procure more lucrative employment; and that throughout the kingdom it greatly stimulated the book trade. Mr. Bagster's Polyglot Bible, for example, could not have been published had it not been for penny postage: the postage of the proofs under the old system would have cost the publisher £1500. In the year during which the whole continent rocked in the throes of political revolution, England, calm in the cove of confusion, received a great postal boon—the book-post was established in 1848. When we further name the division of London into postal districts; the extension of the money order system to the colonies; the establishment of post-office savings banks; and the sorting of letters in the magnificent mail packets which now spangle the most distant seas with the British flag; and in the rushing trains which rumble through the country in the small hours, snatching and dropping letter bags at the smaller stations without condescending to pause in their headlong career, we shall have indicated, so to speak, the mountain tops of the history of our post-office.—*Chambers's Journal.*

'ARRIVAL OF THE MONTHLY MAIL AT AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.—The mail-steamer from Sydney comes here once a-month, bringing letters and papers from England. She usually arrives about the 18th or 20th, and her coming is the signal for a dense crowd to assemble at the post-office in Princes Street. For three days after the mail comes in the post-office is completely beseiged. There is here no post delivery every hour, as in London; people have to come and fetch their own letters. Some persons on receiving their letters open them and read them on the spot. They cannot read them amidst the throng, but they stand a little apart under the verandah, or they sit down on the kerb-stone to peruse the eagerly-expected message. That man whom you see with his back towards you and with the muslin round his hat, is not, as you might imagine, a postman, for here no such officials exist. He is a gentleman who has ridden into town for his letters, and what looks like a post-bag, suspended from his shoulders, is a haversack, which is a common article of personal equipment in New Zealand.' This notice of the Auckland post-office appears in the *Illustrated London News*, of the 12th ult., and is from the pen of a correspondent there, who accompanies his description with a sketch of the office, which, as represented, appears to be in every way a contrast to those of England. It consists of a long, low wooden building with a spacious verandah, in front of which, upon a narrow board, are painted the words, 'Post Office.' Within the shade of the verandah, are depicted a number of persons eagerly crowding together and gesticulating before a couple of windows, from which the letters are distributed. Upon one window are the letters, A. and L., on the other, M. and Z.; indicating, we presume, that letters directed to persons whose names commence with or between the letters marked on each window, are thence respectively delivered.

MY BROTHER CHARLIE.—The following letter, addressed to the editor of a contemporary, is inserted for the amusement of our readers. 'My dear Mr. Editor,—Will you allow me to address a few lines to you, to ask your advice, or your sympathy, which ever you think my case requires. That you may be able to understand me, I must give you a short account of myself and my home. We are a very happy family of three; I have two brothers, I myself being an only daughter; my eldest brother is engaged to a very nice young lady, and I suspect by the attention he pays her we shall very soon lose him. Of course he is very kind and amiable to his little sister; but my brother Charlie has been my *beau ideal* of a brother. You must know we entered into a solemn contract with each other that we would neither of us fall in love (that is if we could possibly help it), but live for each other. Well, we have been all in all to each other. Wherever he has gone I have been with him: at concert, lecture, or ball, his partner has ever been little Nelly. But, alas! a "change has come o'er the spirit of my dream,"—now all is changed;—when he comes in from business he retires to his room, and when I go to see what he is after, he meets me at the door with, "Oh, Nelly, do excuse me this evening; I am so busy I can't come down stairs." "But whatever are you doing, Charlie; why can't I come in; you are only writing—I see your desk open." Then he seems to blush, and says, "Now do go—like a dear; I will come down by and bye" Now, Sir, I ask you what was I to think of all this mystery? Of course I concluded he had fallen in love, and I became desperately jealous. I tried hard to sulk, but found it very difficult. At last I found his secret out, and I will tell you how. We have some very dear friends in the Cape of Good Hope. Well, I received a letter from one of the family; and when Charlie came in I said, "Charlie, here's a letter from dear Polly." "Is there?" said he; "make haste, let me see it." Of course I handed him the letter. "Not that," said he, "where's the envelope?" "Why," I said, "there's nothing on the envelope but the address; I laid it down somewhere—but read the letter." "Oh, bosh!" said he, "nothing on the envelope! why there would be a stamp." "Of course," said I, "or we would have to pay double." Well, we looked for and found the envelope, when he seized it as if it had been some precious jewel. "A square one," said he, "well, that is jolly." I stared at him, and thought he must be mad. "Do tell me, Charlie, what are you so pleased at?" "Why at the stamp to be sure; and such a clean one, too; there are none of our chaps have one like it; I will crow over them in the morning. But I forgot, Nelly; you don't understand these things you know; you are only a girl." Now, Mr. Editor, was there ever such a barbarian? he never asked after dear Polly, or any one of the family, but ran off to his room with the stamp as if he had got a prize. Well, I was determined to find out what he had in his desk, and I did so; but such an assortment of dirty used stamps. I could have thrown them into the fire—I felt so vexed. Just imagine—I am to be thrown aside like an old shoe, and for what?—dirty bits of paper! it is too humiliating. In looking over the contents of his desk, I found a copy of your paper; so I thought I would write

to you, and tell you of my griefs, and ask you—if you can tell me—where the use or the utility lies in collecting used or unused stamps. If they were our own unused postage stamps, that we are using every day, I would see some sense in getting a stock; but to waste precious time and money too—for I find he is ever writing to this one or other for what he calls "rare" ones—does to my mind savour of madness. Now, Mr. Editor, in my distress I have come to you with my complaint. What am I to do with my poor brother to wean him from his infatuation? I cannot get his company to the seaside or anywhere else, he has no time for any of the courtesies of life. Are all the votaries of stamp collecting alike? if so, I may as well despair. But if you can give me any consolation, or any hope of having "old times back again," you will for ever have a friend in forsaken

'NELLY.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

ABOUT ESSAYS IN GENERAL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—The readers of your (to the stamp-collecting fraternity) invaluable magazine, have lately been favoured with a lengthened, and I must say not a very bright specimen of the controversial capabilities of the learned Dr. Gray and Mr. Burn, respecting those pieces of paper bearing the likeness of the late Prince Consort. I have been puzzled sometimes to know what the disputants were quarrelling about, but I believe I have got hold of the right end of the tale, and it is this:—the learned doctor says that these pieces of paper are not essays, and Mr. Burn persists that they are. Sir, if Mr. Burn's pictures of the Prince Consort are not to be called essays, how then can the learned doctor call those very amusing engravings of a certain Milanese artist—who shall be nameless—Italian, Greek, and Mexican essays. If, on the other hand, Mr. Burn's pictures are to be called essays, how is it that the labels issued by the firm to which you belong are not classed with English essays? I will not hazard an opinion respecting these engravings, but will simply make a statement, the accuracy of which may be relied on. It is this: that although the die from which these engravings are struck may have been in existence in 1841 (which, however, is extremely doubtful), no sheets of stamps were made from them, nor, in fact, were there any of these stamps made until the autumn of 1863. Whether Mr. Burn has been duped, and believes that he asserts the truth, I know not; but I am quite certain that respecting this subject Mr. Burn is wrong. A few words about essays in general, and I will finish. Essays, or, at least, most of them, are complete swindles, got up by unscrupulous persons for the sake of 'filthy lucre.' They ought not to be recognised. Many of them are the productions of the Hamburg, Basle, and Milanese gentry. Witness the Romagna, Zurich, Italian, Danish, Luzon, Spanish, and numerous essays now advertised. I will, if you will allow me, give you some information regarding genuine essays and their origin in your next number. But, in conclusion, I but express the opinions of numbers of your subscribers, in hoping that the puissant assailant and defender of these essays will not obtrude their disputes upon the readers of your magazine.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

'NO-ESSAYS.'

[We shall be glad to insert the remarks of the author of the above diatribe on essays, wishing to get and to afford our readers all possible information on postal subjects. For the same reason we admitted, and were proud of the privilege of admitting, Dr. Gray's observations on the mooted point, and with like readiness inserted Mr. Burn's rejoinder. For our own part, we wish to be understood as *courting* discussion in the pages of our magazine; believing such to be the best and readiest method of eliciting truth.—ED.]

THE BRITISH GUIANA NEWSPAPER LABELS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—A letter from a correspondent, under the above heading, in your August impression, professes to give the difference between the genuine and forged British Guiana newspaper labels. One of the distinctions is, he says, the postmark, which in the genuine is the letters A O, and figure 3, and in the forgery the letters A O B or A O I. Now I have some undoubtedly genuine specimens of the 1, 2, and 4 cents, which agree in every particular with the descriptions of the genuine stamps given by Mr. Pemberton, and these have none of them for a postmark, 'the same as always used,' A. O. 3, but A. O. 1, *not* A. O. I. or A. O. B.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

Knightsbridge. R. EVANS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I beg to assure your readers, and, among others, O. Fleuss, that he is mistaken in supposing that only the pearl-bordered stamps of the so-called British Guiana 'newspaper' series are genuine. I myself, on their first appearance, received two of the yellow ones attached together, and partially perforated (or rather, partially cut through by some instrument), from a high West India functionary, among unused complete sets of most of the West India islands, &c., which he had obtained for me. One of these two had a *pearl* border and the other *grapes*. My friend mentioned in reference to these British Guianas and the dark blue one cent ditto, which were similarly perforated, that they had been hastily manufactured in the colony, to supply a temporary deficiency of the ordinary stamps, which are made in England. I fully believe that all genuine stamps of this series are partly divided, like mine, and authenticated each—as these were—by the initials of the postmaster-general of British Guiana in the centre.

Let me add, for the information of 'Veretas,' that the Nevis stamps represent the goddess of Health (or Charity) administering to a sick person, supported by a friend, the water of a celebrated mineral spring in Nevis, which is seen flowing down a cascade in the background. I had this fact from the attorney-general of Nevis.

Yours truly,

H. H.

THE UNITED STATES' INTER. REV. STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I hereby take occasion to reply to the inquiry of 'W. V., Alston, Cumberland,' in the June number of the magazine. It appears to me that sufficient has already appeared in your magazine to set at rest all doubts, and silence all inquiries as to the purpose, object, and use of the United States' Internal Revenue Stamps; but as the question of 'W. V.' shows the case to be otherwise, I will re-state the facts. The stamps marked U. S INTER. REV. are used in paying the internal revenue, as their name denotes, and *exclusively* so used, having no connection with postage stamps, and *never* being used for paying postage. The fact that 'W. V.' received a letter on which was a revenue stamp 'which was postmarked as well as the rest' proves nothing; for

were *any* species of stamps—those of a foreign country, or even those of Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith—to be placed upon our letters, they would doubtless be defaced together with the regular postage stamps. Hoping that the above explanation may be satisfactory to 'W. V.,'

I remain, yours respectfully,

West Springfield, Mass., U. S. L. H. B.

THE LIVONIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Observing in your July number that you still ask for information respecting the stamp having for inscription BRIEFMARKE, WENDENSCHEN KREISES, with plain green oval centre, red impression, the following, given me some months since by a German friend, if of any service, is at your disposal.

The Wendische Kreis is a district of the Lansitz (Lusatia), a country belonging partly to Saxony and partly to Prussia. The Lansitz is divided into two parts,—the Ober-Lansitz, or southern part, and the Nieder-Lansitz, or northern part of the country. The Lansitz (Lusatia) is a margravate, and its inhabitants are called Lusitzer (German name). About thirty thousand of these are the remainder of the Slavonians (German Slaven), known by the name of Wenden (English Vandals), from whom the district derives its name, Wendische Kreis, and which has the Prussian postal arrangement. BRIEFMARKE means stamp; KREIS is the equivalent for district, department, or canton. You will see by the above that the stamp in question is a local.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Halifax. NOVA SCOTIA.

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S DENIAL OF THE EXISTENCE OF A MORMON STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I see in the February number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* an article about the 'Mormon stamp.' I herewith enclose a letter from Brigham *himself* as to the same. Which is right?

Very truly yours,

H. SAMUEL KNIGHT.

Montpelier, Vermont, U.S.

Great Salt Lake City, June 18, 1864.

Mr. H. SAM. KNIGHT, Montpelier, Vermont.

Sir,—Presuming that every American citizen was aware that the Government controlled all postal affairs, and alone issued postage stamps, I could but marvel at your request, and therefore wrote for explanation.

To your reply, May 30, I have to reply that I have never issued, nor so much as thought of issuing, a *postage stamp*.

Respectfully, BRIGHAM YOUNG.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I see that your correspondent, 'Alice,' wishes to know why French stamps come on letters from Smyrna. The explanation is very simple, and I am rather surprised that it was not given; it is merely on account of there being a French post-office there from which the mail steamers go; it is equally possible that the letters should have English stamps on them, if 'Alice's' correspondent chose to send them by the English mail. As often as not my Egyptian letters have French stamps on them, and, if so wished, could have English, Italian, or Austrian instead.

Nothing has been heard of the Egyptian stamps yet; my brother tells me that a thing of that kind is generally talked of some years before being put in practice.

I remain, yours truly,

London. W. C. ALLEN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Your readers are no doubt aware of the fact, that in Russia letters can be sent post-paid only within its dominions (Russia proper). I hereby beg to inform you that since the 15th inst. letters may be sent post-paid not only to Poland, but also to Germany. A similar arrangement will shortly take place as regards other foreign countries. In consequence of it, new stamps of one, two, and three kopecs, and other values, will be introduced about the beginning of the following month.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Eydkuhnen, Prussia. MAX JOSENA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER, St. Thomas.—Many thanks for your Spanish translation, and for the La Guaira stamps. We engrave one of the latter for our present number. If you would favour us with your name and address, we should be glad to correspond direct with you.

A STAMP COLLECTOR.—The London District Telegraph Company's message stamps are of two values, 3d. and 6d., both black impressions, the former on yellow and the latter on a brownish-pink paper. They are *to prepay the charge for a telegram* in the same manner as postage-labels do the carriage of a letter. For any message under 20 words, the 6d. label is sufficient; if under 30 words the two stamps are affixed to the message. The company at present have only issued these two values, and allow a large discount on any quantity exceeding £1. To mercantile houses which use the 'wire' as frequently as the 'post,' this method of prepayment has all the advantages and convenience of the postage-stamp.

PEGG & REILLY, Dublin.—We remarked some time ago that the postal authorities of Van Diemen's Land denied the existence of a tenpenny stamp of that colony. You will observe we noted that the high-priced stamps you allude to are intended for bills; but we were also given to understand they could be employed for heavy letters.

INCOGNITO.—We never ourselves sell or supply our agents with any but genuine stamps. Of course we cannot prevent our agents from trafficking on their own account, and are not accountable for any falsities they may wittingly or unwittingly sell. We were informed that one of our London agents exposes a sheet of exceedingly well executed imitations of choice stamps in his window, but the prices asked are a sufficient proof of no dishonesty of intention. For example, we think any party purchasing at that shop a set of old Brazilians, large figures, twopence each, or fivepence the three; a set of Liberias, threepence, and so forth; if he believes them genuine, must be a ——— the opposite of wise, we will say, not to use unparliamentary language; and if he believes them real, he must be under the pleasant impression of knowing himself a receiver of stolen goods.

P. S., Windsor.—We are of opinion that the parcels delivery stamp employed at present in London, and to which you will see we have alluded in our article on new stamps, is decidedly as much entitled to a place in our albums as the locals of Hamburg or the United States, used for a similar purpose.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Thanks for your information respecting the new locals for Nicaragua, of which you will see we have availed ourselves in our article on newly-issued stamps, giving an engraving of the pink.

BRUTUS.—We have never received any satisfactory proof of the existence of the Dutch Guiana stamps, but shall be glad to receive some information respecting them.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER VII.

IN WHICH THE CONCLUSION OF MY ADVENTURES IS NARRATED, AND CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS ON FRENCH COLONIAL STAMPS ARE CONTAINED.

THE rooms occupied by Eulalie and her parents were on the attic floor, decently furnished, but the evident abode of people in the lower walks of life. Yet the neatness and taste which characterised the disposition of every article bore witness that a woman's hand had been at work. On one side of the sitting room was a bench strewn with carpenter's implements, and before it stood Eulalie's father, a tall, dull, peaceable old man, stooping with age and with a brow furrowed with the many cares of a lifetime. Before the little stove, tending the cooking of a simmering pottage with the skill for which her nation is famous, her mother sat, still bearing the traces of early beauty. Upon my entrance she rose and, bowing, begged me to be seated, which I did, whilst Eulalie narrated the purpose of my visit. Having duly responded to the thanks which her statement drew forth, I 'proceeded to business' and commenced inditing the desired epistle, the progress of which was from time to time interrupted by the eulogiums which the parents bestowed on their absent son and the wishes which they uttered for his health and well being. The details of many a little family episode, the story of many an old acquaintance's progress, and last, but not least, the communication of Eulalie's intended marriage filled up the pages of the letter; and having seen it duly enclosed I prepared to leave. Before going, however, the former letters of Regnault were produced and the much-prized Algerian stamps detached from their envelopes and handed to me. Thanks and good wishes having been exchanged, I departed and hastened homewards with my treasure. Upon arriving there I narrated to Brown my strange adventure. 'More in sorrow than in anger' upon hearing of my dereliction from our misogynistic principles he shook his head, expressed a fear that I was falling into bad habits, and earnestly warned me to beware of being enticed into feminine society. Having, as in duty bound, promised to do so I made my peace with a present of a set of the French colonials; at which he expressed his satisfaction.

There are few collectors who will not sympathise with the admiration we felt for these beautiful stamps. They are, indeed, the perfection of minute engraving. I must confess that I feel no partiality—rather, indeed, a positive disgust—for the Austrian and Prussian eagles, they are so utterly ugly and unmeaning. But the eagle as drawn on the French colonials looks natural, and is not the nonentity which appears on the German stamps. There is something suggestive in their appearance, moreover. Involuntarily one's mind reverts to the days of the old war, and to the dog-ear'd books furtively pored over in the years when 'practice drove us mad' in which its progress was described, for were not the Bonapartine troops accompanied by their eagles in all their triumphal marches? Throughout all Europe their presence brought ruin and desolation with it. They were borne through the smoke of a hundred battles, Jena and Austerlitz, Leipzic and Talavera, Vittoria and Waterloo, in all these they were conspicuous and shared their bearers' various fortunes; nor seldom does the record appear in the despatches of our own Iron Duke of their capture on the field. But farther back we can discern the eagles in the midst of clashing arms: if we turn from the usurper of to-day to the usurper of eighteen centuries since, we shall see the latter leading on his victorious legions of Roman soldiers to the conquest of Gaul and then on to Britain beneath the shadow of the imperial bird. Four magic letters carved beneath his talons served to show from whom those armies came and whom they served. *Senatus populusque Romanum.* How soon those words will cease to describe the governing bodies of Rome, and all their power be consolidated and held by one person, wearer of the imperial purple. Yet was not the emblem of success abandoned till Constantine replaced it with the cross; and now again we see it chosen by France and appearing upon its standards and its colonial stamps.

'Colonies de l' empire Français' they are a reality now; the French nation has found some outlets—few, indeed, and of no great importance—for its surplus population. The principal one, Algeria, is the fruit of conquest. The name of Abd-el-Kader has hardly yet faded from the public recollection, and that of Pelissier is still fresh and connected with some feats of arms of doubtful celebrity. A vast quantity of blood and treasure has been expended in securing a footing for French troops in Algeria, but they do not seem yet to have made it firm; and should they succeed, it is questionable whether the country will repay the cost of capture, or be ever anything more than a military colony. Senegambia and a few islands on the western coast of Africa, comprise all its other possessions on that continent. One of the islands, Re-union, is said to have issued two stamps, value respectively 15 and 30 cents; but I have never yet seen a genuine stamp of either.

In Asia, Pondicherry is the principal French possession, but no reader of Macaulay's essay on Lord Clive can have forgotten the attempt made by a talented French general, whose name I cannot now recall to mind, to extend the dominion of his nation over India, and overthrow British rule there.

Guadaloupe, one or two other of the Antilles group of the West Indian islands, and a few of the numerous South Sea islands comprise all that France can lay claim to in America and Oceanica, though her agents have before now made themselves prominent at Tahiti.



The New Caledonian, the roughest and ugliest stamp out, appears to have established its claim to be considered genuine; and may perhaps, now that it is undoubtedly genuine, become remarkably common.

It is worthy of note, as an instance of the operation of our neighbours' centralising system, that whilst our own colonies are allowed to issue postage stamps of such designs and values as they may think fit, those of France are supplied with theirs from head-quarters, and all have to use the same kind. But I have far exceeded the limits of a chapter, and must pull up my wandering pen.

(To be continued).

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY C. W. VINER, A.M., PH.D.

IX.—PARMA AND PIACENZA.

'Dukedom of the proud Farnese,
Fam'd for postage stamps and cheese!'

'What's the use of them?' We have answered this question more than once, and shall be ready and willing to do so again and again, till the mists of prejudice are quite cleared off, and postage stamp collecting has outlived and triumphed over its opponents. Open your album at any page, and, if you are blessed with powers of reflection, what a wonderful association of ideas will strike you after a fair gaze at the page! Few, if any, of your variegated possessions, will afford a more interesting or instructive conglomeration of objects for thought and speculation than that devoted to the stamps of the states the subject of our present paper. In a few moments the springs of many a drawer in the cabinet of the busy brain loosen their hold, and quickly, if not simultaneously, dart forth the memories of the buckler of the bold Romans—the British armada—the largest opera house in the world—the widow

'Of him who erst all Europe's powers defied,
A conqu'ror lived, a hopeless pris'ner died!'

—the silver toilet table of her successor, so great an object of attraction in the first Exhibition—and the cheese rejoicing in the borrowed name of Parmesan.

A strange medly this; but a natural one. Ages ago, the Ananes, or Anamani, were settled in that district of what the Romans call Cisalpine Gaul, now occupied by Parma and Placentia. About 180 years before the Christian era, a colony was sent thither from Rome, and it is said that the town then built in the shape of a round shield, which form it has ever since retained, received the appellation of Parma from that circumstance. Augustus Cæsar afterwards colonized it a second time, and among the few relics of antiquity remaining in the capital, is a cippus

bearing an inscription in which it is styled *Colonia Augusta*. The emperor probably wished to revive the drooping energies of the city and its neighbourhood, after the cruel devastations committed thereon by Antony and his licentious soldiery, which are so pathetically deplored by Cicero in his fourteenth Philippic.

The territory is small, scarcely measuring fifty miles from east to west, and less still from north to south. The mountain region, comprising about a third of the whole, is bleak, and except for its chestnut trees, almost barren. Thence come most of the monkey and organ-boys swarming in our streets, and whom Messrs. B. and B. are so strenuously wishing to drive back to their chestnuts again. The pasture lands are wonderfully fertile, producing corn, fruits, wine, silk, cattle, and poultry. Centuries ago Martial sang the praises of the fine wool of Parma. Parmesan cheese comes no more from Parma than Brussels carpets from Brussels. The former is made at Lodi, the other side of the Po, and the latter are woven at Tournay and Kidderminster. Beneath the ground surface are found salt, copper, iron, lithographic stones, marble, and alabaster.

After the Romans, the Goths, Longobardi, and Carlovingians possessed the country. Then, like all the other cities of Italy, 'Parma the golden' set up on its own account as a republic, mostly favouring the Papal and Guelphic parties. Afterwards the Visconti of Milan were predominant, till one of the Can della Scala family, of Verona—whose extraordinary tombs form so singular and attractive an ornament to that ancient city, usurped the government. On his death the Pope was again master, soon superseded by the Correggio family, by the Visconti a second time, and the Sforzas, dukes of Milan. In the wars between Italy and the French monarchs, Louis XII. and Francis I., each party alternately possessed it; and the latter power being at last forced to evacuate, the popes retained undisturbed possession, till Pope Paul III., in 1545, created his *nephew*, one of the Farnese family, duke of Parma and Piacenza. It was this pope who excommunicated our Henry VIII., thus provoking the severance of Great Britain from Romanistic subjection. Pier Luigi Farnese was the name of the newly-made sovereign, who possessed his rank scarcely two years, in which short space of time he contrived by his tyranny and vices to render himself so odious to his subjects that his assassination, at Piacenza, by Count Anguissola, leader of a conspiracy with other nobles, was hailed with acclamations by the people, who mutilated and dragged the body about in triumph. His son Ottavio, nevertheless, enjoyed peaceable succession for forty years. Ottavio's son Alessandro, who was distinguished for his warlike achievements, is the individual celebrated in the days of Elizabeth, and immortalized in the old ballad on the Armada:

> 'Their men were young, munition strong;
> And, to do us the more harm-a,
> They thought it meet to join their fleet
> All with the Prince of Parma.'

The next in succession, Ranuccio, in cruelty and perfidy sufficiently evidenced his descent from his great-grandsire, whose character, rather than that of either father or grandfather, was revived in himself. His audacity in early youth involved him in a danger which had well nigh proved fatal; and, had Providence *so* willed it, his own fair fame would have remained untarnished, and the many victims to his tyranny been spared their sufferings. In the chronicles of the times the adventure alluded to is styled, *The Conspiracy of the Bells*.

Pope Sixtus V., on his elevation to the tiara, energetically resolved to put down many evil habits and abuses that disgraced the sacred city. Among others were the numerous and bloody conflicts daily taking place between the antagonistic factions of the nobles. As a sure preventive, he enacted that whoever carried firearms, whatever rank he bore, should be condemned to death. The young prince Ranuccio, then on a visit to his uncle the Cardinal Farnese, in a spirit of reckless bravado, contrived when presented to his holiness to let a pistol fall, as if by accident, from his person.

The pontiff was not one to overlook such an insult, and—spite of the entreaties of the cardinal and of many of the highest nobility of Rome, backed by the combined prayers and

threats of the Spanish ambassador, Count Olivarez—sentenced the young prince to execution at twenty-four o'clock (answering to our midnight). Two hours only were wanting to the fatal moment. Ranuccio, scouting the idea of the pope's daring to fulfil his threat, was supping with his young companions, when the ministers of justice appeared, conducted him to the Castle of St. Angelo, and formally consigned him to the governor.

The aspect of matters was now really serious; the preparations for death were rapidly advancing; the monks were chaunting the *Dies Iræ;* when Italian astuteness bethought itself of an ingenious stratagem. By the connivance of the high official who superintended the public clocks, those of the castle and of all within sound of the governor's ears were put back ten minutes; and at the moment of real midnight the cardinal presented himself to the pontiff, humbly requesting an order for the delivery of the corpse of his nephew, that *that* at least might be spared for burial to his afflicted family. The pope, thinking his orders had been obeyed, gave the required writing, and the cardinal rushed back to St. Angelo just as the *De profundis* was being chaunted. It wanted but one minute of the time when the order of delivery was presented to the governor, who hesitated on reading it. 'Why is it thus worded? *Deliver the* BODY *of Ranuccio Farnese.*' 'I received the paper from his holiness seven minutes since, and your excellency can see the time is not yet expired.' The governor could no longer resist; and the respited youth in a few minutes was bowling in a chariot along the road to Parma as fast as four horses could carry him.

Years afterwards, when a scaffold was erected in front of his palace, and to glut the vengeance or appease the suspicions of the merciless tyrant, the noble Countess of Colorno and several of the highest aristocracy were beheaded in sight of the populace—the duke with savage delight beholding the execution from a window of the palace—did no remembrance of his own narrow escape obtrude itself upon the unpitying heart of Ranuccio?

The Farnese family continued to rule over Parma and Piacenza till 1731, when the male line became extinct; but the female representative, Elizabeth, wife of Philip V. of Spain, chaiming possession, the duchy was eventually bestowed on her younger son, Don Filippo, after his elder brother, Don Carlos, had become king of the two Sicilies. Himself, and afterwards his son Ferdinand, governed so wisely that Parma became one of the most thriving states in Italy.

In the Napoleonic turmoil many changes took place; the duchy was united to France and Ferdinand's son, Ludovico, made king of Etruria. After the fall of Bonaparte, his widow, Maria Louisa, was made Duchess of Parma; with remainder to Ludovico, who had meanwhile to be content with the duchy of Lucca. At the death of the ex-empress, Duke Charles succeeded her, but did not long or worthily enjoy his dignity. A conspiracy was formed by some restless agitators, taking advantage of the great unpopularity of the duke's prime minister—a *ci-devant* English horse-jockey—and he was assassinated in the open street, in 1852. His widow, who must have been highly loved and respected, as evinced by the magnificent presentation offering alluded to above, and whose decease took place not long since, reigned on behalf of her children for awhile, till the bloodless annexation of Parma and its dependencies to Victor Emanuel.

The late duchess was a stamp collector, and possessed a choice assortment of old Spanish stamps. Her son, now residing in Venice, continues to add to the collection. Ward, the stable boy or jockey, alluded to above, died not long since at Vienna.

A few words, in conclusion, respecting the Parma stamps. The first series contained but three individuals and were superscribed as for the Parma states. Though nominally but three, the 5 centesimi is known both of a yellow and orange colour. This latter stamp, though not so rare as it formerly was, is still difficult to be met with unused. The other two are likewise found each in two different shades of the same colour. The next series bears the same device, but in lieu of being printed in colour on white is black on colour. The five values, with the exception of the blue now seldom met with post-marked, are

now exceedingly common, particularly the lilac. We engrave the 10 cent. of this series, black impression, sometimes on white sometimes on slightly tinted paper. The third series, of three denominations—two of which, the 5 and 15 c., are of varying shades of colour—a few years ago were almost unattainable uncancelled, and rare even as used stamps; but, like the former series, whether they have been reprinted or whether the small country post-offices have been rummaged to find unused sheets, numbers are now offered for sale in an uncancelled state.



The impressions stamped by the provisional government, though peculiarly simple in appearance, tend to varify a collection. Their simplicity and rarity combined to obtain for them the pre-eminence [we believe] of being the first stamps forged to meet the increasing demands of collectors; and a fine harvest the original concoctors of the cheatery contrived to make. We well remember the pretenders fetching eighteenpence or more each on the Stamp Exchange. Like the second and third series, whether reprints or salvages, they are now within the reach of every collector. The 5 c. light and dark green and the 40 c. rose or red may be instanced as varieties. The two stamps employed as a tax on foreign newspapers entering the Parmesan States were similar in design to these, but being printed on a coloured ground are rather more attractive in appearance. Once what the French call '*unfindable*,' they are at present easily obtained.

NOTES ON ENVELOPE STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Those collectors, few and far between, who commenced filling their albums eight or nine years ago, must have found need of but little space in them for envelope stamps. At that time only four or five countries besides our own had adopted them. But they have since been regarded with such favour that not less than sixteen countries * and five of our own colonies now use them, and there is little doubt that they will spread still further. It has often been rumoured that France was about to issue a series, but it has not yet been forthcoming. In the last number allusion was made to the appearance in Paris of Spanish envelope essays, and it would not be surprising that a country which so early issued adhesives, and has since been so prolific in its emissions, should extend its patronage to a graceful series of envelopes. We ourselves, a short time since, saw a very handsome set of essays for Bavaria, said to have been proposed for adoption about four years since; bearing the arms of that country in an oval frame, and the value in words,—altogether a striking contrast to the present well-known adhesive stamps.

In this country, envelopes have been failures; the public has never taken kindly to them. The grotesque Mulready enjoyed but a short life, and the subsequent issue has been but little used. Notwithstanding the recommendation of the *Postal Guide*, so little favour have they found that, with the exception of the penny, they are only impressed to order, and are consequently almost as rare as obsoletes. Our envelopes vary considerably in character, from the well-known and poorly-designed penny and the rough shilling to the really elegant twopenny and fourpenny.

Our colonial envelopes make a good show; indeed the Ceylon issue calls for the admiration of every collector. The fineness of their lines, the splendid relief of the Queen's head, and their glowing colours combine to constitute them the ne plus ultra of their kind. Those of Mauritius and India are deserving of the next places, whilst the Canadian issue and the New South Wales envelope make a rough but showy rearguard.

The rare Finland envelopes (an engraving of one of which was given in No. 18) were the first used on the continent, and in the same year the much commoner oval issue superseded them. A fact lately came to our knowledge which illustrates the extreme parsimony of the Finland postal officials. Upon the present issue being decided on, a number of the old envelopes remained in stock. As collectors are aware, these—like the Russian and Polish—bore the impression on the flap

* Reckoning for this purpose North and South Germany, Finland, and Poland as separate nations.

of the envelope instead of the back; this impression on each one was struck through with a pen and ink to cancel it, and the new design stamped on the back. These envelopes are of course very rare, only a few having found their way to this country. It was not until nine years after envelopes had been used in Finland that they were issued by Russia proper. In 1854 the 5 and 1 kop., intended for circulation in St. Petersburg alone, was issued, and four years after the series now in use throughout the empire came out. They are characterised by the fineness of the lines forming the groundwork, and the fact that the upper portion of the inscription is in colour and flat and the lower in white relief. The 10 kop. shows the design to the greatest advantage, the arms standing out very distinctly from the centre of the disc. The Polish envelopes are hardly more than rough copies of the Russian, but the odd kopec for the paper is not charged on them as on the latter.

Before us lies a set of old Prussian in all their *immaculate* beauty and charming variety of colour. The three lowest values are oval, the four higher are octagonal, but the 7 s. gr. has the king's head in an inner oval. The figure denoting value is in this stamp and in the 1, 2, and 3 s. gr. at the bottom, but in the 4, 5, and 6 s. gr. at the top. The pattern of the border is different in each. At the bottom of the neck on each one the word SCHILLING is embossed, but the letters are too minute to be distinguished by the naked eye. Frederick William IV. appears to much greater advantage on the envelopes than on the adhesives. On the latter he appears quite emaciated, whilst on the former there is an expression of intellectual activity, of refinement, we might almost say of refined cunning. Few collectors can avoid instituting a comparison between the envelopes which bore that fine portrait and their inscription-defaced successors; indeed, in no instance is the change from 'heads' to 'arms' more regretable than in that of Prussia.

The old issue of Saxony, which appeared in 1856, bore the head of king John to the left, and whilst rivalling the Prussian in beauty, was inferior to it in colour. The present series has a neat appearance, and is much superior to its adhesive congeners; its engraver having wisely dispensed with numerals of value as ornaments.

In 1857 envelopes bearing the head of the *ci-devant* Duke of Cumberland were issued in Hanover, and we are glad that they have not yet given place to an 'arms' issue. The only alterations which have been made in them consist in the substitution of GROSCHEN for SILB. GROSCHEN, and the repetition of the figure of value on a circular white relieved space on each side and its omission from the bottom. But in Hanover an envelope for local use preceded the issue of adhesives; the first of the 'bestellgeld freis'—a handstamped impression of a bugle horn in circle—being issued in 1850, and the first adhesive stamps not until 1851. Since then two other local envelopes have been issued; the galloping horse being the current representative.

The much-admired Baden came into use in 1857, and have continued current without any change, except that of colour.

1861 A.D. was a favourable year for the subjects of our notice. In it Austria, North and South Germany, Oldenburg, and Bremen commenced issuing envelopes, but in the whole number there is little worthy of remark. The insignificant Austrians, in which the certainly fine countenance of Kaiser Franz was libelled, have already retired from public life, and given place to the 'arms' series, the offspring of a 'bureaucratic' imagination. The issue of the German States is plain, and nothing more. The Oldenburg series, an enlarged copy of the new adhesives, has since changed colour, and the obsoletes have already become scarce. Bremen commenced with a handstamped envelope, only surpassed in simplicity by that rare one which does duty for the town of Brunswick, and has rested contented with its work. The Brunswickers, of which we are here reminded, came out in 1860, and probably about the same time the Mecklenburg series—which takes rank as the finest of those in which the 'arms' is the principal feature—saw the light. In 1862 Wurtemburg introduced 'covers,' in which the German fashion of numerals in the centre was followed with ugly effect. Contemporaneously with the new issue of adhesives, and similar

in all respects to them, the Lubeck envelopes appeared; a well-engraved set forming as yet the last issued in Europe. The Canadian already referred to, and those of the United States are the only sets hitherto issued on the American continent. The old issues of the latter are quite unworthy of the country in which they were current, so rough and inelegant are they; but the present series, done in a unique but fine style, does credit to the designer, and makes brilliant the page which they fill in the collector's album.

We alluded at the commencement to the fact that the high-priced English envelopes do not find a sale. It is noticeable that the more costly continentals are also failures. The highest value of the old Prussian was 7 s. gr., of the new issue 3 s. gr.; of the old Saxony 10 n. gr., of the new issue 5 n. gr.; of the old Austrian 35 kr., of the new issue 25 kr. Among current envelopes the Ceylon two-shilling and one-and-ninepenny are the most expensive, and after them the United States' 40 c.

No. V.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Argentine Confederation.

Inscription [CORRIENTES], *head to left. Black imp. on col. paper; rect. Value not indicated.*

Green.

British Columbia.

LOCAL STAMP.

Barnard's Cariboo express paid. Black imp.; oblong.

Orange-red.

Canada.

Aug., 1864. *Name, diademed head of Queen Victoria to left in oval, figure indicating value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.*

2 cents rose.

Denmark.

Inscription [KGL. POST. FRM.], *sword and sceptre in saltire crowned, in oval, value in each spandril. Col. imp.; rect.*

16s. pale-ash.

Great Britain.

Head of Queen Victoria with diadem to left, letters in each angle, small figures in bordering on each side. Col. imp.; rect.

1d. red, 8c. each side.
1d. „ 7c. „ „
1d. „ 74 „ „
1d. „ 78 „ „
1d. „ 82 „ „

ENVELOPES.

Same devices as on page 29, *two impressions on one envelope.*

6d. violet and 1d. rose = 7d. on white paper.

6d. violet and 1d. rose = 7d. on blue paper.

ENVELOPE ESSAYS.

Same device as No. 5, *page* 30. *Col. imp.; oval.*

Violet.

Same device as No. 18, *page* 32. *Col. imp.; oval.*

Green.
Rose.

Russia.

FINLAND ENVELOPE.

Arms crowned over two bugle horns, value on each side, hand printed. Col. imp.; transversely oval.

20 kop. slate-green.

Sandwich Islands.

August, 1864.—*Bust of King in an oval frame, name* [HAWAII] *above, inscription* [ELUA KENETA] *below, figure indicating value in upper angles. Col. imp.; rect.*

2 (cents) vermilion.

Tasmania.

Name, St. George and Dragon in circle within transverse oval containing value in words. Col. imp.; rect.

5 s. brown.

St. George and Dragon in circle within upright oval containing name and value in words. Col. imp.; rect.

10 s. orange.

United States.

LOCAL LABELS.

Barr's penny dispatch. Col. imp.; oblong.
Red.

D. O. Blood & Co. for the post-office city despatch paid. Black imp.; circular.

Venezuela.

LOCAL LABELS.

Aug., 1864.—*Rectangular frame inscribed* SAN TOMAS LA GUIARA P^TO CABELLO, *and containing inscription* [PAQUETE] *and value in words under a steam vessel, date indicated. Col. imp.; rect.*

½ real pink.
2 reales green.

Wurtemberg.

1864.—*Same device as* 1860, *page* 94. *Col. imp.; square.*

6 kreuzer blue.
9 „ red-brown.
18 „ pale orange.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

N.B.—The blue and black Russian label of 1863, 5 kopecs is no longer to be used, the new 5 kop. lilac takes its place.

NEWLY-ISSUED, OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We are given to understand, from a reliable correspondent, that the essays of which the impressions below are fac-similes, have been





actually submitted to the United States' government for approval, or we should have been disposed to mistake them for Hamburgians, or specimens of a Yankee engraver's jocosity. In the face of assurance to the contrary, we can but offer an Irishman's opinion, to the effect that they are fair specimens of retrograde progression. By depicting Acadian faces with the characteristic head adornments of Cooper's wild indians, we suppose the designer meant to typify the savage ferocity now engendered in his fellow-citizens. In sooth, the gentlemen above depicted look ready enough to scalp each other in approved style. Each value is repeated in black, rose, violet, and blue.

The two other essays given below are much more attractive in appearance; but though a step or two in advance of cap-of-liberty-bearing head of the Buenos Ayres stamps, are far, far in arrear of the unequalled series of the French republic. We suppose the type is American. It certainly is neither Greek nor Roman. The two impressions cannot be placed so as to face each other. In the present state of affairs, they could not do so without blushing. Like the preceding, they are printed in the same four different colours.





We may next notice another essay for the honour of representing the forthcoming issue for Belgium. It precisely follows the rather limiting requisitions prescribed by the government, and quoted in a previous number of this magazine. We are writing this in the inspiring natal place of the great Virgil, but we would defy that sweetest of poets himself, were he now living, to poetise a description of this most prosaic and commonplace looking of stamps. We suppose Horace would style it '*simplex munditiis*,' and it is certainly simple enough.

The profile of King Leopold, turned towards the left, nearly fills the whole field. Above, in a semicircle, is BELGIQUE; below, in another, DIX CENTS. In the left-hand upper corner is an almost microscopic 10, in

the right c^{s}; and in the lower corners, A on one side and the figure 1 on the other.

What this latter device typifies we know not; most assuredly the engraver could not mean to imply at once his knowledge of English and expose his own vanity, by dubbing his production as A 1! It is much more probable that he designed to adopt our system of numbering the individual stamps in every sheet, and meant the next in succession to be A 2, A 3, and so on.

The Italian Segna Tassa stamp for unpaid letters, has been altered in hue from a yellow to a dull orange colour.



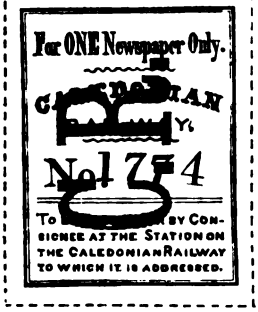


This pair of delicate, unpretending stamps —one of which, the Victoria, was noted in our last, and the other has been expected a considerable time—will be interesting additions to our albums. Different shades of violet or violet-brown have annually coloured the twopenny Victorias; and we think the stamp under notice, though of a similar type, rather an improvement on the last fourpenny issue. We are surprised, however, that a different hue was not chosen for the 2 cents Canada, and should imagine its great similarity to the 1 cent, should the latter not be withdrawn from circulation, would tend to create confusion.



The cut representing the novel emission of the Hawaiian kingdom, can give but a faint idea of the extreme brilliancy of colour of the original stamp, which is the same as that of the 10 c. Nova Scotia. On comparison of the two individuals, it is self-evident they emanate from the press of the same engravers, to wit, the American Bank-Note Company.

We have now actually to describe and depict another private office stamp of our own country. In this instance, not England but Scotland affords the specimen. The figure represents the stamp except in hue, which is pale green.



The following is from the *Scotsman* alluding to this stamp: 'The Caledonian Railway has just adopted a plan for the transmission of single copies of newspapers by rail which is likely to prove of great use to newspaper readers on that line, and in the locality it traverses: the system is simply an issue of farthing stamps, prepared after the fashion of postage stamps; perforated and gummed like these, they are sold in sheets containing a dozen, the price of the sheet being, of course, threepence.'

We feel assured that postal collectors will be gratified by the description of two resuscitated specimens of emissions that have certainly existed, but whose history, date of currency, and—in one instance—even locality is partially shrouded in obscurity.

We have ourselves seen both individuals; one of them as much as two years ago—before this magazine was in circulation—and had frequently thought of describing it from memory, in hopes some of our numerous and able corespondents could afford an inkling of information respecting it.

The type we are alluding to is engraved from an original in the August number of Moens' *Stamp-Collector's Journal*, from which we take the liberty of transcribing the full description; premising that the editor of that work doubts its previous existence as a postage stamp, and thinks it merely one of a series of essays submitted to the government of Buenos Ayres, after the circulation of the well-known but rare ships was withdrawn. In contravention of this, we beg to note that the specimen we had in our own hands was postmarked, and most probably formed one of a set in use anterior to the issue of what are universally considered the earliest stamps of Buenos Ayres. We would add that the

individual we saw was the blue one, and we regret to say, being lent to a party for inspection, was never again forthcoming, so that all trace of its present whereabouts is lost.

We remarked above that the native place of the stamp under survey was obscurely known; still, from the letters B* and A* in the lower corners, as well as its having been, to all appearance, designed by the concoctors of the Buenos Ayres ships, we imagine Mons. Moens is right in assigning it that locality.*

The size and form are the same as those of the last-mentioned stamps. In the framework above is CORREOS, and below, the value in the middle, and, as we said before, letters betokening its locality in each corner. The side of the frame bears a slight ornamental pattern. An oval oblong in the centre contains the representation of a landscape, exhibiting trees, mountains, the sea, and the rising sun; and in the foreground a horseman, in South American costume, furiously galloping away with back turned from the beholder.

The spandrils between the oval and the framework are filled in with colour. The several values are 4 reales gold-yellow, 6 r. green, 8 r. dark violet, and 10 r. blue. The last-mentioned is the one we observed ourselves.

From the same source we derive the information that the shilling postage stamp of Tasmania is now perforated. If so, most probably all the others are, or soon will be, similarly improved.

The other hitherto undescribed, and, we have every reason to believe—to an overwhelming majority of collectors—totally unknown, impression is a Brunswick issue. We chanced to be in Mons. Moens' depôt, at Brussels, when a parcel was brought in from that country, containing a postage-stamp album sent for sale, and among the contents was the specimen we are writing about. Even Mons. Moens himself, who might be supposed from his early connection with the movement to be well up in acquaintance with every continental stamp, had never before seen or heard of it.

We proceed with its description, hoping the mention of this rare specimen—which is proposed to be engraved in the next month's *Timbre-Poste*—will draw forth further and fuller information respecting itself and probable congeners.

The stamp is square; the ground dull brown; letters and device in relief, of a very slightly tinted blue colour. In the centre is a circle, containing the conventional crown and horse of Brunswick. This is enclosed in a square frame, bearing on the top, BRAUNSWEIG; below, 2 GROSCHEN; on each side, FREI; and the figure 2 at all four corners.

* In this supposition we are confirmed by a correspondent whose letter appears in this number, and who has sent us a specimen, of which we will give an engraving in our next magazine.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

ALTHOUGH some time has elapsed since the appearance of my last paper, comparatively few forgeries have sprung into existence since that date. I will therefore give a brief summary of the productions of those 'eminent dealers' at Hamburg—Spiro Brothers—which are made (and sold) by the thousand as *fac-similes*, and may be purchased as such from some few dealers, but usually as genuine, at the small charge of one penny per copy; a guarantee, twopence extra. 'Spiro's series' at present includes the following important works, and they will shortly be followed by others of an equally attractive nature:—

Brazil.—30, 60, 90, first issue.
British Guiana.—1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24 cents.
Finland.—Envelope 5, 10 kop., transverse oval.
Greece.—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 lepta.
Hamburg.—½, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 schilling.
India.—½, 1 anna.
Liberia.—6, 12, 24 cents.
Lubeck.—1859.
Modena.—Tassa Gazette.
Nevis.—1d.
New Caledonia.—10 cent.
Nicaragua.—5 cent.
Sandwich Islands.—1 c. black, 13 c. red.
Saxony.—1850 3 pf. red.
Sicily.—½, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 grani.

Tuscany.—1, 2, 4, 6, 9 cras., 1 quattr.
„ 1, 5, 10, 20, 40 centes.

These, the principal contents of these dealers' packets of stamps, are for the most part fairly executed, and rather close imitations; but they are all lithographed, whereas most of the stamps they counterfeit are die-printed. The following observations on these forgeries—we beg the makers' pardon, these fac-similes—are intended more for the inexperienced collector than for the old-established one; there is something essentially false about the appearance of these stamps to the eyes of the experienced in matters 'stampy,' or, to use a more orthodox but less pronouncable word, timbromaniacal. There is, too, a certain newness about them most incompatable with their pretended age; and they are all more or less washed out in appearance, as if 'got up' as cheaply as possible.

BRAZIL.—Real stamps of this first issue are most beautifully executed, the background is of engine-turned lines of dots; the forgery tries to imitate this by a coarse array of dots. The imitation looks uncomfortably new and white.

BRITISH GUIANA.—I have previously described these, and from that description it appears that the following are the most salient points of difference. Forgery: the C of DAMUS slants clearly to the left hand, and above the tops of the letters of BRITISH there is a very clear margin of colour; whereas in the real stamp the tops of the letters of BRITISH all but touch the edge of the stamp, though the bottoms of the letters have a little more space left below them.

DANISH 2 R. B. S.—In the genuine stamp the figure 2 is not quite square, the point (or lowest part) of the down stroke pointing outwards in a decided way towards the left-hand lower corner; in the forgery the figure is square, i. e., this point points downwards and does not extend beyond the level of the top of the figure, as it does in the real stamp. In the genuine the horn below the value, has the shading of the *curl* of the horn forming a complete circle of dots, the mouthpiece of the horn is very thin and is pointed towards the left-hand upper corner; in this forgery the curl is shaded by dots, but they do not form a circle as in the genuine; the mouthpiece of the horn is broadish and not *pointed*, and being curved cannot be said to *point* upwards, although it does so in a slight degree.

FINLAND.—The envelopes are good imitations, but they have an unwholesome look about them; being printed on very thin paper, the hue of anything on which they may be placed shows through their own dingy whiteness. These are lithographed, the originals are block-printed; these are printed upon a thin paper, whilst the originals are upon a tolerably thick one; the reprints are upon various papers, but originals are usually upon a rather dull surfaced paper.

GREECE.—Compare the Hamburg production with a 20 c. of France, the background in the case of a genuine Greek will be as clear and fine as that of the French stamp, not so this 'fac-simile.'

HAMBURG.—In all genuine Hamburg the K of POSTMARKE has the upper stroke—the thin one—considerably longer than the lower or thick one. The upper stroke of the E of the same word, is either rather curved downwards or else a trifle cramped.

LIBERIA.—The 12 c. is a far superior imitation to the 6 and 24 c. In the 6 c. the toe of Liberty touches the border, in the 12 c. the spear is not shaded anywhere throughout the length of the staff, in the 24 c. there is a break in the stone below the word LIBERIA; the genuine stamps are as follows: 6 c., the toe does not touch the border; 12 c., the staff of the spear is shaded in the upper length; 24 c., the lowest break in the stone is rather *above* the level of the word LIBERIA. The postmark of these fac-similes shows the words LIBERIA MONROWA, instead of MONROVIA as it should be. I do not feel sure that this 12 c. is one of Spiro's make, but it always appears in company with the much inferior 6 and 24 c.

MODENA, Tassa Gazette.—The dots after and by CENT 10 are not very large; they are very large and very round in the real stamp. A genuine tassa gazette used to be one of the greatest of rarities, but reprinting has done its work in this instance towards depreciating the value of post-marked copies.

NEVIS 1d.—It may be known by the ex-

treme whiteness of the background and the coarseness of the general execution. This is one of the imitations which are unsuccessful.

New Caledonia.—Price, and the company that the specimen is with will readily determine that this Hamburg individual is false.

Nicaragua.—The original stamps are magnificent steel engravings, the forgeries—or fac-similes, as dealers term these unwelcome unrealities—are lithographed, and are very bad as regards the lettering, which is not uniform. These three last-mentioned stamps are all very new and very clean, but with a decidedly disreputable air about them.

Sandwich Islands 13 c.—In the genuine stamp there is a very small dot after UNITED STATES, which is wanting in the imitation. The imitation has a very coarse look about it and is badly engraved, especially the king's hair, which is scarcely at all shaded. The 1 c. in most genuine copies has the small 1 below, an exact counterpart of the large central one. It is a very rare thing to see post-marked specimens in England of this stamp, or, indeed, of any one of these Sandwich Islands' stamps.

Saxony.—This imitation has been described recently. Every letter of the real stamp is clear and bold, those of the imitation are clear but not thick enough in the thick strokes; it fails principally in the work upon the central figure 3, which *should* be composed of marks very like small figures 3, and placed in all positions.

Sicily.—Every line of the lettering on the Hamburg-made Sicilians is clear; not so, to any great extent, in originals. The B of BOLLO should always commence rather above the white (line in the frame) below the head, in the 'fac-simile' it is just before the level of this line.

Tuscany.—These stamps I have described in this magazine, by which the reader will observe that the position of the crown on the lion's head is the distinctive mark by which the genuineness of the specimen is to be determined. In this imitation the crown on the lion's head is exactly under or else a shade to the right of the T in POSTALE above it. In the genuine stamp it will be noticed that the crown is invariably a trifle to the left of the T of POSTALE. This will apply with still greater distinctness to the fac-similes of the provisional stamps, the real ones having the crown very perceptibly to the left side of the T of POSTALE. I have lately had an opportunity of examining two forged Tuscany, viz., 2 soldi on blue and on white. The specimens I have before me are upon a rather stout paper, gummed with very clear, strong gum; and are watermarked in imitation of the very curious knot-like mark observable on the oldest and purest tinted blue paper Tuscany. The watermark, however, in the paper of the forgery somewhat resembles an ivy leaf, being too broad in the central part and not quite straggling enough to be a good imitation of that on the veritable Tuscan stamps. The watermark is made identical in both blue and white paper by the forgers, though as a rule that of the white paper issues is of perpendicular lines, crossing and forming ellipses. There are faults in the engraving which would require much space to detail, being very difficult to describe from their minuteness. The shading on the back of the lion is, in the forgery, of dots, each one clear: this only applies to the *uppermost* lines of shading on the creature's back. In genuine ones the dots forming these lines of shading run one into another, so that the shading is formed of irregular oblongs in addition to dots. The dots—excepting the very uppermost line, i.e., immediately below the mane—are never so clear as to be counted with precision.

Venezuela.—These fac-similes are very good, but if it is remembered that some of the letters of VENEZOLANA always touch the lower line of the scroll in which the word is placed, one will not be misled by them; the lettering, too, is seldom regular. Then, again, the eagle is very strongly shaded down to the point of each wing, whereas they are made here to be quite light and unshaded at the tips.

I have just received a 5 c. Dutch Indies which seems to have claims upon the Hamburg dealers for its existence. It presents the washy colouring, the whiteness of paper, and general unhealthy look of Spiro Bro.'s efforts. A glance at this specimen, when by the side of a real one, would be sufficient to determine the following as very striking

differences. The face of the king is quite unshaded on the right-hand side (drawing an imaginary line down the nose and including the right-hand side of the forehead); the collar and ear to the right are scarcely at all shaded. All the letters of POST the same size; the dolphins (which embellish the top corners) have a very stony look, especially as regards the eyes; and the whole stamp boasts very little shading, and that little is very scratchy. Though rather full-blown in appearance, the king is decidedly forbidding in expression, and scarcely improves on close inspection. Do these points agree with the beautifully-executed original? Does the counterfeit depict the suavity on the countenance of the *real* king? As my allotted space is now filled, my readers can resolve this point at their leisure.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage Stamps Illustrated. A general nomenclature of every postage stamp, and facsimiles of all types issued up to the present time in the different countries of the world, from 1840 *to* 1864. By J. B. MOENS, translated by Dr. C. W. VINER. London: Grumel & Michel.

THIS valuable publication is a translation of the letter-press appertaining to the French work of Mons. Moens, the well-known Brussels promoter of the postage stamp movement. So rapid, however, has been the addition of novel types, that many more are interpolated in the text of this translation even, than appeared in the French original.

The types represented in the *Illustrations* being merely engraved reproductions irrespective of language, the present volume is equally calculated for binding up with that part containing them as was the French version. In either case a handsome, instructive, and useful volume is completed which ought to be in the hands of every postal amateur, and we trust ere long the spirited publisher will find it his interest to engage translators for the German and Italian tongues.

Independently of the carefully-written descriptions of and references to the engravings in the *Illustrations*, the work is replete with much information both of interest and utility. A preface embracing more than a dozen pages gives a complete account of postal arrangements or means of transmitting despatches from the time of Cyrus the Great to the days of Rowland Hill, inclusive of a full history of that (to early collectors) once most mysterious office of Thurn and Taxis, the splendid palace of whose sovereign we have just had an opportunity of viewing.

This is succeeded by a table of all the countries of the world that have hitherto employed postage stamps, in chronological order with the exact dates of emission both of adhesives and envelopes. Explanation of abbreviations then follows, and a carefully adjusted money table. In this latter the author is mistaken in estimating the cent of Hong Kong at the same value as those of Canada and the United States, which are equivalent to an English halfpenny. In Hong Kong are used Mexican dollars, varying in worth according to the rate of exchange, at from four and sixpence to four and tenpence English currency. Foreign money is certainly very puzzling to the uninitiated, and we are only just commencing to get a glimmering of the value of the several monetary denominations of South America. We fancied we comprehended the nature of the familiar kreutzer which the juvenile postage stamp vendors of the ''Change' used invariably to dub *cruisers*, as they did the Guiana stamps 'guanos.' We nevertheless, in the Tyrol lately, had occasion to make a very small purchase to the amount of *two* of those coins. We tendered a piece marked *six* kreuzer, received our commodity, and moreover, greatly to our surprise, *eight* 'cruisers' as change!

*Mais, revenons à nos M***oens.* The work which we are deservedly lauding, though published in London, was printed in Brussels, and in paper, print, and general getting up does much honour to the continental press. We have not hitherto detected any clerical error, and those who are aware how exceedingly difficult foreigners usually find it to spell English must allow great credit to the compositors in the present instance.

In the part appertaining to the Disunited States an excellent and correct account is

afforded of the rise, progress, and fall of the numerous private offices, and throughout the work the situations, chief towns, &c., of all the countries mentioned are judiciously added. We conclude by cordially recommending the purchase of this part of Mons. Moens publication at least, to all postage-stamp collectors, if they are not inclined to meet the expense of its more costly concomitant, the *Illustrations*.

Der Briefmarkenfreund. Eine Sammlung originalgetreuer Abbildungen der Briefmarken aller Welttheile in vielsach vergrösserten Maassstabe. Leipzig: Moritz Ruhl.

THIS German publication with the 'crack-jaw' title emanates from the establishment of Moritz Ruhl at Leipzig, which city seems at present the head quarters of the stamp trade in Germany. Three numbers have been hitherto issued (perhaps four by the time this sees the light). Each number contains an exaggerated similitude of eight different postage stamps, represented in their natural colours. We saw the work for a few minutes only exposed for sale in the window of a bookseller's shop at Stuttgart; and as time, tide, and the railroad wait for no man, had no opportunity for close inspection.

We should imagine, as far as our eye could serve for measurement, that each representation, only one of which fills a page, must fill somewhere about eighteen square inches. They certainly have a very singular effect, though rather as objects of curiosity than utility. Such stamps as the new Schleswig so highly magnified form a tolerable picture, and are rather improved in appearance: but the green 5 cents of New Brunswick, as may naturally be supposed, loses all delicacy of expression, and becomes exceedingly coarse and unprepossessing.

Strange, as is the idea of such a publication, we are glad to see it, and hail any such proof of the extended and extending fancy called *timbromanie*, as it is not likely such an enterprise, which must be rather costly, would have been entered into had the publishers not entertained some tolerably certain idea of a just remuneration for their labour and expense. It is a trite maxim that there must be a demand to create a supply; and we trust, and that not unadvisedly, that such is the case with regard to the many and various magazines, catalogues, albums, and other periodicals connected with postage stamp literature.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHY IS A POSTAGE-STAMP LIKE A SCHOOLMASTER?—Because one sticks with a lick, and the other licks with a stick.

NO LESS THAN 1,230,000 LETTERS passed through the London district post on Saturday last, the 10th ult. This is the largest number ever known, even upon Valentine's day.

THE AUSTRALIA, CHINA, AND INDIA MAIL which has just arrived is the largest ever known in this country. It contained nearly 140,000 letters, upwards of 80,000 newspapers, and more than 3000 registered letters.

THE LOW EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF THE IRISH is strikingly shown by the fact that whilst in the year before last the number of letters delivered in England was in the proportion of 24 and in Scotland of 19 to each person, the number delivered in Ireland was in the proportion of only 9.

SIR WALTER SCOTT RELATES that a friend of his remembered the London letter-bag arriving in Edinburgh during the year 1745, with but one letter for the British Linen Company. About the same time the Edinburgh mail is said to have arrived in London, containing but one letter, addressed to Sir William Pulteney, the banker.

A NOVEL POSTAL PACKET.—A Highlandman, who had been enjoying the fair, presented himself at the local post-office, requesting to know 'Hoo much ye would tak' to carry him to Grangemouth and back?' On being told, twopence an ounce, with an advice to try the railway as the cheapest, he walked off quite dumfoundered.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

A SHORT TIME SINCE, there was a shop at Newington selling *Jerusalem Postage Stamps*. The same were coloured labels, inprinted with Hebrew words. It is stated from good authority that a great number were sold. 'Really, the parties who bought them must have been ponies exported from the same place.'—*International Stamp Review.*

ALL FRENCH JOURNALS which treat on politics, or which contain advertisements other than those which relate to agriculture, literature, or art (*annonces de librairie*), must bear an impressed stamp of six centimes. Such journals, however, can be sent by post for an additional four centimes prepaid, the postage of unstamped journals being ten centimes.

A TRAVELLED LETTER.—A rather singular post-office blunder has just been discovered at Kœnigsberg (Prussia). About half a league from the town gates is a place called Jerusalem, where a M. Th—— resides. This gentleman in the beginning of last week received a letter, which the commissary of his arrondissement had addressed to him two years ago. It appears that the letter had been sent to the Holy Land, and had afterwards made nearly the tour of the world.

THE BESTELLGELD STAMP.—In several German States, also in Prussia, each letter, besides the ordinary postage, is liable to a fee of ½ s. gr., which is called *Bestellgeld*; this is the charge for bringing the letter from the Post-

office to the house of the person to whom the letter may be addressed. In Hanover, the postal administration has issued an envelope (Bestellgeld frei) by which the Bestellgeld is prepaid, and which enables the sender to put a letter in a box free of every charge, instead of being obliged to go to the Post-office and pay the amount for the Bestellgeld. These envelopes, according to Mount Brown, are used only for local purposes; that is not the case, as they are used throughout the kingdom of Hanover.—*International Stamp Review.*

The French Post-office.—At a moment when the attention of the public is occupied by the decree for the erection of a new Post-office, the following particulars respecting the objects of all kinds carried by the government mails will be read with interest:—The number of letters, 184,000,000 in 1852, had risen to 290,000,000 in the year ending 1st January last. In 1852 the number of journals and other printed papers sent by post was 94,863,686, and in 1863 it was 212,000,000—an increase of 125 per cent. Registered letters, which were only 437,075 in 1852, amounted in 1863 to 2,700,000—an increase of 517 per cent. The number of articles of all kinds conveyed by the mails in 1863 was 590,700,000, against 276,300,741 in 1852—an increase of 113 per cent. in ten years.

Stealing Foreign Postage Stamps. — Thomas Hayward, aged 16, an errand-boy, was charged before Alderman Stone, at the Guildhall, London, with stealing foreign postage stamps, value £40, the property of Mr. Crouch, of Farringdon-street. From the evidence, it appeared that the prosecutor, who is a dealer in obliterated and other stamps, employed the prisoner at different times as errand-boy, and that on the morning of the 29th of June last the stamps in question were missed. The only persons having access to the drawers where they were kept, were the prisoner, the prosecutor, and his wife. On missing the stamps, Mr. Crouch spoke to Hayward, who said, swearing, 'You think I've got them.' He then advised the prosecutor to go round to the different shops and stop the sale of them, but was told that the police would be communicated with. The prosecutor then requested the prisoner to remain until he returned, but, in his (the prosecutor's) absence, the prisoner, after a struggle with Mrs. Crouch, effected his escape. The prisoner's father afterwards gave a portion of the stamps to Detective officer Pavitt, and the prisoner was at once apprehended. It transpired that a scarce obliterated stamp often fetched as much as £2, and that one of that value was stolen. Alderman Stone remanded the prisoner, in order to afford the police time to trace the other stamps.

Letter Smuggling before the introduction of the Penny Postage.—The high rates, while they failed to increase the Post-office revenue, undoubtedly led to the evasion of the postage altogether. Illicit modes of conveyance were got up and patronised by some of the principal merchants in the kingdom. Penal laws were set at defiance, and the number of contraband letters became enormous. Some carriers were doing as large a business as the Post-office itself. On one occasion the agents of the Post-office made a seizure, about this time, of eleven hundred such letters, which were found in a single bag in the warehouse of certain eminent London carriers. The head of the firm hastened to seek an interview with the Postmaster-General, and proffered instant payment of five hundred pounds by way of composition for the penalties incurred, and if proceedings against the firm might not be instituted. The money was taken, and the letters were all passed through the Post-office the same night. For one case which was detected, however, a hundred were never made known. The evasion of the Post-office charges extended so far and so wide that the officials began to declare that any attempt to stop the smuggling, or even to check it, was as good as hopeless. Prosecutions for the illicit conveyance of letters had, in fact, ceased long before the misdemeanours themselves.—*Her Majesty's Mails.*

The Post-boys in the time of Ralph Allen.—At this time, the mails were carried on horseback in charge of post-boys. Some of these post-boys were sad rogues, who, besides taking advantage of confusion in the two posts, were accustomed to carry letters themselves concealed upon them, and for charges of course quite unorthodox. In old records of the Post-office, principally the Surveyor's Book, referring to country post-offices from the year 1735, there are long complaints from the surveyor on this head. The following, 'exhibiting more malice than good grammar,' may be taken as a specimen, and will suffice to show the way things were managed at that date:—'At this place (Salisbury) found the post-boys to have carried on vile practices in taking the *bye-letters*, delivering them in this cittye and taking back answers, especially the *Andover* riders. On the 16th found on Richard Kent, one of the Andover riders, 5 bye-letters, all for this cittye. Upon examining the fellow, he confessed he had made it a practice, *and persisted to continue in it*, saying he had noe wages from his master. I took the fellow before the Magistrate, proved the facts, and he was committed, but pleading to have no money or friends, desired a punishment to be whipped, which accordingly *he was to the purpose*. Wrote the case to Andover and ordered the fellow to be dismissed, but no regard was had thereto, but the next day the same rider came post, ran about the cittye for letters *and was insolent*. Again he came post with two gentlemen, made it his business to take up letters; the fellow, however, instead of returning to Andover, gets two idle fellows and rides off with three horses, which was a return for his master not obeying my instructions.' Our shrewd surveyor thus amply got his revenge, and the Post-office and Mr. Allen suffer no more from the delinquencies of Richard Kent.—*Scudamore's Notes.*

News Letters of the Seventeenth Century.—The news letter of the seventeenth century, to which the world looked for information, was the production of a general correspondent, who had an office; and whose profession it was to send off packets of information to persons of wealth and importance, who chose to pay for such a luxury. These packets conveyed all the *on dits*, true or false, and whether true or false mattered little to the country squires to whom they were, with 'hast post hast' in large writing on the outside, despatched; for those worthy commoners were rarely in a position to dispute any statements from the capital, or even from any country town out of their own county. So they went down to their graves believing in a news-letter; and were just as happy as if they had known the truth. Sometimes rich patrons maintained news-letter writers as a domestic appendage; witness the notable connection between Sir Robert Sidney, the younger brother of Sir Philip, and Rowland Whyte, the postmaster who despatched in news-letters to Flushing when Sir Robert was there, every scrap of news, political or domestic that he could collect. The great Rebellion brought news-letters forth from every quarter; news-agents sprang up like mushrooms, and a regiment of pamphleteers abetted their efforts. What is now conveyed with a penny stamp (the great vehicle of vital benefit to society), was then fastened under the wings of carrier-pigeons, or sewn in saddle-bags. The Cavaliers, it is said, when taken prisoners used to *eat* the

news-letters, to prevent important intelligence from falling into the hands of their foes. Some of the brave Prince Rupert's letters were passed on from hand to hand; each reader, after glancing hurriedly at their contents, wrote his name on the back, and then posted the letters forward. These pacquets were defended at the sword's point: those which were intercepted, and which have been preserved, are in some instances stained with dark red, the possession having been fiercely disputed.—*Literature of Society.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TENPENNY STAMP OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I beg to inform you that there is no such stamp as the above, nor was there ever such a stamp issued by the Tasmanian government. Collectors are frequently writing out for them.

I am, yours respectfully,

Launceston, Tasmania. THOMAS BRAND.

REPLY TO 'NO ESSAYS.'

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—The letter of 'No Essays' in your last number, though it enunciates sound views as to essays in general, will hardly convince your readers of the non-authenticity of the essays in particular on which he commented. Nor was the tone of his remarks such as would give them any additional weight. Their sarcastic and would-be smart style the writer may be assured will not gain credit for his views. He can hardly expect, after the circumstantial and satisfactory evidence given by Mr. Burn of the date at which the Prince Albert essays were impressed, that we should simply, upon his unsupported word, believe that they were fabricated in the autumn of last year.

At the same time I agree with Dr. Gray in his argument that the so-called essays are in fact no essays at all. According to Mount Brown, 'The term "essay" means a stamp or device suggested but never officially issued;' but by Mr. Burn's own showing, the labels bearing the head of Prince Albert do not answer to this definition, as they were impressed solely for the purpose of showing the effect of perforation, and not with a view to their adoption by the government as postage stamps. Certainly the Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co.'s labels are as much entitled to be considered essays as the so-called Prince Albert essays.

The general feeling of collectors is I believe on the whole adverse to the gathering of essays. They possess none of the significance attached to a postage stamp—they have never franked communications between the inhabitants of different parts of the earth, nor do they carry with them any historical importance. They are no more than engraver's exercises and deserve no more consideration. If, however, some means could be found by stamp collectors of putting a veto upon the collection of Essays, great benefit would accrue, for their admission into albums at present in my own opinion diminishes its value and confuses the ideas which arise upon its perusal in a noncollector's mind.

But I am poaching on the ground which you have marked off for your last month's correspondent, I will therefore in conclusion only say that I for one should be glad to see a well-written essay on the subject from his pen, and must beg to subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully,

A COUNTRY PARSON.

AN UNCATALOGUED BUENOS AYRES STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I beg to enclose for your inspection a stamp which is very rare even here, and which I have not yet seen mentioned in any stamp periodical which has come under my notice.

It is a 'city' stamp, and was only issued for seven or eight days when it was replaced by the 'steam-ship,' with which you are doubtless well acquainted. There can be no doubt of its authenticity, as it was bought by me of a post-office clerk.

Yours respectfully,

Buenos Ayres. J. B. GIPPS.

[A full description of this stamp will be found in our article on 'Newly-issued or Inedited Stamps.'—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Correspondent, San Francisco.—In reply to our query respecting an engraving in the third number of the magazine, this correspondent informs us that the stamp in question, 'Langton's Pioneer Express,' is for letters carried by express from Sreka in California to the Humbold mines, or *vice versa*. The stamp from which our engraving was taken is black. He says there is also a blue one, *and* a label. We suppose he means an envelope. We have ourselves seen it also of a red colour.

N. A. B. B., Bury St. Edmonds.—The 4 sk. blue of the new series of Norway has been out for some time, and in all probability the 16 sk. has been already, or soon will be, issued.—The Greek letters on the Grecian stamps mean simply 'Greek stamp.' A lepton is a shade less in value than a centime.—*All* stamps employed for postal purposes, whether for letters or newspapers, should be admissible in albums.—We do not sell our own private stamps.

Sigma, Teignmouth.—We cannot give any information respecting the Bavarian envelopes now on sale. They may possibly be essays. They have certainly never been officially issued, or they would have been familiar long ere this to the postage-stamp collecting world.

Leonora, Brighton.—The colour of the Italian Segna Tassa stamp is now dull orange instead of yellow.

A Subscriber.—We are tired of answering the same question so often.—We are much indebted to our subscribers for their subscriptions; but if they would be so obliging as to *read* the magazine as well as pay for it, they would save us some trouble.—We have repeatedly expressed our opinion respecting your query.—We think *all* stamps which frank letters or newspapers, and even small packets, may with propriety be included in a postage-stamp collector's album. In fact we do not see why the stamp or stamps of the Telegraph office should be excluded.

A Reader.—We sometime since gave, as information received, the fact of the Swan River stamps being supplied to convicts perforated, that their letters might be traced and opened if judged advisable.

Nobody.—This communicant mentions a stamp received from British Columbia, description as follows: oblong, black on orange coloured paper; inscription, BARNARD'S CARIBOO EXPRESS PAID. We have seen the stamp alluded to, but had doubts of its genuine character. These doubts may be now set at rest, as our informant received his specimen from a lady whose husband is a magistrate in British Columbia.

F. W. Brewster, Witham.—The stamp you describe is a Hamburg forgery, professing to be an express issue for Berlin.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER VIII.

IN WHICH WE ARRIVE AT GENOA—AND DISCUSSION PRECEDES DINNER.

THE juvenile readers of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* have doubtless, on their own particular night, at the once-wonderful theatre, laughed long and heartily at that surprising exclamation of the clown, 'Here we are!' It certainly has the merit of describing an unquestionable fact, and so, for want of a more recondite joke, I will commence this chapter with the time-honoured remark, 'here we are;' the 'here' meaning Genoa, and the 'we' meaning Mr. Ezekiel Brown and your servant the writer. We had left Marseilles by packet, and had arrived here at midday. The traditional Italian sky was above us, accompanied by an unbearable blaze of heat and light from the sun which illumined the noble gulf. Far ahead, against the dark background of the Apennines, the ancient city of Genoa shone, and numerous coasters floated upon the water. As we steamed slowly up, it was not difficult to picture the galleys of Doria as they sailed out bent on some distant expedition, the stout old chief in the advance; nor in later times the besieging fleet of Britain, as it moved into position under Admiral Byng to commence a crushing bombardment. This remarkable maritime city, though it possesses such facility for the maintenance of an efficient flotilla, and seems, indeed, the natural cradle of a naval power, is at the same time exceedingly open to attack by sea. From the earliest times, therefore, its enemies have always turned its weapons against itself, and by cutting off the supplies, forced it to capitulate. But it is time we were on shore and strolling through the palatial Strado Balbi, the residences of the old nobility, and still in part inhabited by their impoverished descendants. Here of old many a 'faction fight' took place; here Guelphs and Ghibellines, the Doriæ and the Spinolæ, contested for possession of the city, not alone with sword and battle-axe, but with battering engines; and here full oft the conquering forces of France patrolled.

We could, however, make no long survey, but hastening on to the Strada Nuova, we arrived before the house of Signor Torezzio. It is an ancient fabric, built of marble, and now in a dilapidated condition, but still bearing many tokens of its former grandeur. We passed beneath a massive portico of Doric pillars and up a spacious staircase unchecked, for here are no 'leathern conveniences' for sturdy porters, no powdered footman to 'answer the door,' no bluff Swiss nor *manierée demoiselle* to pop their head over the half-door of the lodge and receive commands and answer inquiries. Moreover, unlike our English homes, the state apartments were not on the ground floor, which, in fact, hardly gave token that the upper part was inhabited, so bare and repulsively cold was its appearance. For here the narrow streets and high, dark opposite walls make the lower floor exceedingly disagreeable and gloomy, and the garret contains the rooms of state and ceremony, the cabinets of the relics of former grandeur. As for us, we proceeded up four flights of broad marble steps leading to the immense ante-chamber, the first apartment of the attic suite, where we were met by an old livery servant who led the way through a long suite of apartments, each decorated with the paintings of Italian masters, into the presence of the host. Signor Torrezzio received us with the high-bred courtesy of an Italian gentleman, and we presented our letters of introduction to him. He at once made us at home and ordered refreshments, while we conversed together upon the incidents of our journey. Happening to mention, whilst thus discoursing, that we were collectors, the signor requested us to produce our albums, and upon our doing so perused them with much interest, whilst we endeavoured to illustrate the historical and geographical importance of stamps. Upon his arriving at the Swiss page, he took especial note of the quaint appearance of the labels affixed to it. He paid particular attention to those of Geneva, whose motto still reminds one of the position that city held in the Reformation age. '*Post tenebras lux*' still remains the chosen maxim of the Genevese, and ornaments their obsolete stamps surmounted by the sacred letters I.H.S.

'I think, Senor Brown,' said our host, 'you do not go too far in saying that these stamps serve profitably to remind us of bygone times. The sight of these carries us back to the days when Calvin lorded it at Geneva, the days when he burnt Servetus, and when with all his faults he effected great good. The name of Geneva, indeed, suggests a host of noble names. Where these stamps were circulated Rousseau and Necker, Berenger and Sismondi resided, and near at hand the most brilliant infidel of the eighteenth century sought repose, and the gifted De Stael hid herself from the persecution of Buonaparte. Indeed, signors, you half convert me to your favourite pursuit.'

'We shall be happy to enroll you in our ranks, Signor Torrezzio, and do not doubt,' said I, 'that you will find a charm in collecting.'

'At any rate,' he replied, 'should I not become one of the initiated myself, I shall have pleasure in giving you assistance.'

'You will find,' I said 'that there are many little bye roads of interesting inquiry connected with stamps, such, for instance, as respecting the authenticity of rare varieties. For some obsolete stamps were current for so short a time that they are hardly remembered where they were issued. For example, there is the 10 c. Geneva on that page: you will see that it is composed of duplicate impressions of the 5 c. stamp, united by the words PORT CANTONAL, and bearing the figure 10 on the left and the word CENT on the right. Now the existence of that stamp is denied by many, but as I have obtained a postmarked specimen from a friend, I think I am right in considering it genuine.'

'There were stamps for the whole canton of Zurich,' Brown remarked, 'as well as for its capital, and there is no reason why the *canton* of Geneva should not also have required a stamp. By the bye, there is no getting those old Zurich stamps of '43, we can only obtain the '50 issue.'

'These black affairs are of a later date, then,' said the senor; 'I presume they are not in use now.'

'Oh, no,' said Brown, 'all those cantonal stamps have been superseded by these [pointing to the present issue], which are issued by the Federal administration.'

'These handsome Basle stamps, then, are also obsolete?' inquired our host.

'They are,' I said; 'and that reminds me, Brown, that in the descriptions published of them no mention is made of the sealed envelope which the dove holds in her mouth, which really gives the device a fine symbolical character. As the dove is the emblem of peace it is appropriate to represent it as carrying a letter. For one of the chief blessings of peace is the communication which takes place between the pacified nations, and which is so much increased by aid of the post.'

'You have succeeded very well in your deduction of a lesson from the stamp,' said Torrezzio, 'and did I not know how long a journey you have taken, I should be reluctant to interrupt it; but we will now, if you please, adjourn to your English meal, "dinner," which you must I am sure require;' and so saying, led the way into a fine apartment where, in satisfying the demands of nature, even the enchanting pursuit of stamp collecting was forgotten.

CHAPTER IX.

CONCERNING ITALIAN STAMPS.

We remained with the hospitable Torrezzio for upwards of a week, during which we visited all objects of interest within an easy walk, including the villa where the overthrow of the Sicilian government was plotted by Garibaldi and his friends.

In accordance with his promise to assist us, our host kindly searched his old letters for obsolete Sardinian stamps, and besides a number of excellent used specimens, he was fortunate enough to light upon some unobliterated ones of the first and second series, all of which he kindly gave us. Our Italian page now, with the auxiliary aid of the post-office for the supply of the then current series, presented a much brighter appearance than it did on our entrance into Genoa.

I was much struck with the exceeding beauty of the first issue, when compared with the two following. The design is good and the lettering clear. The second emission is of a very indistinct character, worthy, indeed, to be ranked with the old Natal stamps. It is simply the design of the first

issue embossed on coloured paper, and in used specimens almost undistinguishable. The third is but a modification of the second issue—the centre, on which the king's head was impressed, being left white,—nor was its appearance much superior to that of its predecessor. At length, in 1856, the authorities became tired of stamps whose values could, in fact, only be known by their colours, and a new issue came out in which the original design was reverted to so far as the border and inscription went, but the engraver's partiality for relief was manifest in the raised head upon a white centre; which, moreover, being impressed after the rest of the stamp had been printed, was hardly ever properly in the middle, and was sometimes upside down. The early issues comprised only three values, viz., 5, 20, and 40 c.; and the fourth was limited to them at first, but towards the end of 1857, a 10 c. bistre and an 80 c. yellow were issued, and in 1860 * a 3 lire bronze—a handsome stamp—came out. Shortly before our arrival the whole set, with the exception of the last-mentioned stamp, was perforated, by which, as may be supposed, their appearance was much improved.

It is now usual to place the 1856 issue under the head 'Italy' in albums and manuals, but though it eventually did duty throughout the north of the peninsula, it was originally intended for Piedmont alone. The first real *Italian* stamp was the 15 c. blue, issued on the 12th of February last year, and which bore the inscription, FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE ITALIANO.

Upon leaving Genoa, we turned our steps to the capital, but have no recollections of the place to chronicle at all interesting to collectors. From thence we started for the newly-emancipated Milan, where we were able to obtain some capital specimens of the now obsolete Lombard stamps—mementos of (thank heaven!) obsolete Austrian government. The 'soldi' is still the denomination of the values of the Venetian stamps, but in the good day coming 'soldi' may give way to 'centesimi,' 'Kaiser Franz' to 'Il Re Galantuomo,' and Austrian tyranny to Italian liberty.

(To be concluded in our next).

* A 15 c. blue was added in January, 1862.

THE EDITOR'S HOLIDAY TOUR.

AUGUST comes on, bringing their annual holiday to the harder working classes of the great metropolis; we mean councillors and parliamentarians, with their various dependants—counsellors, lawyers, *et hoc genus omne*; and the hardest working of all, the upper ten thousand fashionables, with their numerous satellites, and all that cater for their gratification, mental or corporeal.

Among the humble tail, readers, your editor started for his annual tour,—peace, pleasure, and postage stamps the prime objects of research. He need not dwell on the passage from London Bridge, with its concomitant horrors, to the neat, lively town of Dunkirk—well worthy the day and night spent there,—the rail to Lille, Ghent, and Brussels, ground so frequently trodden and described as to be familiar equally to the travelled and untravelled. He may simply remark that neither the gentility of the Belgian nor the magnificence of the French capital afterwards prevented nocturnal marauders from their foraging attacks, and that the usual apology followed, viz., that 'the English brought them.'

Two trifling misadventures only befel him: the inextricable confusion at the Malines junction carrying him to Brussels with a ticket for Ghent, and an accident which cannot be more fully particularized than as sending a lumbering five-franc piece to a bottomless abyss.

A few hours' stay in Louvain afforded an opportunity of viewing that most exquisite specimen of ornamental architecture, the townhall. The young collegians here used to be zealous collectors, but the professors, ignoring the utility of postage stamps as an excellent geographical exercise, thought the fancy too great an interruption to their studies and virtually prohibited its indulgence.

The fine old capital of Charlemagne was the next resting place. The antique buildings, the curious amalgam of architecture in the imposing cathedral, and the view of the very spot covering the ashes of the great statesman and warrior lying there, carry the mind back to remote ages; while the busy

crowds engaged in the pursuit after health or pleasure in the gardens and *kurhaus*, present a striking contrast, full of life and animation.

To sit early in the morning opposite the 'Fountain of Eliza,' listen to the inspiring band of music, and watch the varied groups of promenaders, was very amusing. Almost every individual carried his or her own drinking cup to the dismal-looking subterraneous fountain. They were all similar in size and shape—a simply handled beaker—but very varied in colour, from plain white earthenware to the brightest ruby Bohemian glass. The morning was rather showery, and gave full opportunity to the German part of the company for showing their dread of catching cold. Large, strong-looking men were wrapped up in greatcoats, cloaks, and mufflers as in the depth of winter's snow.

In the after part of the day a walk to the summit of the Louisberg was well repaid by the extensive and beautiful view of the city and surrounding country obtainable therefrom. The *gamins* of the Aix-la-Chapelle have somehow contrived to import the knack of transmuting themselves into living wheels, in the same manner as their London congeners, for the chance of a few halfpence from admiring passengers. They are terribly importunate, and a great nuisance just as one is admiring the beauties of the scenery.

Cologne and its glorious cathedral it would be superogatory to dwell upon. It shows well for the state of religious feeling on the continent, that, in almost every city entered, the cathedrals and churches are in a state of renovation and repair. Murray writes of the bones of St. Ursula's ten thousand virgins conspicuously lining the church of that saint in Cologne. On the contrary, they are scarcely distinguishable, and it is likely the writer had in view the small chapel of San Bernardino del Monte, in Milan, whose walls are really almost covered with bones and skulls. Cologne first, and many cities afterwards, were noticeable for closed pews, so unusual in catholic places of worship, some of them as exclusive and high-backed as those in English country churches.

The much-vaunted scenery of the Rhine, from Cologne to Coblentz, divested of its legendary, romantic, and historical associations, is equalled, if not surpassed, by that on the banks of many a less celebrated stream. To the extent of the writer's knowledge, from personal observation or travellers' description, no ten miles panoramic view in the world can be surpassed by that from the banks of the canal from Bath to Bradford-on-Avon. From Coblentz to Mayence the impressions received are much more enchanting, but the views *from* the heights far exceed in beauty the views *of* them.

Wiesbaden gave two or three days of pleasurable repose. Walks in the lovely gardens and environs in the day time; the reading room, well supplied with newspapers in all languages, liberally open to visitors; lounging through the suite of gambling rooms, more magnificent even than those of Baden-Baden; the well-arranged German band; a ball in the splendid saloon enlivened by the elegant dresses of the ladies and the varied uniforms of Austria, Prussia, and Hesse; and the once-dismal pond brilliantly illuminated with coloured fires in the evening, formed a magnificent resource for idle activity. Here we met with a collector, and exhibiting a small assortment of unused British colonials, were confidently assured, in ignorance of our birthplace, that they were all forged in London!

A day or two in Frankfort, enlivened by an excursion to the aristocratic baths of Homburg, follows. The pleasure grounds are more extensive than those of Baden or Wiesbaden, but the environs cannot vie with those of the latter, or at all approach the enchanting beauty of the former. Its *kursaal*, however, is elegantly gorgeous. Not long before our visit, two far opposite circumstances, both equally characteristic of such places, occurred. An American gentleman won thirty thousand pounds at a sitting, and within a few days a less lucky gamester was discovered suspended to one of the trees in a neighbouring wood.

Having occasion to visit the old university of Giessen, and wishing to procure a set of the Hesse Cassel postage stamps for our own collection, we journeyed an extra twenty miles expressly to obtain them; but the trouble and expense were amply repaid by a stroll through the neat old town of Marburg

and the extensive and surpassingly lovely view from its castle on the heights. We procured the requisite specimens; the officials—though at first unable to comprehend why we wanted to choose *one* from a packet of envelopes, assuring us they were all precisely of the same value—when apprised of the real motive, politely allowed us not only to take the brightest coloured and cleanest of the envelopes, but actually to choose a single specimen from each whole sheet! We may add that this favour was accorded us in the Tyrol, Venetia, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, and, in fact, at every place at which we applied except Geneva, where we were told we must take what was given us or none. We chose the latter alternative, and thereupon obtained what we wanted.

There must be collectors in Homburg, as we observed sheets of postage stamps hanging in some of the booksellers' windows. There were some also exposed for sale in Darmstadt, which was our next stopping place. In this part of Germany the traveller is not annoyed by the disagreeable custom of confinement in the waiting rooms till the train is on the point of starting.

The refreshment room at Darmstadt is large and commodious. Its exterior presents three doors, labelled respectively, first, second, and third class; but they open into the self-same apartment, and the passengers did not seem particular in selecting their appropriate entrances. A long well-furnished table occupies the centre of the room, on which is first-class provender. A number of separate tables in addition, seem to be understood as appertaining to the second and third class visitors. The scene was most animated, and enlivened by the varied costumes of different classes and nations. A priest and a nun entered and sat down, the former to a substantial meal of meat, fried potatoes, and wine, the latter to simple coffee and dry bread. An elegantly dressed young lady, in company with two stylish German swells, showed herself at the door, and apparently not liking the heterogeneous appearance of the company, flounced out again. Her companions, however, must have persuaded her to think better of it, as they soon returned and placed themselves at the table. The young men were supplied with savory pies, but the damsel would take nothing so unethereal, and contented herself for a while with some lighter comestibles. Appetite, nevertheless, proved stronger than dignity, and we watched her sail up to the buffet, trifle with some of the pastry, &c., and end, when she thought herself unobserved, by purchasing and pocketing a substantial pie!

The glorious old castle of Heidelberg was well worth the evening and morning spent in it. Minor objects of curiosity there, and elsewhere in the neighbourhood, are the peculiar pumps, with their enormous handles swaying both ways.

The great square of the handsome and picturesque city of Stuttgart, which we next visited, forms as striking a *coup d' œil* as artist or architect could desire. The royal mews are still striking reminders of the name of the place, very spacious and well filled, the name of each horse in his own stall. The *Filial* post-office was rather puzzling at first, till we ascertained the purport of the appellation as answering to what we here call a district office. In the Royal Gardens we saw a baby strapped to a sort of tray, and thus conveniently carried by its nurse in a position such as would not let it lie otherwise than perfectly straight. We never saw such a contrivance elsewere, and it may have been remedial for a spinal complaint.

We should like our road commissioners to take pattern by the Stuttgart watering machines, which consist of hose affixed to plugs in the streets, and skilfully manœuvred by careful labourers, cast a fine gentle shower over the public ways, perfectly allaying the dust without any of the deluge of splash and mud raised by the clumsy contrivance here. A like effect is produced by the extended hose of the Paris carts and the extraordinary-looking affair, like a huge animal with a gigantic tail, employed in Milan.

An agreeable ride through the verdant level of Würtemburg, brought us to the frontier town of Alm, where we passed the night in comfortable quarters. Our room was scrupulously clean; and though the customary German pie dish and milk jug did duty as basin and ewer, the former was large

and deep and the smallness of the latter was atoned for by the largest water caraff we ever met with. An early morning ramble introduced us to the fine old cathedral, with roof like that of a Titanic barn, the antique buildings, and the first sight of the majestic Danube.

Three varieties of Wurtemburg envelopes are catalogued, which we wished to procure; and it is another of the many instances of the obtuseness of postal officials in regard to what might be supposed familiar to them, that both here and at Stuttgart, we were told there had never been but one sort, nor was anything known at either place of the stamp for returned letters, or at Munich respecting the white local three kreuzer.

The Wurtemburg and Bavarian railway carriages are roomy and comfortable, both second and third class being provided with hat and coat pegs, and built after the American pattern. The want of speed is compensated for by the pleasantness of the landscape, which the freedom from cuttings gives full opportunity of enjoying. Running in most parts on a perfect level and with scarcely any fences, one is reminded, especially on passing the villages, of a drive with post horses through some of the rural districts of England.

The imposing buildings, superb palaces, splendid monuments, and glorious glyptotheck and pinacotheck of Munich, all of which are so situated as to be seen to the best advantage, contrasted with the mistakes and mismanagement observable in, and partial invisibility of, our own public edifices, make one wonder at the great effects achieved by the comparatively small resources of so third-rate a power as Bavaria. There must be either the perfection of good management there, or unpardonable recklessness or jobbery here.

We were rather amused at what is called the English Garden, in which we could perceive no sign of a flower. It is, in fact, a vast shrubbery, ornamented with a miniature lake. We ascended the interminable staircase leading to the interior of the head of the colossal statue of Bavaria, large enough to contain a dozen people. What a wondrous effect such an effigy would produce on the top of Primrose Hill!

After the flatness of Bavarian landscape, the 'green hills of Tyrol,' topped with everlasting snow, afford a most attractive contrast. The situation of Innspruck is almost unrivalled. One evening we walked to a neighbouring village, and entering a church were struck with the pious demeanour and poor appearance of the congregation. Shoes were quite the exception, and stockings a still greater rarity.

The ride by the diligence from Innspruck to Botzen over the pass of the Breuner, repaid for the many hours consumed thereon. The verdant, vine-clad lowlands; the white-capped mountains; secluded villages, perched in apparently inaccessible localities, invariably signalized by a church spire; the dashing, noisy watercourses; and the romantic associations called up by occasional glimpses of masonry of the period of the Great Empire, all tended to enhance the pleasures of the way.

Sterzing, inhabited two thousand years ago, was the night's resting place. There we paid for a cup of indifferent coffee thrice the charge for a large, clean bedroom and the requisite attendance, simply because we asked for it at an unreasonable time, and the good people of these primitive districts do not like to be put out of their way!

Brixen, the next midday's *point de séjour*, boasts some finely-carved ancient tombs, and a richly cloistered cathedral. Strolling under the picturesque arcades of this semi-Italian town and wishing to get a 25 kreuzer envelope, we were evidently considered little better than an ignoramus, because we could not be made to comprehend that a 15 kr. and a 10 kr. stamp would do as well.

In this out of the way recess of the Tyrolean Alps, we should scarcely have expected to behold, as we did, an English translation of some of our immortal bard of Avon's works in a shop window. Nixey's blacklead, Whitechapel needles, and Bass's pale ale seem to have penetrated every corner of Germany and Italy, and few gazettes are so obscure as not to announce the world-wide-famous remedies of Holloway.

The enchantingly-situated town of Botzen

was the second night's halting spot. Notwithstanding the dryness of the season, the verdure of this place dazzled the eyes. The Italian arcades, fronting the long, cool shops and warerooms, formed a pleasant retreat from the heat of the sun. The cathedral contains a few good pictures. In an *Adoration of the Magi* the smiling expression of the infant's countenance is exquisitely portrayed. In all the paintings on that subject we have seen, and few churches and no public or private collections are without one, the 'wise men' are evidently portraits, and the paintings, as evidently, done to order, to transmit the painter's patrons to posterity under characters so estimable.

The great plain of the Adige being now reached, the railroad comes into operation, though we saw advanced preparations for levelling and tunnelling many a far mile to the north of Botzen. We rested a night at Trent, and visited the old church where the famous council was held, and which exhibits what professes to be a picture of that august assembly such as it existed. Thence a few hours' stay at the noble city of Verona, at which we had paid a more lengthened visit previously, showed the costly tombs of the Scaligers under repair. We fear, in process of time, that all the vestiges of antiquity will be lost sight of through repairs, except the imperishable pyramids of Egypt, and that all ancient architecture will be like the old stamps of Spain and Portugal, merely revivals.

A few hours more of railroad, and two or three miles of omnibus ride brought us over bridges and moats, under gates and portcullises, to the strongest fortress in Venetia, the once glorious, still busy and populous Mantua.

No. VI.

ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. FIFTH EDITION.

BY MOUNT BROWN.

Baden.

Sept., 1864. *Same device as* 1862 *on white ground. Col. imp.; square.*

1 kr. black.

Belgium.

ESSAYS.

Inscription [BELGIQUE] *head of King Leopold I. to left in col. oval. Col. imp.; rect.*

20 cs. rose, oval blue.
20 cs. blue, oval rose.
20 cs. green, oval pink.

Brunswick.

Sept., 1864. *Same device as* 1852. *Col. imp.; oblong.*

1 silb. gr. yellow.

Canada.

PRIVATE POSTAGE LABEL.

Inscription [KER'S CITY POST], *Prince of Wales' plume and motto. Black imp.; large oblong.*

1d. orange.

Great Britain.

ENVELOPE ESSAYS.

Same device as No. 5, *page* 30. *Col. imp.; oval.*

Violet.

Same device as No. 18, *page* 32. *Col. imp; oval.*

Green.
Rose.

Italy.

ESSAYS.

Same designs as values No. 4, *page* 40. *Col. imp.; rect.*

30 cent rose-lake.
40 „ blue.
2 lire red-brown.

Mecklenburg.

Oct., 1864. *Arms crowned in white relief within inscribed engine-turned rectangular frame, inscription* [MECKLENB. STRELITZ] *at sides, figures indicating value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.*

$\frac{1}{3}$ silb. gr. green.
$\frac{1}{4}$ „ „ orange.
1 schilling mauve.

Arms crowned in white relief within inscribed engine-turned oval frame, inscription [MECKLENB. STRELITZ] *above, figure indicating value in oval on each side, and value in words below. Col. imp.; oct.*

1 silb. gr. rose.

2 silb. gr. blue.
3 „ „ brown.

ENVELOPES.

Same device as last, brown envelope, inscription on right. Col. imp.; oct.
1 silb. gr. rose.
2 „ „ blue.
3 „ „ brown.

United States.

LOCAL STAMPS.

Blood's despatch for the post office. Black imp. on dotted blue ground; oblong.

Blood's despatch stamp for Phila. delivery; office 26 *&* 28, *So. 6th St. Red imp.; circular.*
White.
Yellow.

Broadway post-office (steam engine). Black imp.; square.

City delivery G. & H. *San Francisco. Col. imp.; oblong.*
5 (cents) blue.

Hussey's bank and insurance special message post, 50, *William Street, closes at* 11 *a.m., date* (1863) *indicated. Col. imp.; oct.*
Rose.
Green.
Red.
Brown.
Yellow.
Black.

International letter express. Black imp.; oblong.
2 cents yellow.
2 „ green.

Kidder's city express (courier).
2 c. blue-green.

Wells, Fargo, & Co., pony express, if enclosed in our franks. Col. imp.; rect.
25 cents, ½ oz., vermilion.

ENVELOPE.

Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Express Co. Red imp. in relief; shield-shaped.
2 cents on white paper.
2 „ „ yellow paper.

All references are made to the fifth edition; and where a note of interrogation is placed before the description of a stamp, it implies that there is some doubt as to its authenticity as a *postage label*, and any information respecting it would be acceptable.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We have the agreeable task of notifying an unexpected but bloodless revolution, the news of which must have proved most interesting, in different ways, both to stamp vendors and stamp collectors. We allude to the revolt of Mecklenburg-Strelitz from the thraldom of the Thurn and Taxis post-office, and the establishment of a series of postal labels and envelopes for its own exclusive use. We trust no statistician will publish a treatise on the enormous amount of correspondence this year in the above state, deceived by the vast sale of its postage stamps; because, if unacquainted with the spread of *timbromanie*, he can have no idea of the disproportionate number that will have been sold purely for album purposes. Indeed, we should not be surprised to learn that the government of that small state had a shrewd idea of fiscal gain in the utterance of the tasteful and attractive series of stamps, specimens of which are subjoined.



They will be too familiar to the eyes of most stamp collectors ere this sees the light, to need much description. We may remark that, though very similar in appearance to, they are a decided improvement upon the now apparently conventional type of the later series of German stamps; the square form being much better calculated for artistic effect than any other, as far as regards postage stamps.

There are six labels—1 schilling violet, for inland postage; ¼ silber groschen orange, ⅓ s. gr. green, 1 s. gr. rose, 2 s. gr. blue, 3 s. gr. brown; printed in colour on white. The envelopes, three in number, 1 s. gr., 2 s. gr., and 3 s. gr., are of the same colours as the corresponding adhesives. Like the generality of German impressions, the covers are more deeply impressed than the labels. We append engravings of two of these stamps, the ⅓ s. gr. and the 1 s. gr.



In addition to the elegantly-engraved pair of San Tomas and La Guaira stamps, and the ugly 1 centavo, there are the ½ centavo black on white, 2 centavo, *sic*, on green, 3 c. on yellow, and 4 c. on blue. All these 'centavo' stamps are wretchedly printed, and on dull, dirty colours. Were we not informed on indubitable authority that they are genuine emissions, we should have given Hamburg the credit of their introduction to the postal world. Collectors were puzzled at the inscribed SAN TOMAS on the earlier issue. This turned out to be no other than the well-known Danish island, and in the new impressions figures as such; and the Spanish word, PAQUETE, becomes the simple English, *packet*.



An engraving of the repudiated stamp of Utah is subjoined. We suppose Brigham Young's authority for its non-existence may be accepted, notwithstanding the positive assurances of interested vendors.

A correspondent affords us the following information on a queer-looking stamp exhibiting a galloping courier. It was printed in dull green on yellow paper envelope, and issued by a Californian Letter Express company, for the purpose of transporting letters to and from the city. After an unsuccessful career of one year, the speculation failed about two years since. They cost 10 cents each when in operation.

The 1 cent and 2 cents large figures of Honolulu are now printed in white, not on slightly tinted blue paper as formerly. One of the most complete collections of a zealous amateur in the metropolis now exhibits an almost unique specimen of the 13 cents of the Sandwich Isles earliest issue. It is similar to the 1 and 2 cents, with the addition of a little extra ornamentation. It is perfectly genuine, its fortunate possessor having obtained it from the British consul.



The shilling yellow and sixpenny violet Mauritius labels are now much richer in tint than before. We understand the yellow envelope no longer exists. The penny Ceylon appears of a very full blue colour, and the New Zealand penny is also of a much deeper shade than before. In fact, so varying are the tints of the recent issues that some of our most enthusiastic collectors have almost decided not to 'go in' for varieties in colour.



The Humboldt express stamp, of which the inscription sufficiently explains its value, destination, and purpose, is very nicely engraved, but the extremely ineffective colour, a dull pale brown, militates against its appearance.

We alluded in a late number to the early unpublished essays of envelopes for Bavaria. We had an opportunity of seeing them in Paris lately. They are six in number, all the same value, 3 kr., bearing the national ams in relief. The colours are pale greenish-yellow, brown, green, lilac, a nameless red —something between rose and marone,—and blue.



The series of Baden stamps on a white ground is now completed by the addition of the black 1 kreuzer. The 1 silber groschen of Brunswick instead of being black on yellow, has been altered to yellow on white; and the blue 5 of Mecklenburg Schwerin is bistre coloured like the envelope of the same value.



The subjoined Belgian essay is too simple. The absence of the name of its country is a great defect, and the value is not conspicuous enough. Printed in two colours, according to the programme, with the amendments suggested, we think it would be very effective.

Essays and essays! A dozen more for Mexico. One series has the emperor's profile, and another his full face in an ornamental oval. Each series consists of two

values, ½ real and 1 real. The framework of the former is yellow, green, or red on white, of the latter orange, blue, and rose. The effigy in all cases is black.

We could go on describing essays, almost numberless, English, French, Belgian, Prussian, &c., with which our eyes were feasted during our late stay in Paris; but we had not sufficient time to take notes, and dare not trust our memory for sufficient accuracy. We hope at a future period to treat our readers with a detailed account of them. Comparatively few have ever been catalogued or even noted. Of all the envelopes we have ever seen, we think the beautiful—but, from some unknown cause, unaccepted—essays of Barre the most elegant. They somewhat resemble the fourpenny of Ceylon, but are the same size as those of Canada. The emperor's head comes out in striking relief.

The Livonians have at last obtained permission from the Russian government to impress the arms of their province on their local stamps, thereby filling up the unmeaning patch of green hitherto so conspicuous; and we think, from reliable information, that collectors may regard these long-doubted and mysterious individuals as an 'accomplished fact.'

Country subscribers must be familiar with the invariable practice of a flock of sheep to follow the leader, right or wrong. We have already chronicled the appearance of two local British postal parcel emissions, and we have now to note two more. Should the example be generally adopted, as many pages of an album will have to be devoted to British as at present to the United States locals.

One of them emanates from the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway, and is identical with that for the Caledonian railway, figured in our last, with the natural exception of name and number. The other, for the London and North Western, is more pretentious in appearance, being just double in size. It is printed in green on white. A large lozenge is inserted in two triangles, whose points, were they visible, would touch each other. In the centre of the lozenge is a large 3d., and on the white triangles and upper part of the frame of the lozenge is LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY. PREPAID NEWSPAPER PARCEL. Four triangular interstices are filled in with ornamentation.

We refer our readers to the pages of the magazine of Mons. Moens for a description and figure of a rare French essay, bearing a very fine engraving of the imperial eagle; and the 2 soldi bollo straordinario of Tuscany, supposed to have been in use anterior to the 'lion' series. Both these stamps are among those we spoke of as having seen in Paris. The mention of the 'lion' reminds us how we were deceived, in Italy, into purchasing a couple of specimens of fictitious 2 soldi. We bought them by candlelight, and did not immediately observe the deception. Most probably similar impostors will find their way to England, we would, therefore, caution collectors to be wary in accepting these rare stamps. Those we allude to were made from genuine 1 crazie stamps on blue paper. The value was eradicated by some means, and the space carefully filled with colouring so as to leave 2 SOLDI distinctly marked. The deception is easily observable by daylight, the added colour not being precisely the shade of the rest of the stamp. Moreover, the 2 soldi is always found printed in bright red, never in the lake red of the 1 crazia lions.

The 16 skilling of Denmark, grey, completes the series of the latest issue of that country.

We regret to have to inform our readers that we are this month unable to present them with the promised engraving of the rare Buenos Ayres stamp. While in the hands of the engraver, it was accidentally mislaid—we hope not lost.

NOTES ON THE FIRST SERIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

WHEN first the Australian colonies issued postage stamps they seem to have employed the artists that were available in the colony, and each time that a supply of stamps were wanted, or as soon as the copper plate that had been engraved was too much worn for

use, a new stamp was engraved. No doubt the directions were that the stamp should be as much like the former one as possible, but so difficult is it to copy exactly, that most, indeed, I may almost say all, of the stamps so engraved differ from those formerly used in some one, or more, more or less important particulars.

Such being the case, I have examined the various stamps of this series that have come into my hands, and Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith have most kindly placed all those that they had in stock at my disposal for the purpose of examination, and Mrs. Gray has in her collection variations which may be distinguished as follows. I have not any *eightpenny* stamps at my disposal at present, but will describe them, and any other varieties, on a future occasion. I have no doubt there are several more, and I shall be glad to examine any stamps of the kind that any correspondent may kindly send to me for the purpose, and describe them at some future time. It appears to me that the examination and determination of such minute particulars is worthy of the attention of the younger stamp collectors, as teaching them to examine closely and distinguish small particulars with accuracy.

The secondary series of stamps do not afford such variation, as the plates used are struck from the same die.

I. Portrait of the Queen to the left crowned with laurel, in oblong disc, with POSTAGE in large white letters in an arched label above, in an oblong erect frame, inscribed NEW SOUTH WALES on sides and above, and ONE PENNY below, with a four-rayed star at each angle. The upper label with a triangle and three horizontal leaves at each end. Red ink.

a. The disc with distinct perpendicular and waved oblique cross lines. Inscription of these in rather large well-made letters. Portrait, good; shaded with continuous and dotted lines. Purplish-red.

b. Like *a.*, but disc with crowded thick perpendicular lines, and very obscure waved oblique close cross lines. The letters smaller and sharp. Portrait shaded with continuous and a few broken lines. Orange ink.

c. Like *b.*, but the disc is uniformly coloured without any apparent lines. Letters rather larger. Orange ink.

II. Very like No. I., but the end of the upper part of the frame, with four or five leaves on a more or less long stem. TWO PENCE. Printed in blue ink.

a. On bluish paper. The disc with rather close, broad perpendicular lines, with very thin oblique wavy cross lines. The ornament on each side of the upper part of the frame consisting of four leaves on a stem, projecting beyond the second pair, those on the left side the shortest. Country in small thick, value in large thick letters; dot in star, circular, small.

b. On bluish paper and very like *a.*, but the ornament in upper part of the frame with five leaves on each side, the last leaf straight on the left and sloping on the right side. Portrait further from left hand of frame.

c. On whitish paper like *a.*, but disc with very thin, straight, and distinct rather waved, perpendicular lines. The ornament in the upper part of the frame with five diverging leaves on each side, those on the right side being more distinct and further apart. The portrait, bad; far from the left edge of the frame. Spot in star many-rayed, with large central pale spot.

d. On white paper. Like *a.*, but disc with rather close perpendicular straight lines, crossed with wavy oblique ones. The ornament in the upper part of the frame of four leaves on each side, those on the left close together, those on the right on a stem and further apart. Spot in star, small, circular, many-rayed.

e. On white paper. Like *a.*, but disc with nearly uniform coloured ground. The ornament in upper part of the frame with four leaves on each side; the end pair of leaves on the left side close together, and the upper largest.

f. Very like *e.*, but the outer pair of leaves on the left are of equal size, and small.

g. Very like *e.*, but the ornament on the upper part of the frame on the left hand

has three diverging equal-sized leaves, instead of two.

h. Very like *e.*, but the disc formed of very close united horizontal lines, and the end pair of leaves are very small, those on the left side are separate at the base, and on the right side are united; the lower smaller than the upper.

III. Like I., but the ornament at the ends of the upper portion of the frame consists of five slightly diverging leaves from the edge of the triangle. THREE PENCE. Printed in green ink.

a. The disc shaded with rather close but distinct straight, ragged-edged perpendicular lines. NEW and WALES in the same size letters. In blue-green ink.

b. Like *a.*, but disc shaded with closer, thicker very crowded lines; and WALES in smaller letters than SOUTH, and the label of WALES shorter than in *a.*; and the left side of the frame with two intersected white lines. In yellow-green ink. I have seen a stamp very like the above, that was a very little larger in all its parts; but this may have arisen from its having been stretched when removed from the letter.

c. Very like *b.*, but the lines on disc not quite so crowded; and label of WALES rather shorter still than in *b.*; and the left side of the frame without the two interrupted white lines. In yellow-green ink.

IV. Like I., but the triangle at the ends of the upper portion of the frame, with nine curved leaves on its edges. SIXPENCE. Printed in brown ink.

a. The disc with very close, regular, straight, perpendicular, and rather close similar curved diagonal lines. The leaf above the centre one, on the left side, as large as the centre one; and the centre one, on the right side, separate from the other; upper and lower edge of label, on sides, with a twisted pattern.

b. Like *a.*, but lines of the disc thinner and farther apart. The leaf above the central one and the central one, on the left side, united at the base; the central leaf on the right side, small and united to the point of the triangle, all the other leaves on that side, small and tapering. Upper and lower edge of label on sides with a dentated pattern.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Fourth Edition, revised and corrected. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith. Price Sixpence.

THE illustrated supplement alone is worth half the money, containing as it does upwards of a hundred well-executed fac-similes of stamps. The money table contributed by Mount Brown is worth another penny at least, though we must again protest against a Hong Kong cent being valued at a halfpenny. A dollar of Hong Kong is never worth less, frequently more, than four-and-sixpence, and transmitters of cash to that colony are obliged to pay five shillings for each dollar they require for purchase in Hong Kong. We are fully qualified to give a positive dictum on the point, having tried several ways of obtaining the stamps of the place. There is also some inaccuracy with respect to the coins called 'pesos,' which are of different value in different countries. The Mexican peso is the Hong Kong dollar, varying in value according to the rate of exchange. The Brazilian peso is worth about four-and-threepence, while that of Buenos Ayres varies from twopence-farthing to twopence-three-farthings. The Spanish real may be twopence-halfpenny, and is, in fact, of equal value with some of the South American pesos, but the real of the Spanish colonies is worth about double.

For the remaining twopence, then, we get a complete catalogue of every known procurable stamp, with its purchaseable price. The addition of numbers to the stamps enumerated in this edition is a great improvement, as parties can now give orders for such and such a specified number without taking the trouble to name the stamp wanted. The very rare specimens are quoted at prices too high for any but the wealthiest collectors, but the come-at-able specimens are moderately valued, and will be found within the reach of every one who has any spare cash for the

gratification of his private fancies. To suit continental collectors, there is a preface in French and German, in addition, of course, to an English one. So much for the interior; the exterior is rendered attractive by a gaily coloured cover, embellished with more than a dozen engravings of interesting stamps.

The Universal Stamp Gazette. London: 33, King Street, Cheapside.

THIS new candidate for timbromaniacal patronage comes out under the auspices of the London and Colonial Stamp Company, and bids fair to prove a flourishing speculation. Rival as it may be in our own field, the spread of the stamp movement has become so rapid and so general, that we do not fear any injury to the circulation of our own magazine; and we do not care how many similar publications start forth, provided we remain of the highest rank in the opinion of our subscribers. For our own part, we intend being '*Aut Cæsar aut nullus*,' and, like Cato, if we do not obtain success, will deserve it.

It contains a varied conglomeration of articles, all more or less appertaining to postal matters. We are often addressed with such observations as these: 'What *can* you find to write about in this magazine of yours? I should have thought one number would have exhausted all you could possibly say.' We are sometimes inclined to wonder ourselves at the inexhaustible store of matter that is ever turning up in relation to what, a few short years since, it would have been difficult to find a writer capable of filling a single page with. But we are wandering from the *Universal Stamp Gazette*, and beg its pardon.

The editor writes an interesting article on the reminiscences of a stamp collector in South America, for which his natal place well qualifies him. Much other good and available information is dispersed throughout the pages of the magazine, and the engravings are certainly deserving the highest praise. Advertisers seem to anticipate a very large sale of the work, as they take up more than half-a-dozen pages. The frontispiece reminds us of the old nursery song, 'The lion and the unicorn, a-fighting for the crown,' as they seem in their struggles to obtain the same, to have pulled the royal arms so that from an upright oval it has become horizontally oblong, like one's face appears when viewed in such a distorting mirror as is often seen in an optician's window.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE OLD LUXEMBOURG 1 s. gr. stamp was intended and used exclusively for Germany.

THE NAMES IMPRESSED on the side of the Mexican stamps are those of the states in which they are issued.

CITY OF BRUNSWICK ENVELOPE.—The meaning of the initials ST. P. FR. is *Stadt post freimarke*, and the value, 3 pfennige.

A CLERK IN THE POST-OFFICE AT CLIFTON is in custody, charged with having a foreign letter in his unlawful possession. It does not appear that the prisoner intended to steal the letter, but that he merely wished to appropriate the foreign postage stamp upon it.

VALUES OF THE AUSTRIAN MERCURY STAMPS.—The value of the blue stamp was 1 kreuzer, that of the yellow 10 kr., and that of the rose 50 kr. They served to prepay one, ten, or fifty newspapers at once, and were exclusively for home postage. The large 'double-headed eagle' journal stamps were used for foreign postage only.

ITALIAN STATES NEWSPAPER STAMPS.—The tassa gazette stamp of Modena was affixed to all foreign newspapers sent through the post, for which it served as a tax. It continued in use till June 10, 1859. The 6 c. rose and 9 c. blue stati Parmensi (often mistaken for provisional Parma) served the same purpose, until the 1st August, 1860, when they were suppressed, together with the tax.

THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH FIRMS who now issue, or have issued, stamped envelopes with their names, or the names of their publications, in a band around the stamp is increased to nine, viz.—Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., W. H. Smith & Son, Grindlay & Co. (*The Home News*), *British Workman*, George Prior, Stevens & Norton, J. F. Pawson, all of London; S. Allsopp & Sons, of Burton-on-Trent; and Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath.

THE WORDING OF THE QUALIFYING CLAUSES in the proclamations of stage-coaches, &c., is very various, and sometimes exceedingly amusing. In England the Divine Hand was generally recognised in the formula of 'God willing,' or, 'If God should permit.' On the contrary, the human element certainly preponderated—whether it was meant so or not—in the announcement made by a carrying communication between Edinburgh and a northern burgh, when it was given out that 'a waggon would leave the Grass market for Inverness every Tuesday, God willing, but on Wednesday *whether or no*.'—*Her Majesty's Mails.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

PEMBERTON ON ESSAYS, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Though agreeing with your correspondents, 'No Essays' and 'A Country Parson,' that the collection of essays is a waste of time, I cannot coincide with the former that the correspondence of Dr. Gray and Mr. Burn is an obtrusion—I allude to the writing respecting the *Consort Essays*. Even to the many who do not acknow-

ledge essays, Dr. Gray's information should be acceptable, as throwing light upon various subjects connected with our own post-office. I cannot say that I believe implicitly in the Prince Albert's head as an essay; Mr. Burn says it was only offered on account of its being plate-printed and the gum clear and adhesive, not on account of the design.

What is the meaning of the word ESSAY? The first sense in which the word was used by Brown (I do not mention his name as any authority), was as comprehending 'those stamps having either an accidental difference from those used, or that were printed for use but never circulated.' In the fourth edition of his catalogue it is used to mean 'stamps designed for issue but never circulated, and stamps printed in a different colour from those which have been, or are, in circulation.' Those stamps printed in a different colour from the issues are now always known as *proofs*, leaving the word essay for the use of 'a stamp or device suggested but never officially issued.' This interpretation of the word leaves us entirely at the mercy of any speculative individual who may choose to engrave a design, send it to the post-office authorities with the certainty of refusal, and on such rejection the design becomes of value and is to be received as worth collecting. 'A stamp or device suggested;' this meaning is far too comprehensive. According to this, any one may suggest an alteration, without the slightest cause or use for such alteration, and the rejected (because totally uncalled for) design is forthwith an essay, of more or less value according to the number of specimens put in circulation by the speculator from whom they emanate. I do not hesitate to say that more than one-half of the catalogued essays are of the class I mention, the impudent attempts of some speculative engraver. The term 'essay' in one of the meanings first applied to it, would be well if entirely restricted to that meaning, namely, 'stamps printed for use but never circulated.' This signification of the word would include many of the oldest and most valuable essays now catalogued; for instance, the twelvepenny Canada, Connell essay (which, by the bye, I believe was used in one or two cases), threehalfpenny English adhesive and envelopes, threepenny English plain ground, &c. I fear this rendering of the word essay would not please very many collectors, but still I am of opinion that it is the only sense in which it should be understood. Whenever it is understood that postage stamps are to be issued in any country not previously using them, there must be very many and various designs sent in, of which only one here and there of those rejected falls into the hands of collectors; seeing how very small a proportion those catalogued bear to those which must have been sent in, it seems to me that any attempt to catalogue 'rejected designs' is futile, and to collect them still more so. There is a pleasure in collecting postage stamps that have been in use, because it is possible to obtain and complete the sets of each country; but with essays this is quite different. If we notice those of our own country, we shall have a very good instance of the uselessness of attempting to collect essays, apart from the want of interest there is in a stamp which never had any use and scarcely even an existence. It is said that over three thousand designs were submitted to our own post-office; of which but one was accepted, the others being rejected. Of these three thousand, about fifty are catalogued and known. There cannot be a better example of the uselessness of collecting essays; and, as in this case, they will always prove very inadequate in quantity, compared with the numbers actually having, or having had, existence.

Mount Brown, in making law for us collectors—what we are to believe in, what are to be called proofs, and what essays—displays very little caution in his acknowledgment of dubious essays and proofs; and so often lays himself open to comment in describing varieties, as to induce doubts in the mind of the sceptical as to his real knowledge of stamps. The present system of the dealers, with their reprinted proofs, essays made to sell, and their stocks of forgeries and imaginative stamps, is enough to disgust every serious and right minded collector. Many who have been zealous collectors for years, have been regularly forced to give up their cherished pursuit, from sheer inability to save themselves from being victimised to a great extent; many, too, have sold their collections, so disgusted have they become with this absurd and foolish practice of admitting every rejected design to be an essay. If we must collect essays, let us confine ourselves to the collection of those which have been called forth by a necessity, and not through the whim of an individual. A new issue of stamps is intended by the Belgian authorities, and designs are asked for; those which are rejected will be real essays, because each one that is sent to the authorities is sent with the chance that that one may be the design selected. Such stamps as the United States' essays cannot be considered as bonâ-fide essays, when we consider that no change was intended by the authorities, and that, consequently, they were not called forth by any necessity. It is simply foolish to catalogue such things.

As I stated above, Mount Brown 'lays himself open to comment in describing varieties.' There is a very striking instance of this in the last number of your valuable magazine. The present penny stamp (with a letter in each corner) has been in use for many months; Mount Brown, evidently under the impression that he had made a discovery, publishes the fact that the stamp is found bearing the following figures in the frame at side, viz., 74, 78, 82, 70, 80. I have examined an immense number of the last issued penny, and *never found one without numerals at the side;* and, consequently, suppose that none have been issued (with a letter in each corner) without the numerals at side; these would seem to have something to do with the printing. It is certainly not sufficient to constitute another stamp, as Brown makes of each of the six he has 'discovered,' or even a variety. I have the following figures from a dozen copies taken at a venture out of some hundred used penny stamps.—90, 94, 73, 89, 86, 80, 85, 81, 91, 79, 92, 78. The idea of putting down the above six as fresh stamps, is preposterous in the extreme; but it is only on a par with the speculative proofs and essays given by him monthly. We shall next have to acknowledge the watermarks, names of different makers, &c., which appear on envelope and other stamps. If this sort of cataloguing continues monthly, Dr. Gray and Omega will not be alone in their retirement from the stamp community, or in their contempt for the manner in which our trade is now carried on. There is no *pleasure* now in acquiring a really rare stamp, for it is only a question of cash; and when one has the specimen, there is the doubt, is it genuine?

I am aware that I have much exceeded the bounds of an ordinary letter, but feel sure the vital importance of the subject will be my excuse for so far occupying your space. I remain, yours faithfully,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

P.S.—The present twopenny stamp sports figures at the side. The hint is quite at Mount Brown's service.

SWISS STAMP FORGERIES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In a letter from Mr. E. L. Pemberton, in No. 4 of your magazine, under date 1st May, 1863, in reference to

Moens' Illustrations, occurs this passage: 'On the same plate (19) No. 10 (5 c. Vaud), No. 9 (5 c. Neuchatel), No. 13 (2½ rap. Winterthur), Nos. 11 and 12 (Zurich 4 and 6 cents), are exact counterparts of the forgeries of those stamps which are sold by Wilhelm Georg, of Basle.' Mr. Moens noticing this letter, in one from him inserted in your next number, says: 'The seven stamps he (Mr. Pemberton) mentions as a faithful reproduction of the imitations, have been in my possession eight or nine years. I am myself fully persuaded of their authenticity, for at the time I procured them there were comparatively few stamp collectors, and certainly no one had then thought of making counterfeits.' We have, then, in another publication, *The Stamp-Collector's Review*, now defunct, Mr. Pemberton's description of the genuine and forged stamps referred to, but the only one I wish now to mention is that of Winterthur. His description runs thus:—'*Genuine*, the three-pointed ornaments on each side of the label containing the *value* are *narrower* than the label itself, and the label containing the superscription is a good distance from the top of the stamp; exactly over the letter L in the middle of the stamp, there are *two little circles*, which fill out the space between the label and the top of the stamp; and on each side of these circles is a well-defined curve. *Forged*, the three-pointed ornaments on each side of the label containing the *value* are as *broad* as the label itself, and the label containing the superscription is close to the top of the stamp, the space between being filled out by three or four strokes.'

Now a difficult question arises here. The stamp described by Mr. Pemberton as genuine is undoubtedly genuine. If then it be, as Mr. Moens says, that he possessed the one which he figured, and which agrees in all points with the description given by Mr. Pemberton of the forgery, before any one had 'thought of making counterfeits,' there must have been two issues differing according to the two descriptions. I am in possession of a copy of each, one in appearance as much genuine as the other; and the supposed forgery having been part of a collection made many years since, and principally before a forgery was seen. I trust these remarks may elicit such information as may set at rest a knotty point.

Yours,

Douglas, Isle of Man. S. S.

THE 'CENTRAL FAIR' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I see you desire information as regards the 'Central Fair' stamp. During the month of July the people of the city of Philadelphia, for the aid and in behalf of the United States' Sanitary Commission, got up a monster 'fair,' somewhat after the style of the New York Metropolitan and Brooklyn Sanitary Fairs, and amongst other things then and there exhibited were the stamps I had the pleasure to send you in my last; they were used for the transmission of letters addending to, or in any manner connected with, the fair, and had to pass through the fair post-office and cancelled before delivery. Letters were sent thus by one person who had visited the fair to others who had not, thus greatly drawing and adding to the number of visitors, in the same way as the Brooklyn stamps.

I notice that Mount Brown calls for information on the Broadway Post-office local label, and says he doubts its being used for a post label. It is used by the Broadway Post-office, situated in Broadway, near Fourteenth Street, and is one of the many locals of New York. I have any quantity, of six different colours and warranted genuine.

I also enclose you a fac-simile of the Mormon stamp, issued by Joe Smith, the father of Mormonism, of which I have the honour to hold ten genuine, besides two in my two albums. I think that Mr. H. Samuel Knight's and *Brigham Young's* letters are concerning Brigham Young's reign.

Yours truly,

New York. ISAAC M. KING.

McROBISH & CO.'S 'ACAPULCO AND SAN FRANCISCO' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—After very diligent inquiry of merchants here who have business in Acupulco, I am unable to learn anything of the McRobish and Co. stamp, engraved in your May number, and am inclined to think it a 'sham.'

Your obedient servant,

San Francisco. HENRY MARSHALL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Knowing that you are desirous of always exposing any rascality in the postage stamp line, I beg leave to give you some information concerning McRobish & Co., a cut of which stamp is given in your magazine. That no such party ever existed, in the matter of carrying the mails from Acapulco to San Francisco, I am fully qualified to state, and that, too, on the authority of several parties as given below. These parties, no doubt, thought that by sending their stamps to Europe and thus avoiding this place, no exposure would take place, and they consequently would be well off with their ill-gotten gains. If, on the other hand, these parties can prove their genuineness, I will prove, by the following gentlemen, plying that they never sent a package by the steamers between the two points.

Hoping this information will be of use to you, and the question of McRobish & Co. be set at rest,

I remain, yours respectfully,

San Francisco. J. H. APPLEGATE, Jun.

References:—Captains Hudson and Pearson, of the P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamers, who have been in the employ of the Company over thirteen years; *All* the employés of the P. M. S. S. Co.; Wells, Fargo, & Co., San Francisco Post-office.

THE BRITISH GUIANA NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I am very glad to hear something from other correspondents about these stamps, as there seems to be much mystery surrounding them, but still I think it has not been satisfactorily cleared up as yet.

In answer to R. Evans, A. O. I. is a misprint in my letters; it should have been A. O. 1; this is the best of the forgeries, but the letters and figures A. O. 1 are rather long and thin, different from the usual postmark which is, as I said before, A. O. 3. I do not see, either, why this should have been altered for so short a time.

As to H. H., I may say that the genuine pearl-bordered stamps have no signature in the centre, and that the size, colour, and altogether the general look of the stamp is different from the forged ones; but I should much like to see the stamp H. H. has.

Yours respectfully,

London. O. FLEUSS.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—We much regret to inform you that in the interest of our creditors generally, we have decided to suspend payment this 21st day of October, 1864.

The inability of many of our continental buyers to meet their engagements, and the present extreme depreciation in the value of stamps upon which we have largely invested, has, in conjunction with the failure of two large foreign houses, mainly influenced us.

Our liabilities are £373 17s. 11d., and assets £318 5s. 9d., not including repudiated debts to the amount of £180, which if properly conducted will show a large surplus, and enable us to pay 20s. in the pound. Our books have been placed in the hands of our accountant, F. G. Wilson, Esq., who, in the course of a few days, will prepare for inspection a balance-sheet of our affairs. Requesting your forbearance in the meantime,

We are, dear sir, your obedient servants,
DUNLOP & PORTUGAL.

33, *King Street, Cheapside, London.*

THE HAMBURG IMITATION STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Your number 21 contains an article of Mr. Edward L. Pemberton's, naming us as manufacturers of stamp forgeries or fac-similes. Returning our best thanks to the author for the recommendation he gives to our firm, we will not fail to correct an error in his article, by stating that we are only stamp dealers, and that no one of the copies named in his list is produced by us; though all of them, the Java stamp only excepted, are named in our catalogue of fac-similes. May it, for example, be told here, that the Hamburg stamps are manufactured in England, where we have bought them.

Hoping you will take notice of this declaration in your next number,

We remain, sir, yours obediently,
Hamburg. SPIRO BROTHERS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FIDE SED CUI VIDE, Honley.—Your Cape is not one of the provisionals.—The Pony Expresses are genuine except the black 2 dollars. They *are* catalogued by Mount Brown.—The blue Swiss rayon stamps appear to be all right; they have never been sufficiently rare to make it worth while to forge them.—The Victoria is a faded specimen. That issue is found both lilac and violet coloured.—The Cubas are genuine. We think the two shades of blue merit distinguishing.—The Buenos Ayres 'ship' is the 5 reales. The letters CIN for cinque are all that ever appear legible on these stamps.—The Spanish 2 reales on blue paper is one of the series of 1855.—The 9 crazie Tuscan is on blue paper.—The Natal, Basle, small Geneva, and Neuchatel specimens are forgeries.—We think all the rest may be satisfactory.

O. FLEURS.—Your communication should have been inserted last month, but we did not return from the Continent till the magazine was in press.

H. B. BLACKIE.—The same apology is due to you.—Thanks for your interesting information respecting the penny Ceylon stamps.

J. T., Leicester.—The figure 2 impressed on the blue Ionians most probably signifies two oboli, or one penny, the value of the stamp. It is just possible that what looks like the figure 1 on the red is really a 4, meaning four oboli, or twopence, its monetary worth. We have purchased too many of these stamps direct from Corfu, not to know that their values are such as generally received.

E. A. H., Grammar School, Newark.—Your New South Wales specimen is the latest penny emission, and was engraved in our August number.

H. SQUIER, Dover.—Your blue 10 c. Dutch is not a genuine postage stamp.

A. O.—We have several times seen a twopenny English stamp *perfectly* black and postmarked, but such an individual is totally ignored by the postal officials, so that the colour must have been changed from extraneous causes.—We have often expressed our opinion that *all* stamps which frank a letter or newspaper may be admitted into albums.

J. A. NUTTER, Montreal.—We have forwarded your letter to the party complained of.

P. N. DE SOTO, Sevilla.—We have forwarded you a second copy of our August number.—At present we are not in want of *current* Spanish stamps.

RUFUS.—We have more than once been offered for sale the black V.R. you speak of, made by cutting out the small ornamental squares in the upper corners and substituting an A turned upside down, *not* a V (this letter never being found on the stamps), and an R.—The Russian stamps you speak of we have also met with, and believe them either bill, passport, or other official, not postal stamps.

F. WILME.—The discovery of a sheet or two of the original New Caledonians has diminished the price of those equally rare and ugly stamps to a considerable degree. It is not probable they will ever become cheaper than at present. We lately saw in one of the choicest of Parisian collections of Paris one of the original sheets, for which the possessor paid an almost fabulous price. This purchase was noticed in some of the French journals, and the circumstance being bruited in New Caledonia, induced the inhabitants to search for used specimens off old letters, and also the resuscitation of a few forgotten sheets in the post-office and elsewhere.

INQUIRER, Manchester.—There are three varieties of the stamp for the Danish West Indian islands here figured. One is deep rose, on a dull drab tinted paper; this is in present use. A second was printed about a year ago on buff-coloured paper. The third and rarest sort is seldom met with. The colour is a much more vivid rose.



A SUBSCRIBER, St. Thomas.—Thanks for the La Guaira stamps, and the information thereupon.

S. L. N.—We submit to your correction. The last Gustavus of Sweden, except in the true magnanimity with which he endured his reverses of fortune, had little right to the epithet of Great.

H. T., Perth, Scotland.—One of the new railway stamps for newspapers you kindly forwarded, is noticed in our magazine for last month. The other in the present number.

J. M. S., Henley-upon-Thames.—It is not surprising that some residents in India do not recollect the half anna red stamp. We met an individual not long since who had no recollection of a penny black English, though arrived at the age of discretion at the introduction of the penny postage.—We make a duty of replying to every communication received from our correspondents.—Your blue Monte Video first issue is an undoubted forgery. The plainest evidence of the genuineness of the red and green, is the *extreme* rarity of this blue stamp. It is quite as easy to forge the one as the other. The price they have been purchaseable at, so much lower than the facial value, is easily accounted for. A speculator bought all the superseded sheets of the 180 and 240 centesimi, and transmitted them to Paris, where they found a ready market. The same remark applies to the *diligencias*.

JABEZ JONES'S RECOLLECTIONS OF CONTINENTAL STAMPS AND STAMP COUNTRIES.

CHAPTER X.

IN WHICH I TRAVEL SOUTH.

It was in Naples—the city of fat monks and lazzaroni—that we next 'took stock' of our stampal possessions. We had leisurely journeyed through sunny Tuscany, crossed the bleak Campagna, mused in the most approved fashion over the antiquities of Rome, and were now preparing for a start to Malta. We had in our journey made many valuable additions to our stamp book. By dint of diligent inquiry and solicitation, we had each gained fine sets of Tuscany, Parma, and Modena; had secured the beggarly stamps of the ancient Mistress of the World at her own post-office, and had just succeeded in obtaining used Neapolitan and Sicilian sets in good condition.

In spite of the simplicity of the design of the latter, there is a classic dignity in the Socratic head, which one might have supposed had belonged to a better man. It is good to think that such a man is out of the world, and will never more oppress or torture his priest-ridden subjects. It is good to think that the sceptre has passed from his cowardly son into the hands of one fitter far to govern. What a crushing tyranny became obsolete, together with the quaint postage stamps, when the Liberator entered Naples! Even they are mixed up with the great events of history, though little did contending armies think that one result of their conflict would be the supercession of adhesive labels. Yet so it is, and in the collector's album the overthrow of dynasties is indicated.

There are few stamps which present a more insignificant appearance than the old Modenian; the lettering of which is thin and poor, and the eagle in a distressingly starved condition. The provisional series is a considerable improvement. The Tuscan stamps were, however, the best looking of those of the defunct Italian states, and made a good show in our books.

The Roman stamps have an interest, from their representations of the emblems of pontifical power; regarded in this light, they increase the historical importance of an album. Portrayed as those emblems are on current stamps, they are evidences of the continued existence of that power which has for centuries exerted a deadly influence on civilization. But there are signs that it will not long continue to do so, and there are probably few collectors who would not gladly see the papal stamps exiled to the limbo of the obsoletes.

I must not, however, delay too long in Naples, but carry the reader with us—I trust he will not object to the journey—over the Calabrian mountains. It was with great interest that we retraced Garibaldi's path to the capital, visiting Aspromonté by the way. We halted for awhile at Rheggio, the white little town framed in hills; and then crossed over to Messina, and made our way—still keeping as far as possible in the path of the revolutionary army—to Palermo, through some of the most delicious scenery in the world. At Palermo we remained for a fortnight, and were then fortunate enough to find a boat bound for Malta, in which we embarked, and, after a charming voyage over the blue waters of *Mare Magnum*, arrived at Valetta. We wandered over the fortification which defend the harbour, and bethought ourselves of the ancient knights who once upon a time defended it so bravely; and then, after laying in a stock of the unpretending local stamp and visiting the barren interior of the island, departed for Gibraltar.

CHAPTER XI.

IN WHICH I TAKE MY LEAVE OF THE READER.

Brompton again. The lamp is throwing a pleasant light over my room; the fire burning in a manner indicative of a hard frost; I lay down my weed—thank heaven, I know no hour at which a cigar is a forbidden indulgence,—and beg my gentle reader to take a seat, whilst I narrate to him the conclusion of my travels.

To commence, then—or rather, to conclude—we did the Gibraltar lions, as does every Englishman who is proud of his country, and then started inland. Time pressed upon us, but we could not leave classic Spain unvisited; nor, to tell the truth, rare Spanish stamps

unobtained. Fortune once more favoured us: we left Madrid with most of the old issues in our books. They were indeed treasures, and still more valuable in this day of reprints. There were the various portraits of the profligate queen—in some of which she appears glum, in others lively; sensual in all, queenly in none—a goodly row. There also were the national arms, brilliant in scarlet and green, and the tree-climbing bear in bronze; variety of design and beauty of colouring. But what were the reasons which prompted the authorities to such frequent changes, I could never learn. Brown suggested that each series remained current whilst the ministry under which it was issued remained in office, but it is doubtful whether history would bear him out in his conjecture.

The contrast between the faces of Isabella and Victoria, as they appear on their postage stamps, is not more marked than the differences between their lives, nor between the realms they reign over. The one is at the head of a flourishing nation, which makes its influence felt throughout the world; the other governs an effete kingdom arbitrarily, and her voice is not heard in the councils of Europe. The one encourages the spread of knowledge, the study of the sciences, and the practice of the natural arts: the other represses her people's aspirations for intelligence and leaves them in ignorance. The Spain of the present day is but a shadow of the Spain which sent forth the armada to destroy England. Then all that was known of the New World owned her sway. But a little while previously she had won for herself the vast region of central America, and had also gained Brazil. Now in Cuba, Hayti, Porto Rico, and Luzon, in those comparatively insignificant islands alone, do her colonial stamps circulate; whilst the colonies of England are scattered throughout the earth, and their scores of variously-patterned stamps fill many pages of the collector's album. Such are the changes wrought by Providence and time.

To return, we left Madrid for another capital—Lisbon; to which we made a speedy journey, hardly stopping to note the many objects of interest connected with the Peninsular war which lay around our path. Arrived there, we made the last addition to our album on foreign shores, gracing our Portuguese page with four stamps bearing the regal head of Donna Maria. With these, however, collectors have become so well acquainted, that comment is needless. There was an almost melancholy interest about the issue of Don Pedro,—the boy king who so soon followed his beautiful young wife, Henrietta, to the grave. The designer seems to have made very poor work of the portrait. It is hard to believe that any one ever had a neck so disproportionately small as the king is there represented as having; if he had, then his head must have been in a very uncomfortable position.

We embarked at Lisbon in the mail packet,—and being now old sailors, neither of us experienced any unpleasant sensations,—and arrived safe in Brompton on the 26th of August, at nine o'clock in the evening; and, after enjoying some of my own particular punch, Brown and I separated for the night.

And now it is time I should part from my readers, who I trust are indulgent ones. My principal aim in jotting down these 'recollections' has been to show the historical lessons which may be learnt from postage stamps, and from which, in fact, they derive so much of their importance. Should I have succeeded in inducing my readers to endeavour to extract similar lessons for themselves, I shall be satisfied with the result of my labours. And have only to say, in conclusion, that Jabez Jones wishes them all the time-honoured compliments of the season,—a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

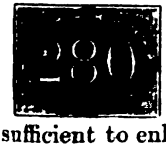
NOTES ON THE SOUTH AMERICAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

There is probably hardly any part of the world less known to Europeans than the great continent of South America. Its countries are names, its inhabitants myths; a confused jumble of boundless pampas, broad sombreros, long cloaks, savage faces, and smoking volcanoes, is probably the picture called up in the mind of an ordinary reader on the mention of that vast expanse.

the abode of many nations. Its stamps perform by no means their least important duty in enabling those who inspect them to form a clearer idea of their birthplaces. For they are in themselves the evidence of the existence there of a degree of civilization, of civil government and administration. We are introduced by the stamps at a glance into the social life of their proper owners; we see them enjoying the benefits of speedy communication in business and in private life; and they cease to be mere shadows in the mind.

Brazil took the initiative in issuing stamps, the large Roman series having begun its existence, according to M. Moens, on the 1st July, 1843. If this date be correct, the South American empire was only the second after our own country to establish the cheap postal system, and it is somewhat surprising that the Brazilian government adopted it before the European powers appeared sensible of its advantages. The first issue continued current exactly a year; and notwithstanding the energy of stamp-collectors in searching for specimens, they are still very rare. Their large plain figures, partially hiding a beautiful engine-turned background, are still considered to greatly enhance the value of an album. These stamps, together with the succeeding issues, are, we believe, the only ones on which no indication of their use or of the country in which they are current appears. The second issue—that known as the 'italic' series—remained in use until 1850, when the 'small Roman' superseded it, and has remained current to the present time. The beauty of many of the other South American stamps renders the extreme ugliness of these more apparent. There have been from time to time rumours of the forthcoming of a new series bearing the head of the Brazilian emperor, but that consummation—so devoutly to be desired by every true collector—has not yet come to pass. The only exception to the otherwise unvarying black impressions are the 280 r. red (of which an engraving is appended), 430 r. yellow, and the 10 and 30 r. blue, but they are hardly sufficient to enliven the Brazilian page.



Our own colony of British Guiana is the next stamp issuing country in chronological order. We are indebted to M. Moens' work for our information concerning the first issued stamp. It appears by his engraving to have been a large rectangular one, of most primitive appearance. Between a border of simple ruled lines are the words BRITISH GUIANA, POSTAGE FOUR CENTS. In the centre is a ship with all sails set and bows pointing to the right; above, the words DAMUS PETIMUS, and below QUE VICISSIM. The second issue is somewhat better known to collectors, and bears the ever-present ship on a shield with a small coaster in the distance; the word PETIMUS, however, becomes in this issue PATIMUS, perhaps by accident. In 1853 another series became current which nearly approached to the present type; the ship was enlarged; no longer a sketch, it appears in the full grandeur of main, mizen, and fore sails, top sails and top gallants. In the inscription QUE was still separated from PETIMUS, but in the issue of 1860 the two were like much-enduring lovers at the end of the third volume—united, we trust, not again to be put asunder; and the prow of the vessel was once more turned to the right. The colours of this series are well chosen. The 4 c. blue is generally of a 'slatey' hue, but we have now before us a specimen of a bright ultramarine. Not satisfied apparently with these stamps, the colonists commenced another issue last year, and have already brought out three individuals, the 6 c., 24 c., and 48 c., the design of which is very fine and certainly superior to that of the stamps they have superseded. The human element also appears to have been introduced, for we may fairly presume that the little black dots which rise above the bulwarks of the deck are intended either for seamen or passengers, and the blank background of former issues also gives way in this to heavy clouds. It is somewhat surprising that, whilst there has been a progressive improvement in the designs of the adhesives, the newspaper stamps, first issued about two years ago, remain in their original simplicity, and are only remarkable from the disputes which have arisen amongst collectors concerning the genuineness of certain varieties.

The rare, but now well-known Corrientes, a full account of which has already appeared in this magazine, were issued in 1856, preceding by a year the superbly engraved Steam Navigation Company's stamps, and by more than two years the issue for the entire Argentine Confederation—the latter, commencing with a rough and very queer looking series, has attained to a most respectable position among stamp countries. It has passed the cap-of-liberty and rising-sun epoch, and now commemorates an ex-president upon its labels.

Buenos Ayres—a state, to the south of, and which formerly belonged to, the Argentine Republic, but seceded in 1853—has issued two series of stamps; in the first, a roughly drawn steamship, in an oval, forms the principal object, whilst the head of liberty figures on the current labels. In the obsolete issue the value is given in words, in the present issue in figures. The issue of 1858 has an unfinished appearance about the corners, their sole ornament being a white disc; the lettering is also coarse and indistinct, but the current series is remarkable for attention to detail and clearness of inscription.

The New Granada stamps display the cap, we might almost call it the night-cap, of liberty—a most unpoetical emblem of freedom; and above it an ornament which must have puzzled many a collector, but which we are able to decipher as a double cornucopia. We presume the stars which are scattered 'promiscuous-like' over the '61 issue, and which have been gathered up into a circlet in that of '63, indicate (after the manner of the United States stamps) the number of states comprised in the Confederation. The old issues are of an unpresuming appearance, and at best nothing more than favourable specimens of mediocrity; but the current series show great improvement: the background of each stamp being filled in with deep colour, and the corners occupied with neat ornaments. The name of the country has been altered since the first issue of stamps, when it was entitled the United States of New Granada. The name on the current issue is E. U. DE COLUMBIA,—United States of Columbia.

The Chilian stamps are said to bear the head of Christopher Columbus, but we have never heard from whence the compilers of manuals obtained information to warrant them in describing the head as that of the illustrious discoverer. Nor does there seem to be any reason for keeping him in remembrance upon Chilian postage labels. He never penetrated so far as Chili, nor ever, so far as we could learn, conferred any benefit upon that country. The *chapeau* which adorns the doubtful head is, moreover, not Spanish, of the fashion of the fifteenth century. Altogether, it appears more likely that some local celebrity was intended to be commemorated by it.* The only rarity in Chilian stamps is the first issue, comprising the 5 c. and 10 c. only on blue paper.

In the continent of republics, we come next to Peru, which sports its arms upon its stamps:—a llama (mistaken by M. Moens for a horse), a tree, and a cornucopia—on a shield, surmounted by a laurel crown. In the 1 dinero the shield is surrounded by a wreath only, in the 1 peseta by four flags, and in the ½ peso by four flags and a wreath. The differences between the two former issues are trifling and those of detail only, the design and the colours being the same in both. Probably the old plates being worn out, new ones were engraved, and hence some accidental differences; the chief being that the groundwork of the centre of the second issue is wavy, whilst that of the first issue is zigzag. The current series, with arms embossed in white relief and border raised, has a very pleasing appearance,—the tracery of the border coming out very clearly. In the proof impressions, the arms alone are relieved.

One of the brightest pages in that part of our album which is occupied by the South American stamps, is that on which those of Monte Video are mounted. They are plain but brilliant. There is no profusion of ornament in any, but each stamp tells its own value distinctly. In the lately-issued series the

* [We have ever been under the impression that the word 'Colon,' the name of the Chilian port, was mistaken by the first manual writer as designating Columbus,—it being, as is well known, his unlatinized name; which error has been perpetrated by succeeding compilers. The head dress, however, is rather an argument in their favour than not, being undoubtedly Genoese.—Ed.]

sun's glory has been much diminished; Phœbus now flattens his nose against the top of a shield, and his rays are hidden by six bi-coloured standards. His work is now to throw a light upon a horse, an ox, a pair of scales, and a nondescript house, which together form the arms of the illustrious *republica oriental*—Uruguay. We wish he were able to throw some light also on the values of this issue, which seem, compared to the obsoletes, very low. It may interest collectors to know that, according to Mons. Moens, the diligencia stamps 'were used by the conductors of diligences, who were not allowed to transmit letters unprovided with them.'

Venezuela concludes the list of South American stamp countries. The partiality of the republics for quadrupeds as part of their armorial bearings is remarkable. As we before said, Monte Video sports a horse and an ox, Peru a llama, and, we may now add, Venezuela a horse, which is represented at full gallop across each stamp of the obsolete series. We have not unfrequently met with collectors who supposed that the rectangular stamps, value $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1 centavo respectively, formed a second issue; it may, therefore, be as well to mention that they were used for franking newspapers, contemporaneously with the small stamps, which were intended for letters only. The present issue abandons the escutcheon for a spread eagle, somewhat indistinctly drawn, but which appears to grasp a thunderbolt in its right claw and an olive branch in its left; and is surmounted by seven stars, typical, we presume, of the states composing the federation.

Mr. Mount Brown has catalogued the hand stamp of Bolivia, which we have not yet been favoured with a sight of; and we have lately heard of a veritable Paraguayan stamp, of better authenticated existence than the mythical essays which have long deceived collectors.

Collectors, we fear, will have some time to wait before they can add a set of Patagonian stamps to their albums; it will more probably be the lot of their posterity in the third or fourth generation, should they remain faithful to their ancestors' pursuits. We may hope for those of Ecuador at an earlier date; and the day may come when Dutch Guiana stamps will be no longer the *ignes fatui* of collectors, but actual and indubitable facts.

THE BASLE STAMP.

BY FENTONIA.

This now-obsolete stamp has been reproduced, 'for the benefit of collectors,' in a greater variety of forgeries than perhaps any other. As its postal value was but one halfpenny, it is not likely that many, if any, ever freed letters to England; hence its very great rarity. It may be inferred, from the legend round the shield, that it was issued specially for the sub-canton of Basel-Stadt; which comprises not only the town of Basel, the largest in Switzerland, but also the two districts or communes of Riehen and Klein Hunigen. Or STADT-POST may indicate that it was for strictly local purposes, like the stadt-post of Bremen, &c. The other sub-canton is called Basel-Landschaft, the capital of which is Liechstall; and the two, prior to the disturbances of 1831, constituted the old canton of Basel. It does not appear that the people of Basel-Landschaft ever had any postage stamps of their own. Being an agricultural and particularly ignorant race—in the latter respect a striking contrast to their commercial neighbours of Basel-Stadt—they probably wrote but few letters, and either were content with the old system of money payment, or else used the 5 rappen of Rayon 1, equivalent to a penny stamp.

We will now describe the genuine Basel stamp, commenting on the forgeries as we proceed. The centre of the stamp is occupied by a carrier pigeon on the wing, in white relief, bearing a letter, on a light crimson shield. Mount Brown calls this bird a *dove*, doubtless preferring the literal translation of the German *brieftaube;* but we think carrier pigeon the more correct term.

Round the shield is a broad white scroll, having STADT POST BASEL inscribed in large English capitals. At the top of the shield, and forming the junction of the two ends of the scroll, is the episcopal crest of Basel—a crosier-case, *sable*. Lewes & Pemberton, in *Forged Stamps: How to Detect them*, first edition, call this device 'a key;' a corres-

pondent of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, page 79, with about as much resemblance, calls it 'a fleur-de-lis;' a better guess would have been 'a reversed cornucopia.' It may be asked, What is a crosier-case? We have in vain searched dozens of dictionaries, both ancient and modern for an explanation. Even the author of *Berry's Heraldry*—which is our authority on the subject—seems at a loss, for (see article *Basel*) he simply records the heraldic fact, and then refers us to the engraving (No. 23 of plate 46) where sure enough the mysterious device is sketched, differing but slightly in details from that on the Basle stamp. In the absence of proof positive as to what a crosier-case was, it may be suggested, that, as the episcopal crosier-heads were formerly richly ornamented (witness those still preserved at Corpus Christi and at New College, Oxford), they might have been sometimes covered when the bishop walked in religious processions in wet weather. At all events, if episcopal, the crest is of considerable antiquity. It does not appear that Basel possessed a bishop subsequent to 1530, when at the dawning of the Reformation, in which the town of Basel took an active part, his reverence had to make himself scarce in double quick time, and his office, we believe, thenceforth became extinct.

The remaining and outer portion of the stamp is a white ground, covered with minute oblong, pale-blue dots, some being perceptibly larger than others, and turned so as to form a wavy pattern on the upper part of the stamp; which pattern is very imperfectly continued on the lower part. In faded specimens these blue dots assume a greenish hue.

There are three forgeries of this stamp now before us, the most conspicuous of which is that on a uniform pale green ground, the red shield, however, being a tolerable colour. Another forgery has the blue dots too large and too dark. A third forgery has the dots better imitated, but not clear; and both this and the last-mentioned have the shields scarlet, instead of crimson. In the lower corners of the stamp is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to the left, and RP. on the right. In the genuine stamp the $2\frac{1}{2}$ is *very thin*, the letters RP. moderately so. None of the forgeries have imitated the exquisite thinness of these figures. In the genuine stamp the stroke of the $\frac{1}{2}$ is slanting and does not touch the 2. In the green forgery the stroke of the $\frac{1}{2}$ is quite straight and touches the 2. In the dotted forgeries the stroke slants correctly, but is not so fine nor so clearly separated from the 2 as in the genuine stamp. In the genuine stamp the ornaments on the upper corners above the shield have generally (we believe, invariably) five little strokes in the left and three in the right one. In all forgeries these strokes are either deficient in number or altogether smudged.

Genuine.—The episcopal crest is of the same thickness above and below the middle rings. Forged.—The episcopal crest is very much thicker below the middle rings than above.

Genuine.—The middle bottom point of the episcopal crest is long, and almost touches the black line. Forged.—The said point is short and does not touch the black line.

Genuine.—The left wing of the carrier pigeon is remarkably narrow, compared with the right. Forged.—The said wing is nearly as broad as the right.

Genuine.—The claw of the bird is just visible. Forged.—There is a slight *bulge* where the claw should be, but nothing more.

This completes our description of these pretty little stamps; pretty even as forgeries—for they are all well executed—but still more pretty and elegant when real.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

BADEN, 1850, 1 kreuzer buff.—The small pointed ornaments above and below the lettering in the side labels, are every one separated at the base from its neighbour; in the genuine they all join at the base. They are especially separated (in the forgery) in the centre of the right-hand rows.

BAVARIA, *timbres d' instruction*.—The forgeries are far too bright in colour; for those who *must* collect these, it is only necessary to compare the suspected copy with those of

the same value now used in Bavaria; the issue is on white paper, those under discussion are upon coloured paper.

Italy, 1856, 3 lire.—This imitation is not by any means a poor one; on first sight it is deceptive, but there is one glaring error which at once condemns the stamp. The word FRANCO is printed in the same direction as BOLLO, whereas they should be in different directions, FRANCO reading from the base of the stamp, BOLLO from the top; in the forgery both read from the top. In the forgery the lettering is too large; and the beads forming the outside border are every one of them distinct, and too large.

Oldenburg, 1-15, 1-30 thaler.—These two imitations are very close; both being from different dies, they will require a separate description. The first is the 1-15 th., which shows the following discrepancies from the original stamp. The G of OLDENBURG is above the level of R, O larger than any of the other letters, N is to the left side of the point of shield—in the genuine the letter N is to the right-hand side of the shield, and is very narrow,—the letter U is very narrow at the top, the lower half of the B very much larger than the upper, and the point of the small upper shield is over the right side of the figure 1 of 1-15. In the forgery, the point of the small shield is just over the centre of the figure 1 of 1-15. In the forgery, again, the shading of the band is rather coarse, the lines often touching and crossing each other; the top of the R of $4\frac{1}{8}$ G.R. is about on a level with the half of the letters of the word THALER, whilst in the genuine 1-15 th. the R is just level with the tops of the letters. The 1-30 th. is much better done than the 1-15. The genuine 1-30 has the *tops* of all the letters of THALER marked by a 'finishing stroke,' which is very strong over the A; there is no such stroke in the forgery, and the strokes to the other letters are not nearly so determined as in the genuine; in the latter the strokes over the two sides of the letter H run one into the other, forming one stroke for the two sides. Forgery, the lettering OLDENBURG too large and thick, the shading in the band is nearly, if not quite, wanting in the right-hand lower portion.

There is a forgery of the $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. yellow, very badly done; the letters of OLDENBURG are very long, compared to the real stamps.

Saxony, oldest 3 pfennige red.—There is a very fine forgery of this stamp now in circulation. The following points must be remembered: that the genuine stamp is not a lithograph, but seemingly a wood impression; that the solid shaded portions of the central 3 are seldom, if ever, clearly defined as to when the background commences and the shading of the figure ends, *i.e.*, the background is generally as deep in colour as the deepest parts of the shading of the figure. In the forgery we find the figure stands up quite clear of the background, which is very pale and undecided. The genuine 3 pf. is on a white paper, this forgery is on white too, but is full a sixteenth of an inch smaller in length and breadth than the original. The base of the A of SACHSEN is nearer to the S than C of that word, and the second S is a trifle smaller than the H which precedes it, this is the genuine. There is another and far poorer forgery of this stamp, which has been previously described.

Brunswick, oldest 1 s. gr. pink.—Forgery deeper (in depth) than the original, shading in ends of labels an indistinct smudge, lettering smudgy and not clearly outlined. In the genuine the crown touches the horse's head, in this imitation there is a distinct space between the crown and the head.

Prussia envelope 7 s. gr., with threads.—The colour of this imitation is too brown; the threads are too coarse, and may be detected in the same manner as in the forgeries of the Schleswig Holstein, which I have mentioned in a previous number; the microscopic word (SCHILLING) on the neck of the king is wanting in the forgery. There is another envelope stamp now forged, viz.,

Baden envelope 3 kr. blue.—The parting in the duke's hair is not clearly given, the hair is not at all badly curled, the moustache is indistinct, and the profile and whole impression is poor. The lacework upon which the lettering is placed is not clear by any means near the lettering; the imitation seems lithographed, instead of die printed.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

'A blank, my lord.'

One of the multitudinous excellencies of our immortal poet is the exhaustless fund of quotations readily attainable from his works upon every conceivable subject. The reply of the love-sick Viola to the Duke will aptly represent the state of our repository of new postage stamps this month, as far as we have yet had opportunity of ascertaining. In all probability the new year, as usual, will usher in some novelties, as, for instance, the expected new series for Spain. The 2 s. g. and 3 s. g. of Brunswick will possibly soon be modified after the example of the yellow 1 s. g. noted in our last number; and the 2 s. and 8 s. of Denmark, which we were erroneously given to understand had been issued during our absence on the Continent, are likely (in legal parlance) to put in an appearance.

A correspondent from St. Thomas informs us of the appearance of two more of the La Guaira stamps of the respective values of ½ r. and 2 r., like those first issued, but different in colour, the latter being gold-yellow, and the former light-blue. They are not, however, to supersede, but for use currently with the previous issue for the following reason. The real of Venezuela being worth a trifle less than ten cents, and that of St. Thomas twelve cents and a half, an equivalent price would not be paid for the transmission of letters to and fro were the same stamps employed in both instances, so that the new series are destined exclusively for the conveyance of letters from St. Thomas, and the red and green stamps frank thither from the Venezuelan ports. The La Guaira 2 centavos, here engraved, colour green, was noticed in our last number.



The Belgian essay figured in the number for November, is printed in green, blue, yellow, red, light-brown, and plum-brown. We learn from official authority they are among the rejected. Those bearing the arms of Belgium are found in four colours—black, green, blue, and puce,—and, unless the authorities have changed their official programme, not fulfilling the published requisitions, will be in the same category. A series now before us may possibly be chosen. They bear the profile of King Leopold in a circle; above, BELGIQUE; below, POSTES and the value. They are colour on white: 1 centime, all green; 10 c., head green, frame and ornamentation, lilac; 20 c., head blue, frame, &c., brown; and 40 c. with head of a rose-red, and the rest of the stamp blue. We see the 5 c. and 10 c. envelopes of Canada for sale and in collections on yellow paper; but have just received a communication from the postmaster of Montreal, in reply to a request for such varieties, positively denying their existence on any but white paper! Whence come the yellow ones? Are they confined exclusively to the far west, or where?

All the Luçon stamps except those now



current, especially the series represented by the accompanying engraving, are now of great rarity, in consequence of the destruction of stamps, dies, and post-office, altogether, by the earthquake at Manilla. This, which is blue, is less rare than the yellow-green 2 r. f., but the 5 cuartos orange and 10 c. red are of almost unattainable scarcity.

The blockade stamp of the Confederate States here figured, we did not see in time for notice in last month's magazine. The stamp requires no further description, and, in fact, tells its own tale. The impression is blue on white, and it is perforated, or, as the French, with much better reason, render it, *dentilated*.





The 1 c. Confederate buff, here figured, differs in colour, monetary value, and head (which is that of Colquhoun), from the blue 5 c. of that country. We were informed, by a member of the firm that manufactured these stamps,

of the supposed loss of the vessel which carried out the supply; so that the few specimens known in England must have been sent previously, or retained here for some purpose.



Bell's despatch, a new local for Montreal is an unpretending but very neatly engraved stamp. The four devices between the arms of the St. Andrew's cross, the last of which is not plainly depicted, are the rose, thistle, shamrock, and Canada beaver. The colour is a rich mauve-lilac on white. The Canadian locals promise to become of as much interest to collectors as those of the United States; and reliable information concerning them is much to be desired.



The appended engraving of the now well-accredited Livonian, which we introduced to the notice of our subscribers in the magazine for November, will give an idea of the greatly improved appearance of the impression through the addition of the proper armorial bearings.

The Bazaar Post-office stamp, used, we presume, in the same manner as those alluded to in our American correspondent's letter, in the present number, but as we have been informed, at a bazaar, held in Albany for the benefit of the Confederates (?), is a very pretty delicate-looking label. The impression is in two colours, a reddish pink and black. We have another of the same value, but much larger and handsomer. It bears an eagle on a branch, the word POST OFFICE is in very tastily-designed letters, and the frame is elegantly ornamented at the corners. Blue impression, and, like the preceding, printed on white paper.



The engraving of the resuscitated Buenos Ayres stamp, which was omitted in the last number, forms the tailpiece to the present article.



ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE FIRST SERIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

SINCE I wrote my former notes, Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith have sent me another large series of the Sydney stamps to examine, and Mrs. Gray has added three new varieties to her former series, now noticed.

I have also learned from this series that the varieties do not only arise from new plates being used, but also from several stamps being engraved on each copperplate; and as each is engraved independently, there are more or less distinct variations in the stamps that are next to one another on the same plate. This is shown to be the case, by there being in the collection two—and sometimes even four—stamps on the same piece of paper, as they were issued, all showing slight variations from each other. At the same time, they are all belonging to what may be termed the same type of varieties. Thus, some were all with the background formed of perpendicular and waved lines, and others of them had the solid uniform background.

*d** Very like *d*, in the former notice, but the foliage in the upper margins has a central stem produced beyond the second pair of leaves, which on the left side is only imperfect and formed of a single line.

i. Very like *h* in former note, but the foliage on the left side has a central stem produced beyond the second pair of leaves; on the right side there is only a very small pair of leaves without any central stem, and the upper leaf is the largest.

j. Like *i* and *k*, but the foliage on the left side ends in three nearly equal sized leaves placed rather ascendingly, and on the right side of only two leaves, the second leaf of the second pair being very imperfect.

POLISH ENVELOPE STAMPS.

The vast extent of the Russian territories renders it impossible to carry out in them the system of centralization which is in vogue in France, and consequently the different provinces have each a semi-independent administration of their own, extending to postage stamps as well as other matters. It is worthy of note that not only in Russia proper, but in Finland and Poland, the issue of envelopes preceded that of adhesives. In Poland, however, the first issue was merely for local purposes, and the paper bore only a rough hand-stamped device. There were two varieties, differing slightly in size and also in the position of the inscription, which, in the one was in two lines above a double-headed spread-eagle, and in the other in two lines above and one below. Both varieties were of the same value (1½ kop.), were for the same purpose, namely, to frank visiting cards sent through the post in Warsaw, and are now extremely scarce. It is mentioned by M. Moens, in his '*Illustrations*,' that 'each of the envelopes bore the signatures of the two clerks whose duty it was to attend to their distribution, the stamp and paper not being of themselves deemed sufficient guarantees of their authenticity.'



On the first day of January, 1860, the Russian stamps which had been hitherto used in Poland were superseded by a special issue for that province, being that which is now current, consisting of one adhesive and two envelope stamps. Of the two latter, one, value 3 kop., is used for the city of Warsaw alone; the other, value 10 kop. (of which we give an engraving), is for general purposes. The hand-stamped envelopes remained in use for more than a year and a half after the issue of the other series, but were suppressed, together with the minor post-office through which they passed, on the 16th Sept., 1861. An extra kopec is charged for each of the current envelopes, but, unlike those of Russia, it is not mentioned in the inscription on either.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Briefmarken Domino; Anglicè, Postage Stamp Dominoes. Hamburg: Spiro. Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith.

Messrs. Spiro have turned their fac-similes, forgeries, or whatever they may be termed, to a very good account by applying them to such a novel and ingenious purpose. The game to which they are adapted is not so universally popular in this country as on the continent. We were much amused lately, during our travels, at noticing the very elderly individuals, at the cafés of Germany and Italy, seriously intent in the former case, and enthusiastically noisy in the latter, in an amusement almost exclusively confined to the very juvenile portion of the community here.

We need not describe the adaptation further than remarking that each postage stamp domino, instead of bearing two numbers, shows the imitated labels of two countries; and that the game is played in the normal way. In lieu of crying out, 'A six and a four wanted,' or 'Here is a double three;' the players will say, 'A Parma and a Greek,' or 'Here is a double Guiana,' and so forth.

We saw them exposed for sale at a bookseller's at Botzen, in the Tyrol, and they may very likely tend to introduce the postage stamp collecting mania where it has not yet penetrated. The imitations, especially as regards the New Granadas, are so good as to be with difficulty distinguished from the imitated specimens; and we fear, many of them, unapplied to the use we are speaking of, are sold to the unwary as the genuine article.

Guida di tutti i Francobolli emessi dal 1840 *alla fine di Giugno* 1864. Firenze: G. Brecker.

There is nothing particularly worthy of notice in this small publication—containing but three dozen pages—with the exception of its being the first postage-stamp catalogue printed in the Italian language, and interesting on that account as showing the gradual spread of *timbromanie* through the southern countries of Europe. The extension of the fancy through Spain and Portugal has already

induced the resuscitation or the reprint of most of the rare old issues of those countries; so that we may now expect the exertions of collectors in Italy will raise a host of the rare blue Neapolitans and scarlet Tuscans, which will pass by sale or exchange into the hands of home collectors, and fill the gaps in many a well-furnished album.

Dealers who have a connection with Italian dillettanti, will be rather surprised, we expect, at receiving applications for many non-existent specimens, mentioned either through ignorance, inadvertence, or clerical error in this work; but altogether it appears to have been carefully got up. The amusing mistakes in the long list of United States' locals, as stage *coage*, &c., do not exceed those in the French and German manuals; neither are the omissions nor the interpolations other than could be expected from a work evidently compiled from publications of a similar nature. It should form an acceptable addition to the now respectably-filled shelf of the postage stamp collector's bookcase.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A Parisian amateur has lately disposed of his rich collection of stamps for the large sum of 5000 francs.

Conundrum.—Take away my first letter, take away my second letter,—take away all my letters, and I am still the same. The postman.

In a shop in Paris a large placard announces the sale of postage stamps 'for a good work.' Unluckily for the credit of the benevolent vendor, they are nearly all forgeries.

Brazilian Newspaper Stamps. It is usually believed that the 10 and 30 reis (blue) Brazil are newspaper stamps; such, however, is not the case, for Brazil has never as yet possessed newspaper stamps, and it is as legal to employ a 10 or 30 reis (blue) to frank a letter as a 30 or 60 reis (black).—*Universal Stamp Gazette.*

A Changeable Island.—Reunion was discovered in 1545, by Don Mascarenhas, the French occupied it from 1642 till 1810, when it was taken by the English, but restored on the 2nd of April, 1815. It was first named after its discoverer, then called Bourbon in honour of Louis XIV., under the republic it received the appellation of Reunion and Buonaparte's Isle, in 1815 recovered its former name of Bourbon, and finally, in 1848, resumed its present designation.—*Moens' Illustrations.*

Letter franks.—My soul still shudders as the remembrance comes across me of the 'franks' which were invented to evade post-office dues! The very vision of that heavy envelope, formed of a folded half-sheet of letter-paper, long since superseded by the jaunty and variously-devised envelope of the present day, inscribed with a noble or senatorial name in its left-hand corner, is loathsome to me as I recall it! How the jaded and wearied possessors of the proud privilege of 'franking' letters by tracing their autographs on a bit of folded paper, must have cursed the boon, when the daily entreaties from friends, acquaintances, constituents, tenants, or even unknown solicitors,—chance atoms met on life's path, and beggars all!—showered in upon them for a 'frank' to save the postage of a letter! 'Uneasy aits' every crown, as we all know. A hundredfold uneasier than all regal crowns must have been that crown of privilege bestowed in years gone by upon our legislators. How I hated myself as a little sneak, when I unwillingly performed the mission of going to solicit Sir Muffington Grub, our member, for some coveted 'frank,' or even half-a-dozen prospective 'franks' for coming days! This constantly-enforced 'beggar's petition' was revolting to my little pride. Bestowers and solicitors must have both felt the weariness of the boon. When at last 'franks' were destroyed from out the land by that good knight and true, Sir Rowland Hill, when he invented that real boon to the nation, which, from its very magic nature, swamped the postal privilege at once and for ever, I saw them die out with a grim feeling of delight. Yet many tears were doubtless shed on their decease. Hundreds of old-maids, and half-pay captains, and folio-scribbling misses, and romantic school-boys, considered their lives a blank, their 'occupation gone,' their very fortunes ruined, when the hour of dissolution arrived, and 'dear Lord Mousehill,' or 'our good member,' could no longer solace their greed and reward their importunities by those precious 'franks.' They are among the *mortui* now, those clumsy envelopes, smeared with big seals of wax, which bore the much-coveted autographs—among 'the deadest of the dead,' never to be resuscitated in future days, it is to be hoped. The ghost of the 'frank' still lingers, it is true, in government offices; and friends of official clerks may still have the pride of receiving post-free, an epistle about the last new play, the *danseuse en vogue*, or Lady Flourish's last party, contained in an envelope bearing some mysterious hieroglyphics in one corner, and simulating an official missive. But this is but a pale semblance of the old 'frank' of my days of early worries, and will not prevent it from taking a due place in my ghostly spirit-world.—*Temple Bar.*

An early squib on the Penny Postage.—The early squibs on any subject have an abiding interest. The following is a cutting from a newspaper which, by a casual date at the back, must be of January, 1840. The Penny Postage commenced on the 10th of the month. The hint in the sixth verse records the author's protest against the usual transfer, namely, that of the merit of the real labourer to the first government which is forced by opinion into adoption of his plan.

'THE UNIVERSAL PENNY POSTAGE.

'From universal suffrage some
Say every blessing's sure to come,
As clear as one and one make two;
But other say it's all a hum,
And there's no blessing like the U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'Of all the penn'worths Nature gave—
A penny show, a penny shave,
(There's blacking for a penny too),
A penny biscuit—all must waive
Their claims in favour of the U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'For all things now there's some new way—
To write, to seal, to fold, to pay;
And you must talk in idioms new,
And, when you mean *Post*-paid, must say,
"*Pre*-paid" by order of the U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'If aught's *not* new the wonder's great,
The tables are so turned of late,
E'en "useful tables," thought so true:
Your half-ounce makes one *pennyweight*,
According to the school of U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'Who'd think our great authorities
Would do a thing so (penny) wise?
(Pound foolish things we know they do!)
How now in history they'll rise!—
"The government that gave the U-
niversal Penny Postage."

'O Rowland Hill, immortal man,
How can we pay you for your plan!
To *you* our thanks, our pence, are due:
It was the Emp'ror of Japan
As much as *they* that gave the U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'Send up a column to the sky,
Five thousand office inkstands high;
Take for a basement fair to view,
As many reams of "wove demy;"
Write "To the author of the U-
niversal Penny Postage."'

A. De Morgan.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PEMBERTON'S CORRECTIONS AND CRITICISMS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—In replying to the letter of your correspondent S. S., in your last number, I presume the stamp to which he alludes to be the 5 c. of *Neuchatel*. It is stated that Winterthur is the one he wishes to mention, but as there is no 'label containing value,' or 'letter L in the middle of the stamp,' on the stamp of Winterthur, I can only suppose it is Neuchatel to which allusion is made. I am only sorry the subject should be raked up again; and I must most emphatically state that the stamp I described as a forgery, is one; that the description I give of the forgery cannot by any stretch be made to agree with the genuine copies in old collections, with the reference copy in Mr. Lewes' collection (which passed into my hands), or with any copy acknowledged as genuine by those whose opinion is of value.'

S. S. seems to found his opinion, as to the forgery I mention being a genuine stamp, upon dates; thinking that a stamp that can date so long back as eight years must of necessity be authentic. To show how little age is to be relied upon, I will just give the statement, well known abroad, as to the Danish essays with the heads of Mercury and king. There are *but three genuine* essays of either sort in existence. Those which are known as real, and which I have—some time ago—called genuine, were forged in 1857 by a printer in Copenhagen. One hundred only of each were printed, hence their comparative rarity. Afterwards another imitation was made, and were printed to the number of a thousand of each; and these are the ones commonly sold either as fac-similes or originals. I have myself known this forgery of the Neuchatel for three years; it can be bought from the Redpath (among stamp dealers), in Basle, for the small charge of forty cents. As I believe I have seen the identical specimen of the Neuchatel upon which S. S. founds his opinion, I feel bound to say, that at the time I saw it I considered it to be false; and I think S. S. will remember the circumstance of my saying so. I would not have intruded this matter here, only S. S., by writing as he has, will induce doubts in some collectors' minds as to which is the genuine type of these rare stamps; otherwise, so sure am I that the type I have described as forged exists only in the forgery, that I should not have descanted upon the subject at any length.

As to British Guiana newspaper stamps, I do not consider that any one has enough knowledge of these curious labels, to lay down the law as to what is to be real and what forged. I at one time thought them pretty simple, but the examination of numbers has taught me the contrary. Mr. O. Fleuss is in the wrong in saying as a rule, that 'the genuine pearl-bordered stamps have no signature in the centre.' I am sure this cannot be the experience of H. H. or S. S. If Mr. Fleuss can produce *one* genuine without a signature, I will show *a dozen* with the signature, whose claims to genuineness cannot be disallowed.

Spiro Brothers' letter is a good specimen of the trade. I have never said that Spiros made the stamps themselves, but it is very certain that they cause them to be made. They thank me——but I really cannot fill your space with their affairs, so will just pass to a very peculiar error which I, and others, noticed in your last impression.

You assert, 'The Buenos Ayres ship is the *5* r. The letters CIN, for cinque, are all that ever appear legible on these stamps.' To take the second sentence first, Is the word *cinque* good Spanish for five? The word as seen on the very rare *5* pesos orange ship, which has the value in full, is *cinco*. I need scarcely tell you that 'cinque' is neither Spanish nor French, but Italian; then how can it be applied to a Spanish stamp? Then you say CIN is all that appears legible: no such thing. If you search—and it does not take so much looking for as the numerals at the sides of our English penny stamps,—you will find the letters P^S for pesos. Now for the first sentence, 'The Buenos Ayres ship is the *5* reales.' I do not positively know what specimen you pronounce upon, but it is evidently a blue CIN P^S; there is no such value as *5* reales amongst the ships, and the stamp (CIN P^S) cannot be a *5* pesos, because the *5* p. always has CINCO in full. CIN is the word CINCO partially erased, and doing duty for a stamp of the value of 1 peso, or UN, to which the CIN bears a great resemblance, owing to the broken outline of the letter C.

As the magazine which intends to be '*Aut Cæsar aut nullus*' is in such a state of darkness as to Buenos Ayres ships, to need even information upon so simple a point as the Spanish for five, I shall feel bound to make known all that I know on the subject in my next letter to you.* I think the 'leading stamp magazine,' as you call yourself, should occasionally give its readers a little information upon dubious or curious points, such as that of the Buenos Ayres 'ships;' whilst you only have the *Universal Stamp Gazette* as a rival it is easy to become 'Cæsar,' but you must allow me to say—with every wish that you may

* [Our talented but acrimonious correspondent may spare himself the trouble of affording the information he promises, as it will be seen from our reply to a query that we are preparing a letter on the subject, borrowed from the same source most probably whence our contributor derives his own knowledge. We have to make our excuses for the careless want of accuracy in our answer respecting the Buenos Ayres stamp last month, so courteously pointed out by Mr. Pemberton. Cæsar was not perfection much more than other mortals, and was, moreover too modest to pretend to it. Though we may not quite succeed in being regarded as 'somebody' by the rest of the world, we hope to survive the ignominy of existing as 'nobody' in the eyes of Messrs. Pemberton and his admirers.—Ed.]

become so—I do not think it at all likely, as long as the glaring errors exist which I have pointed out in this and my last letter. Your list of 'Newly-issued or inedited stamps' is invariably spoilt by the admission of essays, which are not worth the paper they are printed upon, but which, from the mere fact of their being chronicled in the pages of our 'leading magazine,' and chronicled, too, with such evident pleasure to yourself, collectors suppose they are bound to have; then comes the speculator's harvest. I think if the system of reprints, essays, and forgeries continues long, stamp collecting will soon be a thing of the past; and with that period (if not before), if you still 'intend being *Aut Cæsar aut nullus*,' you will find the latter alternative yours.

Yours, &c.,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

P.S.—The curious varieties of the Modenese stamps are actually being reprinted, and fresh varieties are being made to sell.

THE PRINCE CONSORT ESSAYS AGAIN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—The discussion respecting the pseudo Prince Consort essays seems to be lulled for awhile, but I doubt not each party remains of the same opinion still. It is possible, as one of your correspondents suggests, that Mr. Burn has himself been duped, and is unwilling to admit it, even if such conviction has glimmered on his own mind. This would in some degree account for the varied theories he has put forth, as one after the other has been overturned by the common sense of Dr. Gray and Mr. Pemberton. He is certainly not a close reasoner; his mind, whether formed and furnished at a public school or of home manufacture, is evidently not accustomed to dissect and grapple with an opponent's arguments.

The number of Prince Consort essays which I have had offered for sale, even in my very limited experience, suggests that there are more in existence than the 240 pair which Mr. Burn asserts to be all that he knows of. Another cipher might, perhaps, be more correctly added. At page 127 of your magazine, he states that 'they are gradually wending their way to all parts of the world—the continent, India, and America.' Now this is a wide field for 240 pair of stamps, considering that in London alone 240 collectors could easily be found, who would gladly secure them, or any other 240 rarities, if convinced of their genuineness. By way of test as to the actual number in circulation, and, consequently, as to the truth of their alleged origin, I would suggest that each fortunate (or unfortunate?) possessor of these now-celebrated travesties of the Prince Consort's portrait should send in their name (not for publication, but simply for the purpose of enumeration) to Dr. Gray or Mr. Pemberton. Allowing one-half for exportation—and that is hardly enough for the wide circulation mentioned by Mr. Burn—there ought not to be found more than 100 pair in dealers' or collectors' possession. This is reserving only 20 pair in stock; a short time since Mr. Burn stated that he had sold half only of his two sheets. It is a remarkable fact that I have always seen them, like turtle doves, in pairs. Now, as Mr. Burn states at page 31 that he had twelve more black than red—besides the six originally found, also black, making eighteen in all—how is it that one never meets with a stray black one by itself?

Mr. Burn is evidently not gifted with very good eyesight, or is deficient in minute observation, else he would not have asserted in his first letter to you that his foundlings were 'in all respects similar to the black penny stamp of 1840, and apparently engraved by the same hands which produced those established for general use.' This assertion is partly repeated at page 31. I should recommend his purchasing one of Stafford Smith & Smith's postage-stamp magnifiers, which it is impossible he could have possessed previous to writing the above sentence; though ordinary sight would not in this case require such assistance On first seeing these precious relics of the skill of Branston, and of J. Reynolds, 'the distinguished engraver' (p. 95), and before any doubt as to their history had been published, I at once rejected them as impositions; being then under the impression that some one had found and managed to possess himself of a worn-out die of the first issue, and having obliterated the Queen's head, ingeniously substituted the very coarse profile as it now stands. A knowledge of engraving and printing would perhaps prove this supposition to be impossible, but in the absence of such knowledge it is not an unnatural idea.

Sir Rowland Hill is said to have the finest collection of essays and stamps in the world. If this prince of postal reformers could be induced, in the *otium cum dignitate* to which he has retired, to tell us how far, if at all, the *Minutes of Evidence*, quoted by Mr. Burn at page 96 of the magazine, can be identified with Mr. Burn's foundlings, it would be most conclusive evidence on the point. If Mr. Burn be sincere, he would, I am sure, wish the public to be as fully satisfied on the subject as he professes to be himself.

The Prince Albert essays alluded to at page 9 of this year's magazine, as having been frequently asked for by continental collectors, must not be confounded with the Prince Consort essays now under discussion. Though the context shows that the writer has jumbled them together in his own mind, the former, I am inclined to think, alludes to the sixpenny black Canada, long since catalogued by Mount Brown, and which has always been a desideratum, both here and on the continent, for choice collections.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

[Our respected correspondent is mistaken. We were perfectly awake to what we were writing about in the article alluded to. The sixpenny black Canada Prince Albert is not an essay. We were asked for the newly discovered black *and* red Prince Consort stamps.—ED.]

CONCERNING ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I regret that having been abroad for the last six weeks, I have been unable to forward my contribution upon Essays in general. Before proceeding to do so, I must say a few words in reply to the letter of 'A Country Parson,' published in your columns this month. I beg to say that I had no intention to make my remarks 'sarcastic,' or otherwise offensive. And although I must still adhere to my statement as to the bringing forward of the engravings of the Prince Consort (and I think all collectors will agree with me as to the time they were first heard of), still I do not believe that Mr. Burn would have brought them forward had he not thought that his statement respecting them was correct. Thanking your correspondent for his courtesy in not (as he facetiously says) poaching upon my ground, I will proceed to give your readers a few facts about the engravings called essays.

In my school days, I recollect the verb, to essay, was supposed to be equivalent to the verb, to try; therefore, strengthened by the approval of several friends and of your correspondent 'Country Parson,' I will essay to persuade all collectors to place their veto upon essays. Accepting Mount Brown's definition of the present meaning of the word essay, we must, of course, regard as an

'If aught's *not* new the wonder's great,
The tables are so turned of late,
E'en "useful tables," thought so true:
Your half-ounce makes one *pennyweight*,
According to the school of U-
niversal Penny Postage.

'Who'd think our great authorities
Would do a thing so (penny) wise?
(Pound foolish things we know they do!)
How now in history they'll rise!—
"The government that gave the U-
niversal Penny Postage."

'O ROWLAND HILL, immortal man,
How can we pay you for your plan!
To *you* our thanks, our pence, are du- ...ring
It was the Emp'ror of Japan ...ppears,
As much as *they* that gave the P... ...uggestions
niversal Penny Postage.

'Send up a column to the ... ...rings that are
Five thousand office in... Modena, Sicily,
Take for a basement ... ...ck on different
As many reams of ... ...ues went out of
Write "To the ... and I will not,
niversal ... ...rmed by Mr.
... post-office, that
... seen in Greece,
... that it is not the
... amps than those
... From careful inquiries that I
... years and a half,
PEMP... ... as undoubted
To ... ... republican and
... Wurtemburg, Italian, and South
... The Connell stamp I have seen obli-
... Liberia 12 c. black; these I am deci-
... classing with stamps. Concerning the
... although Mr. Pemberton, some 18 months
... and the Geneva
... g genuine, still
... that they were
... servations con-
... acknowledged
... Pemberton, I do not
... admitting these two
... The British and American
... and consequently
... opinion respecting them. Of
... no information

I have now, I believe, touched upon all the engravings called essays in the various catalogues; and although I have not dwelt upon the various classes so much as I wished, still I hope that I have showed satisfactorily that the various engravings now being 'palmed' off upon collectors are in reality proofs, and therefore unworthy of a place in an album or a catalogue. Hoping that you will pardon this intrusion on your space,

I remain, sir, yours very faithfully,

Brixton. 'NO ESSAYS.'

OLD SWISS STAMPS AND ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I notice in your impression this month more than one inquiry as to Swiss stamps,—stamps that are less understood in Great Britain than in any other country in which amateurs exist.

One of your correspondents, S. S., dates from the Isle of Man. He talks of a 'knotty' point, but is not your correspondent altogether in a fog? Does he really mean

will induce doubts in ... intend either Vaud (Lau- the genuine type of ... nterthur has no 'label con- am I that the typ... on,' nor is there a 'letter L' in or in the forgery. ...e stamp. But if Winterthur be in- subject at ar... ...ay is, Moens illustrates, in No. 13, a

As to B... ...r. Moens' 'full persuasion of their au- sider th... ... about as little proof as his bare statement, label... ...ocured them when 'certainly no one had w... ... of making counterfeits.' Some of us in this ... ... are not disposed to accredit assertions of this ... ..., when they come from the quarter in question; and challenged, we are apt to appeal to former occurrences. S. S. may be convinced there is *but one* authentic type of Winterthur, and that *not* the one figured in Moens' plates.

You yourself, Mr. Editor, fall into an error, in telling '*Fide sed cui vide*' that the blue Swiss rayon was never forged. Both blue impressions, and black on blue paper are freely forged, and one commonly finds them in most collections. To detect these forgeries is by no means easy; most Swiss forgeries are difficult to discover. The easiest is the double 10 cent cantonal Geneva. No one who knows a genuine copy of this most rare of stamps, will ever confound the clear yellow-green of the original with the hard, bluish appearance of the forgery, and its clumsy black or red postmark.

Does any one know of this stamp unused? It does not exist in the chief French collections, nor do I know it to exist in England at all, but in two collections. The vexed question of Swiss stamps generally I have no time to go into. All I will say is Mount Brown's last catalogue is very inaccurate. The proof black on rose Geneva never existed: it is altogether mythical. Let Mount Brown produce one genuine one which is *not obliterated* by the *false Swiss postmark*, and I will give way. The stamp he catalogues one puts at the end of the book,—on the barn-door with the vermin, in company with Messrs. Spiro Frères' emanations and like trash. Can any one tell us how many forgeries of Vaud are current? I have four different ones (some excellent) of the 4 cents. Does any one possess this unused and authentic? Lately both in Paris and London, some essays of Switzerland, the 1854-5 emission, have come to light, and command very high prices. I have no doubt of their authenticity, and that they are not reprints. In all the figure of Liberty is embossed, and those marked * have a silk thread through the stamp. They are as follows, so far as they have come under my notice:—5 rappen (5 centimes at sides), *green, *rose, light-red, *blue; 10 rappen (10 centimes at sides), yellow, orange, light-brown, plain white; 20 rappen (20 centimes at sides), grey. In all other respects these correspond with the stamps of the issue. Probably this may solve the vexed problem of 1854 10 rap. yellow. I am quite disposed to concur in the remarks about essays. Mr. Mount Brown knows, or ought to know, perfectly well that the new essays described by him Great Britain (No. 18., p. 32), were reprints made this year, since July, to assist some one who was going abroad, and if dies of these essays are still in Government possession, we have a right and the public has a right to know how, why, and *by whose medium* access was obtained to them.

The colours are mixed with the aniline dyes, and the paper is new; save that in one case I saw an impression embossed on one of the old sheets of Harwood's envelopes,—a device by which no one was deceived.

This, a recent and undoubted case of manufacture of essays for sale merely to amateurs, is so clear and so near home that one cannot forget it. It is but one of so many instances, that I for one shall decline to be fleeced in future, and, however reluctantly, must give up collecting

them. The dealers will have but themselves to thank when their conduct has utterly done away with a market among private collectors, and left the trade to advertising merican Jews and the demand to school boys.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

AMATEUR.

ndon.

IMPRESSIONS ON BLUE PAPER.

Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

The 'varieties' so-called by Mr. Mount Brown in red English adhesive lettered in four corners, *the numbers of the plates from which the sheets*

be legitimate varieties for collectors, surely ot rest until they get each one of the two forty different combinations of corner letters f these sheets; in other words, a complete ay stamps from every die in use. I forbear e the thousands.

ery catalogue I have ever seen concurs in enumerating among the adhesive stamps of Great Britain, some printed on 'blue' or 'tinted' paper. I presume that, as is common, one compiler has borrowed from another, and the most conscientious has done no more than verify his list by such collections as he could examine. No adhesive stamp of Great Britain *was ever printed on blue or tinted paper at all:* and I will only refer those who are sceptical of this to the authorities at Somerset House, to the General Post-office, and to the firm which prints and always has printed our stamps for Government. I am quite aware that this assertion will startle many, nay most, and numberless will be the confutations from alleged examples. The whole matter lies in this: the peculiar blue hue so apparent in many stamps, is caused by the gum at the back, which, acting either upon or with the size of the paper or the oil of the ink, causes that appearance. Let any of your readers curious in this matter take such a blue-looking stamp and closely examine the margin where the gum has NOT extended, if he can get a specimen not too much trimmed; there he will see the natural tint of the paper, and the truth of my statement.

This remark applies also to most, if not all the colonial stamps printed here, and exported for use abroad. Take a very familiar instance, the common penny red Cape triangular on 'blue' paper. Every specimen I ever saw that had a margin wide enough, showed that this blue tone extended only as far as the gum beneath; and where the gum did not reach, the original tint of the paper was left. I have noticed this same thing in many other colonial stamps hitherto supposed to be on 'blue' paper.

What I have thus written is not derived from personal observation alone; and the proofs I have stated are so susceptible of positive confutation if I am wrong, that I am the less restrained from asking you to give them publicity, merely saying that I have been careful, before doing so, to ascertain first-hand and *directly* from the government offices themselves the correctness of these assertions.

If any of your correspondents desire to be referred to me, you are quite at liberty to do so; meantime,

I am, your obedient servant,

London. O. P. Q.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Thinking a little information on the New South Wales stamps would be acceptable to your readers, I send you the following, of which I can guarantee the correctness. The first issue of the 'view' series was engraved by *Carmichael* in the colony, and first used in the latter part of 1848. Mount Brown's description is nearly correct, but the threepenny was never any colour but green; the flesh colour and brown mentioned must have been chemically changed or very much faded. The only omission in the laureated issue is the eightpenny blue essay, of which I have two. One that I sent Messrs. Stafford Smith and Smith I obtained direct from the engraver. Some of the post-office officials have one or two. The other descriptions I have seen are generally correct; except the blue shilling mentioned by Mount Brown and Bellars & Davie, such a stamp was never printed here; the colour must either be changed, or they were printed in England as essays before the plates were sent out here, as they were not engraved in the colony, but only printed here. Bellars & Davie also mention a blue fivepenny for franking letters to Mauritius. They are labouring under a delusion. There never was such a stamp here. The fivepenny has always been green. Should you desire any special information I shall be happy to get it for you.

Yours, &c.,

Sydney, N. S. W. COLLECTOR.

CAN FORGERS OF STAMPS BE PROSECUTED?

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—I feel with Mr. Pemberton that the extent to which the forgery of postage stamps is now carried is likely to deter many persons from commencing, and others from seeking to increase, their collections. But surely something might be done to check this nefarious trade. I know not how far the forgery of postage stamps may be a crime against the laws of other countries in which the respective governments employ them. In this country a forger of English postage stamps could of course be severely punished; and I suspect that he could also be punished for forging the stamps of any other country in which such forgery is illegal, and with which we have an extradition treaty. A few prosecutions of this kind would produce a very beneficial effect; and you sir, can do something also to check this system, by excluding from your advertising columns those unblushing announcements 'to the trade', that A. B. or C. D. has fac-similes of the following rare stamps, for sale at the undermentioned low prices.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JUDEX.

THE PENNY CEYLON ADHESIVE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—I do not know that it has ever been observed, at least in the pages of your valuable magazine, that there are two distinct varieties of the penny Ceylon, not only in colour but in size. I presume that the die from which the numerous impressions are taken became worn away, and a fresh one was engraved, when the engraver, probably unintentionally, made a slight difference in the length, but not in the breadth. The penny stamps in present use are less by a tenth of an inch in length than the former. The short ones are printed on slightly tinted paper, and are almost invariably of a brighter hue of blue than the former issue of long ones. This discovery I made no less than four months ago, but inadvertently omitted communicating with you.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

Forest Hill. H. B. B.

UNITED STATES 'CENTRAL FAIR' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your September issue you publish the Sanitary Fair stamp, but seem at a loss to understand its use.

At all 'fairs' in this country there is a post-office, kept in a partitioned space by young ladies. They have letters all written; and when a gentleman asks if there is any letter for him, 'What name, sir?' 'Mr. Smith.' The address is put on by an assistant, and ten, twenty, or thirty cents demanded as postage. A considerable sum is thus raised, and a good deal of fun made; because there are always letters addressed to gentlemen who are certain of being present, by some of their *dear* friends, when secrets are often alluded to which the reader thought securely lodged in his own breast.

Yours respectfully,

New York. WILLIAM P. WRIGHT.

THE SOUTH GERMANY GULDEN AND THE AUSTRIAN FLORIN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to advert to an error in Mount Brown's money table. The gulden of South Germany—equal to about 1s. 8d.—only contains 60 kreuzers. It is the Austrian florin—equal to about 2s.—which contains 100 kreuzers. Hence the explanation of the difficulty of your contributor in the October number of this magazine, who gave six kreuzers to pay for an article, and received eight in change. He was in the Tyrol, consequently Austrian territory; while he gave a Bavarian sixer, which run only 60 to the gulden.

Yours obediently,

Stuttgart, Wurtemburg. E. F.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. T.—The price of Mr. Pemberton's *Forged Stamps; How to Detect them*, is 1s.; post free, 1s. 1d.

A SUBSCRIBER, St. Thomas.—Many thanks for your information respecting the latest issue of postage stamps for La Guaira, which we have embodied in our article on novelties.

SNATCHER, Harrow.—The stamp you describe, 'Queen of Spain's profile, blue on yellow,' is a bill or receipt label for some of the Spanish Colonies. The CENTS. stands for centesimos, not cents.

J. H., Bedford.—We had not previously noticed the modification in the 'ugly colonial' of Victoria, which, as you pertinently observe, renders it, 'if not better looking, less bad.' The white rim bordering the black oval disc on which reposes our Queen's profile, is a decided improvement. Further designation of the stamp in question is needless.

ZERO.—The Reunion Island postage stamp, value 15 centimes, is in present circulation as a fac-simile, as well as the better-known 10 c., and we have been given to understand on good authority that its prototype was once current in the isle.

P. S., Leicester.—An essay of the proposed series of postage stamps for Brazil, to supersede those in present use has been seen in town. We cannot vouch for its genuineness. Notwithstanding the outrageous simplicity of the Brazilians, they are by no means despicable specimens of the engraver's art; indeed, the first issue is most elaborately engine-turned; and altogether the eye resting on the page devoted to the three series, feels relief after the sight of so many heads and arms.

BUENOS AYRES.—We shall give the translation of a letter from Buenos Ayres next month, full of novel and interesting information on the ship series of that country's stamps.

J. J. B, Islington.—A postage stamp collection should be confined exclusively to postage stamps, and *may* include proofs and essays. Many collectors add franks, post marks, and in fact everything appertaining to postal purposes, forming what may be more appropriately termed a *postal* collection.—The two colours or rather shades of colour of the 12 c. British Guiana are noted in Mount Brown's catalogue.—Some of the old Swiss emissions are difficult to pronounce a decided opinion on; and it is a moot point whether some specimens confidently deemed forgeries, are not genuine.—The 12 c. Canada is naturally or chemically changed from green to blue.—The dark 1 g. Naples is a forgery.

T. J. C., jun., Cavendish Road.—Your set of Moldo-Wallachians is trustworthy These stamps have been imitated, but indifferently, and they are not rare or expensive enough to induce forgers to take much pains in reproducing them. For the Swiss we refer to the previous reply. The Zurich *without* horizontal lines in the figure 6 is more than doubtful, and the blue Naples is a palpable impostor. The Parma, Romagna, Trinidad, and Italian essay, seem genuine.

F. T., Kennington.—Your 1 and 3 kopec stamps are the latest Russians; there is a 5 k. also, with lilac groundwork, superseding the grey that came out some months since.—The current Venetians like those of the three former series are easily distinguishable from the Austrians of similar design and colour, by the value marked thereon, being *soldi* in lieu of *kreuzer*.—The blue 5 c. and rose 10 c. of Holland, such as yours, were issued and duly chronicled in our magazine this year.

WILLIAM KING, New York.—We thank you for the specimen stamps sent. We can give you no information respecting the parties who are indebted to you; but would advise you in future to be more wary who you trust.

INCOG., Shrewsbury.—Thanks for the sight of one new Railway stamp, and the description of another, both which are noticed in our article on New Issues.

JULIUS CÆSAR.—This correspondent forwards a stamp, description as follows: small rectangular; 15 SCUDI above; ROMA below; in the centre the figures 15, and forming three sides of a square, the words REX DE NEAPOLIA and what looks like the Greek P and an O, then GRACI, encompassing it. The impression is black on a tinted paper bearing a rose-red irregular device. Will some qualified correspondent kindly enlighten the ignorance of Julius Cæsar, and, as we are not ashamed to confess it, in such exalted company, our own.

J. T. THOMPSON, Richmond.—Your Internal Revenue Foreign Exchange stamp, United States, 20 cents, tells its own tale.—The other specimen is an imitation of a Trinidad stamp. The printing on the back shows it was cut from some magazine or illustrated paper, probably Cassell's.—The New Caledonian stamps were originally printed in sheets containing fifty each, and the compartments in Moens' Album are intended to contain the more marked varieties, not one of the fifty being a perfect fac-simile of another.

G. T., Oxford.—The covers for Vol. II. are now ready, and may be had of the publishers.

QUERY.—Stamps are never called in by the government by which they are issued, or exchanged for new issues. They are always available, if unobliterated, for the postage of letters. We ourselves received an epistle a short time since, the postage on which was paid by stamps not less than fifteen years old.

THE

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ILLUSTRATED.

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MDCCCLXV.

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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

TO OUR READERS.

We find much pleasure in congratulating the Timbrophilic world in general, and ourselves in particular, on the completion of the second and commencement of a third volume of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

The large number of subscribers and extended range of sale fully prove both the necessity of such a publication and the genuine quality of the supply in accordance with the demand.

We were among the first aspirants for public patronage in—at that time—'a novel path.' Since that era in timbrophilic annals, there have started magazines devoted to the same subject in Brussels, Leipsig, Coburg, and two in Paris; besides our immediate concurrents in London, Manchester, Weymouth, &c.

Our earliest review was of the third edition of the real, not nominal, standard catalogue of Mount Brown; we had the pleasure of introducing his fifth sufficiently long ago to raise the expectation of a sixth before the middle of the present year. The first two editions of Dr. Gray's manual have long been totally exhausted, and the learned gentleman is now preparing an illustrated modification of the same. The first edition of the catalogue of Messrs. Bellars and Davie is quite, and the second nearly, exhausted. The manuals of Kline of Philadelphia, the three editions of Booty of Brighton, those of Vallette, Mahé, &c., of Paris, Moens of Brussels, Zschiesche and Köder of Leipsig, Brecker of Florence, and pre-eminently the elaborate publication of Berger Levrault of Strasbourg, sufficiently prove the vast amount of labour and talent bestowed on the still, by some prejudiced individuals, despised pursuit of postage-stamp collecting. We must not omit particular notice of the 'Illustrations' of M. Moens, consisting of fifty-four plates—extremely well-executed engravings—representing all the existing types of postage stamps up to the date of publication.

The various styles of albums are a moot point with amateurs, some preferring those of Moens or Lallier, with compartments apportioned for every accredited stamp known up to the time of publication. These are acknowledged excellent in many respects, but labour under two disadvantages: the unavoidable one of not apportioning space for new issues; the other, that of rendering poverty of specimens too apparent. The albums of Oppen, Mount Brown, &c., with ruled rectangular spaces, are more favoured by others; but for an extensive and comprehensive collection, we ourselves incline to books composed of blank leaves, in which the stamps can be placed; ornamental borderings, and the flags and arms of the countries represented by the specimens, being added, according to the fancy of the collector. One small volume used to be considered sufficient for containing a tolerably complete collection. Large quarto volumes are now found insufficient to hold the treasures of their possessors. We ourselves own two royal octavo volumes, one for Europe and Africa, the second for Asia and America; and one of the choice Parisian collections nearly fills three large quarto volumes. The choice and valuable collection of M. Levrault and that of another foreign amateur are preserved in loose sheets, with the idea of being eventually bound up at that utopian period, when it shall have been distinctly and finally ascertained what stamps have been or are likely to be issued.

We are not in a position to speak with accuracy on the total number of recognised

species, whether of government issues, locals, essays, or proofs. When we first saw a postage-stamp collection, more than ten years past, it contained about a hundred and fifty specimens, and a collection of more than two hundred was a marvel in London. Since then, the number of resuscitated species, new introductions, &c., has been so enormously increased, that the last edition of Mount Brown mentions upwards of two thousand four hundred species and varieties. We believe, however, that, inclusive of proofs, essays, &c., the actual sum total might be made to amount to three thousand.

A few remarks on the monetary value of a collection:—this depends, of course, on the number and rarity of the specimens. A moderately comprehensive one may be made for from five to ten pounds. Not many weeks since, a choice assortment of principally unused, but no peculiarly rare, individuals fetched fifty guineas; about this time last year, a collection of upwards of eighteen hundred specimens was purchased for a hundred pounds; and we noted last month the sale of a Parisian collection for 5,000 francs. In a Wiltshire paper we observed a short paragraph to the effect that 'A collector of postage stamps has advertised that he wishes to dispose of his collection—for what sum, would it be thought?—nothing less than two hundred pounds. We only wish he may get it!' Supposing the Paris collection above quoted to be the one in question, the satirical writer of the paragraph must shut up, with eyes and mouth wide open in wonderment, on finding that he really *did* 'get it.'

The bare fact of the existence of all these means and appliances for postage stamp collections, and the varied discussions, arguments, criminations, and recriminations, are indubitable vouchers for the rise, progress, wide-spread, and—notwithstanding the outcry of some at its decadence—increasing spread of Timbromania, or, to use the more aptly designative newly-invented term,—TIMBROPHILY.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL IN MELBOURNE.

NONE but those who have visited and resided in the Australian colonies are aware with what anxiety the arrival of the mail is monthly expected. By the ever-onward movement of civilization, steam has been introduced into the postal service between London and Australia, and letters now arrive in six weeks, which were formerly between three and four months on the passage. A letter posted in London on the 26th of January will, if the passage be a good one, be delivered in Melbourne on the 9th of March. Letters and papers to be sent *viâ* Southampton, leave on the 20th of each month, and *viâ* Marseilles on the 26th. They are due in Melbourne about the 10th of the next month but one.

About the 5th of each month, the telegraph authorities in Melbourne make their first preparations for the reception of the summary of the English news. One of the clerks in the office, called an operator, has to sleep all night in the office with a bell over his head, which is rung by electricity. This arrangement is a very necessary one, as the arrival of the mail is sometimes telegraphed in the middle of the night. The mail telegraphic communication in nine cases out of ten is first carried on between Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. It is at Adelaide that the mail-steamer arrives first, and that town, consequently, is the first to get the European news, and the first to transmit it. It will perhaps be as well if I briefly trace the course of the letters from Southampton.

The contract is in the hands of the 'Peninsular and Oriental Company;' and they employ a fine large fleet of steamers in carrying on the mail-service.

The last load of letters and papers arrives in wooden boxes at Southampton about two o'clock on the 20th of each month, and is immediately placed on board the mail-steamer. The mails being declared on board, and all those who are not passengers having left the ship, the steamer passes down Southampton water into the Channel, and commences her voyage. Letters for Gibraltar are landed in about five days; for Malta, in about eight and a half, and for Alexandria, in about twelve days. The mail-boxes are put in the train at Alexandria, and passing through Cairo, are taken to Suez. Here they are placed on board a small steamer, which takes them to

the mail-ship, lying a few miles down the Red Sea. In about nine days, they reach Aden, and such mail-boxes as are intended for that most uninteresting, inhospitable-looking locality, are left there. In about a week's time the steamer arrives at Point de Galle, a southern point in the island of Ceylon, and there discharges all her Australian mail-boxes, while she herself goes on to Calcutta. A steamer is in readiness at Galle to receive the Australian letters, and they are transhipped into her a few hours after arrival. Their next resting and discharging place is Albany, a little village-town on the southern coast of Western Australia, which lies at the head of King George's Sound, where the steamer arrives about fifteen days after leaving Ceylon. Here the mail-steamer is met by a small one belonging to the Australian Steam Navigation Company, which immediately takes on board the South Australian letters, and steams away for Adelaide. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer having coaled, proceeds to Melbourne, where she usually arrives in about five and a half days. There she discharges her letters and papers for the colony of Victoria, and then steams on six hundred miles to Sydney, the capital of the aristocratic old colony of New South Wales.

There is always a kind of race between the large and small steamers that leave King George's Sound. The distance being shorter, the smaller generally arrives first at Adelaide, its destination. On reaching the pier, the reporter on board rushes to the Telegraph Office, and hands in a summary of the European news. This is immediately telegraphed a distance of three hundred miles, to a place called Mount Gambier, on the borders of South Australia and Victoria. It then is sent another three hundred miles to Melbourne. A flag is run up at the Telegraph Office with R. M. on it, signifying Royal Mail; and it soon becomes known over Melbourne that the mail-steamer has been telegraphed. A reporter from the office of the *Argus*, the leading journal of Melbourne, is in waiting at the Telegraph Office; and when a portion of the summary from Adelaide has been written off, he hurries in a hansom to the office, and slips are at once printed. This is done till the whole of the news has been telegraphed and written off. The first entire slip is courteously sent to his Excellency the Governor; and then the printing of the extraordinary edition of the paper is proceeded with. Little boys very much below zero in the thermometer of cleanliness crowd the *Argus* office, and as each one gets his batch, he runs about in all directions shouting: 'Argis extryornarary—latest noos from England—arrival of the mail.' These 'extraordinaries' are nominally threepence each, but I don't think they are to be had from the boys for less than sixpence. Great numbers are printed, and very soon bought up. The summary contains the leading events of the month: news about the Queen, the Americans, Danes, &c.; shipping intelligence; names of eminent persons who have died during the month; names of Derby and Oaks winners in May or June; funds, stock, wool-sales, &c. In the summary is also the latest special telegram *viâ* Suez, which is sent from London on the evening of the 3rd of the month following that during which the mail-steamer leaves Marseilles. For instance, the steamer with letters and papers leaves Marseilles on the 27th of June, and on the 3rd of July, a telegram is sent to Suez, which is there put on board the steamer, and carried on to Melbourne; so that the latest news received in Australia from England is only five weeks old, and this news travels eleven thousand one hundred and seventy-one miles, or thereabouts, by the overland route.

About two days, or rather less, as a general rule, after the steamer has been telegraphed, she herself arrives in Hobson's Bay, at the head of which is Sandridge, the port of, and two and a half miles distant from, Melbourne. A small steamer goes alongside the Peninsular and Oriental vessel, and receives the mail-boxes. She takes them to Sandridge, and there they are placed in carts, and driven up to the General Post-office in Melbourne. There is a railway from Sandridge to Melbourne, but it is found more convenient and expeditious to put the boxes in spring-carts, and send them by road. I believe the average number of boxes containing the letters and papers is three hundred. Extra hands are taken on at the post-office to assist in bringing in and opening the boxes; and the regular

clerks sort the letters and papers with wonderful quickness. A notice is placed outside the post-office, intimating to the public when the letters, &c., will be delivered.

The arrival of the mail naturally causes a temporary excitement, which lasts for perhaps twenty-four hours.

A few words with respect to the departure of the mail. The Peninsular and Oriental mail-steamers leave Sydney on the 22nd of each month, and Melbourne on the 26th. The post-office closes at ten o'clock, but an office is kept open at Sandridge till noon. The mail-steamer sails very punctually at two, and up to the last minute almost, letters can be posted on board in a box on deck for that purpose. Letters, however, posted after ten can only go *viâ* Marseilles. The office closes for newspapers, *viâ* Southampton, at six o'clock on the previous day. The rush to the post-office during the last five minutes is very great indeed. Melbourne is very subject to floods, as it has over-ground sewers. These become swollen by the rains, and inundate the streets. I had to post my letters last November nearly up to my knees in water. The water around the post-office was several inches deep; cabs would take you through the deepest part, but to reach the letter-box itself, you were obliged to go through some water. This will, I believe, be obviated when the new post-office, a magnificent building, is finished.—*Chambers's Journal.*

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BUENOS AYRES.

Chiefly from *Le Timbre Poste*, by kind permission of Mons. Moens.

THE following authentic and interesting communication, which we promised our readers in the December number of this magazine, will prove the reality of the existence of the contested 4 reales brown, and the falsity of the 4 and 5 pesos blue and brown so generally admitted into catalogues; and also unceremoniously overturn the till lately universally received impression of the value of the commonest of the blue 'ships' of Buenos Ayres.

The decree creating the postage stamps of that country is as follows:—

'Buenos Ayres, April 9, 1858.

'Considering the necessity of establishing a system of stamps for postal correspondence, and conformably to the proposition of the postmaster-general, the government grants and decrees:

'1. That letters shall be franked by means of postage stamps, and that the post-office shall not take charge of letters unprovided with such.

'2. Supplementary to the decree* of June 27, 1857, the value of these stamps shall be 2, 3, 4, and 5 pesos, according to the weight of the letters. A single letter shall bear a 2 p. stamp on one of the corners of the envelope, a double shall have a 3 p., a triple 4 p., and a heavier letter a 5 p. stamp.

'3. [This article settles the weight of letters under an ounce.]

'4. [Provides for those weighing above one ounce.]

'5. The sale of these postage stamps shall take place at the principal post-office and in other places appointed for the purpose.

'6. Whoever shall employ a stamp that has already been used shall be fined 5 pesos, in addition to the postage, the first offence; and 200 for the second, 300 for the third, and so on in proportion.

'7. When the guilty party shall be unable or unwilling to pay the penalty, he shall be transferred to the proper official tribunal, for the infliction of whatever punishment may be judged commensurate with the offence.

'8. The stamps shall be fabricated at the Bank or the Mint, in presence of a commission appointed for that end. The manager shall register the number of sheets printed.

'9. The forgers of postage stamps and their accomplices shall be liable to all the penalties fixed by the laws.

'10. Both stamps and plates shall remain deposited at the bank, under the same restrictions as the plates of bank notes.

'11. This decree shall be put in force a week after issue in the city, and a month in the provinces.

* What was this decree? Was it one approving the *gaucho* series, which the writer seems to ignore?—ED.

'12. [Provides for the circulation of the decree.]

'JOSE BARROS PAZOS.'

This decree did not provide for the colours of the stamps, but the following were those adopted:—

dos pesos	azul	...	or 2 p. blue.
tres „	verde	..	3 „ green.
cuatro „	colorado		4 „ vermilion.
cinco „	amarillo		5 „ orange.

They were put in circulation April 29, 1858.

In consequence of a reduction in the charge, conformably to a decree of October 2, 1858, the postal authorities on the 26th day of that month emitted two new values, similar to the type in use. These two values were—

:IN PS. coffee-coloured, or 1 peso dark brown, for letters weighing an ounce.

CUAT°. RS. chestnut, or 4 reales bright yellow-brown, for letters weighing half an ounce.

There are, moreover, the following varieties met with among these stamps.

:IN PS. bright yellow-brown,—same shade as the 4 r. above.

CUAT°. RS. brown.

CUAT°. RS. very dark brown.

On the 1st of January, 1859, the shade of the 1 peso was changed, and in lieu thereof was issued

:IN PS. azul or 1 peso light blue.
variety 1 „ dark blue.

These are all the different values or shades that have appeared of the first or 'ship' type; as for the 4 and 5 pesos blue and the same values brown, they have never existed, but this is what induces the prevalent error respecting them, viz., the postal authorities emitting two new values, cancelled the preceding ones, but made use of the die of the 4 and 5 pesos for the 1 peso and 4 reales.

The CUAT°. PS. (4 pesos) thus became CUAT°. RS. (4 reales), by forming an R out of the P of PS. This change having been badly executed, the major part of the stamps bear the form of the letter P.

The CINCO PS. (5 pesos) was in like manner transformed into :IN PS. (1 peso), all the left-hand part of the initial letter C of CINCO being scratched out, as also the last two letters of the word. The letter S of PESOS, owing to some misadventure, remained; so that :IN PS. has been erroneously taken by collectors as the CIN PS., the abbreviation of CINCO PS. (5 pesos).

The impression of these stamps having been ever ill-executed, especially after the alterations in the plates, it sometimes happened that the 1 peso blue exhibited nothing but the last stroke of the N and a small blot, giving it somewhat the appearance of a T. This anomaly suggested to some individual the idea of filling in the empty space by means of the lettering CUA, inserted before the suppositious T. Unfortunately (I am speaking of the type under my inspection), instead of terminating the word with an O, an S was put; a very grave error, making the word a contraction of cuatros, in lieu of cuatro. If any stamps exist orthographically correct, they are in no way more genuine on that account.

In pursuance of a fresh change the postage was fixed henceforward at 1 peso, 2 pesos, and 4 reales. This opportunity was taken to replace the primitive type for the effigy of Liberty. These stamps were circulated September 3, 1859. They were—

4 reales green on tinted paper.
1 peso blue white „
2 „ vermilion „ „

The green stamp was used in conjunction with the 1 peso for letters of a certain weight, or singly for local postage.

On September 20, 1862, the colours of the 1 and 2 pesos were changed, to make them accord with the corresponding values employed in the Argentine Republic; in consequence of which, the blue 1 peso was printed in pink, like the 5 centavos Argentine Republic of equivalent value. The vermilion 2 pesos then became blue, like the 10 c. Argentine, and the green 4 r. was suppressed. A franc is worth 4 pesos, more or less, and 8 reales make a peso.

On the 21st of October, 1862, the post-office authorities proposed the adoption of a uniform type for all the republic to the minister of the interior, D. Guillermo Rawson. This proposition being agreed to, the type of the effigy of Liberty was suppressed, and the 5, 10, and 15 centavos stamps used

by the Argentine Republic were provisionally employed.

The type that had been proposed in 1862 was put into circulation on the 17th of April, 1864. It bears the representation of Don Bernardino Rivadavia, and is of three values —5 c. pink; 10 c. green; and 15 c. blue. They are now perforated; those first issued to the public had not that improvement.

G. A.

Supplementary to this valuable communication we may append the translation of an article taken from the first number of our 'youngest brother' on the mooted question of the *gaucho* stamps. We do not consider the non-mention of them by the writer on the Buenos Ayres stamps a positive proof of their non-existence. The gentleman may not have been in the country at the time of their introduction, or may not have then felt sufficient interest in stamps to let the fact be impressed on his memory. We are not so young as we were, and have yet met with many of our seniors who had not the slightest recollection of our black Victoria label or either of the Mulready envelopes. We mentioned in a former article having ourselves seen one of these *gauchos* postmarked two or three years since, and during our recent continental visit saw others. The following is the extract in question:—

'We feel it incumbent on us to say a few words on these poor stamps [the *gauchos*] that have given rise to so much discussion, and which by some have been refused the right of *entrée* into collections, under colour of their having been either essays or mere speculative impressions.

'For our own part, we can confidently assure our readers that these stamps really were in circulation; for a short time, it is true—ten or twelve days only,—after the "ships" but before the "head of Liberty" stamps. The reason of their remaining so long unknown is this,—at the time of their emission the business houses of Buenos Ayres were all more or less provided with the "ships," as merchants usually lay in a stock of stamps in advance. They consequently used up all the superseded stamps before providing themselves with the new issue;

"But ah! too brief a life it shows,
And withers like the fading rose."

In plain prose, it lasted scarcely a fortnight. Thus it happened that the stock on hand was not exhausted, and the stamps impressed with the cavalier scarcely saw the light. Some few of them, nevertheless, had the honour of being employed, and to our own immediate knowledge two of our largest customers are each in possession of one of these stamps cancelled, and that thoroughly. There cannot be the shadow of a doubt about the matter: they are, in verity, neither inventions nor essays, but handsome and authentic stamps, whose sole defect is their remarkable rarity.'

Mons. Mahé has written to one of his friends in Buenos Ayres, requesting to be furnished with the necessary proofs for the legal demonstration of the birth and death of the stamps under discussion; on obtaining which he promises to impart the same immediately to the readers of his magazine, and, with his kind permission, our own shall be made partakers of the advantage.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

I HAVE met with the two following varieties of the red (green centre) stamp of Livonia, the better executed of the two I presume to be a genuine one. I can find the following amongst other differences between the two specimens. Genuine: a distinct five-rayed star in each corner, on a red plain ground, separated from the extreme background of the stamp by an ornament with three ends. In the forgery, the star in corners is indistinct as to the number of rays, and the ornament mentioned above has but two ends, the central one being indiscernible. The background of the genuine stamp, a close but distinct pattern, which in the forgery, although evidently a pattern, is not everywhere clear. Again, in the forgery, from W to H of WENDENSCHEN, there are seven scalloped marks round the centre, whilst, in the genuine copy, we only observe six marks, the letter H coming just past the centre of the sixth one. The colourings of the false stamp are bright,

but poor; those of the original are bright and good.

BREMEN.—1855, 3, 5, 7 grote, 5 silb. gr.; 1863, 2 grote.—The whole set of these stamps is probably forged, but as yet I have not met with the 10 grote. They are very good forgeries, but have the new, glazy appearance, and shining postmarks, which cannot deceive the experienced collector. The following points occur in the 5 silb. gr. Forgery: the colour too bright, G of S. GR. is badly formed, the top half being too small, and the bottom too broad; the top of the figure 5 inclines upwards very strangely, and the dot after the S. GR. is rather an oblong one. In the genuine, we find this dot is a rounded-square one. In the forgery, the ornamental work over numerals V. in lower corners is, on the left hand side, thinner than it is on the right side. A little care will prevent one's being 'done' by these imitations, as they all show discrepancies in lettering as pointed out above; for instance, the outline of shading to the letters of BREMEN on the 3 grote will not bear examination,—the shapes of the figures 3 in the corners differ. The colour of the 2 grote is too deep in the forgery.

FINLAND.—Envelopes, 1845, 10 kop. rose, 20 black.—The forgeries of the reprints of these formerly unattainable stamps are very close imitations, though the letters are so shapod as to render any one with a knowledge of stamps at once suspicious, without comparison with genuine ones. The following differences between forged and genuine are very patent. Forgery: the letter s of STEMPEL is below the level of T, and is badly shaped in the lower half, being smaller there than it should be; the letters are none of them nicely finished, none being square and clear as they ought to be; also the marks in the band of the crown are, in the forgery, five transverse ovals, with a dot between each. In the genuine stamp they are long diamond-shaped marks, the upper halves of which are seldom clear. The word KOPECK is in thick bold letters in the reprint and original, but in rather thin ones in the forgery, and also the cross on the top of the crown is, in the forgery, decidedly crooked. The forgeries have an indistinctness in colouring not observable in the first reprints; the later re-impressions are far from equalling the earliest in paper, colour, and clearness. The greenish-black 20 kop. does not exist as an original that I am aware of.

PAPAL STATES.—Forgeries are in extensive circulation of the 50 baj. blue, and 1 scudo red—both rather rare stamps. The following are the most perceptible differences which occur betwixt the forged and genuine 50 baj. Forged: the end of the key has only a semicircle in the handle, though there is a clear circle in the original, and the shading of the extreme border is too coarse. Genuine. The letters RA of FRANCO, and TAL of POSTALE, are joined to one another at their bases,—not so in the forgery. The 1 scudo I have unfortunately had no opportunity of comparing, but hope to remedy this in my next paper.

WURTEMBURG. Retourbriefe.—Nearly every specimen of this rare stamp in English collections is forged. I am unable to give the exact points of the genuine stamp, but can mention the following which do not occur in combination in any forgery I have. The genuine RETOURBRIEFE is upon a white paper, with a tinge of blue, although it could not be called bluish paper; it is clearly and deeply printed, and there is always a stop after the word RETOURBRIEFE.

With the commencement of the new year it is very probable that a great number of fresh forgeries will appear, and therefore the readers of this magazine will do well to exercise the greatest care in making their purchases. This will especially apply to the juvenile portion of our community, to whom a seemingly beautiful impression of an old stamp has immense attraction; and youth being very unsuspicious, it is to it that such things as reprints and well executed forgeries are principally offered. Many of the common stamps are forged in quantities, solely on purpose to make up the marvellous packets of stamps at marvellously low prices. I allude to the lower values of Greece, Lubeck, Baden, the oldest Wurtemburg, Bremen, Bavaria, &c., &c. The only way to avoid deception is to buy only from dealers of well known honesty; these latter, though sometimes deceived themselves, are not likely to

deceive intentionally, and therefore the risk is much less than in buying from those who are known to deal in fac-similes and their brethren forgeries.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.



THE gossip of stamp coteries prophesies novel emanations from Spain, Switzerland, Bavaria, Brazil, and the United States, so that the forthcoming numbers of this journal will not lack subjects for description or engraving. In the meantime we must be content with annexing the figure-heads of two essays of the last-mentioned country. One of them





—that to the left, with stars in all four corners—is printed in green. The other, with U. S. in the top corners and value in a curve, is blue.

The engraving heading this article is a fac-simile of the present 3 cents envelope of the United States. It differs from, and is much handsomer than the superseded one; the figures standing out bolder and the letters being white in bold relief. The 1 cent has undergone a similar modification. Simultaneously with its emission a new 2 cent. envelope was introduced, rather larger than, but not strikingly different from, its predecessor, the chief alteration being the curtailment of U. S. POSTAGE into U. S. POST. The design of both these envelopes is evidently intended to show their respective values more clearly than they appeared in the now obsolete types.

The penny Victoria is still green, but the type is changed, and is now identical with that of the twopenny and fourpenny. The threepenny blue will no doubt undergo a similar change, and we trust the hideous sixpenny and antediluvian-looking shilling will not be long behindhand. Our St. Thomas correspondent gave us a rather erroneous impression respecting the colour of the latest La Guaira stamps, stating they were blue and gold-yellow. The latter is a decided orange.



The subjoined cut represents the species mentioned in Mount Brown's catalogue, fifth edition, page 68, as intended for the West Indian colonies of Spain, and issued in 1863. Moens evidently considers it an essay, making no mention thereof. In the elaborate catalogue of Oscar Berger Levrault, page 53, it is noted as employed for transmission of government correspondence from Madrid to the colonies, in conjunction with three other values bearing the 1855, '56, '57 head.

On page 170 of last year's magazine we chronicled a stamp emanating from the London and North Western Railway Company, value 3d., since which we have received others of similar device and colour, numbered respectively 2d., 4d., 6d., and 9d. These are at present in use on the northern parts of the line, not franking packets from London; but we have also been favoured with a sight of another series submitted to the authorities for approval, and proposed exclusively for newspaper packets from town. These are the same in design, but printed in black on yellow paper; they range in price from 2d. to 5s., the intermediate ones being 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 1s., and 2s. 6d.

The peculiarly queer-looking individual next figured is a representative of one of the series of French essays published by MM. Mellet & Pichot. They are printed on a prepared chemical paper, and could be effectually cancelled by the stroke of a wetted pencil. There are ten different shades and colours of these stamps, with the emperor's head when president, or rather a caricature of it; and ten with that of the republic in the same



category. The latter, unlike the known series, is turned to the right, and all the stamps are for 20 centimes; those with the president's head are for 25 c. These latter belong to the series known as essays for Cayenne; possibly because the designer was, or ought to be, transported thither for his ridiculous libel on Napoleon's profile! The specimen from which the cut was taken is dull yellow above and below, and grey in the middle; on this groundwork the head, &c., are impressed of a dirty brown colour.

Our sixth engraving exhibits a specimen



of one of the four Belgian essays mentioned on page 184 of our last year's volume. They are neatly and clearly designed and executed, and appearing to fulfil all the requirements of the postal authorities in respect to device, colours, &c., may possibly meet with government approval. The chosen type, however, may not improbably make its appearance before these observations see the light.

We have just received intimation of a new series for Mexico. The stamps bear the same effigy as the early impressions,—CORREOS MEJICO above, value beneath; but being from a steel-plate are very superior, and the head of Hidalgo is better executed. They are perforated. The denominations are reported to be 1 real red; 2 reales blue; 4 reales brown; and 1 peso black.

A local Chinese has made its appearance, used similarly to those of La Guaira by a steam-packet company for transmission of letters to and from Hong Kong, Shanghae, and some other places. A Russian, emanating from a company of the same kind, 6 kopeks in value, for Levantine letters, has been described in Mons. Mahé's second number; and, moreover, a series of dubious essays for Honolulu.

Since we penned the first part of this paper, the wires of the electric telegraph bore from Turin to Paris the news, important to timbrophilists, that the 15 centesimi of Italy is about to be superseded by a 20 c., the government taking that modest method of putting on the screw. Until the present issue is exhausted it will bear the additional 5 c. value by being stamped with a 20 in ink, provisionally.

THE POSTMAN.

BY DOUGLAS JERROLD.

HERALD of joy—messenger of evil! Daily terror—hourly hope! Now, one deputed from the gods; and now, the envoy of pain, and poverty, and death. Each and all of these is the unconscious postman. In the round of one morning he may stand at fifty thresholds, the welcome bringer of blessed news,—the long-hoped, long-prayed for carrier of good tidings,—and the dismal tale-bearer, the ambassador of woe. The postman deals his short, imperative knock, and the sound shall, like a fairy spell, as quickly call a face of hopeful gladness to the door: he passes to the next house, and his summons makes the anxious soul within quail and quake with apprehension. He is, indeed, a stout, a happy man, whose heart has never shrunk at the knock of the postman.

We meet the postman in his early walk: he is a familiar object,—a social commonplace, tramping through mud, and snow, and drenching rain, and withering cold, the drudge of all weathers; and we scarcely heed the value of his toil,—rarely consider the daily treasure of which he is the depository and the dealer forth. We speak of treasure in its highest meaning; eschewing all notice of bank notes, and bills, and cheques, wherewith the postman is daily trusted: we confine ourselves to the more precious records of the heart; to the written communings of affection; the kind remembrances; the yearnings of the absent; the hopes of the happy; and the more sacred sorrows of the unfortunate. Look at that little bundle of letters grasped by the postman. Who shall guess the histories that are there!—histories more deep, more touching, than many on the shelves of libraries; writing, albeit the authorship of the poor and ignorant, that in its homely truth shall shame the laboured periods of fashionable quill-cutters. Sally Robins writes home to say, that John Thomson is a very proper young man; and that, if father and mother have

no objection, she thinks she can persuade herself to become Mrs. Thomson. Give us that letter for a piece of wholesome nature, a bit of simple feeling, before any set of three volumes by Lady Pickansteal, even with the illustration of her ladyship's portrait, *built* by Parris, with the hat, weeping willow, feather, bouquet, velvet and all to match. The postman is the true publisher: his tales are verities; his romances, things of life: besides, in his case, though penned by right honourable ladies and gentlemen, the wares he deals in are delivered without any improvement by foreign hands, to their readers. Thus considered, the postman's diurnal budget is the history of much of human life; the written pictures of its hopes, wants, follies, virtues, crimes; of its pettiest and most fleeting ceremonies, as of its highest and most enduring aspirations.

The postman's packet is before us. In what close companionship are the lowly and the great! Here is a letter to his grace, and over it a missive from Molly the scullion: look we immediately behind the duke, and we find the epistle of Dicky the groom. Try lower down: what have we here? The humble petition of an old constituent to a place-giving politician, backed by a letter from Epsom, penned by a professor of the thimble rig! What next? Alack, the profanation! Behind the pea-and-thimble varlet, lies the pastoral note of the meek Bishop of Orangeton to a minister of state. In the rear of the bishop—oh, for a pound of civet! —lurks the agonizing correspondence of a heart-stricken opera dancer. Here is a position—here a jumble! Oh, for a peep at the contents of only two of the last three letters! That it should be felony to break a seal, and in spite of such a provocation! Otherwise, what various views of life might we not enjoy from them? How beautifully should we find the trickery of the trading gambler relieved by the gentleness, virtues, and political piety of the senatorial bishop! True it is, that we have a sort of half-reverence for the professor of the pea-and-thimble, on account of the remoteness of his origin. It is not generally known (except, perhaps, to losers,) that the pea-and-thimble man comes from the country of the crocodile, being, as proved by the learned Mr. Lane, descended from the sons of ancient Egypt. Nevertheless, their several letters opened, we know, we feel, that we should turn with disgust from the sharper of the race-course, to melt and glow with admiration at party episcopacy—at the lordly shepherd smelling of the imperial parliament.

But we have not time to go through all our postman's bundle; we must not dwell among the lovers, lawyers, contrabandists, merchants, gossips, philosophers (for there shall, in so thick a budget, be one or two of such rare fowl), hucksters, sharpers, moralists, quacks and dupes, peaceably bound together by the postman's string, and each and all waiting serenely for their delivery. Looked upon as the emanations, the representatives of their separate writers, what a variety of purpose, what many-coloured means, and nearly all to arrive at the same common end! Could we have more curious reading, than by taking letter by letter, and so going through the whole Babel of contents? To light now upon the doating ravings of an absent swain, and now upon the peremptoriness of a vigilant attorney! Eternal love, and instant payment! Dim visions of Hymen and the turnkey; the wedding ring and the prison bolt! Next, to come upon the sinful secrets of the quiet, excellent, respectable man; the worthy soul, ever virtuous because never found out: to unearth the hypocrite from folded paper, and see all his iniquity blackening in a white sheet! And then to fall upon a piece of simple goodness; a letter gushing from the heart; a beautiful unstudied, vindication of the worth and untiring sweetness of human nature; a record of the invulnerability of man, armed with high purpose, sanctified by truth: a writing that, in the recollection that it leaves, shall be an amulet against the sickness of uncharitable thoughts, when judging man at his worst, remembering still the good of which he is capable. Yes, a most strange volume of real life is the daily packet of the postman!

The letter-carrier himself may be said to be deficient of any very striking characteristic, any peculiar recommendation as a national portrait; in himself he is, indeed, a common place; he is only for the time being elevated

by our hopes and fears; only for the nonce the creature of our associations. We suffer the fever of anxiety for a letter, and the approaching postman comes upon us a very different person from him who passed our window a week ago. In the intensity of our expectation, we almost made him a party to our gladness or our suffering: he has nothing for us, and inwardly we almost chide him for the disappontment; he seems leagued against us, and in our thoughts we reproach him for his unkindness. 'Are you sure you have nothing?' we ask, as if almost petitioning his will to delight us; for a time, we seem to ourselves dependent upon his courtesy alone for a satisfying answer. We have a little story in illustration of the naturalness of this:—

A late friend of ours had long expected a letter—it came not. Day after day his handmaiden had seen the postman pass the door. At length, the knock was heard—that heart-awakening sound, when so desired—the postman's knock! Betty flew to the door, and as she took the letter, with vehement reproach addressed the unoffending carrier:—'You ought to be ashamed of yourself,' said Betty; 'you know you ought — good-for-nothing fellow!' 'What's the matter?' asked the postman, 'What's the matter, my dear?' 'Don't dear me! You know you ought to be ashamed of yourself,' was the ancillary reply. 'Why, what have I done?' urged the postman. 'Done!' echoed the maid, who then immediately crushed the culprit with a revelation of his iniquity; 'here have you brought this letter, and only this morning!' 'Well?' 'Well, indeed! and my poor dear master expected it three weeks ago.' Betty felt assured that the delay rested with the postman; that he alone was chargeable with the disappointment. Wiser folks than Betty have been tempted to do the letter carrier a like passing wrong.

We have said the postman was with us a common-place; and yet, in the very regularity of his calls may we see the highest triumph of civilization. How he keeps man knit to man; what interest he upholds; how he connects and makes voluble absent hearts; how, through him all the corners of the earth hold discourse with one another! The postman with us is a daily fate; nought stops him; he walks, and walks, and for ever walks, knocking and dealing forth his many missives, in fair weather and in tempest, in scorching sun and nipping frost. In the remote habitations of man, the postman is, indeed, invested with more romantic attributes; he is not a dweller among the people but a fitful and uncertain visitor. The letter-carrier to the few denizens of a Canadian forest is of far higher mark than the postman in Cheapside. He who brings news to the wilderness, comes a more eventful courier than he who delivers tidings from the log-huts to men in towns. *They* are living in the hurly of life; to them there can come at best but quiet news; tidings of hewing and clearing, of corn sown, sows farrowed, and poultry hatched. To the exile in the woods the letter-carrier brings, with the news of cities, old recollections touching to dwell upon, thoughts of old habits not yet quite flung off, memories of old and early friends; with all the noise, and stir, and goodly glittering show that once made up a hopeful existence—was once the day dream of the reader's life. We can see such a man, can behold the emigrant in the very heart of the wilderness, leaning against a tree. The pines felled about him bear witness to his sinewy arm, and yet his hand shakes as with palsy at an opened sheet of paper. In the depth of the forest, in its solemn silence, only broken by the leap of the squirrel or the cry of the jay, in a solitude and stillness so profound and so still that there a man might hear his own heart beat,—the emigrant, gazing on the letter, sees amidst his tears the houses of England, her old remembered streets, a hundred well-known faces, and hears long since forgotten, old, familiar sounds. Is this a fancy picture, reader? Never believe it; for men of self-deemed granite, cut off from men, find, to their own astonishment, that they still are tearful flesh. We must, however, turn from all picturesque couriers; from the letter-carrier through swamps and woods; the Arab, dromedary-mounted; and the Tartar, on his arrowy

steed,—to return to the wayfarer of British streets, the English postman.

Though his calling be, in truth, of the humblest sort, we do not look upon it as altogether menial. The cause of this is probably to be found in the various feelings of hope and fear which it is his function at times to awaken in us. Though, indeed, nothing more than a light porter, still the precious things revealed to us by the little packets he is charged with for us, endow him with a consequence independent of his mere employment. He is, we know, with his masters a man of trust, but he is something more to us; he is so mingled with our happy and fearful expectations, that we wholly forget the money letters every day entrusted to him, in our thoughts of the missives beyond all purchase which he sometimes brings us.

Postmen are happy in their vocation; it secures them against all the manifold ills of a sedentary life; and their minds, continually engaged in the light, though sometimes difficult, reading of superscriptions, must necessarily be at once enlarged and strengthened by the practice. Cobblers and tailors are said to be addicted to politics and, consequently, treason; this disposition has by some philosophers been traced to the in-door habits of the craftsmen, to their sedentary and cross-legged positions, all favourable to inward brooding, and thereby to discontent. Far different is the postman; he literally walks through life, absolutely knocks through a whole existence, transacting small government bargains, with no time to sit or stand and think of the iniquities, real or imaginary, of his political masters. We never heard of a postman being concerned in a conspiracy, whilst what tongue has strength enough to count the cobblers? Again, if the postman starts in life with a dapper figure, shall he not be slim and elegant to the last? Is he not certain of carrying to the grave his original greyhound outline? Gout shuns him, corpulency visits him not, whilst exercise crowns him with all its gifts, and claims the postman as its own.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage-Stamp Album, and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps. Edited by HENRY WHYMPER. Sixth Edition. London: William Stevens.

THE duty of reviewing this work has already fallen several times to our lot, and we are happy to bear our testimony to its progressive worth. The improvements in the present edition, noted in the preface and fully carried out in practice, are full descriptions of the scarce English essays, and also of the United States express and local stamps. For this end the compiler has availed himself of the kind authority of Dr. Gray and Mr. Mount Brown to extract whatever suited his purpose from their published papers. Mr. Pemberton added his permission to make use of his descriptions of forgeries.

When we say that the paper, print, binding, and entire getting up of the album are as good as before, we cannot afford greater commendation. The illustrated sheet of specimens is also considerably enlarged. We suppose it must have been from an error of the press that the Corrientes stamp is labelled *Spain*, and the Mexican *Moodena*. It would also have been more correct not to designate the *Romagna* and *Poland* Rome and Russia respectively.

Some few countries, as Baden, Bavaria, &c., are scarcely assigned their requisite space, but this slight defect can be easily remedied by purchasing and interleaving extra ruled sheets, which can be obtained at a small charge per dozen from the publishers. The erroneous impression so many collectors seem to labour under as to the *locus standi* of Mexico, &c., is successfully counteracted in this publication by the classification of that country with Costa Rica and Nicaragua under Central America. We regret the reproduction of the apparently stereotyped error respecting the value of the Buenos Ayres peso, which we have so frequently had occasion to remark as *not* being equivalent to the peso or dollar of Brazil, Costa Rica, and New Granada. That of Buenos Ayres is worth from 2¼d. to 2¾d. only.

We take leave of the present edition,

hoping, before the expiration of the current year, to make acquaintance with and introduce a seventh for the notice and patronage of the stamp-collecting world.

Le Timbrophile. Journal de la Collection Timbre-Postale. Paris: P. Mahé.

THIS most recent of postal serials, the first number of which appeared in November, is the second publication of the kind started in Paris during the past year. The scope and professed object of it is the same with those of its English and foreign predecessors, for all of which the world is wide enough, and for whose permanent support we trust there is a sufficiency of postage-stamp amateurs. Of the sportive and amusing preface we give a rendering for the benefit of country cousins:—

Like the principal characters in the Italian pantomimes, who come forward to the front of the stage and show by their gesticulations the parts they are about to play in the represented piece, we accost our readers in the following fashion:

We are the youngest born of the postage stamp journals: if we did not come sooner into the world, we are not to be blamed, for we could not create ourselves, and our authors had not made up their minds to our production. But, at last, here we are in the good sun's light—pray do not throw us back into the shade. We do not ask you to forget our elder brethren, whom we love as in duty bound, but merely to grant us a small portion of that favour you accord them. We are very young, scarcely a day old, but we shall quickly grow up if we find you wish it. Then, when we come to maturity, we shall have learned a great deal, and will impart to you all we know. We shall go rummaging everywhere, eyes and ears on the alert; and at the end of this long month, during which we shall have to hold our tongue, what a host of things we shall have to tell you! New emissions; changes in fabrication, colour, perforation, or water-mark; all that we can ascertain respecting forthcoming issues and essays; and, above all, we shall put you on your guard against counterfeits and falsifications. In short, to make ourselves agreeable, we will become ubiquitous, we will act impossibilities, and, like a modern Argus, nothing shall escape us.

Then follows a bit of shop, and the address concludes with—

If now, dear readers, those of your ranks that have taken your degree in the Timbrophilic science, will condescend to guide our young footsteps and help us with your enlightened advice, we shall have no more to wish for than as many subscribers as there are collectors.

We do not know who is responsible for the new appellation bestowed on this youngest aspirant, but we give the godfather credit for his happy idea. We were never contented with the implication of madness cast upon us by the term timbromaniacs, and most gladly accept the more appropriate and significant designation of Timbrophilists.

A HOST OF POSTS.

That little word *post* has meanings a host,
And in this respect is the lexicon's boast,
For there's no other word that ever we heard
That has been more twisted, and bother'd, and blurr'd.

There are *posts* of honour and *posts* of pride,
And a thousand *posts* in the world beside;
Posts in the streets, and *posts* to the lamps,
And some walking *post*-men—remarkable scamps!

There are bank-*post* bills as current as gold,
And cheques *post*-dated not pleasant to hold;
And that wonderful *post* with but *four* letters to it,
That has all other letters in Europe pass through it!

You *post* in the navy, promoting the brave,
You *post* in the army for being a knave;
You *post* the pony whenever you bet,
And you *post* off to prison when taken for debt!

Post-obits are given for gold on your life,
You're examined *post*-mortem if murdered in strife;
You *post* by horses, or *post* by train,
And the latter steam-style is styled *posting* amain!

If a man any great punctuality boast,
You say of him 'he's to be found at his *post*;'
But if you're kept waiting you inwardly groan,
And say 'What a fellow he is to *post*-pone.'

You *post* your books of accounts by millions,
You call your galloping boys *post*ilions;
And you try to save your tin of a verity,
Just to leave to your young *post*-terity.

'*From* pillar to *post*' was a saying, you know,
But now *in* a pillar to *post* we go;
And an author's friends, to amuse or fume us,
Print, after his death, his works *post*humous.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

CONUNDRUM.—Why are some of the Government officials like some of its postage stamps? Because they are *poor sticks*.

VALUABLE INFORMATION.—A letter was received in ———, directed, 'To the biggest fool in ———.' The postmaster was absent, and on his return one of the younger clerks informed him of the letter. 'And what became of it?' inquired the postmaster. 'Why,' replied the clerk, 'I did not know who the biggest fool in ——— was, so I opened the letter myself.' 'And what did you find in it?' 'Why,' responded the clerk, 'nothing but the words "Thou art the man."'

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The postal system, projected in 1692, was not put in operation until 1710, when the states were still a British colony. By an act of the English parliament, the postmaster-general was to have his principal office in New York, and secondary offices in one or more convenient localities in the other provinces. In 1753 Benjamin Franklin was appointed to that dignity, with a minimum income of £600 a-year for himself and his

secretary. He soon introduced some useful improvements during his administration, which considerably augmented the revenues of the post-office. In 1760 he proposed to start a mail coach for carrying despatches between Philadelphia and Boston, to set off once a week from each of those towns. Franklin, having become an object of suspicion on account of his sympathy for the aggrieved colonists, was superseded in 1774.—*Moens' Illustrations.*

A RAW-LOOKING COUNTRY GIRL was lately noticed, by a policeman on his beat, near a certain post-office at the West End of Town, standing for a considerable time near the mouthpiece, and staring about in evident expectation of somebody or something. Every time he returned that way he found her still in the same position, and at last asked her what she wanted; eliciting that her mistress gave her a note to take to a friend, with orders to wait for an answer. Reading not being an acquirement of the rural damsel, she did not know the missive was addressed to a party lodging in the same house, so in all innocency of intention carried it to the nearest post-office! We were witness lately in Paris to a specimen of almost equal simplicity, when an Englishman applied at the Post Restante for a letter addressed under the name of 'Smith.' The official politely informed him he must specify the direction somewhat more impressively, that name being so common as to require some specific adjunct. Unable to afford further information, our countryman was obliged to depart minus the anticipated letter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHY SHOULD WE COLLECT ESSAYS?

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I am glad to see that the attention of collectors is being drawn to the collection of essays, and trust that through your columns an understanding may be come to on so important a point. For myself, I think that there is no sense in collecting essays, and will, with your permission, state my reasons for this opinion.

Essays in general may be divided into two classes, the genuine and the spurious; those which are really submitted to the inspection of the postal authorities with a view to their adoption as stamps, and those which are only made, like the pedlar's razors, 'to sell.' The latter class no real collector would place in his album; I pass on therefore to the genuine. I will assume that a collector, prior to the decision of the government, obtains a dozen genuine essays for a new series of stamps, at a total cost of (say) £3. It is more than probable that they will all be rejected, for the fact is that in no one instance have accepted designs been seen in the stamp-market previous to their acceptance. But for the sake of argument we will presume that one of the twelve essays is adopted: in that case it is no longer an essay, it becomes a proof stamp and its possessor has only that slight and dearly-bought advantage over the purchaser of an ordinary stamp of the same design. What then can be said for the eleven rejected essays? They are mere abortions—mere stamped bits of paper, but not postage stamps. The only reasonable interest which attaches to them is as specimens of the arts of design and engraving in the countries to which they belong. But that interest as appertaining to stamp collecting is quite a subordinate one. It is not from that that the pleasure of possessing an album arises. But if any one will collect essays for that reason, then there is no valid argument against his collecting spurious essays also, for they, equally with the genuine, are specimens (and some of them very handsome ones) of the arts of design and engraving as applied to stamps. The champion of essays is therefore on the horns of a dilemma, for to be reasonable he must collect all or none.

If I am right in my idea (which is that also of 'No Essays') that stamps adopted by the postal authorities cease to be essays, then such stamps as the Connell and 12d. Canada would still merit admittance into an album and have a right to possession.

Mr. Pemberton in his November letter discusses the question with considerable ability, though it is much to be regretted that a matter of such vital interest to collectors should have been made a peg on which to hang personalities respecting a gentleman who, whatever his faults, has been of greater benefit to the English stamp-world than any of his detractors. There is however a discrepancy in his letter which doubtless many of your readers have noticed. It is, in brief, that whilst he refers to the collection of the English essays in proof of the futility of attempting to collect essays at all, he approves of the collection of those now appearing for Belgium—though both English and Belgian are equally genuine according to his definition as each one of the former was, and of the latter is sent to the authorities with the chance that that one might be the design selected. Will your 'talented' correspondent kindly explain his reason for the distinction?

I cannot close my letter without expressing my sincere regret that Mr. Pemberton should have thought fit to make the contemptible attack on your magazine which appears in your December number. It is an evidence of his extreme want of courtesy that whilst retained on the staff of your magazine, he should in the very number in which an article of his own appears abuse the liberality with which your columns are opened to correspondents by using them as the vehicle for a malicious onslaught upon yourself. Your statement that you would be 'Aut Cæsar aut nullus' was no more than the honest expression of a legitimate desire akin, doubtless, to that which Mr. Pemberton himself felt when editing his now-defunct periodical, and the slight error into which you fell was quite capable of correction in a *gentlemanly* manner.

With the expression of my own entire satisfaction with the manner in which your magazine is conducted,

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool. TIMBROPHILIST.

LIVONIA AND ITS STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Having read in your September number that strange explanation respecting the Livonian stamps, I cannot but give a few words in reply to 'Nova Scotia.'

The 'Wendensche Kreis' is no part of Germany, and has nothing at all to do with Lusatia (Lausitz). It belongs rather to Russia, being a 'Kreis'—small district—of Livonia, one of her Baltic provinces. Whence it, however, derives its peculiar name, I cannot tell, but as nearly the whole of the population of the Russian Baltic provinces has sprung up from German emigrants of all parts of Germany, I suppose that chiefly descendants of the old Vandals have settled in the part of Livonia that now bears the name of 'Wendenscher Kreis.'

As to the Livonian stamps themselves, which you called 'dubious' in your July number, I can give you the following information.

Some eight or nine years ago there happened to be a want of small money throughout the empire. In order to meet this occurrence, the government of the 'Wendenschen Kreis' decided to issue two sorts of postage stamps—the two oblong ones, rose and green—of course only for local use. The 'Kreis' post-office, however, was bound to take them for payment of letters intended for other parts of Russia or foreign countries as well, but in

this case the fixing of the stamp or stamps to the letter was prohibited. About a year ago a third stamp of the 'Kreis' made its appearance, but only as a compensation for the oblong rose one, which has been put out of use since that time. The Livonian stamps should not be counted to that lot of local stamps of North America and Hamburg, but rather to one and the same class with the old stamps of Switzerland or those of the principal towns.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

St. Petersburg. TOAOCR.

A PLEA FOR ESSAY COLLECTORS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—A great deal has been said and written lately for and against the admission of essays and proofs into a collection of postage stamps. I think the natural liberty of a free-born subject may surely be allowed in this as in other instances, where the exercise of private opinion does not clash with the public interest. A man has the right of riding any hobby-horse he chooses, provided he keeps the animal from splashing mud on the bystanders. The abuse lavished on the heads of cataloguers, collectors, publishers, vendors, and purchasers of essays, is equally unwarrantable and unnecessary. The minor collection of a school-boy or girl may sport but the commoner specimens of cancelled stamps; the possessor of the requisite pecuniary means may add the rarer issues. The more refined, fastidious, or wealthy amateur may not choose to admit other than well-preserved unused individuals, though obliged to content himself with used specimens of obsolete issues, which a few collectors only, highly favoured either by chance or an unlimited power of cash, are enabled to boast of possessing in their normal state.

'Trahit sua quemque voluptas.'

One of the most valuable Parisian collections contains, in most cases, specimens of the same emission cancelled and uncancelled, including, moreover, even the borderings of postage stamp sheets and other matters in any way appertaining thereto, examples of the different sorts of perforations employed, and, in fact, anything illustrative of postal purposes. Such a universally comprehensive collection may well be styled *Postal;* leaving the appellation of Postage Stamp Collection for one exclusively confined to ascertained government issues, current or obsolete. Yours obediently,

London. VINDICATOR.

THE BRITISH GUIANA NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your last number Mr. Pemberton accuses me of 'laying down the law' with respect to these stamps; now this I have no wish to do, and grant that we are all liable to mistakes, even Mr. Pemberton. I *can* show *one* genuine without the signature, and now give a further description of the said stamp. The border has ten balls on each side and seven at top and bottom, thirty-four in all; the outer straight lines forming the border come quite to the top and bottom of the balls; the T in TWO touches the outer line, the O in the same word is undoubtedly a C, and the U in GUIANA touches the top line; the eight lines forming the border are very uneven, especially all the outer ones. I have noticed in many of the forgeries that the gum is fresh on the back, and the colour of the paper by far too bright. On referring to Dr. Gray's catalogue, the description given is, 'A square frame of black balls, enclosing a square formed of lines, inscribed BRITISH GUIANA, POSTAGE TWO CENTS, with a *plain* square centre, on yellow paper.'

I trust these further remarks may be of use in removing the doubts that still surround these curious stamps. In my collection I have a 1 kreuzer stamp of Bavaria of a deep reddish-lake colour; there are a few differences in the design, and it is postmarked 'Munich' in a circle. In No. 3 of the magazine you mention a 1 franc dark vermilion of the French Republic postmarked with grid-iron; mine has the later postmark of the square dots.

Believe me yours respectfully,

London. O. FLEUSS.

SWISS STAMP FORGERIES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Two of your correspondents have noticed my letter in regard to the Swiss stamp, in which I inadvertently wrote *Winterthur* for *Neufchatel*. So let that pass. But Mr. Pemberton, one of these, should be more correct in his writing. I never expressed such an opinion as he assumes I did as to 'the forgery being a genuine stamp.' I merely wished to elicit further from Moens, if I could; because a volume of illustrations, such as he has put forth, is sadly calculated to mislead if it contains the representation of any but genuine stamps. I also was not forgetful of the mistake into which Mr. Pemberton fell as to the double Geneva stamp. Now, the opinion of 'Amateur' confirming that of Mr. Pemberton, I consider puts the question entirely at rest.

In answer to the appeal as to the British Guiana postage stamps, pearl bordered, I name my experience that they have a signature in the centre, and I should much suspect the genuineness of one that had not; from the fact of one of mine being an unused one, and, from the quarter from which it came to me, undoubtedly genuine. I have elsewhere intimated my opinion that these stamps were struck from type set up for the purpose, with every reason for so thinking, which sufficiently accounts for the variety in stamps of the same type. Yours obediently,

Isle of Man. S. S.

FIRST NOTICE OF AN OLD INDIAN STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I send you a slight sketch of a stamp which has come into my possession, of which I have seen no description, nor has Mount Brown. It was used by Sir Bartle Freer, in Scinde, before stamps were regularly current throughout India, and came to me from him. It is, to describe it according to Mount Brown's manner: Inscription [SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK] on a belt with buckle; in centre a heart, with cross at top, letter C in the centre, ½ ANNA below. Impressed with hand stamp on bluish paper. I fancy the design in the centre may have something to do with Sir Bartle Freer's own arms. There is something that I cannot make out in the upper half of the heart. I have sent to get another impression if possible, and if so you shall see it. Yours, &c.,

Pitcairlie, Aucktenmuchty. J. N. P.

[We hope to be able to get a copy of this stamp engraved in a future number.—ED.]

HERALDRY OF MOENS' ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

Sir,—Seeing a notice in your magazine of the heraldry of Moens' Stamp Album, I venture to ask if you or any correspondent can furnish me with information of the proper blazonry of the bull's head and star of Moldavia, and the eagle of Wallachia? What are the arms of India? Are not there any arms of Romagna and Ceylon? What is the colour of the wreaths of the Cape of Good Hope? I am at present adding the blazon of the arms; and though I have found out the states to which many

of the quarterings belong, I should like the following queries answered:—What are the arms of Germany, north and south? Oldenburg is drawn as *or*—a lion rampant *argent*. This is impossible; what should it be? and the name? What is the inescutcheon of Sweden, and should the three-armed cross be *vert?* What is the name for Tuscany No. 2, and for the following coats in the Two Sicilies: Erminois (gold ground with black spots), and what appears to be *or*, three bends azure? In Wurtemburg *or*, three lions *passant*, in pale sable. Mecklenburg-Strelitz, I believe, bears the same quarterings as Mecklenburg-Schwerin, but differently marshalled; what is the order? Does Hanover still bear the arms of England?

I am, your obedient servant,

Otterbourne, Winchester. X. Y.

UNUSED VAUD AND GENEVA STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your December number, your correspondent 'Amateur' inquires whether any one knows of an *unused* specimen of 'the double 10 cent cantonal Geneva?' In reply, I beg to state that I have one in my collection, which I have just shown to a lady (as being a better judge of shades of colour than a gentleman is likely to be), by whom it is pronounced to be a yellow-green. But irrespective of its colour—which I believe to be a very unsatisfactory test—I have no doubt of its genuineness, because it was sent to me by a gentleman who has long officially represented British interests in Switzerland, together with some other rare specimens of Swiss stamps.

I see your correspondent also asks whether any one possesses a 4 cent of Vaud, 'unused and authentic.' I possess one of these also *unused*, which I believe to be *genuine*, as it came to me from the same gentleman. Perhaps 'Amateur' will explain how a stamp can be 'authentic.' I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Warwickshire. ANOTHER AMATEUR.

ANOTHER AMERICAN LOCAL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to bring to your notice a new American local, which I lately received from New York. It is a square stamp, of unusually large dimensions. The words POMEROY & CO.'S EXPRESS are in a circular band which surrounds a drawing of a Yankee locomotive, with steam on and tender and carriage attached. In the four corners are the words NEW YORK, ALBANY, BUFFALO, TORONTO. The engraving is very fine, being evidently from a steel-plate. The vendor stated that this stamp was the *first American local ever issued;* at the same time admitting that the specimen he supplied me with was a reprint from the original block.

Yours respectfully,

L. J. P.

BELGIAN ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Since the publication of the December number of your magazine, another set of Belgian essays has made its appearance. They are beautifully executed, thus almost defying any attempt at forgery There are five values:—1 c. emerald-green, 5 c. grey, 10 c. yellow, 20 c. blue, 40 c. red; king's head in an oval, rectangular. They are at present very rare; I believe there are only two sets of them in England. Hoping the above may be of use to your readers,

I am, dear sir, yours truly,

Henley-upon-Thames. JOHN M. STOURTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. B., Islington.—The earlier catalogues of stamps in whose wake Messrs. Bellars and Davie followed, reasoning from analogy, concluded there must be a brown ½ oz. 1 real Pacific Steam stamp, as well as the red and blue; but not even a forged copy, as far as our experience goes, has ever appeared. Your series of nine is consequently complete. We should class them with the local stamps.—We never understood why Messrs. Bellars and Davie distinguished a series of Spanish stamps for 1858, same head as those of the preceding three years. No other catalogue, English or continental, makes mention of such a set of impressions.

ANTI-FORGERY, Harrow.—This correspondent complains that on writing to a firm in Preston for a two-shilling packet of stamps, he received forged specimens of Brazil, Liberia, Buenos Ayres, Finland, Naples, Mexico, and among the veritables, Spain. He thinks the latter alone worth the price paid, but that the falsities might have been with greater propriety omitted altogether. We agree with him, as a tyro might be unable to distinguish between the false and the genuine, and receiving them from a respectable firm place them in his book under a wrong impression of their value. These interlopers are now dignified by their vendors with the more respectable title of fac-similes.

E. S. A.—You will find a description of the Philippine Island stamp in the fifth edition of Mount Brown's catalogue. The series in present use, not there noticed, are the 3 1-8th cents black on buff; 6 2-8th's c. green on pink; 12 4-8th's c. blue on yellow; and 25 c. red on pink. The device is similar to that of the existing Spanish.

R. E., Medical Hall, Maidstone.—Your stamp is a very good imitation of the 6 rappen for the Canton of Zurich. Such specimens *may* be admissible in albums on the same principle that amateurs are obliged to content themselves with a copy of one of the best masters, if unable to obtain an original.

J. W. S. D., Reading.—The one-shilling stamps both of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are now almost unattainable, except from the breaking up of a good collection.—We cannot recal the appellative adjectives we bestowed on the gentleman in question. Notwithstanding your objection, we think the first really applicable.

W. O. G., Harrow Park.—The ½ tornese blue of Naples, Savoy cross, is quoted in every manual of the slightest importance. It is seldom, if ever, advertised for sale, except in fac-simile, on account of its exceeding rarity.—The Segna Tassa stamp of Italy does duty in the same way as the French *chiffre taxe*, viz., for unpaid letters.—The Greek essays bearing the medallion of King George semi-eclipsing the Parthenon, were fully described, and one of them figured in our magazine for June last.

J. T. T., Richmond, Yorks.—The stamps you enclose are all genuine. The 2 r. chocolate, with watermark in curves, was issued in 1855. The remaining two stamps are of the 1857 issue.

QUERY.—You were incorrectly answered in the magazine for December. In 1853 we saw ourselves a notice in the Geneva Post-office to the effect that the series then in course of being succeeded by the present issue would not be allowed to pass current after the November of that year, and could be exchanged at the Post-office for the lately published stamps. Our own superseded stamps have certainly never been called in, as we heard of the allowed employment of a blue Mulready not long since; and we received once a letter from Paris with a blue 20 c. of the current issue and a black one of the republic upon it.

NOTES ON OUR AFRICAN COLONIAL STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

OUR African colonies being in postal communication with the rest of the world, have found it necessary to 'go in' for postage stamps of their own, and can now show a creditable group. Mauritius, as having been the largest contributor to it, is entitled to the first mention. The number of varieties which have emanated from that island within the last seven years amounts to more than thirty. A commencement was made with a series of three, bearing exactly the same device as the old Trinidad and the Barbadoes stamps—a device probably suggested to the originator's fertile brain by the sight of the 'tail' of one of the old halfpenny pieces. The value was afterwards handstamped on two of the three primitive individuals in a manner that rather enhanced their appearance than otherwise. But the post-office being at length 'sold out' of them before the arrival of a new series from England, native genius was called into operation, and the result was a series of unexceptionally hazy stamps, bearing a caricature of the Queen—the production of wood-blocks with the Britannia design on them being, we presume, above the engraver's ambition. The inscription on them is somewhat curiously worded, being POSTAGE TWOPENCE at the top and bottom, and POSTPAID, MAURITIUS at the sides. One would have thought that either the word postage or postpaid would have been sufficient to indicate the purpose for which the stamps were to be used. As is usually the case with wood-blocks, there are numerous varieties; the principal differences being in the position of the lines forming the groundwork, but only two values (penny and twopenny), and two colours (red and blue). The last series of the 'natives' bore a different pattern, and was much clearer than its predecessors: there was a Greek border at the sides, and the inscription was reduced to the name of the island and the value. That series remained in use for local postage after the arrival from England of a new sixpenny blue and shilling red, bearing the full-length portrait of the respectable person with a helmet on, but was ousted by the new and delicate series which commenced its career in 1861 with four stamps—the penny, twopenny, fourpenny, and ninepenny. The colours of the old-fashioned sixpenny and shilling were changed in the following year to purple and green respectively, and in 1863 they too were superseded by the new issue. The design of the latter is graceful, and we think we may safely say unique. The type of the inscription is peculiar, and plain though small. The latest emissions of adhesives are the five-shilling mauve and the threepenny scarlet, both of which have been out a considerable time. Mauritius, however, possesses envelopes; in fact, it is the only African stamp country which does possess them; but they are quite handsome enough to represent the whole continent, and scarcely yield the palm of beauty to the Cingalese. Our readers, however, can judge for themselves of the appearance of the ninepenny envelope from the engraving of it at the head of this article; and we need only say that the sixpenny and shilling, though of commoner shape, are not less beautiful.



The stamps of the Cape of Good Hope have always been better known in England than those of Mauritius, which island it far exceeds in importance. There have also been but few changes in the stamps and no increase in their number (four), although the *Standard Catalogue* mentions a twopenny blue, which, *when* a specimen is discovered, will be the fifth. The triangular shape of these stamps has always made them popular, as only one other—the threepenny Newfoundland—shares the peculiarity with them; but one of the set has been rendered obsolete by the emission of a rectangular shilling stamp (green), of which a representation is appended. The new acquaintance is but a poor successor to the old friend. Hope in the old stamps is certainly seated on an anchor, but she seems to have made herself

comfortable, and is perhaps hoping for a better seat some day; but in the new stamp the poor lady appears decidedly alarmed for her safety, as she slides down the anchor (who could have been so uncourteous as to raise it?), holding on to the 'mutton' with one arm, and trying desperately to retain her equilibrium with the other—a very unsafe Hope indeed. We suppose heraldic etiquette compels her to be perpetually seated on a hard piece of iron; were it otherwise, we might ask, why did not the designer assist her to rise in the new stamp, where she has sufficient space to stand up. We are rather doubtful of the meaning of the darker shade into which half the view is thrown; if it be, as has been suggested, the Cape mountain, we have good reason to sympathise with Hope, for she must be sliding down, along with the anchor and the sheep. We presume the good lady will repeat her evolutions on the other stamps of the set, when the present stock of triangulars is exhausted.

The wood-blocks of the Cape are really well done, and are admirable copies of their types. Two values only, the penny and fourpenny, were made, but it has been generally supposed that each of these values was printed in two colours, rose and blue. However, a correspondent in a recent number of this magazine has started the theory that the so-called blue penny Cape is really nothing but a red with a bluish tinge, produced by the gum 'acting upon or with the size of the paper or the oil of the ink.' Without entering upon the discussion of this theory, we will only remark that the existence of the fourpenny in two colours creates a presumption in favour of the existence of the penny in the same.*

It now only remains for us to mention the doubtful fourpenny black, with the belief in whose genuineness we are impressed. The colour does not appear to be the effect of any innocent chemical experiments, being of a uniform depth and without any suspicious blue tinge.

Natal, the youngest Anglo-African colony, and little known in this country until its name was coupled with that of a celebrated bishop, hailed the arrival of the first mail steamer on its shores in 1853, and in 1857 commenced issuing stamps. In England, there was a great deal of tedious riding to and fro with post-bags for some centuries, before Stephenson started his locomotive; and even then there was some delay before its aid was accepted by the postal authorities, and more before stamps could be actually introduced to assist still further the speedy delivery of letters; but our new colonies reap the benefit of the reforms adopted here, and start with a capital of institutions, laws, and good sense, which have been eight centuries in accumulating.

Much is left to the imagination in the first issue of Natal. The design is embossed on coloured paper: there is nothing to distinguish it from its surroundings, except its being in relief, and, in the used specimens, it is never seen distinctly. There were of this issue five stamps, in four of which a crown, the word NATAL, and the letters V.R. formed the principal part of the pattern; and these four are of a large size, though, unfortunately, seldom met with perfect. The fifth is much smaller, and is not impressed with the letters V.R.; it was used to prepay the postage of newspapers. These 'native Natal' were superseded by the well-known present series, which is, however, printed in brighter colours now than when first issued. They are of the same class with the impressions of Queensland, Grenada, and the fourpenny and sixpenny Bahamas, and, we should say, by the same artist, as the expression of the face in each of those stamps is much the same as in that of Natal. In all there is the same large crown, and the same delicate filagree back-ground.

There are few more admired stamps than the St. Helena, although their beauty is somewhat marred by the introduction of the provisional value. Their bright colours and elegant designs make them welcome in every album. The medallion portrait of the Queen is remarkable for its beauty, and the stamps

* [The writer of the above labours under an erroneous impression. The blue block penny of the Cape has never been called in question as ungenuine. It is one of the rarest of our colonials, very few impressions being known to exist. It was the tribe of individuals printed, or supposed to be printed, on bluish paper, such as our own red penny, that of the Cape, and others, which a late correspondent proposed to eliminate from postage-stamp collections.—Ed.]

themselves are not without some of the significance which attaches to things connected with places of historical interest. The words 'St. Helena' call back a great many events into the mind; perhaps they may recall the picture of a great man fretting out the residue of his life under the petty tortures and insults of an unprincipled governor; and awake the conviction that, great as were Napoleon's faults, England would have acted more worthily had she made his captivity less irksome. It is gratifying to think that in the present day, with the means of communication with home so much increased, no repetition of the treatment to which the imprisoned general was subject is possible.

It seems a great pity that our Western Australian colonies should be irritated upon the transportation subject, whilst there is such an eligible country as Sierra Leone for the settlement of gentlemen addicted to garotting and other murderous assaults. Certes, if the country is destined to be 'the white man's grave,' do not let us make up our quota of death-doomed inhabitants from amongst honest men, but rather let a few of our knaves and scoundrels be shipped off. As for the single stamp in use there, we can only say that it is well engraved, and neat—the work, doubtless, as are most if not all the other Anglo-African stamps, of English firms. We believe it is used only for postage to England. With it the list of our African colonial stamps is closed.

MANTUA TO MODENA.

BY THE EDITOR.

Mantua, the birthplace of Virgil, the strongest of the quadrilaterals, the abode of the exiled Romeo, and, to complete the bathos, the alias of dress makers,—in peculiarity of site, historical association, grandeur of its edifices, and general picturesqueness of appearance, stands conspicuous among the fine old cities of Italy.

The neighbourhood is still Virgil's, the streets are still Romeo's, but both would be equally surprised at being whirled from Verona by railroad, the three miles of omnibus ride to the city gates, and the boarding by Austrian officials at the curious Bridge of the Mill.

The ground plan of Mantua reminds one of a star-fish; the long suburban streets all culminating in the mass of old buildings formed by the vast pile of the ducal palace, and the market-place, with a few adjoining buildings. In this, as in the other second and third-rate Italian cities, the covered ways are a principal feature in the general *coup d'œil*. The Mantuan arcades are noticeable from their Doric and Corinthian columns, while the lofty towers of La Gabbia and Lo Zuccaro, and the Palace of the Devil, stamp the scene with characteristics of their own.

It was market-day when we reached this interesting city, and the stalls were literally loaded with melons, grapes, pears, and peaches, at almost nominal prices. Four of the latter, finely flavoured and perfectly ripe, were purchaseable for the value of an English penny. From the luxuriant crops of beard and moustache one sees in Italy, the number of barbers' shops would seem surprising; all distinguishable from afar, like the surgeons' and chemists' houses here, by the glittering brass basin. By the way, we remember when it would have been deemed very *infra dig.* for an M.D. to advertise in the now almost universal red or green-light method.

The barber appears chiefly in requisition to get rid of the growth of whiskers, which the Italians, when they happen to have them, almost invariably try to exterminate. Home shaving is unusual, and would be difficult, as far as our experience of the four or five-and-twenty Italian cities we have visited goes. Just as all the sleeping apartments in France are invariably furnished with a splendid-looking ormolu time-piece, which is almost as invariably useless, so every chamber in Italy is adorned by a very handsomely-framed large looking-glass, but, from some vagary, studiously placed in a part of the room the most inconvenient to dress oneself in. Sometimes we found it in the darkest corner, sometimes over a broad table or sofa, often so high as to be beyond the reach of any but a six-footer, and once where the reflection was particularly *mal-à-propos*.

Some of the barbers combine their trade with that of tobacconist, newsman, and vendor of postage and receipt or bill stamps. The latter are similar in impression to those used in Austria; even the value is the same,

ranging from a half kreuzer and upwards, and not in soldi like the postage stamps. But they are easily distinguishable from those current in the dominant country (which are of different hues), by being printed uniformly in rose colour for all denominations. A series of the commercial stamps of all nations would form an interesting appendix to a complete stamp collection.

A stranger would find his way with difficulty through the long, straggling streets of Mantua, were not the city marked out in districts, parochial or otherwise, which being appended to the name of every street, renders what quarter one is in easily recognisable. These are mostly taken from the names of animals, as the griffin, camel, eagle, unicorn, ox, stag, &c.; and may be the armorial bearings of the noble families formerly lording it in each district. We noticed also the 'black mountain' and 'ship' quarters.

We devoted an afternoon to the walk to and from and the inspection of the celebrated frescos in the handsome palace of the T. The chamber of the Titans of itself would repay for the visit and trifling fee required. There is nothing particularly remarkable in any of the churches. We attended divine service, and heard a fine musical mass in the church of San Maurizio. In the chapel of Santa Barbara is a picture of the martyrdom of that saint, which makes one shudder at the idea of such detestable atrocities ever having been committed or even imagined; almost justifying the doctrine of Manicheism among the early Christians.

Virgil's poplars are still a distinguishing feature in the Mantuan landscape; and though his statue is deposed from its throne to make way for that of the Virgin, Virgil's Square, Virgil's coffee-house, his caserne, and his ampitheatre keep fresh the memory of the prince of Latin poets in his natal place.

A great deal of bosh has been written concerning the incivility of Austrian officials. We fancy, as other human beings, they meet civility with the like, and *vice versâ*. We always found them ourselves particularly polite. The post-secretary at Mantua was kind enough to ransack his drawers for some extinct stamps which we wanted; and the principal of the police, on our declining to fill up the space left for our age in the official paper, presented us for signature before receiving permission either to stay in or leave Mantua, and intimating to him that he might put any age he liked, very obligingly—and would that he had the power as well as the will!—lopped off seventeen years of our life.

There being no communication by rail as yet from Mantua to the duchies, we started for Reggio by diligence. Near one of the gates is a votive tablet to the Virgin, with a pious admonitory inscription, that may be rendered,

'Should danger appal
Thy breast on the road;
Then, traveller, call
In faith, and leave all
To the Mother of God'

The territory passed through is fertile, but of no particular beauty. The vast numbers of poplars, looking at a distance like steeples, are a striking feature in the landscape. They grow to a much finer point than those we are accustomed to see in England. Half an hour in the capital of the small duchy of Guastalla was quite sufficient for a sight of the statue of Gonzaga I., almost the only lion in the place.

The churches of Reggio are replete with paintings, bronzes, statues, and monuments well worthy inspection. The inferior cities of Italy still contain many of the former by first-rate masters, that have escaped the ravages of the spoiler. Some good pictures are ludicrously travestied, by the addition of tinsel crowns fastened to the heads of the madonna and saints! The colossal marble lions of the old Basilica of San Prospero, still decorate the front of the new, in the same way as similar guardians strikingly mark the façades of the cathedrals of Parma and Modena. In the Duomo is a unique monument to the memory of an horologic artist, patronized by Charles V. It represents an enormous hour-glass, on whose top stands a small statue of the defunct. The clocks of Italy seem full of vagaries. Those of Venetia strike every hour twice over, but those of Modena, which city we reached by rail from Reggio, are scarcely ever silent. Our hotel was close to the wonderful old campanile, called La Ghirlandina, and waking in the dead of night, we heard first strike the hour of six, then

after an interval four, then forty-eight, followed by twenty-four, and concluding by twelve. What the hour really was we never ascertained, not being disposed for the trouble of kindling a light; but after trying the clockmaker's recipe in *Janet Pride*, and unable to make anything of it, we came to the conclusion that it was time to go to sleep again.

On entering the duchies, we missed the nice-looking Austrian soldiers and their clean regimentals. The exchange for the dirty-looking scrubs of Victor Emmanuel, was anything but favourable to the latter. The dingy grey-blue of their unbecoming uniforms, and the under size of most of the men produce this unprepossessing effect. The chasseurs are, in truth, always cleaner, but they have not sufficient style of appearance to carry off well their ugly hats and ridiculous flapping feathers.

The airs that *Messieurs les militaires* give themselves on the continent are very amusing. In fact, they seem much pampered. The splendid palace of the dukes of Modena is partly devoted to the barracks of the troops quartered there, and the richly-carved and gilt ceilings form a very inappropriate canopy to the beds of these interlopers.

Some valuable paintings enrich the picture gallery, though the cream of the collection was disposed of a century ago. There is a fine copy of the Marriage of the Virgin. For once, the costume of the bride, bridegroom, and priest is appropriate, but the bystanders figure in that of the *moyen age*. The painter must have confused the St. Joseph represented with him of Arimathea, as the figure bears the Glastonbury thorn in lieu of the conventional lily.

No tourist visits Modena without paying his respects to the time-honoured bucket so well preserved in the glorious old tower just alluded to. Surely never was such a very common place article thus immortalized in poesy:—

'Manfredi, then, whose gallant pluck it
Was that gained Bologna's bucket,
With monks and priests of every station,
Made to the saint a long oration.
Then Ghirlandina's topmost storey
Received the trophy of his glory;
Where, wrapped in covering of cotton,
It still exists, though old and rotten.

'As three o'clock at night was struck, it
Toll'd the hour to raise the bucket;
Which, fastened to the stones for ever,
No mortal might shall dare to sever.
Five massive portals guard this treasure,
At Modena still shown with pleasure;
And every passing stranger's luck it
Is to view this famous bucket.'

This is all right as regards the bolts and bars, but the heroine of the poem is not, and, we were informed, never was on the top of the tower, but in a strong-room on the lower storey. The labour of ascending the building, however, is well repaid by the lovely and extensive view therefrom, embracing the broad and beautiful plain from the Alps to the Apennines; and we quite longed for the occupancy of the apartment tenanted by the poor family in charge of the belfry.

After the lapse of a couple of centuries, his fellow-townsmen, with tardy respect, erected a statue of Tassoni, the author of the effusion of which the quotation above is a specimen. He is seated with his back towards the well-glorified bucket and tower. Bradshaw, without reason, likens Modena to a German town. We saw nothing to distinguish it from the other Italian cities. The same arched passages and curtained shops, identify it with Mantua, Reggio, &c.

Timbromanie, or 'timbrophilie,' as the latest Parisian publication on the subject more appropriately terms it, has numerous votaries in Modena. We had half a dozen at a time in our apartment at the San Marco. We coveted many specimens we saw in a collection, particularly an unused 3 lire Tuscan and a genuine blue Trinacrie. Until our attention was called to the fact there, we had never observed that there were two distinct dies of the *bollo giornali* of Modena, one of which has the B. G. CEN. 9 much smaller than the other.

THE BUENOS AYRES POSTAL SERVICE, 1827.

The following description of the working of the postal system in Buenos Ayres, at a time when it formed part of the Argentine Republic, is taken from an account of the country, published in London in 1828, and may prove interesting to the reader.

'The post-office is under the superin-

tendence of a director, and although capable of very great improvement, displays some regularity in its arrangements. The inland posts are universally conveyed on horseback; and, though they have to travel over many hundred miles of almost desert country, they are generally exact in their arrival. The postman receives his letters in a portmanteau; this is tied behind the saddle of his guide, who is changed at every post-house, each relay of horses having its own guide; the postmen have the privilege of calling for horses at any time in the night, by which means they are enabled to make up for the time they may have lost in the day; they are likewise at liberty to gallop in the streets of the different towns, a privilege denied to others. They wear a short jacket, generally red, and their arrival and departure from Buenos Ayres is announced by the blowing of a horn, carried by the guide. On the arrival of the different posts, a list of the letters received is made out, and fixed up in the *patio* of the post-office, each letter having a number affixed to it; these letters are given up, without inquiry, to any one who tenders the amount of the postage. On the arrival of the English packet, the letters, being too numerous to allow of a list being made out, are given to such persons as answer to the names called, upon their paying two rials for each letter. By this means it frequently happens, that a person, after having been engaged for two hours in a hard scuffle to approach the crowded window of the office, finds he has no letter to receive; some other person, either through inadvertence or design, having already paid the two rials for postage, and carried his letter off. This serious inconvenience, the present director, whom I had the pleasure of being acquainted with, informed me had been attempted to be remedied by sending the letters to the individuals' houses, as in England; but the carelessness of the servants who took them in was found to be a more serious evil than the occasional loss of a letter at the office; it is, however, to be hoped, that some improvement in their domestic arrangements may assist the completion of his improvements. The expense of an extra *medio* or rial to the postman, would be amply repaid by the saving of some hours and of the struggles uselessly thrown away at the post-office window.'

The resemblance of the costume of the horseman depicted on the *gaucho* stamps to that of the *mounted* postmen as above described, suggesting, as it does, the probability that one of the latter was intended to be represented, adds to the argument in favour of these overdoubted stamps. The objection which has been made against them, that the value of the 'ship' stamps is given in pesos, and that stamps with the value in reales were not used until 1860, also loses much of its force when it is known that the postage of letters before the introduction of labels was paid in reales.

A CHAT WITH JUVENILE COLLECTORS.

There are so many young collectors now, that a word or two of advice to them on the subject of their collections may not be out of place. Boys are seldom able to purchase very expensive stamps; they must, as a rule, be content with the cheaper varieties. But they need not regret that their limited supply of pocket-money precludes them from obtaining great varieties; for it is a well-known fact that the cheapest stamps are the handsomest. The 1 cent Nova Scotia, 1 lept. Greek, 1 kop. Russian, and several others which we might name, are not exceeded in beauty by any of their costlier contemporaries.

It would be well for a young collector, unless he can draw upon the parental purse *ad infinitum*, to discard the idea of collecting sets of stamps. The better plan would be to rest content with obtaining the common varieties of each country, which are easily secured. By this means he would be possessed, at a cost of not more than five-and-twenty shillings, of about 120 unobliterated specimens of the stamps of nearly every part of the world, which, thus gathered, would afford more instruction than a number of sets.

For such a collection a large book would not be necessary. A boy need not exhaust his little store in purchasing one, but will find a small album, or even a large sheet neatly ruled, sufficient; for stamps look much prettier when placed together than when scat-

tered in twos and threes over a number of pages. On a sheet their various styles and different colours are perhaps best contrasted, but if kept in a book great care should be used in putting them in. We have seen some boys' collections which were really no credit to them, although placed in handsome books. The stamps were put in all on one side, in a careless manner, and many a good-looking specimen spoiled by being daubed with gum or surrounded by finger-marks. Now, nothing is easier than to be tidy, and there is nothing which repays the care bestowed on them by a charming appearance more than stamps. We should therefore particularly recommend neatness in arranging them. A clean album is, moreover, a testimonial to the orderly 'proclivities'—to use the new Yankee expression—of its owner.

Not unfrequently collections are made in account books with ruled lines and money columns, but the stamps do not look well in such receptacles. We should advise intending collectors, therefore, either to obtain an album or a book with entirely blank leaves.

We have often seen an otherwise neat book disfigured by a few badly obliterated and perhaps damaged stamps, somewhat rarer than their companions. Now, we think it would be better to do without such specimens than to spoil an album by inserting them in it, for its value is not increased by their addition sufficiently to compensate for their dirty appearance. It is much better to wait until you can purchase a clean specimen of a rarity, even though you may have a vacant place for it in your album, than to fill it with a broken one a little sooner.

If your album does not contain printed titles, and you resolve upon writing them in, do not spare pains to do them well; for if it be worth your while to write them in at all, it is worth your while to write them in well, and make them an ornament to your book. But the less writing in a book the better; for where there is a quantity, a little inaccuracy, a few corrections, an odd blot or two here and there, will spoil the appearance of the whole.

And there is another thing which often has the same effect, and that is a number of large coloured engravings of flags plastered over a book. Stamps themselves are quite bright enough to enliven its pages, without placing beside them glaring patches of red, blue, green, and other colours.

It is well if the young collector possesses a friend competent to advise him upon the genuineness of specimens he may wish to purchase. Too great caution cannot be used at the present time in buying stamps, as most exact fac-similes—alias forgeries—are in circulation, and are offered at temptingly low prices.

In conclusion, do not be disheartened if you cannot get all the stamps you want at once. Patience is necessary in collecting as well as in everything else. You must be content to gather your required stamps as opportunity offers, and meanwhile 'learn to labour and to wait.'

TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

THE mode in which correspondence was carried on in the seventeenth century between distant places in England may excite the scorn of the present generation; yet it was such as might have moved the admiration and envy of the polished nations of antiquity, or of the contemporaries of Raleigh and Cecil. A rude and imperfect establishment of posts for the conveyance of letters had been set up by Charles the First, and had been swept away by the civil war. Under the Commonwealth the design was resumed. At the Restoration the proceeds of the post-office, after all expenses had been paid, were settled on the Duke of York. On most lines of road the mails went out and came in only on the alternate days. In Cornwall, in the fens of Lincolnshire, and among the hills and lakes of Cumberland, letters were received only once a week. During a royal progress a daily post was despatched from the capital to the place where the court sojourned. There was also daily communication between London and the Downs; and the same privilege was sometimes extended to Tunbridge Wells and Bath at the seasons when those places were crowded by the great. The bags were carried on horseback day and night at the rate of about five miles an hour.—*Macaulay's History of England.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our first illustration is an extremely rare and little-known English essay, though it has figured in the collections of a few—but very few—amateurs. It was described in the fifth edition of Mount Brown's catalogue from a specimen once in our own possession, and which was believed to be at that time almost unique. It will be found at page 32, No. 18, and is followed by a variety of the same stamp printed simply on paper without the use of colour. The specimen above figured has the device in bold relief on a celestial blue ground. If our memory serves us correctly, we have seen it also either pink or scarlet.



An announcement in this country of a proposed novelty to be ushered into public notice on the 1st of April, would be viewed with suspicion; it is possible that North Germany may not be familiar with the time-honoured custom ('More,' &c., Shakspeare) of fooling. Be that as it may, the Brunswick government has emitted some essays, of which the figure subjoined is a representation, officially proclaimed for public issue on the ominous day in question. These essays are not, as we are credibly informed from a trustworthy source, the private speculation of an interested engraver, but bonâ fide ordered and approved by the post-office authorities. The figure is taken from one of the first proofs, one of each of which our publishers have obtained possession. Our specimen, like the beautiful envelopes of the same country, is in bold relief on a coloured ground. We are not in a position to pronounce on the colours intended to be employed; the essays are white cameo on black, buff, green, blue, and pink.



Very similar in appearance to the stamp just commemorated, is the long-expected envelope for Denmark, which has just fallen into our hands, and of which we will give an engraving next month. It is the same size and form as the forthcoming Brunswick stamp. In the centre is a crown, sword, and sceptre in white relief in an oval, encompassed by a lacework pattern, bearing EGL. POST FRM above, and 4 S. in raised characters in a small transverse oval below. The sword and sceptre break the bounds of their own field and trespass on the outer border. Scarlet impression. We are informed, and give our information as we received it, that this will be the only value issued.

We were told, but the information has not been confirmed, that all four Danish adhesives are now of the same pattern. A new issue of Bavarians is expected in November. A 3 pfennige black will shortly appear in Prussia, of similar design to the current 4 and 6 pf. The 7 sch. of Hamburg, hitherto so liable to be mistaken for the 9 sch., from their close approximination of colour, will henceforth be lilac. A new series of stamps for King George the First of Greece is being engraved at Munich; and the new issue for Turkey, we are informed, comes out next month.

We have just received the recent set of Spanish stamps; they are by no means an improvement over the last, and, as usual, in the series for Spain, the queen looks younger and better than before. (Is there a Spanish Madame Rachel, with the power of renewing youth and beauty?) Head in oval; ESPANA above, CORREOS below; arms at upper, and value at lower angles. Denominations as before: 2 cuartos rose, 4 c. blue, 12 c. pale-red oval in blue, 19 c. same colour in chocolate frame, 1 real pale-green, and 2 reales rose-violet—so very rose as to be scarcely distinguishable from the 2 cuartos; and the stamps being otherwise precisely similar, with the exception of the marked value, a not very perceptible c^s in one and R^s in the other, great inconvenience is likely to arise in their use.

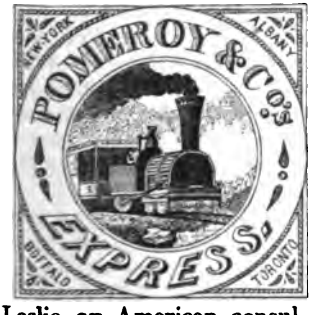
The original of our next engraving is sent us as being really the first issue of the long



doubted and generally rejected stamps of Livonia. It is singular that postage stamp collectors, who, like their tribe in general, exhibit no lack of credulity—witness the Iceland, Mekka, and other barefaced impostors that used to show their brazen faces in postage albums,—should have so long and so pertinaciously set their faces against the now-at-last-accepted Livonian series. The stamp from which our figure is taken is printed in light blue on a white ground.

Some individuals are going their rounds, but we cannot vouch for their authenticity, purporting to be employed for franking letters, carried by Langton & Co., from San Francisco to Mexico. They may be merely speculatives on timbrophilic credulity. The stamp is rectangular and perforated. LANGTON & CO. in a label above; value—of which there are five denominations — below; a vessel sailing and steaming in a central round, encircled by a border bearing MONEY PACKAGE, OVER ALL OUR ROUTES. This inscription is interrupted by a device on the right and left, and the corners are filled in to complete the interior rectangle, which has also a fancy frame. The five values are printed in twelve colours altogether, which looks rather suspicious.

A series of essays for Honolulu have made their *debût* in Paris; but coming from Yankee-land, we are inclined to doubt their character.



Our next illustration is from a specimen said to be a reprint of the first local American ever used. Some time ago in the pages of our magazine appeared an article from Mr. Leslie, an American consul, who apparently was well up in the voluminous lore of those legions of strange-looking impressions, and he made no mention of this stamp, quoting another as the first employed local. That gentleman, however, may possibly have forgotten or never heard of the specimen under notice; and, in the absence of proof to the contrary, we must accept our American correspondent's assurance of the verity of his statement.

It is seldom we have to chronicle a change in our own stamps, but have now to mention that the shilling green has the letters in the four corners considerably larger than before.

An American correspondent sends us a description of an undescribed local United States, which he describes as 'oblong, containing the words HACKETT'S CITY POST, value 2 cents, printed in six different colours.' We thought the use of all locals had been lately abolished in the States. Whence and what are these then? And where have these 'beauties in the wood' been so long sleeping?



A representation of the Würtemberg 'returned letter stamp' is added, that purchasers may be on their guard against some very good forgeries of this seldom-met-with individual, now in circulation. Its rarity is to be accounted for from the fact that it can only be procured from the post-office of its country by special order, not being sold to the public in general. We were unable to obtain any specimens last summer in any of the towns of Würtemberg.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE LAUREATED AUSTRALIAN STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

MR. JOHN M. GALLIENNE, of Guernsey, has kindly sent me for examination a collection of eleven penny, sixteen twopenny, eleven threepenny, seven sixpenny, and one eightpenny Australian stamps, with the Queen's head laureated.

I have learned three facts from this collection:

1. That the stamps which have the disc of the stamp with a solid coloured ground, as penny *c*, twopenny *e*, *f*, *g*, *h*, *i*, *j*, *k*, and three-

penny *d*, in my former notes, are printed on paper with a large 1, 2, 3, according to the value, as a papermark on the middle of each stamp; and this is also the case with the variety *e*, threepenny, of my paper, which has the disc shaded with very close erect lines. All the other varieties of the different values that have the disc shaded with lines, seem to be printed on plain paper without any special watermark.

2. This collection contained a form of the sixpenny stamp that was new to me. In the two varieties (*a* and *b*) I described, the shading of the disc is marked with perpendicular lines crossed with thin transverse, oblique, waved lines. In the new variety, which may be called *c*, the shading is compounded of erect lines intersected with nearly erect rather waved thin lines, like the shading of variety *c* in the twopenny stamps.

3. In this collection there is an eightpenny stamp, which I had not seen before; like the penny stamp. It has three nearly parallel elongated leaves in the triangle at each end of the upper label; the shading of the disc is like that of the new variety, *c*, of the sixpenny stamp.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Katalog über alle seit 1840 *bis* 1864 *erschienenen Briefmarken welche zu den beigefügten Verkaufspreisen durch* Wilhelm Georg, *in Basel, bezogen werden können. A Catalogue of all the Postage Stamps issued from* 1840 *to* 1864, *procurable at reasonable prices, from* Wilhelm Georg, *Basle.*

This publication is one of the crosses between a postage stamp manual and priced catalogue, and adds Switzerland to the number of the countries boasting of a native postage stamp catalogue. It is complete as far as it goes, following the semi-geographical, semi-alphabetical arrangement which we believe was first employed by Dr. Gray, and which on many accounts seems the most convenient.

There are both omissions and redundancies: among the former is noticeable the green St. Helena shilling, which is now so common. The latter exhibits the apocryphal tenpenny of Van Diemen's Land, which the continental collectors will persist in boring their correspondents to procure, and two or three of the private stamps of Smith and Elder, as the threepenny rose and sixpenny violet, which that firm never issued. These are actually priced, the former at 60 centimes, the latter at a franc! The actual emissions are of course also marked at what the compiler deems their saleable value, apparently quite unaware that Messrs. Smith and Elder, indignant at their stamps having been procured and retailed at high prices, have strictly forbidden the sale of them under any pretence to the public, confining their use to their own business transactions.

Among the countries of Africa, we observe Dutch *Guinea;* the rare 10 cent rose, grey, and violet, known to us under the alias of Dutch Guiana, figuring therein. Does the author labour under a mistake, or has he had opportunities of ascertaining the correct habitat of those mysterious individuals? We have repeatedly asked for information from the numerous correspondents of our magazine on these much-sought-for and peculiarly rare stamps. Why do not some of those who profess themselves undoubted authorities on postal matters condescend to enlighten the ignorant?

The usual custom of continental cataloguers,—that tantalising one of pricing specimens, whether they have them or not, at such prices as they fancy they may obtain for them *when they get them*, is curiously exemplified in the case of the very rare and almost unattainable V. R. of this country, for a used specimen of which he asks 4 francs. If he possess such a stamp at all, it must be one of those formed nefariously from a common black penny, doctored in the way pointed out by a correspondent in a former number of our magazine. We once before alluded to a Parisian catalogue of the same sort, from which we quoted between sixty and seventy specimens of our desiderata, not one sole individual of which turned out to be actually in the possession of the advertiser!

Among the addenda stands a stamp perfectly new to us, and concerning which we court information. It professes to be for Java, and is described as lithographed. Arms (lion), black impression on coloured paper; 2 cents yellow.

Although the tribe of proofs and essays are excluded, and, as is always the case in postage stamp manuals, no commercial stamps are mentioned, the four individuals bearing the Bernese arms are catalogued. We suppose the author ought to be a competent judge whether they should or should not be classed as postal. We have ourselves certainly seen them apparently post-marked.

The little volume is very neatly got up, and well printed in German type. At the end is a money-table with equivalent values in French and English currency, Saxon and Prussian pfennige, and Austrian and other kreuzer; concluded by an alphabetical index. For the convenience of purchasers requiring any particular specimen, the stamps are numbered from 1 to nearly 1700.

THE KNOCK I SELDOM HEAR.

BY AN ALMOST *UNLETTERED* MAN.

LET others write of the 'Postman's Knock,'
And tell of his musical ring,
'Tis so long since I heard either knocker or bell
That another song I sing.
He often comes with good news for Brown,
And a cheque for Number Four;
I sometimes wish he'd make a mistake
And leave the cheque at my door.

My neighbour next door had a letter to say
That his uncle was lately dead,
And had left him a couple of thousands a year
Or a lordly estate instead;
But there never comes such a letter to me,
For my uncles to die are unwilling,
And when they do, a solicitor writes
To say I'm cut off with a shilling.

I sit and watch every postman pass
And joy at a runaway ring,
In hope that heart hath relented at last
And has deigned a letter to bring;
He always stops at my neighbours' doors
Each morning true as the clock,
While I sit in my room and listen for hours
In vain for the postman's knock.

But should the postman perchance 'rat tat'
At the door of your humble bard,
Ten chances to one but the letter contains
Some tradesman's lithographed card;
Or else these lines, 'Your account's overdue,
Quick payment is not your *forte;*
If not paid in a week your servant will seek
Redress in the County Court.'

To one conclusion I've come at last,
And ere making my final bow,—
That my conclusion is strictly correct
My co-sufferers will allow,
(Excepting those whose consciences strict
Opinions of right and wrong fetter)
And 'tis this, 'Though creditors laud the post,
'Tis a very bad thing for the debtor.'

Fun.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE NUMBER OF DRAPERS' CIRCULARS posted in London during the year 1863, was 1,690,052.

AMONG THE PATTERNS AND SAMPLES posted in London during one month in 1864, we find a specimen of asphalte, a cribbage board, two tin cannisters, an umbrella handle, a bit of liquorice, a pair of stays, a brick, and 116 ladies' dresses.

STAMPS IN CHINA.—The substitute for money throughout the Chinese empire in Marco Polo's time, consisted of bits of stamped paper, made from the inner bark of the mulberry tree.

IN MARCH, 1859, THE SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, in conjunction with the Crystal Palace Company, posted on one day upwards of 400,000 circulars, with regard to the then projected Handel Festival. These circulars were despatched to the post-office in two vans, which they filled.

NEW BRUNSWICK (CONNELL) 5c. PHOTOGRAPH.—Owing to the photographic process producing naturally the almost exact tint of this stamp, a dangerous counterfeit is afloat; it may be detected by applying cyanuret of potassa (a chemical which may be obtained at any druggist's) to the face of the engraving; if photographed it will instantly remove the impression, leaving the paper white.

THE COLLEGE STAMPS.—In various parts of the United States colleges exist, which teach only commercial branches; in these institutions, the better to familiarize the young idea with mercantile pursuits, an *actual business department* is invented, i.e., a mock bank, custom-house, steamboat office, post office, &c., are fitted up in the college. The bank has its bills and checks, the custom-house its blanks and the post office its postage stamps, a considerable number of which are destroyed in the daily *business* transactions.—*Stamp-Collector's Record.*

A FEW FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN TO TYROS:—First that the second series of the United States stamps were issued in 1851, not in 1857, as erroneously printed in standard guides and other rigidly correct and infallible authorities. Second that the stamp N. Y. post office, Washington's profile to the left, was issued in 1846 and is a government issue and not a local stamp. Third that the stamp M. C. Callaway, described as a local, is a provisional issue of the Southern Confederacy.—*Stamp-Collector's Record.*

POST-BAG OF THE DANISH ARMY.—In the redoubts on Dybbol Hill, at the country quarters among villages in Als, and in the muddy streets of Sonderborg, I saw letter-bags eagerly watched for. A crowd of broad-backed, tobacco-smoking soldiers thronged round the postman, besieging him with questions. 'Is there one for me?' exclaims a dragoon, who cannot dismount and who is fidgeting round and round behind the rest. Some tall sergeant of infantry gets near the bag, and announces loudly whose letters have come. It is like seeing a lottery decided. The men appear so happy if they receive news and so disappointed should the sergeant's voice answer, 'None for you to-day, Anderson!' or 'Nothing from home, Niels, this time!' At Dybbol it was often a service of danger to bring the packets to their destination. But the pleasure to those who received them must have been all the greater. I walked up the hill one morning with a fine young corporal of the —— regiment charged with letters. 'You see,' said he, 'they are anxious to have them soon, because if they are killed they will never be able to read them.' This reasoning, though homely, contained a world of truth. The more uncertain their fate the more did the soldiers desire news from home, and in

supplying this healthy appetite the Feild-post rendered infinite service.—*Skinner's Tale of Danish Heroism.*

Device on the new Mexican Stamps.—The following account of the origin of the device is given by Prescot in his *Conquest of Mexico*:—'The Mexicans came from the remote regions of the north, the populous hive of nations in the New World, as it has been in the Old. They arrived on the borders of Anahuac towards the beginning of the thirteenth century, some time after the occupation of the land by the kindred races. For a long time they did not establish themselves in any permanent residence; but continued shifting their quarters to different parts of the Mexican Valley, enduring all the casualties and hardships of a migratory life. After a series of wanderings and adventures, which need not shrink from comparison with the most extravagant legends of the heroic ages of antiquity, they at length halted on the south-western borders of the principal lake, in the year 1325. They there beheld, perched on the stem of a prickly pear, which shot out from the crevice of a rock that was washed by the waves, a royal eagle of extraordinary size and beauty, with a serpent in his talons, and his broad wings open to the rising sun. They hailed the auspicious omen, announced by an oracle as indicating the site of their future city, and laid its foundations by sinking piles into the shallows; for the low marshes were half buried under water. On these they erected their light fabrics of reeds and rushes; and sought a precarious subsistence from fishing, and from the wild fowl which frequented the waters, as well as from the cultivation of such simple vegetables as they could raise on their floating gardens. The place was called Tenochtitlan, in token of its miraculous origin, though only known to Europeans by its other name of Mexico, derived from their war-god, Mexitli. The legend of its foundation is still further commemorated by the device of the eagle and the cactus, which form the arms of the modern Mexican republic.'

Don Bernardino Rivadavia.—This personage, whose portrait is given on the new Argentine stamps, was appointed Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs for the Republic in 1822, Ambassador to the British Court in 1824, and President in 1827. The following pen-and-ink sketch of him is given by a gentleman with whom he had an interview. 'The silvery tinkling of a little bell in the adjoining room arrested my attention, when, lo! the door opened with solemn slowness, and discovered the President of the Argentine Republic, gravely advancing, and with an air so dignified that it was almost overpowering. The student, in the *Devil on Two Sticks*, could not have been more surprised at the breaking of the phial, than I was at what I saw. Every little particular relating to a great man is generally interesting to the public; it may, therefore, not be impertinent to give a short description of his Excellency's person and appearance. Don Bernardino Rivadavia seems to be between forty and fifty years of age, about five feet in height, and much about that measure in circumference; his countenance is dark, but not unpleasing, it denotes acuteness, and, with his features, appears to belong to the ancient race which formerly sojourned at Jerusalem; his coat is green, buttoned *à la Napoleon*; his small clothes, if such they can be called, are fastened at the knee with silver buckles, and the short remainder of his person is clad in silk hose, dress shoes, and silver buckles; his whole appearance is not very unlike the caricature portraits of Napoleon: indeed, it is said, he is very fond of imitating that once great personage in such things as are within his reach, such as the cut or colour of a coat, or the inflation of an address. His Excellency slowly advanced toward me, with his hands clenched behind him; whether this, too, was done in imitation of the great well-known, or to gain something of a counterpoise to the weight and bulk which he bore before him, or to guard his hand from the unhallowed touch of familiarity, it might be equally difficult and immaterial to determine; but his Excellency slowly advanced, and with a formal patronizing air, at once made known to me that Mr. Rivadavia in London, and Don Bernardino Rivadavia, President of the Argentine Republic, were not to be considered as one and the same person.'—*Travels in Buenos Ayres.*

Theft of £500 worth of Foreign Stamps.—On the 4th ultimo, a youth fifteen years of age, named Alexander Dodd, was charged before the Liverpool magistrate, Mr. Raffles, with having stolen foreign postage stamps to the value of about £500, from the office of Messrs. Young and Stockall, wholesale dealers in stamps, No. 34, South John street. Detective Laycock said that on the previous afternoon he apprehended the prisoner in West Derby Street, and told him he would have to take him to the police-office for having stolen a large quantity of postage stamps from the office of Messrs. Young and Stockall. In reply the prisoner said he knew nothing at all about them. On searching him, witness found in his pocket two books full of stamps and a key. Witness went up to the prisoner's house in Boundary-view, Boundary-lane, and in a box which he opened by means of the key which he had taken from the prisoner, he found two large envelopes full of foreign stamps. Having ascertained that the prisoner was employed at an office in Brunswick Street, witness went there and found another book containing stamps. He also found fourteen buff-coloured envelopes full of foreign stamps, which Mr. Young identified as his property, though he had not missed them before. The prisoner afterwards acknowledged having stolen the stamps from Mr. Young's office on the 28th ult. He also stated that he had torn up the book in which the stamps were when he took them away, and had thrown it away behind the Botanic Gardens. Mr. Young, being called into the witness-box, said that he missed a book containing stamps to the value of about £500 on the morning of the 29th ult. The last time he saw the book it was lying on a desk at a short distance from the counter. He had seen the prisoner in the office on several occasions selling used stamps, but he never sold more than sixpenny-worth at a time. In reply to the magistrate, the prisoner, who cried bitterly while the examination was going on, said that he was guilty. A gentleman, who appeared to speak on behalf of the prisoner, said that he had known the family for about twenty years, and he had seen the prisoner frequently ever since he was a child. He had been one of witness's Sunday scholars, and had been in the employ of a Greek merchant, from whom he had received a good character, which he handed to his worship. The boy had been collecting stamps, and it appeared that had been the snare to him. Mr. Raffles remanded the case for a week, so that he might have further inquiries made about the prisoner. When again brought up, Mr. Young said he had no desire to inflict further punishment on the prisoner than his imprisonment since the theft had given him, especially as the property had been recovered. He believed the prisoner had not the slightest idea when he took away the book that it contained such a number of stamps. The fact was, they would be nothing like the adequate value to him. He would not be able to dispose of so many unless he went from town to town, and then he would even experience a difficulty. He had taken enough to set up a stamp-office. Mr. Etty, who appeared for the prisoner, said there could be no doubt that the prisoner had given way to sudden temptation. When he entered the prosecutors' office there was no one in, and

the stamps were lying on the counter in a very tempting manner. The book being shut, he did not know at the time the value of the property he was taking. The prisoner was a very respectable lad, and his employers were willing to take him back to their service. He had not gone about after the robbery like a professional thief.—Mr. Raffles said this was one of those cases which it was very difficult to deal with. He could very well understand that the prisoner did not know the value of the book he had taken. Still he could not let him off without a severe punishment; and he had no doubt the sentence about to be passed upon him would be a severe punishment to him. He must be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VICTORIA FRANK STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As I have seen no notice of the Victoria Frank stamps in your magazine, I conclude they are new to you; I received them from Melbourne in October. Three of them are printed in indigo on blue paper. They are alike in device, bearing the royal arms in the centre, below which is VICTORIA in capitals. The inscriptions vary: one is COMM^{R}. OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS, another CHIEF SECRETARY, and the third—impressed on ruled paper, which looks like foolscap—has COMM^{R}. OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY. All three have FRANK STAMP to complete the circle. A fourth stamp is smaller and printed in black, but on paper of the same tint as the others. The shape is a circle connected with a much smaller one below, the whole encompassed with ornamental lines. JOHN FERRIS in the centre, encircled by the inscription GOVERNMENT PRINTER.* You are of course aware that the green penny of 1862 is superseded by one of the same pattern as the twopenny and fourpenny in present use, retaining its original colour.

I am, sir, yours truly,

Melbourne. J. B. B.

* [This is evidently a trade advertisement.—ED.]

THE BAVARIAN ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In your November number you describe and figure a set of envelope essays for Bavaria. Having asked the postal authorities at Munich for information on the subject of the essays, I was told that the Bavarian government had never intended to issue envelope stamps; and that these essays had not even been shown to the postmaster.

Your correspondent mentions in his January letter a one-kreuzer stamp of Bavaria, of a deep reddish-lake colour. I am very much inclined to doubt the genuineness of this label. I have examined a large number of Bavarian stamps, and have remarked two different postmarks on them. The one is a circle containing a number, indicating the town from which the letter was sent; the other consists of the name of the town surrounded by an oblong border. I have always found the latter postmark on postage stamps taken off letters from Munich. I do not think a postmark like that mentioned by your correspondent was ever used by the Bavarian post-office; at any rate, it was not used at Munich. It is altogether improbable that the Bavarian postal authorities should have intended to issue a stamp of a colour so similar to that of the 12 and 18 kreuzer stamps of the issues of 1850 and 1862.

I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

Darmstadt, Grand-Duchy of Hesse. F. L.

THE BELGIAN ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I must protest against the practice of calling every little engraving, or set of engravings, essays. Your correspondent, Mr. Stourton, talks of *another* set of Belgian essays. Is he aware that the government have already selected the design for the new stamps, although the date for their appearance is still to be told? and, therefore, is it at all likely that the government will select others? If it is their intention, which I am told it is, not to select other designs, then how can these 'beautifully-executed' engravings be termed essays? 'Vindicator' may perchance hail their appearance with delight, but that the reverse will be the case with the stamp-collecting fraternity at large I fearlessly assert. And unless this pernicious practice be stopped—of bringing forth all sorts of imaginary devices and designs, and terming them essays,—and that soon, stamp collecting will at no distant date be reckoned as a mania of the past.

Yours faithfully

Brixton. NO ESSAYS.

[We are informed on the best authority that the Belgian new issue is not expected before 1866; but that a series of envelopes will come out in a few weeks.—ED.]

CANADIAN ENVELOPES ON BUFF PAPER.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In your number for December I notice that you mention Canadian envelopes on *buff* paper. Allow me to caution the readers of your valuable magazine against these very dangerous counterfeits,—for such they undoubtedly are. The following is an extract from a letter which I received from the postmaster-general: 'Stamped envelopes have always been fabricated of white paper, never of buff.' They are so well executed as to deceive the best judges, were it not for the colour of the paper and the position of the jewels in the tiara. In the counterfeit the 'front jewel is isolated from the others, and appears nearly detached from them; in the genuine the front jewel, although distinguishable is not particularly apart from the others. The hair at the back of the head is printed *upon* in the counterfeit, the ink appearing among the hair; in the genuine it is entirely white.'

A great deal of doubt exists in regard to the twelvepenny Canada. Whether an essay or not, it was issued in 1851, and *was in use* for a short time, when the tenpenny was substituted, the postage being reduced. The twelvepenny is occasionally seen with the word 'specimen' printed at the side. The American Bank Note Company, who engraved the Canadian postage stamps, have in several instances given their friends stamps thus marked as presents.

I remain, yours respectfully,

Montreal. J. A. NUTTER.

ON STAMP ALBUMS, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As a very recent stamp collector, not having commenced collecting three months since, I beg to refer to your remarks on the comparative advantages of Lallier's and Oppen's albums. I must confess I am inclined to prefer the former, for my inexperience, from so short an acquaintance with 'timbrophily,' has received great assistance from Lallier's mode of having compartments for each stamp; never having yet experienced difficulty in finding the right place for any of the some seven hundred stamps I have collected. While, on the other hand, I found myself so puzzled with Oppen's that I dis-

carded it for Lallier; for instance, in the French department, '25 c. blue' left me in perfect ignorance of there being a republic and a presidency stamp of the same colour and value. At the same time, I cannot help thinking there is often a distinction made in the colour where there is no real difference, the stamp being of the same value. A visit to the stamp-office, at Somerset House, the other day, where the stamps are printed—aided by the kind attention of Mr. Hill, the head of the department,—showed me how difficult it is to mix the colouring matter always of the same shade; and, therefore, it is evident that the gradation of colour frequently arises from the precedence one specimen has had over another in the period of being printed.

With regard to forged stamps, I think that objections are sometimes unnecessarily made to stamps as not being genuine. I have a very good collection of Swiss local stamps, obtained with the guarantee of a Swiss postmaster. Comparing the Basle stamp with the remarks in your journal on the forgery of that particular stamp, I did not find them quite correct as to the attributes of the genuine one, and yet mine is a very fine specimen of that stamp. When we consider how ill-executed some of the foreign dies are, and how little comparative care is taken in printing them, I think we should be careful how we condemn stamps because the end of the claw of the bird in one stamp is not so long as that in another, or the upstroke of a letter is not so thick as that in a similar specimen. That forged stamps are common is shown by the open sale of them, under the new name of 'fac-similes,' so much so that '*Caveat emptor*' ought to be the motto of every collector. I have formed some few ideas on the question of the reception of essays in stamp albums, but have already taken up enough of your space; and will therefore conclude with the suggestion, that at the commencement of each year you should give a table of all the new issues of the preceding one, in your magazine. It would be a great assistance to collectors whose information is only derived from your publication. and also to those who would sign themselves, like myself,

Your obedient servant,

London. A NOVICE.

PEMBERTON'S REPLY TO 'TIMBROPHILIST' AND O. FLEUSS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I extremely regret that any expression of mine should have assumed the very offensive forms ascribed to them by 'Timbrophilist' in your last number; and I do hope that few of your readers have so far misunderstood my zeal for the cause of stamp-collecting in England, as to attribute my December letter to any feeling of animosity, or to consider it as a 'contemptible attack' upon yourself. I think that *you* have understood my motive well enough, and have taken my very plain spoken letter as it was meant, not as a personality but as an endeavour—I admit by strong language—to improve the pages of your magazine; and I shall never cease to regret that any one, even an anonymous correspondent, should have thought me capable of the exceedingly ungentlemanly conduct of which I am accused. I think that during my many years of collecting I have made enough friends, through a very large correspondence, who would acquit me of any such mean intention as 'Timbrophilist' has collected from my two unfortunate letters.

I am accused of ingratitude to yourself, Mr. Editor, by 'making a malicious onslaught upon you whilst retained upon your staff.' My engagement with the publishers of this magazine was not of my seeking, but I was asked by them to contribute articles upon 'Current Forgeries,' and they wished to bind me not to write for other stamp papers; they having sought me out and wishing to have my writings exclusively themselves, places me upon a different footing to being 'retained upon the editor's staff.' I have always been perfectly satisfied with my engagement with the publishers, resting with myself as it did whether I cared to contribute or not; neither the publishers nor yourself having any claim upon me.

My meaning as regards the Belgian essays (page 174) was far from clear. What I meant (and I fell into the error of fancying that your readers would apprehend what I meant, instead of following the strict grammar of my words) was, These Belgians are genuine essays, inasmuch as they are called forth by a necessity, the necessity being an intended new issue for which designs have been asked; this in contradistinction from essays brought forth by no necessity, *i. e.*, no intention of an alteration by the postal authorities, but made by some engraver merely for sale. This is the meaning in Mount Brown's catalogue, which I admit to be the best at present in the English language, but capable of such numberless alterations for the better, that it is the *number* of my suggestions of improvement which leads 'Timbrophilist' to consider me personal in making them.

To Mr. O. Fleuss: I did not accuse him of laying down the law, merely of stating the British Guiana newspaper stamps were without any signature in centre. On page 127 Mr. Fleuss says of his 2 c. pearl-border, 'there is a slight blotch of red in the centre of the stamp;' and on page 15, of your third volume, he gives us a further description of the said stamp. A 'further description' can only allude to the same stamp mentioned on page 127 as having a red blotch in the centre; therefore I can safely reiterate that 'Mr. O. Fleuss is wrong in stating that the genuine pearl-bordered stamps have no signature in the centre.' I ask 'H. H.,' 'S. S.,' or 'R. Evans' what this 'red blotch' *can* be but the signature, which on 2 c. stamps is always written in red ink. Mr. Fleuss has fallen into an error to which I was most liable myself some time since, that is of giving an opinion on various stamps having but single copies of these stamps upon which to base an argument. I have learned more caution by having been often proved in the wrong.

In conclusion, I must again regret the imputations of 'Timbrophilist.' I am always willing to acknowledge myself in the wrong—as I was in the case of the double Geneva, amongst others—and I do not mind how much collectors may differ from me in opinion, but I do object to being accused of ungentlemanly conduct, discourteousness, and of malicious feeling when nothing of the kind was intended. I am quite aware that my own opinions are very different to yours as to the desirability of collecting reprints and recent essays, and as we differ so materially on this head it is doubly unpleasant to me to find this difference of opinion ascribed to entirely personal grounds. I must apologise for occupying so much of your space, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

PEMBERTON AND THE BUENOS AYRES STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have a very high opinion of Mr. Pemberton's knowledge of stamps, and as an exposer of forgeries, and an exponent of the minute details of genuine stamps, he is rather a useful member of society. But this hardly

constitutes his unchallenged right to censure a brother editor, to whom, having fallen into error, of which no inquiring mind can always steer clear, he does not even allow a month's grace, in order that he may have the chance of perceiving and retracting his mistake, but proceeds at once to the attack. I admire your spirit in unhesitatingly publishing his severe remarks—proving that if, as he hints, you are not Cæsar, *only a fac-simile*, you can, at least, act like Cæsar.

The main object of my present letter, however, is the ship series of the Buenos Ayres stamps. Not that I am going to lose myself among the 'ships' in a vortex of discussion; oh! no; till I can see my way to much plainer sailing than at present I shall patiently rest upon my oars.

If, however, Mr. Pemberton was *acrimonious*, 'Timbrophilist' was, in reproving him, something like acetic acid and cantharides combined! 'A peg to hang personalities on'—'a contemptible attack'—'a malicious onslaught'—why, poor Pemberton, if he happened to read the magazine on New-Year's day, during his breakfast, must have been almost choked by the imputed magnitude of his offences! Now, I am not going to be the champion of Mr. Pemberton; my subsequent remarks will demonstrate that; but fair play is a jewel at all times. In the first place, Mr. Pemberton, if I judge him rightly, would not go a step out of his way to look for a 'peg'—he is too blunt and independent to care for one; and his 'personalities' (if by any stretch of the Queen's English his letter can be so interpreted) are hardy standards which require neither peg nor prop to support them. In the next place, he is not intentionally 'malicious,' only blurts out his severe and unpalatable opinions without perhaps asking himself the three golden questions—Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Mount Brown is certainly here and there 'inaccurate,' but it is an exaggeration to say 'very.' Indeed, I so far value his catalogue that I have just purchased a five shilling large-paper copy to bind up with your magazine; yet, without meaning to be 'personal,' I am almost tempted to go farther than Mr. Pemberton, and challenge Mount Brown to produce a (so-called) proof black on rose Geneva, that has not the legend misprinted FIAT TENEBRAS LUX instead of POST TENEBRAS LUX, though he states in describing it, 'Same device,' &c.

There *may be* such to be found, but I believe I am correct in asserting that the majority (if not all) now in circulation have the above mentioned defect. Why, if finding fault is to be deemed 'personal' and 'malicious,' all freedom of discussion would be at an end, and no one would dare say 'boh!' to his neighbour, however great a 'goose' he might be.

Mr. Pemberton's plan of disposing of and arranging his postal 'vermin,' as stated in his letter to you, does not seem to indicate a large development of the bump of order. The bare idea of placing at the end of a valuable album such unmitigated 'vermin' as he must necessarily collect in order to pursue his favourite study, is enough to make one shudder! Shall I tell you where I keep my 'vermin?' and it is the right place for them too. Why, in Pemberton's own work on forged stamps, properly interleaved for that purpose! In fact, no one can get on at all now without some knowledge of forgeries and facsimiles, though doubtless this very study of them actually encourages the supply. I always write in *ink* on the back of every forgery or fac-simile that they are so, before placing them in my book. Thus indelibly branded, they can never again, should they pass into other hands, be mistaken for anything but what they are. If every one were to make a practice of thus branding every undoubted forgery that comes into his possession, he would do good service to inexperienced collectors, and render a large quantity of 'vermin' harmless.

Having conscientiously asked myself the three golden questions, which I recommend to Mr. Pemberton, and being able to answer them in the affirmative, I would now gently remind and admonish that outspoken gentleman that, having himself so recently emerged from Stygian darkness with regard to the Buenos Ayres 'ships,' he should have been more merciful to a brother editor, on whom the truth had not as yet so brightly shone. If, with all his Argus-like powers of discrimination, he has only just been able to marshal the 'ships' into proper order, how could he expect less gifted individuals to be otherwise than in the 'state of darkness' of which he accuses you? And lest he should have forgotten his own infantile ignorance, I must quote a few extracts from the second volume of the *Stamp-Collector's Review*, to prove the fact. At page 7, he says: 'The Buenos Ayres old ships will bother the collector wonderfully, for their execution is so coarse, one can *scarcely tell what the values are;* and when violently post-marked, the difference between UN and CIN, on the 1 and 5 p., is not striking.' If Argus were 'bothered,' who else could avoid being so! At page 65, he falls into the no small blunder of accusing the French dealers of making a 1 peso from a badly-printed 5. 'Had the 1 peso been issued,' he adds, 'it would surely have been a common stamp in Buenos Ayres, and yet the largest importers have never chanced to meet with a single specimen.' At page 81, he has recanted the major part of this statement, having suddenly become a convert to Levrault's teaching, whose informant he pronounces to be 'an acute judge, and evidently very well informed;' and concludes a very instructive page of interesting matter by the enthusiastic assertion that 'Levrault's admirable arrangement is the *only correct one!*' But our fickle critic has again been obliged to recant with regard to Levrault's infallibility; and in a manuscript paper on the Buenos Ayres stamps, with which he has favoured me, and which is substantially the same as that which you have just published from Moens' magazine, he agrees that the 4 p. brown, catalogued by Levrault, never existed, but that the smudgy strokes hitherto deciphered as 4 p. are in reality 4 reales. Here public opinion must rest satisfied for the present; but I do not think the subject is yet exhausted. Future investigations may possibly render some further alteration necessary in classifying these stamps, though the present arrangement is decidedly the best that has yet been suggested to the timbrologist. I trust Mr. Pemberton will take the whole of these remarks in good part. I have endeavoured, as an impartial observer, and according to the old adage, 'to give every dog his due;' and while I feel sure no one more readily than Mr. Pemberton will, on calm reflection, admit that he *barked* unnecessarily loud, yet that is no reason why another should *bite* in return.

In conclusion, I would ask, is it a fact that the Buenos Ayres real is worth only a fraction more than a farthing?* If so, it overturns all one's preconceived notions as to the Buenos Ayres real being equivalent to the Spanish real. Vidal, in his interesting illustrated work on Buenos Ayres (4to., 1820), quotes the price of every thing in reales, repeatedly adding that a real is equivalent to about threepence English; but I have not been able to obtain access to Sir Woodbine Parish's more recent and comprehensive work. That might perhaps furnish decisive information on the point. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to do so.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

* [We have no authority for the supposition, but cannot

help fancying that the peso and real of the Argentine Confederation are synonymous, value from 2½d. to 2¾d. We have received and paid for numbers of the stamps of that anomalous country, but have never been able to understand the account sent with them; no words to designate the several values, but merely arbitrary characters having been employed.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. B., Northampton.—Your essays are rare and genuine. The blue, which we engrave in the present number, is particularly *recherché*.

J. B. B., Norwich.—Your five local Swiss stamps have every appearance of being quite genuine.

J. E. W., Boston.—Thanks for a sight of the 'National Sailors' Fair' stamp, of which we give a description for the benefit of our readers:—Oval, with scalloped edge. An irregular ornamental inner oval leaves a rim with perpendicular green lines. The top of this bears TEN and the bottom CENTS, in capital letters. In the centre, a sailor holding a flag in his left hand, backed by the sea. Inscription, as above, partly obscuring both flag and flag-holder. Impression, green on white. The Sailors' Fair held in Boston, was like the great Sanitary Fair in Philadelphia.

A COLLECTOR, Wigton.—The large 6 cents British Guiana stamp has been *forged*. It is probably one of those deceptions you fancied might be a proof.—The interpretation of the motto on the Sydney stamps is, '*Thus flourished strong Etruria*,' in allusion to its colonisation; and the circular inscription, CAMB. AUST. SIGILLUM NOV., means '*The seal of New South Wales*.' The stamp, in fact, is a fac-simile of the colonial seal, as pointed out in an early number of our magazine.

DOUBTFUL, Winchester.—The twelvepenny Canada was never in full circulation; but we have been credibly informed that a few, though very few, were actually employed and passed the post. (See Correspondence.)

HONG KONG.—We believe Ker's stamps are still circulated in Montreal, whence they can of course be obtained.

ENQUIRER.—The .06, .08, 10, and 12 centesimos of the present series of Monte Videans are equivalent in value to the 60, 80, 100, and 120 cent. of the former issue. The dot and cipher before the 6 and 8 show the values to be reckoned as decimals of 100. A hundred centesimos make a peso, or dollar.

E. S. A.—A Spaniah or Luçon cuarto is worth about one-third of a penny. A cent rather more than one halfpenny.

J. L., Oxford.—The Cuba Y¼ stamp is now obsolete. There is no stamp of equivalent value in present circulation.—The black impressions of that island were reprints, or proofs.

O. H. T., Hoxton.—The word certificado in its contracted form on some of the Spanish stamps, meant simply that the stamp was guaranteed by the postal authorities to do its professed duty.

NOEL, London.—We have elsewhere (see Reviews) touched upon the subject of the Bern stamps. They are in actual existence for some purpose or another.

CANADA.—*Le Petit Manuel de l'amateur des Timbres Poste, par* F. V***, Paris, is by Vallete, and can be purchased of him at his emporium, near the Place St. Sulpice. Price 1 franc.—We do not think Laplante ever published a manual.—Your suggestion has been generally attended to.

AN AMERICAN, Liverpool.—Your information is embodied in our article on New Stamps.

J. H., Southampton.—We cannot possibly appraise collections of stamps without seeing them.—We think an album is better if not containing damaged specimens, unless they were of some extraordinarily rare species, too costly to be obtained in a perfect state.

J. P., Torquay.—We do not think the sixpenny violet and shilling green octagonal stamps were ever issued *undated* on envelopes; but court accredited information on the subject.

J. B. B.—Thanks for your notice and sketches of the Victoria frank stamps, of which the substance appears elsewhere.

T. A. R., Whatfield Rectory.—The Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Express Co.'s 10 cents blue is precisely like its congeners, except in the value; being shield-shaped, colour on white.—Extra sheets ruled to match the others, for interleaving in Oppen's album, may be purchased at the *Family Herald* office, 431, Strand, London, where the album is published; price 9d. per dozen.

STAMP COLLECTOR, Lancashire.—The preceding answer is equally suitable to your query.

INQUIRER, Scarborough.—The minute figures observable in most of the penny and twopenny stamps of the present—and we believe the twopenny of the preceding issue—do not constitute, in our opinion, a sufficient reason for cataloguing such almost interminable varieties. You are mistaken in supposing they have not been noticed by Mount Brown; that gentleman quoted some in one of his addenda, printed in the pages of this magazine.—The post-office authorities would not be so suicidal as to prosecute a party for disposing of the scarce envelope stamps of Great Britain for the albums of collectors. The sale of them for such a purpose is almost a clear profit to the government, the stamps not being required to perform the costly service for which they are created.

J. Y., Leicester.—There may be Lubeck envelopes with inscription to the right, but we have never met with them.—The 6 pf. vermilion of Prussia, 1858, was common enough when in circulation, but not lasting so long as the earlier issue of the same value, is not often met with cancelled.—The postage from Prussia to England is 5 s. gr., equivalent to sixpence; we cannot, therefore, account for your receiving a letter with a 3 s. gr. and a 6 pf. merely. Probably the latter stamp was stuck on to prepay a district postage, or a too-late stamp, and the 2 s. gr., which would make up the due amount, stolen *in transitu*.—The 6 kr. and 9 kr. of Baden, new series, *have* been duly noted in our magazine.—The Luxembourg stamps do duty for the part called 'The Grand Duchy.' We do not think they ever prepay to England.—The Finland envelopes have been exceedingly well forged, which may account for the discrepancy to which you allude.—The Spanish official stamps are for government packets.—It is just possible there are no Sierra Leone newspapers to frank.—The 2 anna green, oval frame, is perfectly new to us.—The address of Moens is 'Galérie Bortier, Brussels.'—The fivepenny and eightpenny of New South Wales are still current.—We have before often stated our opinion that parcels stamps may be collected or not, at the option of the timbrophilist. We admit them ourselves.—The error which you notice is not ours; we translated from the Buenos Ayres correspondent's letter in Moens' magazine.

T. B., Dover.—We do not echo the desponding tone of your letter. Stamp collecting, notwithstanding the defalcation of a few individuals from appreciable causes, is not at all on the decline in England, and is largely spreading in our colonies and on the continent. The discontinuance of several magazines is simply a proof that from one or another cause they had not succeeded in securing remunerative patronage.

NOTES ON ESSAYS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE application of the term 'essay' to proof stamps has led to much confusion, and to a belief in the existence of a great many more essays than there actually are. On looking through Levrault's catalogue, we were surprised at the number mentioned in it, but on reading the descriptions we found that seven-eighths of the so-called essays were in fact proofs. The rectification of these terms is one of the chief improvements in the last edition of Mount Brown's catalogue, and any one who peruses it cannot fail to notice how few real essays there are. We do not mean in speaking of *real* essays to indicate those only which have been bonâ fide offered for adoption to the postal authorities of the countries to which they belong, but essays of either kind—genuine or spurious; and it is our intention to refer to both, without entering upon the discussion of the *vexatio quæstio* of their collection.



The first essays ever executed were those which were tendered at Somerset House, long before collecting was thought of. Some fifty or sixty designs (said, however, to be not a tithe of the whole number) are catalogued. Nearly all are of very beautiful appearance, fine specimens of engraving, and abounding in intricate tracery, intended probably as a safeguard against imitation. Very few are of a convenient size, some being large square, some, like the Indian bill stamps, very long and narrow, but all of awkward dimensions. The envelope essays were even more unsuited for general use. The fear of forgery again caused a great amount of engine-turning, which occupied the space requisite for the address, to the detriment of the engraver's hopes. On the whole, it appears that the patterns eventually chosen for both adhesives and envelopes were better than those rejected, though now susceptible of great improvement. It is, however, to be regretted—and for other than timbrophilic reasons—that the beautiful three-halfpenny essays did not become actual stamps. Both bore the Queen's head within a shield-shaped border, on which was inscribed the value, and each was of a size similar to those of its class now current. For postal purposes, stamps of this value are much required in this country. We should not be surprised if they were even now to be introduced. In the House of Commons, on the second day of the present session, Mr. Darby Griffiths gave notice of a motion that the present threepenny stamps should be made applicable for home as well as foreign postage. If this motion is carried, it is difficult to see on what ground three-halfpenny stamps should be withheld.

The Prince Albert essays, of which so much has been said, are a recent addition to the number of those designed in England. Their genuineness appears to be still a moot point; but it is worthy of remark that, though they are said to have been produced before a committee of the House of Commons to show the effect of perforation, none of them—so far as we know—are perforated.

The essays for Denmark—the head of the king and the head of Mercury—are well known, though it has been stated that a very small number of those now in the possession of collectors are genuine. But we are inclined to believe that the so-called forgeries do not deserve that title, as we have seen individuals possessing their distinctive characteristics which were procured direct from the engraver of the unquestionably genuine specimens.

The French possess some dubious essays, bearing the head of Liberty, with the words ESSAI, 1858, in the upper label and 0 0 POSTES 0 0 in the lower. It seems strange, as has been remarked, that essays with such a device should have been produced seven years after the republic had ceased to exist. The essay which is divided into two parts and perforated across the centre, appears to have been engraved more for the purpose of showing a new mode of cancellation than with a view to the adoption of its design; and the same may be said of the set of essays having a string worked into the paper.

We have only lately seen the essay for Prussia, which figures at the head of this article, and cannot speak to its genuineness. It is an original pattern, carefully engraved.

The impressions are in two colours, black and yellow on white paper, or rather cardboard. This is the first Prussian essay of which we have heard, though some *proofs* of the present 6 pf. in yellow, orange, and stone have incorrectly received the title.

The *timbres d'instruction* of Bavaria have often deceived the unwary, who have taken them to be essays, and as such admitted them into their albums, and have accorded a similar privilege to those of Hamburg; but they can neither be considered essays nor proofs. The handsome Bavarian envelope essays, one of which was engraved in a recent number of this magazine, have since been stigmatized as spurious by a German correspondent, who ought to know whether they are genuine or not. The Grecian essays, having the head of the king in oval in front of the Parthenon, have been similarly branded; though it is matter for regret that such beautiful engravings are no more than illegitimate speculations.

Italy has been very fruitful in essays. Besides the brilliant productions of Pellas, rejected on account of their extreme fineness and the consequent expense of dies for them, there is also the series each stamp of which (except the 1 c.) bears the king's head in centre surrounded by a different pattern, and the 15 c. green which has the Savoy cross on a shield encircled by a collar as its central device. There is no reason to doubt that these are genuine essays, but all the stamps of the head series have lately been struck off in colours different to those in which they were at first printed. A few weeks since we saw a pretended essay for the 'segna tassa' stamp, the design of which appeared to have been suggested by that of the rare Buenos Ayres 'gaucho.' It was a large oblong in shape, and the centre was occupied by a representation of a verdant plain, over which a man on horseback was galloping. Above this were the words SEGNA TASSE and, if we remember aright, the value, 10 c., in an oval disc at each side. Apart from the want of connection between a postman on horseback and the Italian postal service, 'SEGNA TASSE' appears to us to be rather poor Italian, though not worse than the inscription PERIODICI FRANCHI on a so-called essay for an Italian journal stamp. The latter inscription encircled a head of Hermes, and the entire design of the stamp on which it appeared was well engraved. The old Sicilian essay, unlike those just described, was bonâ fide tendered for adoption by its maker. It is now exceedingly rare, as is also the equally genuine 25 c. black provisional Parma.

Mount Brown gives the following description of a Canadian essay, which we have not yet seen: 'Inscription, COLONY OF CANADA, figure indicating value in centre and in each lower angle of stamp. Col. imp.; rect. 1d. lilac.' We must also confess to a want of knowledge concerning the sixpenny rose essay for Nova Scotia, which bore a figure indicating value in octagon and in each angle.* There has been such a predilection in the colonies for the Queen's head on all kinds of stamps, that probably the fact of these essays bearing the numeral of value in the centre was at least one reason for their rejection. The Connell stamp can hardly be termed an essay, for it was struck off, not for the inspection, but by order of the postmaster; there are, moreover, rumours of its having been seen postmarked, though this seems rather incredible.

Facts are decidedly against the admission of the Paraguayan essay into collections as one which has really been submitted for approval. Latterly this essay, which was once very rare, has been copied in great numbers. Such copies are, in fact, of as much value as their doubtful original, but intending purchasers should beware of being duped by them.

A set of essays, of handsome appearance and bad reputation, has been introduced here from 'over the water,' under the title of Sandwich Islands essays. They bear the bust of King Kamehameha III.—a suspiciously exact copy of the portrait on the five-cent stamps—in a circle, surrounded by a wreath within another circle, outside of which is a square label bearing the numeral of value; a scroll above the portrait is inscribed UKU LETA, and another below HONOLULU. In a label at the top of the stamp are the words INTER ISLAND, and at the bottom the value is stated. The background

* [These two unique stamps formerly adorned our own collection.—ED]

is composed of lattice-work, and all the stamps are printed in colour on thick white paper. The colours and values are as follows: 1 c. yellow, brown, stone; 2 c. lake, green, blue; 3 c. brown, green, blue. If these essays were engraved in the lifetime of the late king, it is strange that the simple 5 c. and 13 c. were not superseded by them; if they have been concocted since his death, what prospect could the designer have had of their acceptance, seeing that they bore the portrait of the deceased, and not the reigning king?

Though we have received plenty of proofs from the United States, the number of essays imported from that home of go-a-head speculators has not been large. There are the old 3 cents on tinted paper, and the somewhat similar ones of the same value lately engraved. There are also the startling Indian-head essays, and the two more graceful series impressed with the head of Liberty. The only envelope essays are the circular set with blank centres, which we have been informed were never seen at the Washington post-office.

The Mexican essays on their advent attracted considerable notice, but shortly afterwards sank into deserved obscurity. They are, we believe, a Milanese production, but had the misfortune never to reach the country whose name they bear, probably because of the inadvertent omission to send them on their engraver's part.

To complete our notes, a reference to the Belgian essays is necessary. It has been stated that the design for the new issue has been chosen, but, doubtless, prior to the decision, numerous designs were offered and rejected. As it was known to be a *sine qua non* that the essays should bear the king's head in the centre, those which do not were most probably engraved simply with the aim of extracting coin from collectors' pockets. Of this class, we fear, is a handsome set having the Belgic lion rampant on an unshaded shield, and which would show well upon the Belgian page as the new issue; whilst, on the other hand, several king's head essays have made their appearance which would be no great improvement on the present series.

THE BATH POSTBOY.

IT was in the early part of the last century, when the mail was transmitted from the principal towns of England in charge of a mounted postman, with holster-pistols and saddle-bags, and carried from the smaller ones by poor boys, who received a halfpenny a mile for serving the post-office in all weathers, that the postmaster of Bath informed all whom it might concern, by a printed bill in the window, that a smart active lad of fifteen or thereby was required to carry the mail between that town and Marlborough, at the above-mentioned rate of wages.

The road was long and rough; and three days had already passed, during which the mail was carried by the postmaster's own good boy, and man-of-all-work, much to his discomfort, and the manifest dissatisfaction of the good people of Marlborough, to whom their letters came several hours too late: but no candidate for the situation had yet presented himself. At length, on the fourth morning, a muscular, intelligent-looking boy, dressed in the habiliments of earlier years, which he had evidently outgrown, made his appearance, cap in hand, before Mr. Burton the senior clerk, and inquired, 'Sir, if you please, would I be old enough to carry the Marlborough bag? I'm only fourteen yet, but I'll always be growing older and wiser I hope.'

'And maybe worse!' muttered the clerk, who happened to be out of temper that morning. 'But step in here,' he continued, pointing to another room, 'and Mr. Leathem will see what you're fit for.'

Mr. Leathem was a quiet elderly gentleman, who had kept the post-office for several years in the rich and gay city of Bath. He spoke to the applicant more civilly than his clerk had done; said he considered him tall enough for the business; and then inquired what was his name, where his parents lived, and if he knew any respectable person who would give him a character for honesty and sobriety, as without such a certificate the post-office could not employ him? The boy answered that his name was Ralph Allen; that his father had been a poor

tradesman, but he was dead, and his mother supported herself by taking in washing; and 'I wasn't brought up here, sir; but my mother came in hopes of getting fine work from the gentry; and here's a certificate from a kind gentleman, the vicar of our parish: I used to run errands for him, and he said it might be useful to me:'—

'This is to certify that Ralph Allen is a sensible, honest, industrious boy, and I hope will continue to be so.—William Warburton,' said the postmaster, reading aloud. 'Well, that's a good certificate, though the writer is unknown to me; but we will let it pass for this time, and take you on trial.'

After several exhortations to be careful of the mail, and walk fast, that he might arrive in time, Ralph Allen was duly equipped with a leathern bag, suspended by a strap over his shoulder, containing all the letters and newspapers in those days transmitted to Marlborough, and sent forth to earn the halfpenny per mile.

Day after day he performed that appointed journey, through sun and shower, going and coming to the entire satisfaction of the postmasters of Bath and Marlborough. Roads were not then so convenient for travellers, nor time so precious with the public, as at present; but Ralph was never known to loiter by the way, nor arrive an hour too late, which could seldom be said of other postboys. Travellers between the towns soon began to know him on the road, and remarked from stage-coach, wagon, or saddle—the only modes of conveyance in those days—that his conduct was always careful and steady; and people who did not travel trusted him with small messages in consequence of their reports. If a lady wanted a fashionable cap from Bath, or a notable housekeeper some trifle which could be bought cheaper in Marlborough, Ralph Allen was known to be a soberer and less exorbitant carrier than either the coachman or wagoner, and he was preferred accordingly. This was a source of additional gain, which increased every day, till the boy generally reached his destination in either town laden with parcels of all sorts and sizes, for the carriage of which he received from twopence to a farthing, as the case might be, or the liberality of his employers dictated. How the short time allowed between the close of his daily duty and his nightly rest was usually spent in his mother's poor but clean garret, nobody could tell; till Mr Leathem, who had by this time a high opinion of his postboy for general good conduct and correctness in his station, inquired one morning, while Ralph waited for the mail, what book was that protruding from his pocket?

'It's the "Universal Spelling-Book," sir,' said Ralph, reddening as he pulled out the well-worn volume. 'I try to learn at home in the little time I have, and can now nearly read.'

'That's well, my boy,' said Mr. Leathem: 'I wish the rest of our boys would spend their leisure time so.'

'And, sir,' continued Ralph, now encouraged to speak out, 'I'm trying to write too, and have got the master of the Blue-Coat School to give me a lesson sometimes for doing his messages, sir.'

'You'll be a clerk yet, Ralph,' said the postmaster, laughing. 'But it is a good endeavour, and I hope you'll succeed; but mind, be careful of the mail.'

His employer's words turned out true, though spoken half in jest. Ralph continued to earn, by every honest though small way within his reach; his earnings were saved to purchase an old book when he could not borrow it, or supply himself with pens, ink, and paper; by which he at once amused and improved his few leisure hours in reading, or even spelling, to his mother, when her day's toil was also done, and practising the chance lessons he could obtain from the schoolmaster. Reading was at that period a rare thing in his class, and cheap books of instruction were equally so; but from the spelling-book, Ralph Allen advanced to the dictionary and grammar; from 'strokes,' to writing a good fair hand. His savings also increased by slow degrees, for both he and his mother were prudent; and Ralph only wished for the time when he might aspire to some better situation, and be enabled to add to her rest and comfort. Five years had thus passed away; Ralph Allen had grown almost a man, when all the message-senders of Bath, amongst whom he was well known,

rejoiced, even amid their regrets that they must look out for another *carrier*, to hear that Ralph Allen had been promoted, through the kindness of Mr. Leathem, to a clerkship in the Bath post-office, and was actually seen in a new suit of clothes performing his new duties at the post-office window. After this his mother washed nothing but lace and cambric, and Ralph was as steady and obliging in the post-office as he had been with the mail on his back. His salary was comparatively small, but his prudence was great; and in another year or two, people discovered that Ralph had something in the bank. His habits of reading and thought also gave him an ability to invent needful improvements in the post-office, which was then very imperfectly managed. These were modestly proposed; and as their necessity was seen, they soon obtained the sanction of the superior authorities, and raised the young clerk not only in their estimation, but in office also, as in three years after his entrance he succeeded the senior clerk, Mr. Burton, by whom his application for the carriage of the Marlborough bag had been so ungraciously received, and who now retired to a small property he had purchased in the country. Two years more, and Ralph himself began to think of purchasing property also. There was a large sterile farm called Combe Down in the neighbourhood of the city, which the last three tenants had successively left in disgust and weariness, declaring that their labour and money were both lost on such an unprofitable spot, and the landlord offered it for sheep-grazing on the very lowest terms. Great was the astonishment of all who knew him, when Ralph Allen became the purchaser of these poor and barren acres. Some said the young man's brain was turned with the books he read, and even his mother shook her head, and hoped it would turn out for the best; but Ralph gave up his situation at the post-office, collected round him workmen and tools, and commenced, not without creating much wonder and many surmises, to break up the ground in all directions, as if in search of a mine.

'Neighbour, do you expect to find a pot of gold in that farm?' said an old farmer to him over the fence one morning, where he and his men were delving at a rocky spot that never could be cultivated.

'No,' said Ralph; 'but I expected, and, thank Providence, I have found, a good stone quarry, which will repay me, and be useful to yon good town;' and he pointed to the spires of Bath.

'My stars!' cried the farmer, 'he's not mad after all!' And so thought all Ralph's neighbours, when buyers came and workmen thronged to the new quarry; and scarcely a gentleman's house or public building of any description could be commenced in Bath without a supply of stone from Mr. Allen, as the Bath postboy was now deservedly called.

'Ralph Allen's making his fortune,' was the usual remark of everybody about Bath when the quarry was mentioned; and it had now grown an important matter, as the whole property of Combe Down, which so many farmers had called a dead loss, was found to be one vast bed of the best building stone.

Ralph was making money fast, and his deposits in the bank increased every year; but his aims did not end there—the experience of his former situation in the post-office was at length employed to some purpose. Sundry useful arrangements and inventions had long ago made his name and abilities known to the authorities of that department. At the period of our story, the post-office in almost every county was farmed by some wealthy or enterprising person, who took its whole revenue and expenses in his own hands, paying to the government a certain sum annually, according to his contract. Ralph, who had acquired a considerable acquaintance with all the details of the business, and had, besides, the good opinion of the most influential functionaries, proposed to vest the small fortune already gained by the Combe Down quarry in a post-office contract for all England; and his proposal was accepted. From this period the career of Ralph Allen was one of uninterrupted prosperity. Under his administration, the post-office revenue, even in that age of comparatively little letter-writing, was almost doubled in a few years, owing to the better arrangements introduced by him in the transmission of mails, and various postage regulations,

which have made his name celebrated as one of the few who have conferred benefits of a lasting kind on their native country. But Ralph Allen was destined to become, if possible, still more honourably known to fame. From his earliest youth he had cultivated his mind, as well as improved his fortune; as without the former endeavour, the latter would have been but half success, though wealth had been gathered like the sand. His post-office contract in a short time realised such an income, as made the proprietor one of the richest men in the neighbourhood of Bath.

Mrs. Allen had lived to see her son's prudent conduct and perseverance rewarded to an extent of which she had never dreamt; and the good dame closed her days in peace and comfort in the pleasant cottage at Combe Down, having nothing to regret, and no annoyance, but a shadowy fear, which at times slightly agitated the calm current of her latter-day thoughts, that Ralph was buying too many books. But having gained the summit of his early ambition—a well and honourably-won fortune—he determined to enjoy it agreeably to his own refined taste, in the munificent encouragement of arts and literature. He had acquired general respect as well as riches; and as his fortune raised him gradually in the scale of society, had won the esteem, and formed the acquaintance, of men celebrated for their talents, and still famous through their works. Pope, Fielding, Swift, and Goldsmith, were among the number of his friends; and the titled and fashionable paid a mutual tribute to merit and success, by including Mr. Allen in their most select society.

The country round Bath is one of the finest districts in England, being diversified with beautiful wood-crowned hills and broad green meadows: one property, in particular, popularly called Prior Park, had long attracted Ralph Allen's eye from the barren slopes of Combe Down, and there, he often said, he should wish, if fortune permitted him, to build a mansion worthy of the scene. This project was at last put in execution. The possessor of the estate ruined his affairs by carelessness and extravagance in London: it was, in consequence, offered for sale, and Ralph Allen, Esq., became the purchaser of Prior Park. Here, on the slope of one of those wood-covered hills which he had often admired, a splendid mansion was erected under his own superintendence, whose beautiful Corinthian portico and tasteful decorations were the theme of praise among all the lovers of art; the former especially being still regarded as unrivalled in English architecture. Here Ralph retired about middle life, leaving the field of active industry to younger and more needy aspirants: here also he gathered round him the most polished society of that fashionable neighbourhood, and many of the authors, the purchase of whose works had once astonished his mother. Mr. Allen is well known to all conversant with the literature of those times as its judicious and munificent patron, and, in particular, as the attached friend of the somewhat irritable poet, Alexander Pope, and the philosophic Bishop Warburton.

The facts of his story, though not so generally known, belong to real life, and are verified by his contemporaries, and they offer a lesson of how much may be achieved by well-directed energy and persevering prudence.—*Chambers's Journal.*

THE VIEWS OF SYDNEY.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON, AUTHOR OF 'FORGED STAMPS: HOW TO DETECT THEM.'

HAVING recently had many opportunities of examining these curious and rare stamps, I have reason to think that the notes I have made from some dozens of copies may prove interesting to the readers of this magazine; and as I have made some attempt at arranging the marked and constant varieties, I have concluded this paper with the simplest arrangement that the variations of the originals will permit.

I will commence by giving a 'full, true, and particular account' of the picture which forms the centre in all stamps of this issue; the different values having different borderings, &c. It must be remembered that very few copies will clearly show *all* the following points; they having been, many of them, only decided after much thought and comparison of many copies.

The picture, which is usually called the 'View of Sydney,' may have its curious face described as follows:

To the left background is a hill, bearing on its brow houses and a church; at its base are trees (usually two in number, but occasionally four), which, rather resembling firs, reminds me, in the account of New Holland, published in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, of 1797, that, 'instead of thatch, they now make use of shingles made from a certain tree which has the appearance of a fir, but produces wood like English oak.' At the foot of the hill is a man ploughing, very small and seldom distinct; the man is usually going to the right hand, but in some stamps he is evidently ploughing towards the left hand.

To the right background. A little portion of sea with a ship upon it.

In the left foreground. The tutelar deity of Australia (?), seated upon a bale of goods, with a beehive at her back; in her right hand is a something which I scarcely understand, it is more like a whip than anything, but it can scarcely be that; her left hand is extended to raise the kneeling figure on the right.

Right foreground. Female and male figure standing; the male is bareheaded, and holds in his left hand the hat of the period, the right seemingly grasping a chain, cord, or halter attached to the kneeling figure at his feet.

In the front foreground may be seen a pick and shovel, and at the feet of the right-hand group are certain round pieces (four, five, six, or seven, in various copies) which, taken in connection with the pick and shovel, seem to represent nuggets of gold.* I at first thought they represented rings of a chain, but I can scarcely think so after seeing many different varieties. In penny stamps they are large, round, clear circles, but in most twopenny stamps they are simply shapeless dots.

Those who have Moens' beautiful *Illustrations* will not find my account agree with his rendering of the picture. What I consider a pick and shovel, he makes into two squares or oblongs; and he places Australiana upon the broad, but uncomfortable, part of a crusader's shield. I certainly consider Australiana's seat to be a bale of goods, the side which we see being divided into four parts by the cord around it. Moens makes his shield to come to a point at the bottom, but I never saw a 'view' in which my bale was not as broad at its base as on the top. I find that each of the quarters, into which the cording divides the side of the bale, has some device in it. The two lower ones show the date of the founding of the colony at Sydney, 1788 (the left quarter bearing 17, the right having 88). The upper quarters are usually smaller than the lower, and in all penny stamps are blank. It is only in some few of the twopenny that we can there find anything, and the twopenny being, as a rule, less clearly printed than the penny ones, it is very speculative on my part to say that the scratches in the left top quarter are meant for 'N^{a}' The little that is to be seen in the right top quarter I thought might be a star, but as two of my correspondents proclaim it a sheep, I fancy it must be so. Though, as one of these gentlemen pleasantly writes me, 'Not one of your rotund Bingley-Hall kind of fleecy heroes, but a veritable colonial fellow, long in neck and of the clothes-horse form of quadruped, and not an unlikely emblem for a colonial imagination to seize.'

It is averred that this view is taken from the seal of the colony; of this I can say nothing, but I have naturally felt curious as to the actual meaning of the picture, and in offering the following suggestions I must explain that I have no grounds for my hypothesis, except the items themselves found in the view. The probable and very possible meaning of this view, with its various incongruities of showing the date 1788 in connection with houses and a church—which latter could never have been built in that year or for many successive ones—seems to show that the whole meaning is an allegorical one. In this practical age it is pleasant to find allegory in anything, especially in so matter-of-fact a study as that of postage stamps. Possibly our view means this: the left-hand

* [If these interesting impressions are fac-similes of the colonial seal, as stated on good authority, these can scarcely be intended for nuggets; for most probably the seal was designed long before the great Australian gold revolution.—ED.]

figure is the tutelar deity of the New World (Australia), receiving with open hand the wretched convict, presented to her by the figures on the right, just landed in Sydney (January, 1788) from the ship represented on the right hand. From its history we learn that *one* ship came here first, and returned to conduct the remainder of the fleet, of which it formed a part, to this superb natural harbour. Australiana is surrounded by evidences of future greatness and prosperity, typical of the wonderful changes which resulted from the convicts' settlement therein. The plough, the town with its church, the pick, shovel, and nuggets, the bale of wool or of goods, the beehive, all seem to me to be typical of the effects of that landing which the right-hand group represents.



ARRANGEMENT OF THE PENNY AND TWOPENNY STAMPS.

I. Houses detached and church separated from them, hill shaded in a gentle fall from left to right, sea and shore distinct (*i.e.*, the sea having billows and the shore shaded by horizontal lines); usually on dull white.

1d. red, with clouds.

1d. red, without clouds.

*** Variable in the shade of red.

II. Houses less detached, being more in a row, shading as above; on tinted and on blue paper.

1d. lake, with clouds.

1d. lake, without clouds.

III. Houses in one long row, ending with the church, sea and shore uniformly shaded by horizontal lines, hill unshaded. Star in each corner has four long rays, the rest being only ragged lines; no clouds.

1d. lake, on yellowish paper.

1d. lake-red, on dull white.

IV. Spandrils horizontal waved lines, view as type II. but with very little shading, corners an eight-equal-rayed star, clouds almost wanting; on dull white.

2d. pale blue, deep blue.

V. Spandrils with a few remains of horizontal waved lines, view as in I. but with very little shading, corners eight-rayed star, rays not joined in their centre, clouds almost wanting.

2d. blue.

VI. Spandrils of close horizontal waved lines, view nearly as in I., star with four long thick rays and four shorter ones, clouds numerous.

2d. dull blue.

VII. Spandrils of perpendicular waved lines, houses as in III. but smaller, corners very like III., hill and sea unshaded, shore slightly shaded, clouds very fine; whole engraving fine but rough; on dull yellowish-white.

2d. blue.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE representation of the Danish envelope, fully described in last month's magazine, heads our present article, and the 2 reales of the recent issue of Spain, of which the six species were also chronicled in the same number, forms its tail-piece.



It falls to our duty this month, and a very pleasing one it is, to herald the appearance of the complete series of Turkish stamps, noticed in our last number as forthcoming. They are no fewer than eleven in number, and a representation of the lowest denomination—10 paras green—is subjoined.

We believe that beautiful city and home of the arts—Munich—may boast of producing these really elegant stamps, which will tend so greatly to embellish the collector's album. The former set, of such outlandish and oriental appearance, so totally unlike every existing stamp, formed an interesting contrast to the endless changes rung on heads and arms, and ever relieving the eye for awhile when resting on the page containing them, may thus retire from active duty with credit and dignity.

Their modern supersedes, keeping march at the same time with, and worthily emulating the finest existing impressions, retain sufficient characteristics of the semi-oriental empire they represent, to present a perfectly

distinctive and striking appearance. The



annexed engraving renders a full description supererogatory; suffice it to say that they are printed on paper of a good consistence, vying in this respect with any current stamp. They are, moreover, improved by the useful system of perforation, which we wonder has not yet come into universal use. The impression is printed in colour on white, but the Turkish characters above, below, and on either side are quite black, and, on the lighter colours especially, pleasingly heighten the effect of the device. The colours and values are—10 paras green; 20 paras yellow-brown; 1 piastre lilac; 2 piastres, blue; 5 piastres, pink; and 25 piastres red, for the Ottoman empire in general; and 1 piastre, 2, 5, 25 piastres, and 20 paras, all uniformly brown, for Constantinople exclusively.

A correspondent calls our attention to the provisional 20 centesimi of Italy. Most of our readers must have seen it ere this. To those who may not have done so we may merely mention that the value is obliterated by a semicircular stamped bar; the figures 20 are impressed in the upper right and lower left, and c for centesimi in the upper left and lower right corners.

New Granada, which has transmitted to us a set for every year since its first appearance in the stamp world, now ushers forth its seventh series. They are an improvement on the last, but scarcely come up to the delicacy of the first two issues, nor present the imposing appearance of the third. They are printed in colour on white, and are still unimproved by perforation. The central



oval contains the same arms as usual, but they are rather obscured by the quasi-supporting and really embarrassing flags at the sides. An eagle, not before introduced, hovers over the arms. The nine stars are expelled the central field, and take refuge in the encircling oval ring. The inscription is as before, and the value still shows below. The ornamentation filling in the spandrils is very so-so in design. The values yet seen are, 5 centesimos orange; 10 c. violet; 20 c. blue; and 50 c. green. Mount Brown makes no mention of a 1 peso as existent in the sixth series; but Maury both catalogues and prices it, giving the colour as rose. Most probably there is a corresponding stamp, same colour and value, in the series here commemorated.

A new issue for St. Lucia has lately appeared, superseding the old ones. The same die is employed, no value being indicated. They are now—penny black, fourpence yellow, sixpence violet, and one-shilling orange. We hear of a stamp having just made its appearance from the province of Ecuador.

The dull-coloured, unattractive 8 cents of Hong Kong is changed for the better to a bright chrome yellow; and the dingy black of the highest denomination has gone a step in the other direction, and become a dirty brown.

The 15 cents of Holland has now really appeared, and completes the current series. The 2 centesimi of Italy makes its *debût* on the 1st of March. The singularity of the 4 cuartos Spanish of the present set is accounted for by the fact of the non-completion of the perforating machines in time for the issue of its cogeners.



PARMA TO MILAN.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE subjoined engraving is the rarer variety



of the newspaper stamp of Modena, alluded to in our last number.

The four issues of Parmese postage stamps, of which the majority were once so rare and sought after, thanks to reprints for unused, and the spread of timbrophily in Italy for cancelled impressions, may now be seen individually represented in almost every collection. The three individuals of the first series are, however—not having been revived—seldom found in a clean state, except in the choicest albums of original collectors. We believe the provisional set, from the unpre-

tending simplicity of their device and their then great rarity, may lay claim to the dubious honour of originating stamp forgeries; and we well remember the storm of indignation raised against their innocent vendor, who had allowed himself to be deceived into purchasing and distributing a large number of the impostors.

Either Murray or Bradshaw, we forget which, dubs Modena as having the appearance of a German rather than an Italian town. The compiler must have meant Parma, in which the absence of the arcades, so noticeable in Modena, Bologna, &c., tends much to lessen the idea of your being in a city of Italy.

Here, too, as in many other once sovereign cities, the Farnese palace is desecrated into a military school. The love of Italian unity must have been marvellously strong in the inhabitants of such capitals as Parma, to induce their agitation for the removal of the nominal yoke of their native princes for that of a comparative stranger; sinking, too, as they have done, from the rank of a prince's residence to that of second or third-rate country towns.

The Duomo, fronted by its enormous lions of red marble, is a most imposing building. We question whether the partly-faded frescoes, nearly covering the interior walls of the edifice, do not produce a more imposing effect in their decay than in all the dazzling splendour of their first freshness. We imagine the general appearance must have been too theatrical, too much like the transformation scene in a pantomime.

Murray styles the Baptistery the most splendid in Italy. We think it yields the palm to either that of Pisa or Florence. The latter is more richly, the former more chastely beautiful.

The inhabitants of the duchies are a much handsomer race than those of more northern Italy. At every step we meet with the originals of the heads one sees in the most admired paintings of the old masters Clear olive complexions, glossy black hair, brilliant eyes, and fine Roman noses, are the rule. In marked contrast to the hideous hats worn by Paris snobs and French provincials generally, of which the neighbourhood of Leicester Square furnishes plenty of specimens, self-coloured hats, with very high crowns and brims of proportionate dimensions, seem the 'thing' for visiting and promenading wear in the towns of this part of Italy, and soft wide-awakes, square or round-crowned, for morning lounge.

An individual there told us he had sold thirty-two of Moens' stamp albums, so there must be at least that number of timbrophilists in Parma. As we remarked elsewhere, the late duchess was, and her son is, a zealous collector. It is a good proof of the rise and fall in the value of particular specimens, that we lately received a letter therefrom, offering twenty-five of various denominations of the old issues of Parma in exchange for a Mulready.

The scurolo or crypt of the Duomo is the handsomest, loftiest, and best-lighted of any we have seen. To make room for this underchurch, the choir is ascended by an imposing flight of steps. Those of Modena and Piacenza are also more roomy and less dark than most crypts, but not so richly ornamented with carved pillars and monuments as that of Parma. St. Lucia must have been the court church, from the appearance of the elaborately carved and gilt gallery pews, which put one more in mind of the private boxes at a theatre than conveniences for religious worship.

If Parma cannot boast of producing the cheese bearing its name, the neighbourhood affords some of the richest and finest-flavoured we ever tasted, scarcely, if at all, inferior to Stilton. This, with some delicious, strong, full-bodied, sparkling, deep red wine, also of native growth, was a welcome adjunct to the best suppers we had in Italy.

The vineyards on the road from Parma towards the west are the vineyards of the poets. Unlike those of Germany, Belgium, and other parts of Italy, which are less picturesque than a Kentish hop-ground, they have the grapes hanging in luscious clusters from graceful festoons stretching from tree to tree.

We passed the dried-up bed of the Taro, whose distant banks testify what a magnificent stream it must be in the winter months; and had a good view of the splendid bridge

built by direction of the ex-empress, one of the finest ranks of arches in the world, in length nearly doubling that of Waterloo. The many dry streams met with in the otherwise lovely country we are commemorating, rather deteriorate from the effect of the landscape. On a previous occasion, we lost the effect of the beautiful Arno, in Florence, and could have crossed its pebbly channel dry shod.

'Don't let's get into the wrong train!' met our ears on reaching the station at Piacenza; and, from the confusion caused by two counter arrivals, it was no supererogatory exclamation. The persistence with which waiters on the continent force beef on every traveller suspected to be English, was exemplified here, by their success in palming off hard *bifteck* instead of the well-dressed, tender veal cutlets of the place, on the party of British tourists from one of whom issued the quoted exclamation.

Piacenza may boast of many churches architecturally or otherwise deserving attention. The Duomo is a fine pile, replete with monuments, frescoes, paintings, &c. We are not aware that any particular festival was being prepared for, or whether the red damask and tawdry tinsel covering the noble columns were permanent decorations. Fancy the fine pillars of Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's thus desecrated! St. Antonino, the original cathedral, contains a finely-conceived 'Last Supper,' in which the grouping is highly superior to that in the celebrated painting of Leonardo da Vinci. We longed to take copies of some of the designs in the magnificently illuminated old missals and choir books, carefully chained to their desks in the Duomo.

We were reminded of some of the Venetian streets, by the long, narrow *Contrada Dritta*, leading from the Duomo to the Piazza dei Cavalli, which we took the trouble of threading and rethreading, having forgotten to look at the iron cage abutting from the old campanile, where state prisoners used to be exposed to the gaze of the multitude.

The spacious 'Square of the Horses' presents he grandest *coup d' œil* in Piacenza; with shops, cafés, and public buildings on three sides, and the partly-Saracenic stately pile of the Palazzo del Commune, or town-hall, at the other.

As for the gloriously-striking equestrian statues of Alexander Farnese and his son Ranuccio, the 'hero of the clock story,' we wish they could be carried through the air, like Prince Camaralzaman, and transplanted to some vacant spot in England.

These *chef d' œuvres* of Francesco Mocchi, like the equestrian bronzes with which we are too familiarized in England, are certainly motionless; but unlike them, they look as if they *had* been in movement or were *able* to move. The critic quoted by Murray cavils at them as 'wanting the *repose* which constitutes the truly beautiful in art.' For all we know to the contrary, he may have given a friendly hint to the modeller or designer of the wooden-looking metal presentiment of the Iron Duke in the Green Park. It is, in good sooth, a complete specimen of the simplicity and *repose* he so much lauds. Like Theseus in Hades, on the stone

'Sedet, æternumque sedebit;'

unless a friendly earthquake or a second Erith explosion should have power (which we almost doubt) to shake it from its starched propriety.

Postage-stamp collecting is confined in Piacenza chiefly to the upper classes. We stayed there but a few hours, and managed to get introductions at the rate of a noble per hour.

Our next halt was at Lodi. Here we saw the first-fruits of Messrs. Babbage & Bass's exertions, in the shape of a hurdy-gurdy boy, the only one we met with in Italy, wending his way from England to his native Parma. The grand piazza of Lodi is full of bustle and animation, a considerable portion of the population of the place evidently making it their evening lounge. The fine Duomo, in the Lombard style of architecture, is at the south-eastern corner, and near it the picturesque Palazzio del Commune.

The prevalent fashion of earrings among the males of the inferior classes in Belgium and Germany, reaches two or three grades higher in Italy; where gold knobs, like the heads of nails, fastened in some way to the lobe of the ear, take the place of the plain

hoop. On the celebrated bridge of Lodi we first noticed, and afterwards in Paris, the gold knob superseded by a turquoise.

The handsome railway terminus of Milan shows to advantage after the comparatively indifferent stations of the second-rate towns. Since our visit last year, the completion of the cathedral is considerably advanced, and notwithstanding the want of architectural uniformity, we think this dazzling edifice must claim the highest rank in point of beauty. The shabby doors of the west front and the sheds on the south-east are certainly lamentable disfigurements.

The former capital of Lombardy is so familiar to tourists, that its objects of interest barely mentioned—such as the stone man, the Corinthian portico, the church of St. Ambrosio, with its remarkable terra-cotta figures, and valuable library, &c.—are sufficient for the recollection of many a reader.

The vast proportion of the deformed in Italy cannot but strike the eye of the traveller. We have an idea that the great number of *levatrici accredite* may have something to do with it. The curious hash that foreigners always make of English proper names, was exemplified in a play bill we saw in Milan. One of the characters was Mistris Bradlez, and in the *Official Railway Guide* of that city we find Vaterloo and Enten Square stations. In the 'street of the booksellers' was a notice to the effect that the best *arow* root could be procured at a certain shop. This street, and those of the goldsmiths in Milan and Genoa, are interesting as almost the only relics of the middle-age custom of devoting streets to particular callings, unless we add our own Paternoster Row as the 'street of the publishers,' Monmouth Street as the 'street of old clothes,' and another street in St. Giles's as that 'of the bird-cages.'

We met with one or two collectors in Milan, possessed of well supplied albums. The Italians appear to have an exaggerated idea of the ease with which our rarer colonials are procurable, and think an Englishman has only to be asked, to be able to produce any required specimen. We are continually requested to supply the tenpenny Van Diemen's Land. One party wanted half-a-dozen of the blue shilling New South Wales, of which we believe two or three specimens only exist. The mention of this stamp reminds us of a proof of the eightpenny laurel crown that we saw lately printed in blue.

In some back streets of Milan may still be witnessed the antiquated system of lighting, so graphically described by Dickens in his *Pictures of Italy;* that of hoisting the lamps previously lighted in the roadway, by means of ropes and chains across the narrow streets.

The large proportion of French silver and gold coin current throughout North Italy is noteworthy. The effigy of King Victor is much less common than those of the various late dynasties of France. In change for a Napoleon we once received, in Milan, specimens of the coinage of the earlier and late republics, Louis XVIII., Charles X., Louis Philippe, and both Napoleons.

Etymologists tell us that the word *milliner* is derived from Milan, like *mantua-maker* from Mantua, and the obsolete *paduasoy* from Padua whence it was generated. If we mistake not, the term 'millinery' is now confined exclusively to those articles of ladies' dress appertaining to the head alone, and is a proof of the abnormal vagaries of language, as at the time of its introduction into our vernacular the ladies of Milan neither wore caps nor bonnets.

We procured an introduction to the engraver of some of the rejected essays for the Italian government, who politely favoured us with some of his productions; and on his wishing to see some specimens of the stamps of different countries, as a 'wrinkle' for future guidance, he unhesitatingly awarded the palm of merit to the faultless one-cent of Nova Scotia. When will England, whose colonial children with scarcely an exception publish such well-designed and attractive postal emissions, delight the timbrophilist with a production worthy her wealth, power, and fame?

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue complet des Timbres-Poste, avec les prix auxquels on peut se les procurer chez. Paris: A. MAURY.

THIS is the most elegant and attractive-looking priced catalogue of postage stamps we have ever seen. It is clearly and carefully

printed on rose-tinted paper, interleaved in blank for the purpose of annotations. The cover, of a pale buff hue, is tastefully ornamented with ten engravings of choice stamps in vermilion and black alternately.

Like the Swiss catalogue which we duly chronicled last month, the present volume recapitulates every known stamp, and the price at which it may be procurable from the publisher. For once the tenpenny Van Diemen's Land is judiciously withdrawn unpriced. The author wisely inserts a 'nota' to the effect that 'it may be readily comprehended he does not possess the *totality* of the quoted specimens; and that those who apply to him for individuals, especially the rarer sorts, would do well to mention what others they would like in place of those wanting for the completion of the order.' This is a very necessary announcement, but it is by no means impossible that the collector really wants those he asks for and no others. What is to be done in that case? We lately sent for a few advertised old emissions of Spain from the emanator of one of these priced catalogues. Out of ten or a dozen desiderata we received one only, and that was charged us exactly double the catalogued price! We can neither style this mode of doing business otherwise than untradesmanlike and dishonourable, to use no stronger terms.

Der Deutsche Briefmarken-Sammler. Organ des Briefmarken-Verkehrs. Hamburg: Gebr. Spiro.

THIS addition to the existing number of German postage-stamp magazines is a further proof of the non-decadence of timbrophily.

The magazine here under notice is a bonâ fide postage-stamp journal, the greater part of it not being filled up with advertisements, as is the case with many others. It is also published gratis, which will tend in no small degree, in these hard times, to its extension of circulation. We do not comprehend how this liberality will conduce to the profit of the enterprising publishers, but suppose they know their own business best. The work is replete with much interesting information, and will prove a valuable appendage to the timbrophilist's library.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE RECHERCHE COLLECTION OF A PRIVATE GENTLEMAN, in London, lately sold for the large sum of £300.

334,054,610 ADHESIVE STAMPS, 26,644,300 stamped envelopes, and 1,574,500 newspaper wrappers were issued from the United States Post-office during the past fiscal year.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CHEAP POSTAGE, correspondence between the provinces and the capital has so largely increased that at the present time 264 post towns in the United Kingdom send a day mail to London, 73 towns send three day mails to London, 15 towns send four day mails, and 6 send five day mails.

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily Telegraph* informs stamp collectors of the advent of a new Mexican issue in the following complimentary terms:—'If the rage for collecting postage stamps still continues among you, it may interest the persons afflicted with that wild insanity to know that letters have been received in Paris bearing the first Imperial Mexican stamp.'

MR. WILLIAM HUMPHRYS, line engraver, died on January 21st, at Genoa, aged 71. He was much employed on vignettes for the ornamentation of bank notes and other paper securities, and the well-known portraits of Queen Victoria on our postage stamps are all produced by mechanical multiplication from the steel plate originally engraved by Humphrys.

THE MAIL FROM SHERMAN'S ARMY, by the *Arago*, reached the New York post-office at half-past six o'clock on Friday night, and the last of more than 200,000 letters was despatched by the Erie line at a quarter past four the next afternoon. The stamps not having been cancelled, this labour was necessarily performed in the New York post-office, and employed fifteen men throughout the night and up to noon on Saturday. Twenty men were required to sort the letters. This is the largest mail that the New York post-office ever received.

WE GIVE THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT from the *Illustrated London News* of October 16th, 1858, as an evidence of the ignorance which prevailed concerning postage stamps before collecting came in vogue. 'Postage stamps have been introduced into Spain. They are square, and the colours are pink, green, and brown. Within a circular border is the representation of Queen Isabella. The values of the Spanish stamps are 1½d., 2½d., and 5d.' This remarkable and accurate information forms part of the 'Epitome of news'!

A POSTMAN IN DIFFICULTIES.—A letter from Cochin China mentions that the arrival of letters at Barriah from Saigon was recently delayed by a singular incident. The native who acts as courier being some time over-due, the commander of the place sent a detachment to see what had become of him, when, after an hour's march, the troops found the unfortunate Indian perched at the top of a high bamboo, while two enormous tigers were at the foot rolling over the letter-box. The courier was released from his uncomfortable position and enabled to continue his journey.

A YANKEE STAMP ANNOUNCEMENT.—A blockade stamp of the 'Southern Confederacy,' that vain, hollow, and tottering fabric which is now in its last agonies, is the latest novelty on this side. A large rectangle with chequered border, inscribed 'BLOCKADE POSTAGE TO EUROPE, ONE DOLLAR,' which we must give the aforesaid confederacy the justice to say is dirt cheap. What! four cents United States money for conveying half an ounce of the burning ebullitions of the Southern Chivalry to their cold-hearted friends in Europe, with all the risks

and dangers attendant on an excursion through a fleet of Yankee cruisers! why it's cheap, that's what it is, wonderfully cheap.—*Stamp-Collector's Record, Albany, N.Y.*

AN AMUSING STORY is told respecting the Berlin General Post-Office. A letter recently arrived there from England, bearing the high address, 'William I., King of Prussia.' The sorter whose hands it passed through could not make out the import of the address, and read the King's Christian name as 'Wilhelmi.' The letter was sent to a person bearing this name, and for some days was kept in circulation, returning at last to the post-office with numerous superscriptions, such as 'Party here unknown,' 'Nobody of this name to be found,' &c. At last an official deciphered the address, and, covered as it was with all its uncomplimentary remarks, it was sent to the King's palace, whence the Postmaster-General received a severe reprimand for the negligence of his subordinates, and a strict warning to take measures for the avoidance of similar *contretemps* in future.

THREEPENNY BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS.—In the House of Commons, on the 17th ult., Mr. D. Griffiths rose to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he saw any objection to allow the postage stamp and rate of threepence, which was now in use for certain foreign and colonial postages, to be made applicable to the internal postage of the country. The hon. gentleman said that he was in hopes that this question had already been settled as he desired, because in the course of experiments which he had recently made he had sent through the post two letters weighing an ounce and a quarter each, bearing a threepenny stamp, and they had been delivered without any overcharge. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that, without entering into any details, he might inform the hon. gentleman that the Post-office and the Treasury had under their consideration the expediency of introducing some modification in the present arrangement of the scales of postage, which would, he thought, confer great accommodation on the public, and would include the change the hon. gentleman desired to see effected.—*Times.*

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—To-day it matters little upon what theme the journalist may choose to descant; it matters little what news may have been flashed throughout the night along the telegraphic wires; not a glance will the younger members of the family vouchsafe to bestow upon the poor, forlorn, discarded newspaper until they have read over and over again the sentimental verses 'in the flowing and watery vein of Osorius, the Portugal bishop,' that have been brought them by the morning's post. Yes; the young lady will come down to breakfast a little later than usual, and will look most consciously unconscious; whilst below, in the kitchen regions, there will be much subdued tittering and giggling—not confined to the females of the house, but largely shared by the more athletic partners of their labours. Into many a poor grimy house this one little ray—poor and feeble as it is—of poetry will fall; and, in fact, the very walk of the postman to-day might well be made the subject for a poem. The trains will be late, to begin with, we may be sure, for the snow is heavy upon almost all the lines, and even where it has melted away the waters are unloosed and the meadow-lands are flooded. Given this delay of the trains, and you get the element of anxious waiting in every outlying household—the fear that John has forgotten to write, the doubt whether Ellen really meant what she looked at the last ball. At length, trudging sturdily along, and kicking the snow before him, comes the red-faced postman up the long avenue—and the pretty little suspense, the delicate little palpitations of the poor little fluttering hearts are over.—*Daily Telegraph*, February 14th, 1865.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HERALDRY OF MOENS' ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I waited some time, hoping some one would answer 'X. Y.' about the arms of the different countries, as I wished also to gain information. I have Moens' album, but it does not give the arms of Moldavia or Wallachia. India, of course, bears the arms of England, as does Ceylon; but, like the colonial dependencies, no place has been left for arms. The wreaths of the Cape have puzzled me; can they be *or?* and yet the straps across appear to be *argent:* one of my suppositions must be wrong. The arms of North Germany are so complicated, and have so many quarterings, that I fear my small knowledge of heraldry will not be equal to the task of describing them. Those of South Germany are, *Azure*, lion rampant *argent*, debruised *gules*, holding in dexter hand a sword *gules*, point *argent*. The three-armed cross of Sweden is given as *or*. The Wurtemburg shield is divided in two. Shield *or*, three lions *passant* in pale *sable*, and the other half *or*, three roots with fibres, *sable*, arranged like the lions. I have no particular space for Mecklenburg-Strelitz, so that I am unable to tell the order of marshalling. Hanover bears the arms of England and also a centre shield, the chief quartering of which is *gules*, a horse courant, *azure*. After all, I fear I have given but little assistance to 'X. Y.,' and cannot explain what colour the Oldenburg shield should be, as in my album it is represented *or*, a lion rampant *argent*, which is quite wrong. Is there no book describing the blazonry of the different countries? it would assist amateurs, and I for one should be very glad to procure it, as I wish to blazon my album, but fear to go wrong. If I lived near the British Museum, I would certainly try there.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

Bath. NORA.

OLD ENGLISH POSTMARKS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

Sir,—I venture to intrude upon your space, although I neither want stamps from Japan, or have any duplicates to exchange. But as there are certain lines of inquiry, which naturally crop out laterally from every main course of investigation, and sometimes lead to practical good, I beg to submit to you the enclosed two specimens of *legible* stamping, cut from the exterior of 'notes' in the year 1845, when the postmasters were probably furnished with better machinery for stamping, better stamps, decidedly better ink, and were not worried to the extent I understand they are now by regulations framed in accordance with the system of getting the Chancellor's surplus for the year out of the post-office.

I scarcely need remark upon the legal value of having *now* such clear, carefully-stamped witnesses of the delivery of a letter on the day it is due; for even those officials of the G. P. O. who have to discover where detention has been, when an important letter is delayed, are themselves at fault with the present careless, illegible stamping. Only last week, one of these duly-commissioned officers called on me twice to ascertain how a letter had been delayed in delivery, and the proof resting on the impress of the stamp, he was as fairly puzzled as myself to make out the dates.

It is really, to me, quite refreshing to get hold of a carefully-stamped letter of 1844 or 5, and as I think such records of the best days of our British postal delivery are as well worth keeping as copies of our early stamps, I in-

variably preserve them, my collection now amounting to some thousands.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

London. F. A. S. L.

[We can endorse the statement and deductions of our correspondent. The brilliant colour of the scarlet ink after twenty years, the sharpness of the letters and figures, and perfect distinctness of the postmarks generally, are, as the Scotch say, 'a sight for sair een.'—ED]

NEW BOLIVIAN AND FORGED LA GUAIRA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I was lately favoured with the sight of a set of stamps, said to be a new issue for Bolivia. I cannot vouch for their genuineness, but beg to give the following description of them, which may elicit further information.

The stamps—five in number—are rectangular, black impressions on green, pink, drab, bluish-white, and deep blue paper, and have not any value indicated. In the centre of each stamp is a shield, bearing a representation of a llama standing on a plain in front of a mountain, to the right and near the foot of which are an upright sheaf of corn and a tree. The sun is setting behind an opposite mountain, and shooting out rays over the sky. Above the shield is the cap of Liberty, which partially hides a scroll, inscribed REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. The shield is surrounded with branches, that cross each other at the bottom and have a scroll in front of them, inscribed CORREOS. This design is on a ground of fine perpendicular lines, close together, and is enclosed in a rectangular frame, beneath which are the initials M. R. F.

I have now in my possession some ½ rl. La Guaira stamps that I believe to be forged, as though very much like those that I know to be genuine, there are still so many minor points of difference as to preclude the possibility of their being impressions of the same block,—and there is no reason to suppose that two different blocks have been used for these stamps. The doubtful specimens bear the same postmark as some of the genuine, viz., '*Correos Caraeas*,' in a circular band; but such a mark could be very easily imitated, and therefore its presence on them is little proof that they are other than excellent imitations. The following points of difference are observable between the genuine stamps and these apocryphal specimens, which for the sake of distinction I will call forged:

In the forged the corner figures are larger than the genuine. The engine-turned background bearing the words of value is clearer in the forged than in the genuine, and the lines of which it is formed are of uniform width from each other, but in the genuine the lines widen into a rough circle round the words MEDIO REAL. The Q in PAQUETE of the genuine has a long, curved tail, the forged Q has hardly any at all; and the O in CABELLO, which is circular in the genuine, is a square block in the forged. The waves are clearly defined in the genuine, but very obscure in the forged. Clouds are visible behind the mizen mast of the vessel in the genuine, in the forged there are none. The flag floating from the mizen mast and the boat which hangs from the davits beneath it, which are distinct in the genuine, are scarcely visible in the forged. In the genuine a rope fastened to the foremast runs down to the left of the sail attached to the bowsprit, and touches the hull quite the tenth of an inch from it, but in the forgery there is hardly any space between the rope at its lower end and the sail. The inside line of the left-hand side border in the genuine runs down to the scroll containing the word PAQUETE, but in the forgery it terminates at the top of the curved ornament which surmounts the scroll. The paper on which the forgery is printed is thinner and less glossy than the genuine, and the ink of a lighter tint, giving the stamp a faded appearance.

In conclusion, allow me to say that these distinctions were not observed between only one each of the forged and genuine, but between several of each kind.

Yours respectfully,

OVERY TAYLOR.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have been informed that the Bolivian designs above described are essays.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. L. R.—The 2 anna pink of India is extant on white paper only. It may have been printed on blue tint, but we have never met with such.—The translator of Moens' album into English was most probably a Frenchman, who found 'jagged' as the equivalent for 'dentelé' in his dictionary, which is the French term employed to denote what we call *perforated*.

G. H. M., Harrow Park.—We describe the stamp you transmitted in quest of further information, but believe ourselves it is a Yankee 'spec' on credulity, purporting to be a specimen of the reported Egyptian issue. It is transverse oblong, printed green on yellow. In the centre is an oval containing a view of the pyramids. At each angle a pyramid or triangle enclosing the figure 3. In circles on the right and left are a crescent and three dots; PORTEIO above and 3 ASPERS below, in Roman characters. If a forgery, the ignorance and impudence of the concoctor seem on a par.

H. N., Gresham Street.—Your stamp, cut from an old newspaper, is one of those employed to denote the receipt of the tax on knowledge levied at the time of its issue, and now happily abolished.

L. H. B., East Hampton, Massachusetts.—The 1 centesimo of Italy, 2 centimes French, and other stamps of low value, though designed normally for *feuilletons*, may be used for letter postage.—The words 'Branch Depôt' are self-significant.

E. S., Chiselhurst.—Your three stamps are specimens of the bill or receipt stamps of Geneva, Zurich, and Prussia.—We believe Mount Brown contemplates a sixth edition immediately on the exhaustion of the present supply.

J. W. F., Cardiff.—You will find the provisional Italian 20 centesimi fully described in the present number. It was duly chronicled in our number for January last.

Y. Z., Otterbourne.—A letter is waiting for Y. Z. at Post-office, Otterbourne, as the subject is too long for the magazine.

AUGUSTUS, Shoreham.—Both your 1-lepton Greeks are genuine, notwithstanding the slight variation in colour.

J. J. B., Islington.—We have not seen the 12 c., 20 c., 24 c., or 40 c. United States envelopes except on yellow paper.—The 1 c. is found impressed both on white and yellow, but it is generally supposed that the former are made from the separation of the blue from the red in the 4 c. envelope.—We believe your large blue stamp is a Russian commercial.—The others are genuine.—Few, if any, catalogues are without deficiences and redundancies.

EGROEG.—The diminutive word SCHILLING on the old Prussian envelopes is most probably the designer's name. The minute number added does not seem the same on a like colour, and can therefore have nothing to do with the value.

E. C.—Thanks for your information, which is noticed in our article on new stamps.

POST-STEMPEL, Reading.—There being twelve schw. in a silbergroschen, four are of course equivalent to one-third of that coin in the currency of Oldenburg.

W. H. S., Leamington.—Your queer-looking French stamp is a cheque, value one penny, given as receipt for the hire of a *fauteuil*, or arm-chair, in the gardens of the Tuilleries, at Paris.

J. B. T., Boston.—We have seen the stamp you describe, 'Oblong, pink on white, steamship, CIE. FRANCO-AMERICAINE, GAUTHIER FRERES & CIE.' but cannot vouch for its authenticity. We should like to know how it is that so many hitherto unheard-of American locals start into light, if it be the case, as we are assured by trustworthy correspondents, that stamps of that nature have been abolished by government.

ESSAYIST, Leicester.—The stamp you write about is one of a very rare series, although well known to collectors. It is, as you state, similar to, if not identical with, the earliest English penny, and is always *imperfect* on one of the upper corners, but not necessarily torn.

L. B., Carnarvon.—Our authority for stating that the Luxembourg stamps did not have the effect of prepayment for this country was an official in the Luxembourg post-office. This was a year and a half since, and the regulations of the postal authorities may be now varied.—Messrs. Smith & Elder's envelopes are most frequently sent to India, owing to the immense trade those gentlemen do with the East Indies, but are quite as good for prepayment to any other part of the British Empire. It was a sad error of the original compiler of Lallier's album to class them as Indian stamps. In point of fact, they are perfectly useless in India.

NOVICE, Bury St. Edmund's.—Your Natal is worthless, being merely a specimen stained by sea water or otherwise.

CLAUDE.—We have written to Paraguay respecting the stamps mentioned in the defunct *Universal Stamp Magazine*, and expect shortly to receive them, if really existent.

CLARA, Canterbury.—We cannot get our last year's magazines from the binder, and consequently cannot refer to them, but our impression is that in one number was mentioned the *on dit* of an expected issue of Russian stamps for foreign correspondence exclusively. This did not take place, but immediately afterwards the beautiful trio you allude to made its *debut*. The low values of these entirely preclude the idea of their being ever intended for extraneous purposes, and it was simply the utterance of one set and the report of another that gave rise to the confusion of idea respecting them.

J. H. B., East Hampton, Mass.—We overlooked your second query. The registered stamp of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, was, as its name implies, designed exclusively for the payment of the registration of letters.

INQUIRER, Winchester.—We have frequently lamented our inability to penetrate the mysteries of the Monte Video and neighbouring currency. We have a letter awaiting us somewhere from a banker at Corrientes, which may perhaps, when we receive it, enlighten us, and eventually our readers. In the mean time, we can but repeat our statement, made last month, that the .06, .08, 10, and 12 centesimos now current are identical in value with the 60, 80, 100, 120 c. superseded. Taking the former as valued in hundredths of the Brazilian peso or dollar, value about 4s. 3d. or upwards, and the latter in hundredths of the peso or real current in some of the Spanish colonies, at about 5d., the stamps will be found of equivalent worth.

O. SMITH, Bristol.—Your red Austrian Mercury has every appearance of being genuine, but we cannot vouch for it.

NOBODY, Dublin.—The stamps of La Guaira will be found to be fully described in the back numbers of our magazine, to which, as we remarked above, we cannot refer; and we have been disappointed at the non-arrival of some sets we expected by the last mail. They are eight in number, we believe, values 1, 2, 3, and 4 centavos, and two each of ½ real and 2 reales.—The Venezuela real is worth sixpence, English money, more or less, and varying in St. Thomas and Puerto Cabello, necessitated a stamp of really different though nominally the same value; one for the transmission of letters to, and the other from the West Indies to Venezuela.—The Pacific Stage and Express sixpenny stamp we cannot pronounce an opinion upon.

M. E., Liverpool.—Mr. Pemberton is now perfectly convinced of the genuine nature of what is called the double Geneva stamp, which he totally ignored in his work on forged stamps. You were too hasty in parting with your specimens, which, if genuine, are now very valuable.—We have again alluded in the present number to the inconvenient, if not dishonest, practice of pricing stamps not in the vendor's possession.—The party to whom you allude as a defaulter, residing in the same town as yourself, could easily be persuaded, we should imagine, to refund the balance due. You had better apply personally or by a friend.—You will observe in our February number the Geneva stamp with the legend FIAT TENEBRAS LUX, denounced by 'Fentonia' as a palpable forgery.

J. W. SIMPSON DAVIS.—The fifteen or sixteen rarest postage stamps, properly so termed, may be selected from among the following:—the V.R English, the vermilion-coloured French republic, the yellow of Peru, the 1 kreuzer black and red Mercury newspaper stamps of Austria, the 2 cuartos and 1 real (1854) Spanish arms, the 3 cuartos of Madrid, both the blue provisionals of Naples, the oldest blue of Monte Video, the earliest two issues of British Guiana—especially the transversal oblongs, the four-penny rose and the penny blue provisional of the Cape of Good Hope, the ninepenny and shilling of Natal, and the mysterious claimants of Dutch Guiana.

K. D.—The lilac St. Lucia is now worth sixpence we are told.—The values of the new impressions both of Norway and Denmark are identical with those of the previous issue.—All the stamps of Baden are at present on a uniform white ground.—The covers for Vol. II. of the magazine are now ready.

J. STOURTON, Kensington.—You will see the new issues you mention noticed in our article on New stamps.—The colours of *our* 2 cuartos and 2 reales of Spain are with difficulty distinguishable from each other; the latter is certainly not purple, having simply rather more of a violet tinge than the former.—The large-headed Monte Videans are gross forgeries.—In addition to the colours you mention for the stamps of St. Lucia, yellow, orange, and black, there is a lilac or violet.

CANADA.—Thanks for your information which you will find duly noted.

E. COLLIER.—Accept a similar reply.

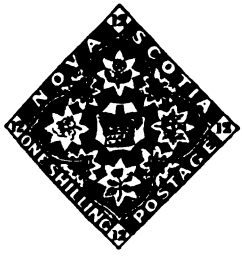
EMMA H., Eastbourne.—The stamp you possess and describe is a receipt stamp, respecting which we have often had queries to answer. It emanates from one of the Spanish colonies, which accounts for the impression of the Queen of Spain's head, but the value being in centesimos or centavos renders it difficult to decide on the exact locality.

C. RAWSON.—The address of Mons. Mahè is Rue des Canettes, No. 18, Paris, the subscription for his magazine prepaid to England is 4 francs per annum.—The last year's volume of our magazine, handsomely bound, is now ready. Post free, price 6s. 6d.

NOTES ON OUR NORTH AMERICAN COLONIAL STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

'By the kind permission' of the government of the Federal States of America, our Queen still rules over Canada and the adjacent provinces. The armies of Lee and Sherman have not yet united for the purpose of annexing the British possessions. That they will do so is rather improbable, but in view of the possibility of an attack from their warlike neighbours, her Majesty's North American colonies contemplate forming themselves into a grand defensive confederation. It is proposed that the civil administration of all the states shall be conducted, as in the U. S., in one central place, and be under the control of the general congress of representatives. The post-office is amongst the departments which will thus be centralised. Its direction must then pass into the hands of one person, and most probably there will, in that case, be but one postal rate throughout the British confederate states, and but one set of stamps. In view of this change, which will place our present North American colonials on the 'retired list,' a brief notice of them may not be unacceptable, though we cannot hope to bring much fresh light to bear upon them.



Pre-eminent in beauty are the current Nova Scotian stamps, and well deserving the first notice. They are the work of the American Bank Note Company, whose head quarters are at New York; and in their delicacy of engraving, symmetry of design, and general contour, they remain peerless throughout the world. The portrait of her Majesty, though scarcely a faithful one, is admirable as a work of art, and infinitely superior to the insipid likenesses which appear on many other colonial stamps. The lettering shares in the general excellence, and the colours are brilliant and suitable. We might almost imagine that in the production of these stamps, the designers exhausted their inventive genius; for certain it is, whatever the cause may be, the United States labels, which emanate from the same company, cannot compare with them in point of beauty. The present series of Nova Scotian commenced its existence in 1860, but at that time numbered only five stamps, the sixth, value two cents, for soldiers' letters, having been added in 1863. Proofs of all, except the latter, have been struck off in several colours, and some have the word specimen printed on them in red ink. It is noticeable that proofs of most of the U. S. adhesive stamps (which, as before mentioned, are, like the Nova Scotian, the productions of the Bank Note Company) have also been circulated amongst collectors. The fact of the plates from which the stamps are engraved remaining in the possession of the engravers, accounts for this multiplication of proofs.

The old issue for Nova Scotia consisted of only four stamps, the penny (was this like the 2 cent for soldiers' letters?), fourpenny, sixpenny, and shilling, of which the two latter are now rare. The penny label has a device to itself—queen's head in diamond, within a large square frame. It is usually found printed on blue paper, but we have now before us a postmarked specimen on white. The other three stamps are almost identical with the obsolete New Brunswick in design, and like them diamond-shaped. In the New Brunswick, however, the lower disc is occupied by a rose, with stem pointing downwards; in the Nova Scotian, this disk contains the representation of some other flower, pointing upwards, but which we are not botanists enough to recognize. The sixpenny stamp of each colony differs from its congeners in having a line traced down the centre of every letter in the words SIXPENCE POSTAGE. The device of these old issues is uniquely quaint, as the reader will perceive on reference to the engraving of the Nova Scotian shilling stamp, which heads this article, and is a good specimen of the type.

The current New Brunswick exhibit a pleasing diversity of design and excellence of engraving. Nothing could more appropriately form the centre of a stamp device than the drawing of a railway train on the

1 c., and of a steam packet on the 12½ c.; representing as they do the means by which postal communication is accomplished. Young collectors may also gain from the former an idea of the shape of transatlantic locomotives, which differ considerably in their external structure from those which convey juvenile timbrophilists home from school at Christmas. The 5 c. and 10 c. give common-place portraits of the queen, and the 17 c. is occupied with the bust of a lad in Highland costume, whom we have much difficulty in recognising as the Prince of Wales. All the stamps of this issue were emitted on the 24th May, 1860, except the 2 c., which came out in 1863, but last year the colour of the 1 c., previously brown, was changed to mauve. Proofs of the 2 c. exist in mauve, and of the 5 c. and 12½ c. in black, but the last mentioned is not catalogued in Mount Brown.

From New Brunswick comes one of the greatest rarities—the Connell stamp. The story of this interesting stamp, though it has been published before, is worthy of a brief recapitulation. 'In or about' (as lawyers say) the year 1862,* the supply of 5 c. stamps was exhausted, and Mr. Connell, the then postmaster of the colony, caused his own portrait to be engraved on a new die, intended for the production of a fresh stock. Several proofs had been taken from it, when the matter came to the knowledge of the Governor-general, who at once caused the die and proofs to be destroyed, and dismissed the offending postmaster. A few of the proofs were saved as curiosities by officials present when the plate was destroyed, and they have all fetched very high prices. A friend of ours possesses one which has 'specimen' printed on it, but this is the only one we have seen so impressed. Lately several Connell stamps have been imported from America, with every mark of genuineness, whether the real article or exceedingly good copies, we know not.

* In Moens' *Illustrations*, the date of issue of 5 c. New Brunswick, of a lighter green, is given as 1862, and we infer that it was after the exhaustion of the supply manufactured in 1860, and before the new issue was emitted, that the event above narrated occurred. [We saw several of these stamps in Parisian collections in 1861, and they were even then very *recherché*, and must have appeared earlier. We think the colour militates against their being proofs, which are usually black.—Ed.]

It has been stated, but is extremely improbable, that the Connell was used on letters. It is evidently a proof, and if approved of would doubtless have been issued in the colour of the orthodox 5 c.

The Newfoundland stamps present few noteworthy features. The penny and fivepenny, resemble the New Brunswick in their design, but though bearing the same heraldic flowers, the stamps are square, and there being no room for the word POSTAGE in the lower part of the border, it is promoted to a small label above. That word is found in all parts of the other individuals of the series, and its varying position constitutes one of the chief differences between them. Of the threepenny stamp, the sole representative of



the triangular shape in the New World, we give an engraving. The other stamps bear the rose, shamrock, and thistle, in a bouquet, in a centre or oval of different size in the centre. The spandrils are also of various patterns. It is to be regretted that the colour of the twopenny, fourpenny, sixpenny, &c., has been changed from scarlet to lake, as the former presented a far more pleasing appearance.

The colours of the Prince Edward Island stamps are good, but the design is very simple, and the head of queen a rough likeness, reminding us of the 'native' Mauritius. The currency differs from that of this country, the value of the island shilling, being only eightpence English.

British Columbia and Vancouver's Island



possess as yet only one stamp, of which an engraving is appended. It was issued in 1861, and doubtless many a postmarked specimen is treasured by mothers and wives, who are not stamp collectors, upon letters from adventurous sons or husbands,

who are seeking their fortunes amongst the creeks and gullies of the latest El Dorado.

The stamps of the most extensive and important of our British American colonies—Canada—come, in conclusion, under our notice. In them the young historian and the embryo naturalist may each find something to interest them. The former will perhaps be surprised to see upon the British postage stamp the features of the sturdy pilot of the first French colonists, Jacques Cartier. The latter will be pleased with the accurate portrayal of that curious animal, the beaver, which is represented in the act of damming a stream. Lower Canada is still peopled by the descendants of the Gallic colonists, and we need not wonder that the portrait of one of their most honoured ancestors should figure on the tenpenny and 17 c. Canadian postage stamps. These two stamps are identical in design, except in the absence in the latter of the beaver and vine leaves, which fill up the sides of the oval in the tenpenny. The beaver is typical of the trade in skins, which has long been a Canadian staple. The spandrils of the obsolete threepenny, on which it appears, are occupied with some ornamentation, and the figure of value is upright; in the 5 c. the spandrils are plain, and the numerals are in a slanting position. On the sixpenny and 10 c. stamps are the only authorized stamp portraits of the late Prince Albert, who looks better on them than on the so-called essays. The twelvepenny Canada, now recognised as a stamp, much resembles the sixpenny, but the inscribed frame is thicker, and bears a crown on each side, and the spandrils are ornamented. The old issue appeared in 1856, according to Mount Brown (in 1857, according to Moens), and was superseded by the present issue in 1860, to which issue the 2 cent has been recently added.

Canada is the only one of the North American colonies which uses envelopes. These, within the last few months, have been very closely imitated on buff paper, but certain differences between them and their genuine originals have been already pointed out. No official issue has been made on paper of that colour. It is very possible that, in the event of the proposed confederation becoming a *fait accompli*, there will be an envelope issue to do duty throughout all the states of which it may consist, as well as an issue of adhesive, with the same range of currency. We trust, that if such issues take place, both the envelopes and the adhesives will be worthy of the new country whose name they will bear, and that they may be so, we cannot wish a better model for the former than the Cingalese, and for the latter than the peerless Nova Scotian.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE ON THE UNITED STATES' POST-OFFICE.

Any Englishman or Frenchman residing in the American States cannot fail to be struck with the inferiority of the post-office arrangements in that country to those by which they are accommodated in their own country. I have not been a resident in the States, and as a traveller might probably have passed the subject without special remark, were it not that the service of the post-office has been my own profession for many years. I could therefore hardly fail to observe things which to another man would have been of no material moment.

It is, I think, undoubtedly true that the amount of accommodation given by the post-office of the States is small, as compared with that afforded in some other countries, and that that accommodation is lessened by delays and uncertainty. The point which first struck me was the inconvenient hours at which mails were brought in and despatched. Here, in England, it is the object of our post-office to carry the bulk of our letters at night; to deliver them as early as possible in the morning, and to collect them and take them away for despatch as late as may be in the day;—so that the merchant may receive his letters before the beginning of his day's business, and despatch them after its close. The bulk of our letters is handled in this manner, and the advantage of such an arrangement is manifest. But it seemed that in the States no such practice prevailed. Letters arrived at any hour of the day miscellaneously, and were despatched at any hour, and I found that the postmaster at one town could never tell me with cer-

tainty when letters would arrive at another. If the towns were distant, I would be told that the conveyance might take about two or three days; if they were near, that my letter would get to hand, 'some time to-morrow.' I ascertained, moreover, by painful experience that the whole of a mail would not always go forward by the first despatch. As regarded myself this had reference chiefly to English letters and newspapers.—'Only a part of the mail has come,' the clerk would tell me. With us the owners of that part which did not 'come,' would consider themselves greatly aggrieved and make loud complaint. But, in the States, complaints made against official departments are held to be of little moment.

Letters also in the States are subject to great delays by irregularities on railways. One train does not hit the town of its destination before another train, to which it is nominally fitted, has been started on its journey. The mail trains are not bound to wait; and thus, in the large cities, far distant from New York, great irregularity prevails. It is, I think, owing to this,—at any rate partly to this,—that the system of telegraphing has become so prevalent. It is natural that this should be so between towns which are in the due course of post perhaps forty-eight hours asunder; but the uncertainty of the post increases the habit, to the profit, of course, of the companies which own the wires,—but to the manifest loss of the post-office.

But the deficiency which struck me most forcibly in the American post-office, was the absence of any recognized official delivery of letters. The United States post-office does not assume to itself the duty of taking letters to the houses of those for whom they are intended, but holds itself as having completed the work for which the original postage has been paid, when it has brought them to the window of the post-office of the town to which they are addressed. It is true that in most large towns,—though by no means in all,—a separate arrangement is made by which a delivery is afforded to those who are willing to pay a further sum for that further service; but the recognized official mode of delivery is from the office window. The merchants and persons in trade have boxes at the windows, for which they pay. Other old-established inhabitants in towns, and persons in receipt of considerable correspondence, receive their letters by the subsidiary carriers and pay for them separately. But the poorer classes of the community, those persons among which it is of such paramount importance to increase the blessing of letter writing, obtain their letters from the post-office windows.

In each of these cases the practice acts to the prejudice of the department. In order to escape the tax on delivery, which varies from two cents to one cent a letter, all men in trade, and many who are not in trade, hold office boxes; consequently immense space is required. The space given at Chicago, both to the public without and to the officials within, for such delivery, is more than four times that required at Liverpool for the same purpose. But Liverpool is three times the size of Chicago. The corps of clerks required for the window delivery is very great, and the whole affair is cumbrous in the extreme. The letters at most offices are given out through little windows, to which the inquirer is obliged to stoop. There he finds himself opposite to a pane of glass with a little hole; and when the clerk within shakes his head at him, he rarely believes but what his letters are there if he could only reach them. But in the second case, the tax on the delivery, which is intended simply to pay the wages of the men who take them out, is paid with a bad grace; it robs the letter of its charm, and forces it to present itself in the guise of a burden. It makes that disagreeable which for its own sake the post-office should strive in every way to make agreeable. This practice, moreover, operates as a direct prevention to a class of correspondence, which furnishes in England a large proportion of the revenue of the post-office. Mercantile houses in our large cities send out thousands of trade circulars, paying postage on them; but such circulars would not be received, either in England or elsewhere, if a demand for postage were made on their delivery. Who does not receive these circulars in our own country by the dozen, consigning them generally to the waste-paper

basket, after a most cursory inspection? As regards the sender, the transaction seems to us often to be very vain; but the post-office gets its penny. So also would the American post-office get its three cents.

With us the chief mail trains are legally under the management of the Postmaster-General. He fixes the hours at which they shall start and arrive, being of course bound by certain stipulations as to pace. He can demand trains to run over any line at any hour, and can in this way secure the punctuality of mail transportation. Of course such interference on the part of a government official in the working of a railway is attended with a very heavy expense to the Government. Though the British post-office can demand the use of trains at any hour, and as regards those trains can make the despatch of mails paramount to all other matters, the British post-office cannot fix the price to be paid for such work. This is generally done by arbitration, and of course for such services the payment is very high. No such practice prevails in the States. The Government has no power of using the mail lines as they are used by our post-office, nor could the expense of such a practice be borne or nearly borne by the proceeds of letters in the States. Consequently the post-office is put on a par with ordinary customers, and such trains are used for mail matter as the directors of each line may see fit to use for other matter. Hence it occurs that no offence against the post-office is committed when the connexion between different mail trains is broken. The post-office takes the best it can get, paying as other customers pay, and grumbling as other customers grumble when the service rendered falls short of that which has been promised.

But perhaps the greatest difficulty with which the American post-office is burdened, is the 'free mail matter,' for carrying which the post-office claims to earn £140,000, and for the carriage of which it might as fairly claim to earn £1,350,000, or half the amount of its total expenditure; for I was informed by a gentleman whose knowledge on the subject could not be doubted, that the free mail matter so carried, equalled in bulk and weight all that other matter which was not carried free. To such an extent has the privilege of franking been carried in the States! All members of both Houses frank what they please,—for in effect the privilege is stretched to that extent. All Presidents of the Union, past and present, can frank, as, also, all Vice-Presidents, past and present; and there is a special act, enabling the widow of President Polk to frank. Why it is that widows of other Presidents do not agitate on the matter, I cannot understand. And all the Secretaries of State can frank; and ever so many other public officers. There is no limit in number to the letters so franked, and the nuisance has extended itself to so huge a size, that members of Congress in giving franks, cannot write the franks themselves. It is illegal for them to depute to others the privilege of signing their names for this purpose, but it is known at the post-office that it is done. But even this is not the worst of it. Members of the House of Representatives have the power of sending through the post all those huge books which, with them as with us, grow out of Parliamentary debates and workings of Committees. This, under certain stipulations, is the case also in England; but in England, luckily, no one values them. In America, however, it is not so. A voter considers himself to be noticed if he gets a book. He likes to have the book bound, and the bigger the book may be, the more the compliment is relished. Hence it comes to pass that an enormous quantity of useless matter is printed and bound, only that it may be sent down to constituents and make a show on the parlour shelves of constituents' wives. The post-office groans and becomes insolvent, and the country pays for the paper, the printing, and the binding. While the public expenses of the nation were very small, there was, perhaps, no reason why voters should not thus be indulged; but now the matter is different, and it would be well that the conveyance by post of these congressional libraries should be brought to an end. I was also assured that members very frequently obtain permission for the printing of a speech which has never been delivered,—and which never will be delivered,—in order that copies may be circulated among their constituents.

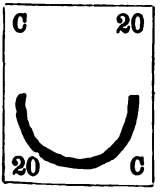
There is in such an arrangement an ingenuity which is peculiarly American in its nature. Everybody concerned is no doubt cheated by the system. The constituents are cheated; the public, which pays, is cheated; and the post-office is cheated. But the House is spared the hearing of the speech, and the result on the whole is perhaps beneficial.

But the country has, I think, become tired of this. The nation can no longer afford to be indifferent about its Government, and will require to know where its money goes, and why it goes. This franking privilege is already doomed, if not already dead. When I was in Washington a Bill was passed through the Lower House by which it would be abolished altogether. When I left America its fate in the Senate was still doubtful, and I was told by many that that Bill would not be allowed to become law without sundry alterations. But, nevertheless, I regard the franking privilege as doomed, and offer to the Washington post-office officials my best congratulations on their coming deliverance.

I was much struck by the great extravagance in small things manifested by the post-office through the States, and have reason to believe that the same remark would be equally true with regard to other public establishments. They use needless forms without end,—making millions of entries which no one is ever expected to regard. Their expenditure in stationery might, I think, be reduced by one half, and the labour might be saved which is now wasted in the abuse of that useless stationery. Their mail bags are made in a costly manner, and are often large beyond all proportion or necessity. I could greatly lengthen this list if I were addressing myself solely to post-office people; but as I am not doing so I will close these semi-official remarks, with an assurance to my colleagues in post-office work on the other side of the water that I greatly respect what they have done, and trust that before long they may have renewed opportunities for the prosecution of their good work.—*Trollope's North America.*

THE VICISSITUDES OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

THE 15-centesimi impression for Italy, now doing duty, by means of a stamped semi-circle and some letters and figures, as a 20 c., has had many adventures in its day. It was originally stamped of a pale sky-blue tint. The Italian government wished a darker shade, and gave Messrs. De la Rue instructions to that effect. In the course of events, an accident happening to the matrix, the engravers applied for further instructions; these were forwarded, to the effect that they must try and conceal the flaw in the plate, which was done by means of four small white points at the damaged part.



These four dots are found on both sides of the oval frame, above and below the small ornamentation separating the upper inscription from the monetary value.

Timbrophilists who collect every minute variation in postal impressions, may, therefore, include in their albums four distinctive varieties of a type whose short-lived but eventful existence will soon terminate:—

15 centesimi pale blue.
15 „ darker blue.
15 „ „ with four white dots.
15 „ transformed into 20 c.

THE WENDEN STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

[Our valued contributor takes a different view of the individuals forming the subject of his paper from that of Dr. Viner. Time will show which is correct. Our object of instructing, as well as amusing, can best be accomplished by eliciting the truth, for which end we ever court free discussion in our pages.—ED.]

THESE stamps have been frequently described in this magazine ever since January, 1864, and have been dubbed by name 'Livonian,' by *habitat* 'Lusatian;' both, in our opinion, as inconsistent as improbable. Mr. Pemberton, at page 6 of this year's magazine, also sanctions the name Livonian,—perhaps for want of a better, as in the *Stamp-Collector's Review* for April, 1864, he certainly regards them with very grave suspicion. It is remarkable

that (as far as we know) the only Wenden mentioned alphabetically in gazetteers, is a poor, insignificant town in the province of Riga or Liefland, the ancient Livonia. Hence, doubtless, the German magazine, quoted vol. ii., page 10, more hasty than wise, jumps to the conclusion that these stamps must emanate from thence. Passing over the improbability of such an unimportant inland town—always on the map spelt Venden—under the autocratic despotism of Russia, either requiring or being desirous of postage or parcel stamps (*briefmarke* or *packenmarke*), we think it impossible that the inscription would have been in German for a town situated so far in the north-west of Russia. We think the Halifax correspondent, vol. ii., page 144, though groping in the dark, nearer to the truth; but he also is, we believe, mistaken as to locality. True it is the Wends are the ancient owners of parts of Pomerania and Lusatia, but they are not identical with the Vandals; these latter being called Vindili, who were driven out of the country by the invasion of another northern race, the Venedi or Wends.

The Vandals, who probably gave the name of Vandalia to a former district of Saxony, being driven out of their possessions by the Wends, passed through Germany and Gaul and finally settled in Spain, calling their province Vandalusia, now Andalusia. We do not wish positively to contradict 'Nova Scotia,' but we are inclined to think the Wends are a scattered race, having no particular district or *kreis* assigned them, but occupying some sixty or eighty parishes in various parts of Saxony and Lusatia. The Wendish language is a dialect of the Polish, which the Saxon government has endeavoured by all means to suppress, and so successfully that the Wendish printed literature is now reduced to a vocabulary and a copy of the Lord's prayer. So much for what the Wenden stamps are not; now for what they are.

About the time when it was the fashion for barbaric hordes to migrate from the cold far north, and to take possession *vi et armis* of any pleasant lands which pleased their fancy, the Obotritæ, a powerful tribe of the Venedi, or Wends, settled in a promising part of the present grand-duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. They founded the independent principality of Wenden, became thoroughly Germanized, and were for many centuries governed by their own princes. The last prince of Wenden died in 1430, when the principality of Wenden was annexed, by right of succession through some former alliance between the reigning princes, to the grand-duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and now forms one of the six circles (*kreise*) into which that duchy is divided. The circle of Wenden contains about 140,000 inhabitants, of which 10,000 belong to the capital, Güstrow, one of the handsomest towns in the grand-duchy. The palace is an ancient and beautiful structure, and is said to be one of the finest princely residences of the middle ages; but, nothwithstanding its mediæval and regal associations, it is now appropriated as a sort of prison or house of correction. Güstrow boasts of an interesting cathedral, and is the seat of a law court with extensive jurisdiction. It has flourishing manufactories, foundries, and cloth mills, as well as some handsome private houses.

The arms of the principality (now circle) of Wenden form the second quartering on the Mecklenburg escutcheon. They are, '*azure, a griffin segreant or.*' The crest is, '*out of ducal coronet or, two wings expanded, the dexter azure, the sinister or.*' For the edification of those of our readers not 'well up' in heraldry, it may be well to explain that '*segreant*' is a term used exclusively to describe the griffin when standing upon its hind legs with the wings elevated.

The above remarks go far to prove that the Wenden stamps, whether real or fictitious, emanate from Mecklenburg; and we think we have said enough to prove a *prima facie* case of evidence in favour of our theory. We hope the misnomer, Livonia, will be consigned to deserved oblivion, with the equally sweet-sounding imposter, Hamonia, see vol. ii., page 48. The stamps themselves doubtless are, as stated at page 170, of vol. ii., genuine, though local. We only contend that they should be called by their right name. The fact that the arms are not represented in their true colours is no argument against the genuine character of the stamps, for do not

we impress our own family arms on our note paper in pink or mauve, colours never dreamt of by orthodox heralds? Mount Brown, having been 'done brown' once or twice, has prudently omitted these Wenden stamps in his last edition, though they were well known at the time he published it. We think he may safely admit them on the Mecklenburg page of his next publication.

THE NATIVE MAURITIUS STAMPS.

THE 'native' Mauritius are amongst the specialities of a stamp album. Contributing but little to the beauty of the page on which they are placed, they yet merit admission on account of their rarity and the peculiar circumstances attendant on their production.



As most amateurs know, the majority of our colonies order their stamps in England. De la Rue & Co., in particular, have manufactured many of the prettiest specimens on the possession of which collectors pride themselves. Still this fact robs the colonial stamps of much of the importance which they would gain, were they the productions of the colonies from which they emanate. Mauritius has, however, furnished us with genuine home-made stamps, for home use,—and rough articles they are. The specimen engraved is the clearest of the series; the others, with the exception of the individuals with the Greek border, are hardly more than outlines of stamps. Including varieties, Mount Brown gives thirteen as the number of the wood-block stamps, but Moens only eight. Mount Brown supposes that the difference in the positions of the words forming the inscription, the size of the lettering, and the nature of the groundwork in these stamps arises from the fact that 'as the old block became worn out a fresh one was cut.'

As the 'natives' were current from 1858 to 1861, it might have been expected that used specimens would have become plentiful. But stamp collectors, who have drawn forth rare old Brazilian, valuable Spanish, and scarce Austrian Mercuries from their hiding-places, have not been able to bring to light the old Mauritius. Nor have dealers, with an eye to reprints, succeeded in obtaining the blocks (if any) which are still in existence.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

AT the conclusion of our papers on the Moldo-Wallachian provinces, in the July number of last year's magazine, we ventured to anticipate the promulgation of a series of stamps bearing the head of the reigning sovereign. Our prognostics are now realised by the appearance of a type of similar character with the impressions employed by the rest of the civilized world. We cannot help repeating our protest against the emission of so many heads and arms. Why cannot the elegantly emblematical devices of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, or the Sydney views, be taken as guiding models? We must perforce console ourselves with the truth that the quaint-looking and barbaric Moldavian and Wallachian individuals are superseded, not annihilated, and that the pages of the albums containing them, will ever relieve the eye from wearying of the sameness of sheets full of busts and profiles.



The annexed engraving figures the 5 paras blue, the successor of the 6 paras of the same colour. Its presence renders a specific description unnecessary. Like the old sets, the values are three in number, but each rather lower than its predecessor. The 3 paras yellow, 6 p. blue, and 30 p. red, are replaced by a 2 p., 5 p., and 20 p., in the corresponding colours, printed on white paper. If Prince Couza the First is faithfully represented, he appears to possess the characteristics both of ability and amiability. If made at Munich the city of the fine arts, as reported, the execution, by no means coming up to the design, does little credit to the Bavarian engraver. The impression is faint, the lettering of the inscription irregular, and altogether, were we not bound to credit their genuine character from the source whence they reached us, we should have been inclined to place them among the something more than doubtful class.

A communication of one of our correspondents clinches the old proverb of nothing being new under the sun. A decade has passed away since the first proposal of a stamp for prepaying Railway parcels, and it is within a few months only that the idea seems to have taken permanent root. We should be inclined to believe that the actual stamp figured in the *Illustrated News* no longer exists, or it would doubtless have fallen under the notice of collectors long since. Perhaps some Lancashire, Yorkshire, or Lincolnshire inhabitant will favour us with information thereupon. In the centre of the stamp is a cross bearing various heraldic devices, which a large figure 3 disfigures. LB. at the side intimates the weight covered by the label. A scroll above shows MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, AND LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY; another below has PREPAID NEWSPAPER PARCEL.



The new stamp for Schleswig-Holstein here figured is congenerical in appearance with the last issue of Schleswig pink and green. The impression now, in lieu of Grand Duchy of Schleswig, has Schleswig-Holstein, and the value is ½ schilling. We understand this individual is destined for the use of the German part of the country north of the Elbe, and that another, bearing the value 1 silbergroschen according to the Prussian coinage, similar in colour, is, or will be, issued for the southern part.

The official decease of the existing series of Polish stamps is announced in that part of the magazine devoted to correspondence. By some inadvertence last month, we were made in our notice of the new sets of Turkish to repeat the erroneous belief of the employment of the uni-colored series for Constantinople alone. It has been ascertained that the individuals composing it, both in present and superseded use, were destined to be applied by the head offices to letters coming from those districts not hitherto reaching the dignity of possessing post-offices of their own.

The terrestrial globe must be turned half way round before we reach the South



American province, country, republic, kingdom, empire, or whatever else it may chance to be in this present year of grace, represented by the annexed engraving. The specimen from which we describe has passed the post and rather suffered from its long land and sea travels, so that we can scarcely do justice to its appearance in a virgin state. It is the peculiar nankin yellow of many of the South American impressions. The engraving renders minute description unnecessary. At present we know of but two values—un real yellow, medio real bright dark blue. The un real is also found printed in olive green, as is also the medio real, both being essays; it being unusual to impress the same value in two different colours.

We have received specimens of the new



2 centesimi for Italy, of which an engraving is given, though it is difficult for the artist to reproduce the effect of this elegant looking stamp. The type is similar to that of its companion the 1 c.: the colour is a peculiar red brown. We have also just had a specimen of a threepenny stamp of Tasmania, printed green on white. In the absence of information to the contrary, we should imagine it to belong to the series of bill or receipt stamps described some months since in our pages, the device of St. George and the dragon being similar. The perforating system is now adopted in Van Diemen's Land.

The Argentine cap of Liberty, the shield of the Granadine Confederation, the branches



of Peru, and a reminder of the landscapes of Nicaragua or Costa Rica, with half-a-dozen stars taking a bath at sunrise or sunset, compose the stamp closing our rather voluminous list of novelties this month, and purporting to represent the Republic of the brave Bolivia.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

LIVONIA.

THREE years ago, perhaps longer, a pair of transverse oblong stamps occasionally appeared among the specimens offered for sale in shop windows, one printed in green, the other in rose colour. On these no value was specified; but a simple intimation in German that the former was intended for packets, and the latter for letters. The town, province, or country issuing them purported to be a certain Wenden. Where and what Wenden might be, no one, vendors included, seemed to have the least idea. On application to gazetteers and cyclopedias, there appeared to be two places called Wenden, one a province or circle of Livonia in Russia, the other in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The inscription being in German seemed to preclude the idea of these impressions emanating from Russia, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin possessing a set of stamps of its own, it did not appear probable that an obscure district should possess the privilege of a private postage emission. These stamps, in consequence, were almost universally ignored by collectors, or, if admitted at all, exiled to the last page of their albums with the swindling impostures of Iceland, Mekka, Cochin China, and other 'vermin.' Notwithstanding further partial but still vague information, matters rested thus till the early part of the summer of 1862, when a still more curious individual entered an appearance in the shape of a stamp almost identical with the Russian series, with the exception of the oval central field which was untenanted by any device whatever. This anomalous affair professed to come as successor to the aforesaid pink oblong, now obsolete. *Ex nihilo nihil fit* was the motto of stamp collectors, and Wenden the First and Second not having been recognised, Wenden the Third fared no better.

When Galileo was obliged, in the presence of the Pope and solemn conclave of bigoted cardinals, on bended knees to denounce his own theory of the earth's revolution round the sun, he could not help muttering in a low voice on rising from the ground, '*E pur si muove*'—'nevertheless it *does* move.' *Si licet parva componere magnis*, the small circle of Wenden in like manner, sublimely indifferent to the exclusion of its postage stamps from the albums of Councillor This, the Reverend That, and Monsieur un Tel, continued to emit them, and last summer started Wenden the Fourth in all the glory of an accredited provincial recognition, with the heretofore unsightly virgin shield emblazoned with its own insignia.

Few, if any, stamps have fought so long and so patiently for the enjoyment of their due rights and privileges, which we hope will now be duly accorded by the timbrophilic world; and, in continuation of our articles on the less-known stamp countries, we append a slight sketch of the Russian province whose name heads the paper.

The pious but illogical divine who lauded the foresight of Providence for causing the finest rivers to flow near the largest towns, had he been a citizen of Riga the capital of Livonia, would have considered his countrymen peculiarly favoured by the irruption of the Baltic to their shores, enriching them with sufficient commerce to rank the place second to St. Petersburg alone in the enormous Russian empire.

Livonia's plains are full of corn, its forests abound in game, its lakes and rivers in fish, and cattle, both wild and tame, cover the land. The transformation of the hares from a drab colour in summer to snow-white in winter is singular. The province takes its name from the Liven or Lives, its ancient denizens. Though now belonging to Russia, the descendants of Swedes and Germans form the largest majority, particularly of the upper classes. The Livonians enjoy some peculiar privileges, especially that of exemption from the monopoly of spirits by the imperial government, in force in other parts of the empire. The lower classes are very industrious, particularly the Lettes in the south-west, who fashion every necessary for themselves, each man understanding all trades.

In one of Albert Smith's inimitable monologues, he related an anecdote of an individual whom he met in a steamer, who favoured him with a narrative 'the most tedious and uninteresting I ever heard, and now I am going

to repeat it to you!' The history of Livonia is somewhat in the same category, but the title of my present article necessitates my following so worthy-to-be-followed an example.

The middle of the twelfth century first introduced this country within the pale of European civilisation. Some merchants of Bremen, according to its English, but Lubeck following its French genealogists, penetrated thither for the sake of trade, and, as Hartknoch naively adds, could not help bringing Christianity with them. The first bishop, Menard, was consecrated by the Archbishop of Bremen. His immediate successor, Berthold, founded the city of Riga, which Albert I., the next bishop, fortified.

Some of the still pagan natives giving the episcopal government much trouble, the assistance of the Teutonic knights was called for, and the country eventually fell under their power for more than three hundred years, and in 1513 William of Plettenberg, the forty-first, the Livonian master, in consideration of a sum paid to his superior, Albert, Margrave of Brendenbourg, assumed the sovereignty of the country, and was created a Prince of the empire.

In consequence of some dispute between one of his successors, William of Furstenberg, and the Archbishop of Riga, variously related by historians, the assistance of Sigismund King of Poland was called in; this wise step eventuated in the usual way, realising the old fable of the lawyers and the oyster,—the Polish monarch taking possession of the principality himself! The received account is this, Ivan, Grand Duke of Muscovy, entered the province with a numerous army, became master of several towns, ravaged the country, and carried off the Grand Master prisoner of war. William Kettler, who was elected in his place, again appealing to Sigismund, the latter, as the price of his assistance, demanded and obtained the cession of the province.

For another century, this country, which if it hath not what the poet calls, 'the fatal gift of beauty,' possesses undoubtedly what, for a small and unprotected province, is the equally fatal one of fertility, was quarrelled over and alternately ransacked, protected, oppressed, and possessed by Sweden, Poland, and Russia. Once during this period it was raised to the dignity of a kingdom! The then Grand Duke of Muscovy created Magnus, Duke of Holstein, its king, privately intending to get it for himself on the first convenient opportunity. Charles IX. of Sweden, and Gustavus Adolphus both waged continual war with Poland for this bone of contention, till the peace of Oliva was proclaimed, the former power taking the northern and the latter the southern districts.

The present, and in all human probability the permanent, adjustment of the quarrel, ceding Livonia with Esthonia, &c., to Russia in perpetuity on the simple condition of the preservation of some of its ancient privileges, dates from the era of Peter the Great.

When Frederic Augustus engaged by his coronation oath to recover all provinces once possessed by Poland, Livonia was of course included in the list. Like the dog and the shadow he did not get what he wanted, and he lost what he had. If the monarch who

> 'Left a name at which the world grew pale,
> To point a moral, or adorn a tale,'

had won, not lost, the battle of Pultowa, the subject of our article might have been now an appanage of Sweden, but 'Fate or Fortune otherwise decreed;' and the Czar Peter obtained for himself and his successors, 'not for an age, but for all time,' the fertile province of Livonia.

The stamps which give rise to our subject, though usually, nay universally, called Livonian, really belong exclusively to one of its five circles called Wenden, and under that denomination ought to be interpolated into our catalogues. This small portion of the province was colonised in the beginning of the eighteenth century, by some of the Moravian brethren, a well-known sect of German protestants. The country then belonged to Sweden, and the new comers, by their industry, sobriety, and superior ability, soon became the most flourishing of the Livonian population. Among other useful institutions, they laid the foundation of a local postal system, the head-quarters of which was in Wenden, the chief town of the circle.

We have stated before that the occupation of the country by Russia, which the convention of Nystadt settled, did not debar the

inhabitants of Livonia from the exercise of most of their peculiar privileges, and among others the local postal institution was, and has ever since been respected. It seems there was at first some difficulty in obtaining permission to emblazon their arms on the second issue, but as the Romanists build their cathedrals and churches with a place for the addition of a tower or steeple when they get the requisite permission, so the Wendenites prepared the green blank, and in due time, the Finlanders being allowed their lion, *they* were accorded the presentiment of their griffin.

The stamps of Wenden amount at present to four in number; three of which are for letter, and the other for parcel postage. The monetary value of the latter is 4 kopek, and that of each of the former, half that sum. As far as we can ascertain they have never yet figured in any accredited catalogue, but when Mount Brown favours us with his next edition, he will no doubt include them, and this singular and interesting quartette take its due rank in the variegated pages of the albums of the timbrophilist.

TIMBRO-POSTAL STATISTICS.

THE following statistics have been compiled from the fifth edition of Mount Brown's catalogue, but all stamps issued since its publication have been included. The number of stamps now in existence, exclusive of private locals, is 1391.* Of these the largest proportion, as might be expected, has been issued in Europe, which possesses 841. From North and South America, 333 stamps have emanated; from Oceania, 103; whilst Asia is represented only by 59, and Africa by 55. The obsolete stamps have a majority of 231 over those which are current, the former numbering 811, and the latter 580. 394 stamps have been issued by various kingdoms, 164 by empires, 208 by republics, 214 by duchies and principalities, 40 by the free cities, and 18 by the Swiss cantons. Our own colonies have emitted 316 stamps, and various foreign colonies only 39. Impressions in coloured ink have found the most favour, there being 1162 stamps so impressed, whilst there are but 186 black impressions, only 36 stamps printed in two colours, and 7 (the old Natal and 1852 Sardinian) in relief on coloured paper. 645 stamps bear the arms of the countries in which they were or are current, or some emblematic device in their centre, and a rather smaller number, 593, are adorned with the effigies of monarchs or other notabilities; 146 have the numeral of value as their central design; 4 (namely, the three British Guiana newspaper labels and one of the old Livonian) have a blank space in the centre; the two transversely-oblong Livonians have only an inscription over the background; and the town of Brunswick envelope the five letters, ST. P. FR., within a circle. To conclude: there are 193 envelope, 23 newspaper, 8 unpaid letter, 9 official, 3 'registered,' and 1 each returned letter and 'too late' stamps.

* Only one colour for each stamp of each issue has been enumerated. Had all the various and often accidental shades been included, the number of existing stamps would have been increased to 'upwards of 2400,' as stated on the title page to Mount Brown's catalogue, fifth edition.

CONFEDERATE LOCAL STAMPS.

THE subjoined stamp is one of a series, of which comparatively little is known. Shortly after the commencement of the present conflict in America, the post officials in several towns in the western and south-western portions of the Confederacy started stamps for, we presume, local use. Most probably, the supply of U. S. stamps was exhausted, and in those out-lying districts, the secession stamps had not been received. From New Orleans, Mobile, Baton Rouge, and Memphis, variously designed labels emanated, which have become exceedingly scarce. Very few genuine specimens of any of them have been seen in this country. Most collectors have had to content themselves with fac-similes. The 'Riddell' stamps have had a larger circulation, but it is somewhat difficult to distinguish the imitations from the originals. The embossment of the figure of value is generally the best test of genuineness, though we have seen some specimens, received direct from New Orleans, with no part of the lettering or figure in relief.



The stamp engraved above is catalogued as a local, but when it is considered that, at the time of its issue, the Confederate government had its head-quarters at Nashville, it is not impossible that it may have had a more general currency. On the other hand, it is stated that the 'Mc Callaway' stamp, hitherto placed amongst the U. S. locals, was really the provincial issue of the Confederacy. In 1863, the Charleston post-office emitted a 5 c. stamp, and in the same year the Florida Express stamp was first heard of. Whether the last-mentioned was a government stamp or not is uncertain, but all the rest of the early-issued Confederate locals were the emissions of local post-offices, and not like those of the Northern States, of private persons and companies. In 1862, however, 'Buck's Richmond Express' was established, and issued a set of large rectangular stamps, and since then, a handsome stamp, inscribed RICHMOND POSTAGE, emanating from an unascertained source, and the 'Richmond City Post' label, probably a local, have appeared.

By the fortune of war, all the towns in which locals have been issued, except Mobile and Richmond, have been taken from the Confederates, and the evacuation of these two does not seem improbable. The stamps referred to have therefore a peculiar interest, shared only by the provisional European issues. Their circulation commenced with the subversion of established rule and the institution of a new government. Old things were swept away—old customs, old traditions. Everything typical in the least degree of the now severed connexion between North and South was abolished, and amongst the rest the stamps of the United States. The hastily improvised individuals which we have noticed for a while occupied their place, and were then superseded by the official Confederate issues. Should the struggle end in the success of the South, it may be that the early locals will be looked back upon as the precursors of a multitude, equal to those with which the Northern States have been deluged. But should secession end in the submission of the Confederates, the *pro. tem.* stamps of Mobile, Nashville, &c., will be but the mementoes of the existence of a crushed rebellion.

NELLY'S COLLECTION.

Now, cousin Joe, I'll try to prove
Collecting is a real pleasure;
And if you'll at my album look,
You will confess it's quite a treasure.

Here's German figures, Austrian heads,
And handsome envelopes of Baden;
There Hamburg's castle, Brunswick's horse,
The dove of Basle, and shield of Sweden.

Here's Mulready's well-known vignette;
There the Pope's keys and triple bonnet;
This set bears good King Victor's head,
And that has cruel Bomba's on it.

Those are the French republic stamps,
And these are little Denmark's issue;
Those Turkish, with the crescent, are
On paper of the thinnest tissue.

The Russian are 'such loves' of stamps,—
Now, cousin Joseph, don't you think so?
You're looking over at mamma:
Oh! what a shame, for you to wink so!

You're all attention; oh, yes, *now;*
Well, give it to my Cingalese,—
Have you e'er seen such charming stamps,
Such brilliant envelopes as these?

The Hong Kong are a pretty set,
With Chinese figures in the border.
It's all Chinese to you? Oh, fie!
I really must call you to order.

These are the ugly Indian stamps,
And this the issue for Batavia;
And here are the new Argentine,
With head of Bernard Rivadavia;

And here are Chili——can't you stop?
Then, Cousin Joseph, of a truth
I'll close my book, and leave you still
An uninitiated youth.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

MOTTO FOR A POSTAGE STAMP.—'A penny for your thoughts.'

THE POSTMAN'S KNOCK.—A knock that brings everyone down.

HIGH TREASON AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Punching the Queen's head.—*Fun.*

WERE POSTAGE STAMPS in the habit of swearing, what would they be most likely to swear by?——'By gum!'

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has demanded of Austria that it should be entrusted with the postal administration of Schleswig-Holstein.

POST-OFFICE QUERY.—How many letters would a fellow have to put in the post before he may be said to have 'put in a word'?—*Fun.*

SOME OF THE LETTERS IN THE MAILS on board the steam packet Colombo, which was wrecked on its homeward voyage from the East, were secured, and delivered in England with the postmark, 'Saved from the wreck of the Colombo.'

A GENERAL COMPARISON.

General Lee can conquer a host,
General Grant is the Yankees' boast,
And of Sherman they're proud, but I like most
Our well known and useful General—Post.

'CHAMBERS'S JOURNAL' states that there are at least *nine* different counterfeits of the half-dollar postage stamps. This is erroneous; there is no 50 cent postage stamp, nor have we ever seen a forged U. S. stamp of any other value. Probably it is the half dollar 'postal currency' which has been thus forged.

STAMPS OF THE SWISS CANTON OF TESSIN.—The Government of this canton never issued any regular postage stamps, but they employed stamps of 25 and 50 centimes, as the mode of payment, and these were used in franking letters. They are printed in relief on coloured paper, and bear the arms of the canton.

THE DUCHY OF MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ, with a decreasing population of less than 100,000, is perhaps the smallest of the German States. The present Grand-Duke Frederick William I. is however one of the wealthiest German sovereigns, about one-half of his dominions being his own private property.

AMONG THE STAMPS SUGGESTED by private individuals, but never in actual circulation, is one for the value of threepence, issued by a firm in London, printed in colours on white paper—the colours in which it has been printed are red, blue, and green. The design represents a female bust (full face), on a circular field; above is the word POSTAGE, below the value of the stamp, threepence.

THE QUEEN A FRANK COLLECTOR.—The Queen has, or had, a collection of franks of the Peers and M.P.'s who held seats in her first Parliament. In procuring those she is said to have employed the services of the Hon. Colonel Murray, Sir Charles Phipps, and the ladies of her court; but I have never heard that Her Majesty was able to succeed in making her collection quite complete.—*Once a Week.*

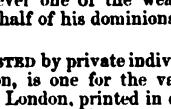
BY A NOTICE ISSUED BY THE BRITISH POSTMASTER-GENERAL on the 20th ult., certain alterations in the postal rates were promulgated, which will certainly prove a great boon to the public, and may possibly necessitate the issue of stamps of new values. On and after the 1st of this month, the rate of postage on a letter above one oz. in weight, and not exceeding 1½ oz., will be 3d.; upon a letter above 2 oz., and not exceeding 2½ oz., 5d., and so on, the postage advancing at the rate of one penny for every additional half ounce or fraction of half ounce.

THE DANISH 'THIELE' STAMP.—In 1856 a book was published in Copenhagen, containing a description of the city and the addresses of merchants, tradesmen, &c. To each of these—or to all those who chose to avail themselves of the work as an advertising medium—a certain space was allotted, in which they were at liberty to set forth their peculiar claims to notice. Among the rest was a printer, named Thiele, who hit upon the expedient of attracting attention, by simply filling up his allotment of space with the representation of an envelope, directed to himself; the postal stamps and labels were got up similar to those in circulation, and the resemblance to the original was in all respects complete. Thiele's *ruse* to attract notice answered its purpose, although it must be remarked that such a plan in this country might have been checked by the Post-office authorities. However, it deserves a place in the annals of advertising.—*Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper.*

STAMPED UNDER FOOT.—The Russians, by way of trying to stamp out the last embers of the Polish revolution, have abolished the Polish postage stamp, and commanded the use of the Russian article. Well, the czar has taken off so many Polish heads already that this is hardly a matter of wonder. If he could only put Russian heads on Polish shoulders, as well as Polish letters, Warsaw would soon be really in a state of tranquility.—*Fun.* [Unfortunately the point of this allusion is lost, as neither the Russian nor Polish stamps are ornamented with a head.]

NEW MODE OF DELIVERING LETTERS.—The number of visiting cards posted at Madrid on the occasion of last New Year's Day was 250,000, a mere trifle compared with those of Paris, but a great many for the capital of Spain. Some of the postmen, to save themselves the trouble of delivering the cards, threw them into the Manzanares, the small stream which passes through Madrid. Many were found on the banks of the river by the police, and as the stamps on the envelopes showed from what office they had been despatched, the guilty postmen were discovered, arrested, and committed to prison.

A QUAINT ENGLISH ESSAY.—An anonymous author circulated in 1838 or 1839 a printed note, without either address or date, in which he declared that envelopes were unnecessary; that letters should be written on a sheet of stamped paper, or that a stamp should be used having an adhesive reverse, which should be attached to the letter, and should be obliterated in passing through the post-office. The stamps were to be square; to be printed in black on white paper. Four were suggested, bearing respectively the following inscriptions:—POST OFFICE. UNDER HALF OZ. WEIGHT. 1D.; POST OFFICE. UNDER ONE OZ. WEIGHT. 2D.; POST OFFICE. UNDER TWO OZ. WEIGHT. 4D.; POST OFFICE. UNDER THREE OZ. WEIGHT. 6D.



CORRESPONDENCE.

SYDNEY STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Having in my collection a particularly clean twopenny 'View of Sydney,' which differs from any of Mr. Pemberton's descriptions, it may perhaps interest at least that gentleman if I describe it.

It most resembles his No. VII., inasmuch as the spandrils contain perpendicular waved lines, but the houses are detached, and both they and the church are far better finished than in any other specimens—they have windows and there is an attempt at perspective in the church. Both hill and sea are shaded. Further, on the left top quarter of the bale of goods the word NO. is distinctly visible, it can even be read by the naked eye. The emblem on the right top quarter is, as usual, not clear; it reminds me more of an anchor than anything else. The colour is greenish-blue on a yellowish-white paper.

F. H. H.

[From the accurate description of our correspondent's stamp, detailing so many facial improvements in the landscape, as far as can be judged without personal inspection, we are inclined to the opinion that 'it is too good to be true.'—ED.]

SUPPRESSION OF THE POLISH STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I hereby beg to inform you that from the 1st of March (13th of the new style), the use of the Polish postage stamps is prohibited throughout the whole kingdom, and the Russian ones introduced to fulfil their place. From the *Dziennir Warszawski.* Stamp collectors are earnestly requested to acquire them ere it is too late.

I remain, dear sir, yours very truly.

MAX JOSEPH.

Vierzbolow, Poland.

AN UNKNOWN COSTA RICA STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—At the end of Moens' *Illustrations*, on plate 52, is a representation of a so-called Costa Rica stamp. Its shape is rectangular; in the square border is the inscription, COSTA RICA FRANCO PORTE DOS CENT; within an oval is a spread-eagle, holding a serpent in its claws, above an armorial shield. I have never seen any notice of this stamp in any catalogue or publication besides Moens', who catalogues it (together with a 5 cent of the same design) without remark. Please give me any information you may have concerning them, and oblige,

Dear sir, yours faithfully,

Aylesbury. L. B.

A LIVONIAN ESSAY.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Will you favour me by inserting in your magazine a few remarks respecting an essay that came under my inspection the other day? A German friend who sent it to me assures me that it is not a forgery, but an exceedingly rare essay for Livonia. The stamp is considerably larger than the one now in circulation and somewhat resembles it. Rectangular, with blue ground; the inner frame octagonal, with a Maltese cross in each corner. The inscription is BRIEFMARKE at top, WENDENSCHEN KREISES at sides, and a bugle at the bottom. The inner oval is of red, on which is a winged creature similar to the ordinary stamp, except that the tail is not nearly so long, and in its hand a sceptre, with a small cross at top, of bright gold. The stamp is not at all glazed, and will not spoil with water.

Yours truly,

'VIVE UT VIVAS.'

THE ENGRAVING OF STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—I have often wondered how it is that the exact design of stamps of one value is reproduced in facsimile on those of other values. In your current Postal Chit-chat, you speak of Mr. Humphrey as having been the engraver of the original plate, from which all the Queen's heads on our stamps have been produced by 'mechanical multiplication.' What is the meaning of these words? and can you, or any correspondent, inform me how this accurate reproduction is caused? By so doing you will favour

Yours faithfully,

Bristol. IGNORAMUS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Nora.—Our heraldic correspondent desires us to correct her error in representing the 'Hanoverian horse' as *azure* instead of *argent*. Her application for information is replied to by a subscriber, under the signature of—

B. A. H., who offers to answer any queries on heraldic subjects, on receipt of a communication, addressed to those initials, Post-office, Euston Square, London. He gives the Wurtemburg shield as: dexter side, field *or*, three stags *sable*; sinister side *or*, 3 lions passants *sable*.—The arms of the two Mecklenburgs are identical.

J. J. B.—The strange animal that puzzles you, on the Spanish official stamps, is the badge of the golden fleece, the highest order in Spain.

J. Y., Leicester.—Your questions, like those of another correspondent, are almost as flooring as a Civil Service examination, but we will reply to the best of our ability. The penny red, anterior to our present issue, dates from 1856; the current blue, with letters in each angle, from 1860. Moens gives the date of the octagonal series as 1842, Levrault in 1855, and Mount Brown no date. We are sadly in want of accurate information respecting our own stamps. The fourpenny, sixpenny, and shilling no letters in corners came forth in 1856.—We have no means of ascertaining when the *dark* blue of the French empire ceased to be issued.—The 4 sk. brown and 8 sk. green of Denmark, on a wavy, are both later in date than their respective values on a dotted ground.—The population of the grand-duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz is about 100,000, that of Mecklenburg-Schwerin nearly six times as many.—The Swedish 'frimärke för Lokalbref' was of the same value as the current 3 öre, its present representative.—The Polish stamps, as you will see from a correspondent's letter in this number, will be officially defunct in the course of the present year.—Modena first started stamps in 1854, and Parma two years previously. The female regent was the widow of the duke who was assassinated in that same year. She was a sister of the Duke of Bordeaux.—The lion series of Tuscany appears to have been issued indiscriminately and simultaneously on blue and white paper.—The first Portuguese stamp bearing the head of the reigning king appeared in 1862.—The 5 c. vermilion and 10 c. rose of Luzon were issued in 1862 also.—Our article on Buenos Ayres stamps, in the January number for this year, embodies accurate information respecting them.—The Brazilian 'heads' are as yet 'reported' only. The U. S. P. O. despatch was used officially by the post-office.—The well-known 'big-heads' of the United States were locals, not a government issue.

Doubtful, Northampton.—The present series of Cuban stamps contains the value of a quarter real plata; and the black one you allude to may have been an essay, but it is catalogued by Levrault, who is generally to be relied on, as an official used by government from Madrid to the Spanish colonies.

R. D. C., Germantown, U. S.—The Kanton Bern stamps, four in number—2 rap. pale green, 3 r. blue, 6 r. violet, and 10 r. yellow—are primarily for bills or receipts, as we have more than once noted, but are informed they have occasionally been allowed to frank local letters.

Dudley, London.—This correspondent forwards us an engraving of a railway parcels stamp, cut from the *Illustrated London News* for 1855. It was issued by the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Co., and appears to have been the same size as those in present use by the London and North Western.

Mrs. D., Hyde Park.—We are sorry to inform you that your Spanish and Brazilian stamps are forgeries of what they profess to be, and the other is most probably intended to beguile the possessor into a belief of its being one of the expected new series for Brazil.

Angel Court.—In the reply to J. W. S. Davis last month, enumerating what we considered among the rarest known stamps, we did not, of course, mean the vermilion 40 c. of the French republic, but the 1 franc of that colour. There are four distinct tints of the stamp in question: the commonest two are marone and carmine, the pale red is much rarer than these, but not so scarce as the bright vermilion.

Lars Vonved, Edinburgh.—The 15 centesimi of Italy, now used provisionally as a 20 c., will be ever entitled to a distinctive place in collections, equally with any regularly engraved individual.

LAURA B., Aylesbury.—We print your query respecting the so-called Costa Rica emission, hoping for reliable information from some qualified correspondent. It seems generally acknowledged in the continental collections, and we are often asked to procure it.

NEMO, Dorking.—New Granada adopted the title of Estados Unidos, or United States of Columbia, after one of the demi-semi revolutions so frequent in that part of the world.—We believe the lower denominations of its stamps are reckoned in centavos, or hundredths of a peso or dollar, value about four-and-twopence or more.—We do not partake of your surprise that the Columbian States should require so high-priced a stamp, when the neighbouring republic of Costa Rica issues its equivalent.

HENRY W., Torquay.—The postal monopoly of the house of Thurn and Taxis was confirmed by imperial authority, when it possessed more actual power over the minor states of Germany than at present.—There seems now no existing reason why any other government should not start postage stamps on its own account, as well as Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the preliminary expenses being most probably more than met by the number of specimens certain of sale to timbrophilists.—We fancy the yellow local Badens are in disuse.

NEWFOUNDLAND, Halifax, Yorkshire.—St. John's is the capital of Newfoundland, but the green are the only locals, according to our information therefrom.—We have never seen one obliterated.

G. P., Launceston.—The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's handsome and exquisitely-engraved stamps were the property of the company, but recognized by the government.—They have been long disused, and the green and yellow specimens are reprints from the old plates.—The five-shilling stamp of New South Wales still does duty.

A JUVENILE STAMP COLLECTOR.—The usual colour of the 1½ sch. of Hamburg is a very pale or a deep lilac.—Your faint water-green specimen is probably an essay or a reprint.

A COLLECTOR, London.—There is a money table in all, or nearly all the published postage stamp catalogues, but your suggestion shall be attended to when we can get the requisite information. We are still at sea respecting some few denominations.

QUERIST.—The inhabitants of Gibraltar employ English postage stamps of any denomination required for franking their letters to the mother country, and we believe elsewhere. According to an *on dit* current at Paris, it is in contemplation to issue a local stamp the same value as that employed in Malta—one halfpenny—and for the same purpose. That island is likewise privileged to use English stamps for home postage.—We doubt the genuine character of the local Chinese.—There are four distinct shades of colour of the Papal mezzo bajoccho. The first emission is pale violet-grey, the second and third two tints of a deep puce-violet, and the fourth—now used—a dingy green.—The La Guaira stamps, strictly speaking, are locals, being employed to and from San Tomas, La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello exclusively.—We know of no other accredited Canadian locals than those of Ker and Bell.—The latter is figured in the number for December.

C. M., Liverpool.—The genuine stamps of New Caledonia were selling last summer, in Paris, at five or six francs each. It is long since they were rated at a sovereign.

M. H., Eastbourne.—The postmark of 'York, 1859,' on your Mulready, is no proof against its being perfectly genuine, but quite otherwise. We know a blue one passed the post about two years since, and those envelopes having never been called in, they are privileged to do duty even yet.

N. M. M., Manchester Street.—We cannot say anything for or against your Orleans stamp, without ocular inspection. The description appended may elicit a reply from some correspondent. 'Head in oval; NEW ORLEANS POST-OFFICE, above, PAID, below; 20 in small oval at each angle; CENTS, at top and bottom; coloured impression, deep rose.'

T. A. R., Whatfield.—The stamps known as Cuban are current equally in Porto Rico.—There was a report of an issue for Haiti, but it seems groundless.—We take it for granted that Madeira, the Canaries, and the Balearic Isles employ the stamps of their respective parent countries.—The stamps known as French colonies are now employed in all the colonial possessions of the empire.—New Caledonia never had but one value emitted, and that was probably for local use only, on account of its low value.—British Guiana has never issued stamped envelopes.—Sumatra uses the Dutch colonial stamp.—The Japan islands are expected to contribute a postal series before long, to the world in general and the timbrophilist in particular.—Egypt, according to information received, is in the same right path.—Arabia probably used the uni-coloured series of Turkish stamps.—Iceland employs the Danish, and Hungary the Austrians.—The private emissions of Berne, Basle, Geneva, Neuchatel, Vaud, Winterthur, and Zurich have been superseded since October, 1854, by first the late and then the present series, both bearing the impress of Helvetia.—Dominica, Tobago, St. Kitts, St. Bartholomew's, and St. Martin's have not hitherto favoured our timbrophilic greed, but we live in hopes.—An issue for Paraguay has been reported in our magazine.—The local American known as the 'Sanitary Fair' stamp is figured and described in our number for September last.—Mexico may be considered as located in Central America, equally with Costa Rica and Nicaragua.—Franks have been disused here since the introduction of cheap postage.—For information about the Victoria frank stamps we refer you to the letter of our correspondent respecting them. 'Frank' simply means *free*.—Parcels stamps are such as the one described in our magazine for September last, in the article touching new stamps. Our hopes for the success of the enterprising company originating the speculation have not been realised, the concern having smashed.—The term 'commercial' is usually applied to receipt, foreign bills, customs stamps, &c.—The La Guaira stamps, as we stated above, are for a peculiar purpose, and do not interfere with the regular government issue. Our first notice of them was in the magazine for August last, to which we refer for an answer to your last query.

W. P. B., New York, U. S.—We are inclined to believe your Sicilian stamp a genuine *essay*. We have seen one similar in size and colour, but the value was 2 gr. not 1 gr.—The stamp you call Swedish, with the British Guiana ship in the centre, CANAAN above, 1 SK. FCO. below, EXR. II, 14 on one side, and LUC. XII, 32 on the other, is a monstrosity.

B. B., Brecon.—The octagonal sixpenny English, is known both with and without an inserted thread.—Your New Granada is perfectly genuine.—It is the issue of 1863 now superseded.

N. A. B. B.—No impressions of a 20 c. blue, or 80 c. carmine, were ever taken for the French colonies.—The values of the current set for Denmark are, as before, the colours, blue, pink, green, and dull violet.

G. A. L., Dewsbury.—The nationality of your stamp, bearing Louis Napoleon's head, is unquestionable. It is used as a *pain a cacheter*, for packets of bonbons, in Paris.

R. F. W., Dublin.—Your query is responded to above.

NOTES ON THE WEST INDIAN STAMPS,

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE group of islands lying between the great continents of North and South America has furnished an interesting array of postage stamps. All the principal islands have separate governments of their own, mimic courts and grave functionaries. In those belonging to England the system of government by representation exists in miniature. Amongst them are to be found Lilliputian Houses of Assembly composed of a couple of dozen members; Speakers to the same, 'passing rich' with a salary of £150 per annum, and Chief Justices dispensing law and equity from year to year for the munificent remuneration of £300.



It was not to be thought of that colonies so wealthy and extensive should be content to use one common set of stamps. Each one has therefore, when thereunto moved, issued its own particular series; and at the present time only Tobago, St. Kitts, and the new republic of Hayti, are unrepresented in the stamp album. The Trinidad and Barbados stamps are of that old-fashioned design in which a portrait of Britannia seated is the principal feature. The Barbados rarities are the blue paper issue; the Trinidad curiosities are the wood-block series, manufactured doubtless on the occasion of a scarcity of stamps.* The colours of the old Trinidad were the sole indicators of their respective values, which were as follows: 1d. red, 6d. blue, and 1s. brown-grey. In the current set the 1d. stamp still bears no mark of its value, and the ½d., 1d., and 4d. Barbados are similarly circumstanced. The colours of the Trinidad have frequently changed; the 6d., formerly chrome-green, has become emerald, the 1s. blue-black a splendid mauve, and the 4d. (a stamp seldom seen in this country), which was formerly printed in that colour, violet-brown.

* [The wood-blocks of Trinidad were made in the island by a French resident.—ED.]

The St. Lucia set has likewise been of a mutable disposition. Beginning its existence with deep red, blue, and green, and continuing it in far lighter shades of those colours, it has again changed, as our readers are aware, to those named in the March number, with the addition of a fourth colour for a shilling stamp. Simple as is the design of these stamps, it is yet remarkably well engraved. The medallion head stands out almost as if in relief, the fine ground-work is clearly traced, and the lettering is distinct—praiseworthy features not noticeable in many more pretentious stamps. The St. Vincent, though not improbably by the same artist as the St. Lucia, and though noticeable for the same fineness of line, have a very poor pattern, resembling the English penny and twopenny as they are. The Antigua, on the other hand, are examples of what those stamps ought to be; they are indeed worthy to be the models of new and more artistic labels for the country which gave birth to the postal system. Though simpler than even the St. Lucia, yet are the Antigua so graceful and so delicate as to merit the approbation with which they were greeted by the timbrophilic world on their entrée. The Bahamas stamps also deserve and receive a considerable share of admiration, and the Grenada pair, though not of a singular type, are far from deficient in beauty. It was expected that a 4d. stamp would be issued for the latter island, but the expectation has not been realised. Most of the Jamaica stamps will bear inspection, but the 6d. is very plain, and perhaps the only rectangular one which has its entire inscription on bands at the corners. The 4d. is very much after the English type, but the 3d. has a pretty design of its own, and the colours of all are well chosen.

The Nevis stamps are undoubtedly the most interesting of the West Indian group. Deviating from the practice of multiplying impressions of the Queen's head, the presiding genius over the creation of the Nevis set happily preferred an emblematic device whose meaning has been a puzzle to collectors since timbrophily came in vogue. Several explanations have appeared in this magazine from which the following are taken. 1. 'The current opinion respecting the stamps of

Nevis is, that the three female figures are intended to typify active benevolence.' * 2. 'The idea intended to be conveyed by the representation on the Nevis postage stamps is, that Nevis, being poor, either was, is, or ought to be supported by her sister islands.'* 3. That 'the device is intended to represent the goddess of health administering the water of a mineral spring in the island to a sick person.'† 4. That 'the Nevis stamps are copies of the great seal of the island, and represent a lady giving bread to the once-starving inhabitants.'‡ The third statement is reiterated at p. 143, vol. ii., with the additional warranty for its truth, that the writer 'had the fact from the attorney-general of Nevis.' Moens accepts this account, but Mount Brown contents himself by describing the device as 'three female figures at a spring,' and Berger-Levrault gives a similar description to the latter. The third statement must certainly be considered to contain the most probable explanation, though the fourth, that the device is a copy of the great seal of the island, may be taken in conjunction with it. Differences exist in the details of the device in each stamp. The features and hair of Hygeia are differently drawn in each, as also is the outstretched arm of the supporting figure. In all the stamps the cascade is very indistinctly portrayed, and indeed the entire representation, except in the penny, is obscure.

The Nevis stamps form one amongst many examples of the good resulting from collecting. We must frankly confess that our own notions of Nevis and its situation were of the vaguest character until our curiosity was aroused by the sight of stamps from that quiet little island, and we doubt not, many other amateurs were in the same predicament. But no stamp collector could be content to remain in ignorance of the *locale* of his rare and cherished specimens, inquiry must therefore follow, and an increase of necessary geographical knowledge be the final result.

The lower values of our West Indian colonials are seldom met with in this country used, as they are almost exclusively employed for inter-insular correspondence. But immaculate specimens of all the stamps are easily procurable, as they are all popular with collectors, and have been largely imported.

The Danish West Indies, which comprise but three small islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John's, possess a single stamp between them, value 3 cents, of which there are three varieties. The device is exactly like that of the old issue of the mother country, and therefore insignificant.

The stamps of the Spanish colonies, Cuba, Hayti, and Porto Rico, are numerous, but each issue is the fac-simile of the Spanish of the corresponding date in all but the denomination of value, and therefore does not possess the interest derivable from an independent device. The '55, '56, and '57 stamps are all of the same pattern, and differ from each other only in the description of the paper and watermark. The first series is printed on greenish paper with a curved watermark at the top and bottom, the second is on rough white paper with a watermark of diagonal lines, the third is on smooth white paper without any watermark. The '56 set (with the exception of the $\frac{1}{2}$ rl.) and the 2 rls. and $2\frac{1}{4}$ rls. of '55 are the rarest amongst the old Cuban. The '57 issue remained current until last year, although it is said that the lately-introduced $\frac{1}{4}$ rl. plata black of the 1860 Spanish pattern was emitted in 1863, and used for official correspondence between the colonies and Spain; but it is worthy of note that none of the Spanish official have any monetary value indicated on them. The stamp is doubtless genuine but whether an essay, an official, or an ordinary postage stamp is by no means plain. A $\frac{1}{4}$ real plata was added to the 2-real labels of '55 and '57 by the impression of '$Y\frac{1}{4}$' on the effigy, and the stamps so changed were said to do duty for letters passing between the islands. But we cannot understand why the rate of postage between them respectively should be higher than between them and other countries. In the 1864 issue a $\frac{1}{4}$ real plata is comprised, and it seems more probable that it is the inter-insular stamp.

A large number of proofs in brilliant colours have been struck off, for the benefit, it is stated, of Cuban collectors. But we fear timbrophily has not many devotees in Cuba

* Vol. ii., p. 80. † Vol. ii., p. 96. ‡ Vol. ii., p. 128.

or Hispaniola.* The specimens have found their way to Europe, however, and have no doubt gratified the collectors of illegitimate proofs.

THE STAMPS OF HANOVER.

BY FENTONIA.

HANOVER is dear to Englishmen, as having given us a line of princes under whom England has advanced to unparalleled greatness and prosperity; it is dear to *bon vivants*, as having given its name to a very favourite pudding; it is dear to horsemen, as having given its name to one of the most powerful and persuasive bits that ever were invented for the control of equine impetuosity; and it is dear to stamp collectors, as having issued a large and interesting variety of postage stamps, the designs of which are generally as bright and pretty as the monetary value is provokingly perplexing. The date of the first issue is variously stated as 1850 and 1851. In either case, as King Ernest Augustus did not die till November of the latter year, it is probable that his present majesty, George V., found them an established source of revenue when he came to the throne.

The first and second issues have the arms, supporters, and royal crown of Great Britain placed above the shield denoting value, the arms of Hanover being in the centre, on an escutcheon of pretence, surmounted by the Hanoverian crown. The motto is, however, different: instead of '*Dieu et mon droit*,' it is SUSCIPERE ET FINIRE. The ribbon of the order of the garter, with the well-known legend, '*Honi soit qui mal y pense*,' is also entirely wanting. The lion of England and the unicorn of Scotland are invariably *couchant*, while the arms of Great Britain are generally supported by these noble animals *rampant*; occasionally, however, we find our own royal arms with the supporters *couchant*. The reason why, is beyond our ken. When George I. assumed the crown of England, the electoral arms were quartered with those of Great Britain. When the Duke of Cumberland succeeded, in 1837, as next male heir to the crown of Hanover, he ought according to this rule to have placed his paternal arms on those of Hanover, or else have quartered them with those of his newly-acquired kingdom; but perhaps foreign heraldry reverses the order of things, or perhaps—as in the constant changes of our own royal arms down to 1801—the arbitrary taste of the reigning sovereign, and not the ordinary rules of heraldry, fixed the bearings. The arms of Great Britain are too familiar to need any description here, though it may not be superfluous to wonder why the harp of Ireland is always represented bearing a Harpy with wings expanded, and what or whom she is supposed to symbolize? Unless, indeed, it be a puerile pun upon the harp itself, in fact, a regular Irish blunder!

The arms of Hanover having been withdrawn ever since 1837 (the date of her Majesty's accession), are probably but little known to the present generation, and possibly would be quite forgotten but for the smattering of heraldry which so many think it their duty to seek after, in order to embellish their postage-stamp albums. We may, therefore, be excused for describing them in full. From 1714 to 1801 the Hanoverian arms occupied the fourth quarter of the royal shield, after that date they were transferred to the centre, on an escutcheon of pretence, ensigned with the Hanoverian crown and divided into three compartments, *per pale* and *per chevron*. First, *gules, two lions passant, gardant, in pale, or*, for Brunswick; second, *or, semée of hearts proper, a lion rampant, azure*, for Luneburg; third, *gules, a horse courant, azure*, for ancient Saxony. In the centre of this escutcheon of pretence on an inescutcheon, *gules, the crown of Charlemagne, proper*, being the badge of the office of arch treasurer of the holy Roman empire. From 1714 to 1814 the electoral cap had *ensigned* the Hanoverian arms, but about that time, the German Empire having merged into the present German Confederation, and that arrangement requiring that Hanover should be declared a sovereign state, the electoral cap was replaced by the Hanoverian crown.

* [Hispaniola, or St. Domingo, may not possess timbrophilists, but there are many zealous collectors at Cuba. There seem to be coin amateurs there also, as we sent a sovereign and a half English there, in payment of stamps, for which we have never yet received a consideration. —ED.]

The crown of Charlemagne is so minute on the stamp as to be scarcely discernible, and certainly there resembles a padlock more than anything else, but as represented by heralds it is really a unique and beautiful thing. It is hexagonal, one of the principal divisions containing a representation of our Saviour, with the legend from Proverbs viii. 15, '*Per me reges regnant;*' no doubt an allusion to Charlemagne's memorable injunction to his son and successor Louis le Debonnaire, to place the crown himself on his own head at his coronation, instead of receiving it from bishop or pope, in token of his belief that the regal power was derived direct from God alone. This crown is borne, as before observed, by the electors and kings of Hanover in right of the honorary distinction of being a prince and arch-treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire; a privilege accorded, we believe, by the pope to one of the electors (probably at the time of the Reformation) on account of some service rendered to the Papal cause; but as the reigning princes have long been Protestants, the title has certainly become quite inappropriate. We believe George III. dropped that title, though he rather inconsistently retained the imperial crown on his shield; yet not altogether perhaps so inconsistently after all, inasmuch as Hanover was originally conquered from the Saxons by Charlemagne, and was moreover converted to Christianity under his iron rule; therefore Hanover has a traditional interest in that great though unscrupulous monarch, independent of the empty title more recently assumed, of which Charlemagne's crown is the badge. That the title was retained as late as the reign of George the Second is proved from a fine old print of him by Spooner, engraved about 1754, now in our possession, on which among other titles is mentioned that of 'Prince and Arch-Treasurer of the Sacred Roman Empire.' It may not be generally known or recollected that Hanover for a few years ceased to belong to England, having been seized upon by Napoleon, and annexed to his brother Jerome's kingdom of Westphalia, in 1805; but in 1813, when Napoleon lost the battle of Leipsic, Hanover was restored to its rightful owner.

The second issue of stamps do not differ in design from the first, but are on white paper, reticulated with various-coloured network all over, answering to the same colours and values as the first issue. Mount Brown gives these only one year's circulation, from 1858 to 1859. He mentions a variety of the 1-30 thaler on finer network; we have never seen it; but the 1-10 thaler and 3 pfennige on very fine network, which he does not mention, are not uncommon. We have, however, seen the 1-30 thaler on vertical ground, as described at page 105 of last year's magazine. An eminent collector affirms that these last are only made to sell, and were never in circulation. They do not, however, seem to be sufficiently common to warrant that opinion.

About 1859 appeared the profile series, simple yet elegant. The slight upward turn of the eye well expresses his majesty's hopeless blindness. He lost his sight from an accident when quite a youth, as is commonly reported, from his swinging a long purse round and round, which accidentally struck him such a blow on the eye as in the end to deprive him of sight. The colours of these stamps were at first—1 gr. rose, 2 gr. pale blue, and 3 gr. dingy orange; next lake, deep blue, and pale orange; next, in 1861, lake, dark blue, and brown, to which was added a 10 groschen sage-green. The perplexing values of 'guten groschen' and 'silber groschen' are now happily merged in the simple 'groschen,' and we now hear no more of them except in the superscription of the new green 3 pfennige, and even that differs from the rose specimen,—the latter showing that the 3 pf. is one-third of a silber groschen, while the former states it is three-tenths of a silber groschen, a fractional difference only. His majesty's profile had some time before been impressed on the beautiful envelope stamps (the blindness does there appear noticeable), the values answering to those of the first series.

The 'Bestellgeld-frei' envelopes are well explained at page 158, vol. ii., of this magazine. The hand-stamped variety, with bugle horn only, so seldom met with, perhaps answers to the adhesive ½ groschen black on white, as the others probably do to the 3 pf.

adhesive. Mount Brown, however, considers the hand-stamped 'Bestellgeld-frei' merely as the predecessor of the others. Simultaneous with the adhesive profile series appeared a set of envelopes of same values and colours; retaining, however, the foreign custom of having the stamp on the left of envelope. In 1862 the English custom of stamping to the right was adopted, and still continues. In 1864 the Hanoverian stamps were first perforated, the 1 s. gr. returning to its former rose colour.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that the name of Bremen, which is sometimes found on Hanoverian stamps, does not probably allude to the independent town of Bremen, which has local and general postage stamps of its own, but most likely to the small duchy of Bremen, which belongs to Hanover, the capital of which is Stade on the Elbe.

THE NEW GRANADA STAMPS.

NEW GRANADA has been very prolific in postage stamps; seven issues have appeared in seven years. The United States of Columbia are the timbrophilic rivals of Spain in the New World. The first issue comprised four values and eight stamps. The 5 c. was impressed in four colours, the 10 c. in two, and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 20 c. in one each. The circle enclosing the armorial shield is smaller, and the figure of value above and below the circle larger than in the second issue. Also in the first issue simple crosses separate the words forming the inscription, in the second they are separated by eight-rayed stars. The lines forming the background are quite straight in the first, but wavy in the second issue. The first two issues are alike in many respects: the inscription on each is the same, CONFED. GRANADINA CORREOS NACIONALES, and the general appearance is similar.

Five values and twelve colours are comprised in the second issue, the new value being 1 peso. Unused specimens of the latter have lately appeared. The third issue is composed of the same values, but of only six colours; the 5 c. being the only stamp of the issue impressed in two colours. This series is of an entirely different type to its predecessors, and withal much larger. In a broad outside border is the inscription, CORREOS NACIONALES, and in an inner border surrounding the shield, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NUEVA GRENADA. In this issue the word GRENADA appears for the last time, and the typical stars for the first, but their number is only eight, and they are sprinkled at the bottom of the inner border. The armorial emblems are very imperfectly portrayed. The double cornucopia looks like a sword-hilt; the cap of Liberty, which looms largely in the first two issues, in the third becomes in appearance a cabbage-plant; and the ships beneath the cap, which make some sort of show in the former series, are expelled, and their places taken by a curved line. This is also the last, which includes a $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. Whatever the reason, this comparatively low-priced stamp was not renewed in subsequent emissions, though another costly stamp was introduced.

Prior to the production of the fourth issue one of the revolutionettes peculiar to South America had taken place, and the result was a change of name. The New Granada Confederation became the United States of Columbia, and has remained so up to the present time. As the states were in former years part of the Republic of Columbia, the change was, in fact, no more than a reversion to the old title. A star was added to the eight which figured in the third issue, and the whole surrounded the central circle. The fourth issue bore a considerable resemblance to the second, but in the latter the inscription was in white on the coloured ground of the border, and in the former the border was left white and the lettering only was coloured. There was also a deep band round the shield, instead of a granulated ring as in the earlier issue. A 50 c. stamp forms one of the fourth issue, which comprises five values and nine colours. There were several differences between the fifth issue and its predecessors. The circle surrounding shield no longer formed part of the design, its place was occupied by graceful branches, crossing at the bottom, and with leaves resembling those of the oak. The stars were gathered into a circlet over the shield, and the border, previously composed

of double lines, was in this issue changed to single lines. The stamps of the 1863 set have a very light and delicate appearance, caused from the absence of a filled-in background. The 1863 issue comprises but four stamps—5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c.; at any rate, no 1 peso has yet been seen of that date, and each of the four is printed in only one colour. The 1864 set is an improvement on that of the previous year. In it the background is filled in, and the corners of the stamps, hitherto bare in all the octagonals, is occupied with an ornament. The branches and leaves, shaded in the 1863 issue, were in that of '64 only outlined, and the stars were separated from the rest of the background by a white patch. Mount Brown and Moens do not catalogue a 1 peso stamp in the issue for last year, but that there is such a stamp we cannot have better proof than that we have it before us now, in colour a deep violet, and with the well-known Bogota postmark. In the new issue a great resemblance may be traced to Monte Video, Peru, and Ecuador stamps, in the adoption of supporting flags; but we need not particularize its specialities; the reader has it in his own power to make notes on the latest South American novelties. The old issues may possibly puzzle some amateurs, to whom therefore the preceding observations are offered, in the hopo that they may be of service in enabling them to distinguish between the numerous varieties.

THE PATAGONIAN POST-OFFICE.

THIS post-office is of the same nature as the one described some months back, as existing in Torres Straits, and in relation to which, an interesting tale appeared in one of the weekly periodicals. It is a post-office for letters written on the sea! It was anciently the custom, our readers may remember it frequently alluded to in sea narratives and romances, for ships, on meeting in the open ocean, to exchange packets of letters, previously written in readiness, by their respective passengers. Owing to the modern improvements in navigation it has been discovered, though a seeming paradox, that the way *to* a distant port is not the readiest way *from* it, in consequence of the currents flowing in certain directions, so that it is now comparatively unusual for such vessel-conferences to take place, and therefore the post-offices of Patagonia, Torres Straits, and perhaps others of a like character are ingenious and valuable institutions.

These post-offices have no superintendents, no clerks, no letter carriers, no postage stamps, yet without any of these apparent *sine quâ nons*, the service is carried on with the greatest regularity.

The subject of our article is established on the extreme point of one of the farthest south-stretching promontories of Patagonia, opposite Terra del Fuego, about half way through the well-known Straits of Magelhaens. Near Port Famine, on a singularly exposed jutting rock, almost over-topped by the waters of the sea, is erected a lofty flag-staff, firmly imbedded in the clefts of the rock. To designate its situation more precisely; this pole may be discovered after doubling Capes Monmouth, Valentine, and Isidore. It is perceived immediately after passing Point Anna. On the middle of the pole are coarsely imprinted in red letters these two words, POST OFFICE, and beneath is suspended, by an iron chain, a middling-sized cask, whose lid, provided with a hinge, may be freely opened and shut, being destitute of either lock or padlock. This cask forms the post-office of the two great oceans, and the postal service is managed in the way we are going to mention.

The vessels passing westwards through the Straits of Magelhaens, on their way to the countries situate in the Pacific Ocean, launch a boat, commanded by a responsible officer, towards the rocky post-office. This official is the bearer of letters, destined for that European seaport whence he embarked. He deposits the packet containing the correspondence in the cask, and takes out any letters or packets found in the same cask, and previously deposited or posted there by some ship on its way from the Pacific, and these he carries with him on board.

The packet of letters just left in the cask will be afterwards taken out by the first vessel passing there on its return to Europe, in like manner as the officer we have just mentioned took charge of the correspondence

directed to such country as he himself is going to land at; and in this manner, without need for any other hands than those of the officer taking out and the officer depositing the letters and packets, this Patagonian post-office serves as means of international correspondence between the eastern and western hemispheres; the most sacred, the most inviolable correspondence of any existing, and made by a tacit understanding of the practical proceedings necessary to be employed by the passing mariners, no matter under what flag they sail.

How many grateful hearts have breathed a blessing on the thoughtful previsions of the individual, whoever he was, that presided at the establishment of this post-office! How many of the greatest benefactors of their species have left nothing but the ingenuity of their inventions by which to remember them!

Without mail-cart or railroad, without postman or prepayment, the mariners tossed about the far-distant seas can write to their families, see their letters deposited in this substitute for a letter-box, round which roar the eternal waves, and thus communicate with the dear ones on their native land. Mountains of ice may rise around them, the polar seas may rage in all their tempestuous fury, hurricanes roar in all the awful grandeur of their storm, but the ingenuity of civilized man is superior to all these elements of destruction, and the slight sheet of paper, laid in its ocean post-office, near Port Famine, in the cavity fastened to that pole, strong in the midst of the turmoil ever waging round it, will go and whisper to the longing ears of their remote friends, the toils, the courage, and the fidelity of our intrepid sailors.—*From the French of Timothy Trimm.*

TURIN,

(WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.)

BY THE EDITOR.

Alas for poor Turin! Shorn of her high estate, degraded from the proud rank of the Piedmontese capital to the undistinguished level of a provincial city! What serve now her noble squares bearing the names of her most renowned and beloved kings, her stately palaces, and pre-eminently that regal one dubbed by the guide books the handsomest residential palace in Europe,—but to be regarded as melancholy memorials of her decadence!

In a former article on stamp-collecting in Italy, Turin was styled its head-quarters. To its desolate inhabitants the very sight of a postage stamp with the effigy of their truant sovereign must be now heart-sickening and tantalizing. One can almost understand and sympathize with the abuse heaped upon the loved 'victim of circumstances.' It is like a parent's feelings towards an idolized but hopelessly unmanageable child. Maddened by its disobedience, he is prepared to receive it with open arms, and forget all past offences, if it would but once again return to its allegiance.

This change of capital would seem to stamp significance on the letter of Mazzini that lately appeared in a Turin journal. The official denial of the report may be taken for what such emanations are worth, and the desertion of the ancient northern metropolis may possibly be but a prelude to its eventual cession 'for the due rectification of an *Idea!*' The slight screw put on interior postage charge, by raising the tax from fifteen to twenty centesimi, the supplementary stamp for which was figured in our last number, in all probability was suggested to assist in defraying the expenses of removal. Every time a Turinese employs one of these, he must feel the insult added to the injury, in the extra five centesimi expended for the obscuration of his capital.

Proud of it as were its citizens, and deservedly so, we think the general travelling public scarcely realized its deserts. Too often made a mere partial halt by the tourist hurrying to or from the more notable Italian cities, the great and peculiar natural beauties of Turin seem to have been scarcely appreciated. Milan is far its inferior in point of situation. Watered by a noble river, the absence of which feature detracts so remarkably from the effective appearance of such cities as the Lombardian capital, encompassed partly by verdant hills dotted with villas and palaces, and partly by a noble range of the Alps, near enough to contrast their bold outlines with precision, but not

so much so as to exhibit the smallest symptom of desert dreariness, the clean, regularly built, open and airy city of Turin is perhaps the completest specimen of what a Cockney alderman once named his 'box' at Norwood, *Russun Hurby*, in Europe.

The celebrated cafés of Pedrocchi at Padua, Doney at Florence, and Florian at Venice, may hang their diminished heads before some of those at Turin. We often long for one of our breakfasts there of the peculiar *pane grissino* and delicious mixture of chocolate and coffee, the latter rarely, the former, we believe, never met with elsewhere in Italy. In the heats of an August noon the profusion of ice and *sorbetti*, invariably served therewith, are agreeable adjuncts.

We can remember when the Sicilian stamps, especially the ½ grana and the 50 gr. (the former of which is here figured), were among the most *recherché* desiderata of amateurs. In Turin, last autumn, we saw sheets and sheets of them, and were assured they were not reprints, but remainders, collected from the various Sicilian post-offices. There are two distinct colours of the ½ gr., 1 gr., and 2 gr., and at least three of the 5 gr. The uncancelled ½ gr., now so comparatively common, are yellower than any we have ever seen post-marked, which gives stability to the idea of their revivification; but we have seen the two peculiar olives of the 1 g. both in used and unused specimens. We are inclined to believe the *pale* blue 2 g. a reprint, but four or five years ago we had the scarlet, the red, and a copy of the 5 g. as dark as the 50 g. usually is, direct from Leghorn, and taken by a friend from private letters. Some of the Neapolitan issue are occasionally, but rather unfrequently, met with uncancelled, especially the ½ gr.; and the plate used for it having been broken up to make the provisional Savoy cross ½ tor., these ought to be genuine. This series of stamps, however, is usually in such excellent preservation, that perfectly virgin copies may well be spared from a collection. An engraving of the highest value is appended. These stamps



sport the peculiarity, shared by some of the Newfoundland only, of having all the values impressed in the same colour; an ingenious adaptation of the framework enclosing the device distinguishing the specimens under immediate consideration.



The palace of Turin, by Murray's dictum, ranks as the handsomest in Europe. Individual taste must decide that question. The chambers are spacious and lofty, and there is plenty of velvet and gold. The library, of which we were privileged a private view, is worthy a sovereign's residence, but the armoury seems to us *par excellence* a lion in Turin. The gigantic effigies of some of the early Piedmont worthies and their horses, their magnificent armour, the noble arms, and military paraphernalia of every description meet the entranced eye in rich profusion. One of the earliest historical romances we remember reading, more years since than we should like to enumerate, and which wonderfully impressed our puerile mind—we should be sorry to undergo the penance of perusing such a rhapsody now—portrayed the adventures of Castruccio Castruccani, one of the Italian *moyen age* heroes. Time and space became annihilated, as we were transported to the far west, and became a boy in a round jacket again, on viewing this bold adventurer's well-preserved sword and belt! Here is shown the splendid present made to the King of Italy by the ladies. It is a golden wreath of laurel or bay leaves similar to that of the first Napoleon, and which he is often represented as wearing; but that of Victor Emmanuel is further ornamented by a magnificent star of pure brilliants in the centre. Its case, adorned with ivory, velvet, and precious stones, presented, if we remember aright, by the ladies of Turin exclusively, lies near it.

In the Palazzo Madama opposite reposes the royal picture collection, included in which are some very fine and valuable subjects. One of the most celebrated is the Madonna della Tenda of Raphael, which several artists were engaged in copying during our visit.

In this and many or most other paintings representing the conventional halo round the heads of the Virgin or other saints, we could not help fancying it had much more the appearance of a dinner-plate or some other disc than that of the luminous circle intended. The Supper at Emmaus, by Titian, is wonderfully painted, but, like many of the great masters' lucubrations, sadly marred in effect by incongruity of costume. Our Saviour and his disciples are waited on by (we may say) Maffeo Orsini out of Lucrezia Borgia, and a dog certainly not of a breed ever seen in Palestine sports under the table! A striking instance of the horrible, in which the great masters liked occasionally to indulge, is the Marsyas and Apollo of Guido. The complacent look of the youthful deity in the execution of his disgusting purpose, is well contrasted by the agonized expression of his wretched victim's countenance. The allegorical representation of the four elements of the philosophers by Albano, crowded with the *amoretti* in every conceivable posture bargained for by his eminence the purchaser of the pictures, will bear a lengthened inspection; but the gem of the gallery is indubitably the exquisite Madre Dolorosa of Carlo Dolci, than which no picture perhaps is better known to the world, owing to the almost innumerable reproductions of coloured copies on an enlarged, diminished, or equal scale, prints, engravings, and photographs.

The next engraving appended is the one scudo, highest value, of the Papal States. This is called by some 'the cardinals' stamp,' and we have heard it is employed only by the holy conclave, but cannot vouch for the fact. It is strange there are so many mere *on dits* about postage stamps, after the dozen years at least since they began to attract attention. Shall we ever get to the bottom of the well where the truth respecting those opprobria of collections, the mysterious *soi-disants* Dutch Guianas, lies hid? We observe the most recent number of one of the Parisian journals terms them mythological. We cannot go so far as that; they certainly exist, and as certainly were genuine and employed somewhere, and probably in one of the Dutch colonies, though possibly not in Guiana. The Sardinian stamps (of which we engrave the first issue black, lowest value) are generally, but erroneously, included among those employed for the kingdom of Italy in general. More especially should the 'rectification' hinted at above take place, when either the issues of Rome or Venetia become remnants of the past, the Sardinian series will claim a page of their own in the album of the timbrophilist.



In the collections of juveniles is frequently seen a large-sized stamp having King Victor's head in an oval, framework and inscription printed in red. This stamp is styled by the French '*timbre d' affiche*,' being affixed to notices of sales, apartments to let, &c. We would suggest to our Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next wants to squeeze something extra out of her Majesty's patient taxpayers, that a halfpenny stamp employed for the same service as the Italian 5 centesimi would answer his purpose very well. There are kindred impressions to this low value, ranging as high as two or three lire, which are used for commercial and documentary purposes.

The regulations of the post office of Turin seem very stringent. While there we received a post-office order from Genoa, and unprovided with passport or other evidence of identity, and our hotel too distant to allow time for fetching such, we had some difficulty in proving that we were ourself and no one else. A friendly banker at hand enabled us at last to satisfy the officials, and even then there were so many forms to be observed, clerks and superintendents to be propitiated, and departments to be visited, that the utmost exertion under the broiling sun of Turin could scarcely secure our being in time to catch the afternoon train for Ivrea, preparatory to ascending the Great St. Bernard mountain.

THE stars on the Costa Rica stamps represent the five states of Central America, viz.: Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.—*Moens' Illustrations.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

HAVING in the first four numbers of our magazine chronicled the complete series of postal issues of no fewer than seven countries, Spain, Turkey, Moldo-Wallachia, St. Lucia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the United States of New Granada, besides an envelope for Denmark, a new shilling for ourselves, a change in some of the United States stamps, a new and a provisional Italian, a new Schleswig Holstein, the completion of the current set for Holland, some few essays, &c.: in all to the by no means insignificant amount of sixty-six individuals—what an addition to the pages of the timbrophilist's album!—we cannot be expected to be able to introduce much in the shape of novelty for some little time forward.

Still we are not totally destitute of provender for the eager amateur. The colony of Western Australia, though adhering, and we think advisedly, to the '*rara avis in terris, nigroque simillima cygno*,' actually reproduced in form and colour on its earliest stamp, from a living specimen of the myriads of those once almost mythological birds, floating majestically on the waters of the beautiful river whence its best-known appellation is derived, has indubitably made up in variety of colour for the nearly precise uniformity of its type. The colour of the penny stamp is now a dull yellow-brown known usually in catalogues under the name of bistre; the twopenny is the subdued yellow of the Queensland registered stamp; but in ample amends for the want of brilliancy observable in these two values, the fourpenny is a bright carmine rose colour. We believe one sheet only of this hue was printed and sent to the colony, but being from some unknown cause unaccepted, the scarlet fourpennies in late use were circulated, and the original rose-coloured specimens figure only in the choicest collections. We may remark, that the tints of the sixpenny and shilling are also modified.

In the dearth of novelties, and in accordance with the second title of our paper, we would hint to those timbrophilists who make a practice of storing up all varieties, to institute a search after the *half-sheet* of paper stamped with Her Majesty's head in rose colour, in use for a short time, but long since consigned to oblivion. They were issued under the following circumstances:

When the penny and twopenny stamped envelopes were first circulated, some precise mercantile firms complained that their letters did not bear, as formerly, legal proof of having been posted on any particular day, the body of the letter, the more important part, not showing the official postmark. To remedy this inconvenience, half sheets of paper duly prepared with inserted threads for the avoidance of forgery, were stamped with Queen's heads and sold at the post-offices and by stationers. Purchasers were requested to fold them in such way that the stamp should appear on the right hand corner; but, as we previously took occasion to remark, no exercise of ingenuity could accomplish this, the impression being in such a position as to preclude the possibility. We well remember them ourselves, and also seeing a letter in the *Times* newspaper complaining of the impracticability of complying with the official directions. It is not improbable that many of these stamped sheets still exist in obscure post offices, stationers' shops, or repositories of private individuals.

There is an old saying that one must go abroad to hear home news. A correspondent calls our attention to the fact, which we saw noted some weeks since in a continental magazine, that an alteration has taken place in our threepenny stamp. The change is by no means an improvement. The graceful outline of the corner trifolium gives way to an unsightly square block containing the letter, and a small figure is introduced into the encircling scroll. This stamp, which was previously the prettiest of our impressions, is now as ugly as the others. The editor of the foreign journal asks the meaning of the mystic figure 4 now on the shilling stamp as well as the threepenny. There was formerly the figure 1 on the shilling, which was taken, but it seems erroneously, to designate its value: the interloping figure has also invaded the sixpenny. It is evident that no artistic eye enjoys the superintendence of the postage stamp impressions of Great Britain.

We say postage, because the legal and official labels, more especially the now disused customs stamps, are extremely handsome and well-executed.

We may notice a set of what we are informed to be accepted essays for Bavaria. They are beautifully engraved, but the priest in the armorial insignia has much more the appearance of a Chinese mandarin. Our Gallic neighbours have made a slight change in one of their stamps, but unlike our own exploits, the alteration is for the better. The faint washy tint of the 4 centimes is much deeper in hue. The 5 cents of Nova Scotia, on the contrary, is deteriorated into a duller blue, as are the 3, 6, and 9 kreuzer of Baden, from being printed in paler colours. The 30 cents of Hong Kong appears now in a brighter brick red.

We stated on the authority of a correspondent, backed by the testimony of the Parisian journals, that the 1 real dull green of the Ecuador is an essay. This is not the case: we have seen several of them postmarked, that were taken from letters received here direct from the country.

Our notice of novelties will not, after all, be so meagre this month as we had at first anticipated. An addition has been effected to the Prussian series. The design is the same as that of the 4 and 6 pfenninge. The value of this latest issue is 3 pf., and the colour a rich mauve-lilac. We may conclude with the notice of the appearance of the 2 s. blue Danish envelope.

ERRATUM.—The word *Bolivia*, at the end of our article on 'Newly-issued or inedited stamps' in last month's number, was a misprint for *Bolivar*, the liberator of the country named after him.

THE DONKEY POST OF SAN MARINO.

THE following account of the postal service of the obscure little town of San Marino (which is situated on a mountain ridge 2366 Parisian feet above the level of the sea) occurs in Mr. Thomas Adolphus Trollope's interesting work, *A Lenten Journey*. After describing his departure from Rimini in an oxen-drawn carriage and his first indistinct view of the town, he continues, 'But before going much further, we could distinguish the outline of so sharply-defined and square-looking a projection on the very highest peak of the outline of the crag, that we thought it surely must be a building of some sort. Gradually the eye became certain that a sharp irregular line, which gave the precipice the appearance of being topped with battlements, must be composed of the outlines of buildings. And in fact, almost incredible as it seemed, an illuminating sunbeam just then falling full on the face of the rock and the crest of it, showed beyond all dispute, that the first object we had made out on the topmost peak, was in truth a castle keep, and that the battlemented angular line was composed of the tops of the houses of the town of San Marino!

'Some small pilgrimage-chapel piled up by the enthusiasm of a faith, that deemed the painful transport of each sweat-bedewed stone the purchase money of so much exemption from purgatorial torture, I have seen in positions almost as inaccessible. But a town in such a position! A community of men and women, needing bakers and butchers, needing doctors! being born and being buried up there on the top of that precipice among the eagles' nests! Eagles' nests in truth there are none. For the bird is not sociable in his habits; and ubiquitous man has taken possession of the storm-beaten peaks, that seem fitted only for his solitary residence. But the eagles assuredly would live there if San Marino the Dalmatian soldier, turned Christian quarryman, had not taken the place from them.

'Butchers! Bakers! Doctors! Why the Post goes up there! The very notion seemed absurd! As well expect a daily delivery on the summit of Mont Blanc! But there *is* a daily post, man, boy, and donkey, communicating between that wide-spread smiling sunny world of cities and towns down there below, and this stern and storm-swept eyrie. The arrivals are not very regular to be sure; and in winter often not at all, the postboy and his donkey wisely declining to tempt the stormy crag that day. And this uncertainty, together with the considerations of a wise economy of the resources of the state, has given rise to a novel mode of serving the San Marino public with their correspondence. In order to avoid the expensive necessity of keeping a post-office open for the inhabitants

to seek their letters when they please, or the yet more expensive plan of sending them round to the several houses, the manner is to ring the great town bell, when the donkey from the world below arrives. Then San Marino expects that every man, who wants his letters, shall hasten to be present at the opening of the bag. Should he fail to be so, he must wait for his correspondence till the next day.'

SOMETHING ABOUT HIDALGO.

UPON the obsolete Mexican stamps and upon those just issued the bust of Hidalgo is engraved, and stamp collectors have been made aware that that personage was a curate who assisted in removing the Spanish yoke from Mexico. No further account of him has hitherto appeared, but we propose now to fill up the *hiatus* by a short memoir drawn from the most authentic sources.

Don Miguel Hidalgo-y-Costilla was the resident clergyman in the town of Dolores in the province of Guanaxuato, and from early life was considered to be a man of talent. His duties led him into close intercourse with the native population, and he soon perceived their dislike to the Spaniards. This knowledge he used in concocting the plan of a general revolt. Circumstances hastened the execution of the scheme, and a certain captain Allende, having collected a few volunteers, marched to Dolores, where he arrived on the 10th of September, 1810, and joined Hidalgo. The priest and the soldier at the head of the insurgents pillaged the houses of the Spaniards in the town of San Miguel le Grande, and gained possession of Guanaxuato on the 29th of September, in the treasury of which town they found a large quantity of coin and silver bars. A body of troops was now sent against Hidalgo by Don J. Villegas the newly-arrived viceroy. But his measures did not meet with success. The Indians were attached to Hidalgo by his repealing the tax called tributos which they had paid ever since the conquest. From Guanaxuato he marched on Valladolid, October 20th, and was joyfully received by two regiments of militia. Soon after, being proclaimed generalissimo of the Mexican forces he found himself at the head of eighty regiments of 1000 men each. He now therefore proceeded towards Mexico, the capital city, when Villegas, having but a handful of troops for its defence, applied to the Archbishop of Mexico and to the inquisition for a sentence of excommunication against Hidalgo and his adherents. Sunk in superstition, and priest-ridden, the Mexicans were awed by this demonstration from joining the insurgents, disappointed their expectations of assistance, and Hidalgo became irresolute. After having waited in the neighbourhood of the capital till the viceroy had recalled his troops he began a retreat. At Acapulco, however, he was overtaken and completely defeated on the 7th of November. He then retired to Guanaxuato, whither he was followed by the Spanish army who took the place with great slaughter. Hidalgo—a second Alfred—fled to Guadalaxara; and on the 17th of January, 1811, suffered a further and ruinous defeat at the bridge of Calderon. His career was now drawing to a close. He had seen the failure of his plans; after a career of conquest he had met with defeat, and now he experienced treachery. Eager to make terms with the victors, one of his own officers delivered him up on the 21st of March, 1811. He was then cast into prison and degraded from the priesthood, and, 'last scene of all,' put to death on the 27th of July following. But though dead, his name animated the Mexicans in their subsequent struggles—struggles which resulted in the possession of independence. And upwards of 40 years afterwards his portrait was engraved on the Mexican stamps. The present rulers of the country have shown wisdom in perpetuating his memory on the imperial issue, so linking together the present with the past of Mexico.

LETTER CHARACTERISTICS.

THE great majority of letters are like the great majority of people—ordinary, unexceptionable, and mediocre. It could not well be otherwise. In the railway post-office, however, much is learned from the habit of association. The officer, of course, takes some degree of interest in the towns on his ride; for, almost domesticated on the rail, he becomes a sort of denizen of those towns he is constantly passing, and sees, or fancies

he does, from the letters that arrive from them, a kind of corroboration of all he has settled in his mind with regard to them. Almost every town has its distinctive kind of letters. That town we just passed is manufacturing, and the letters are almost entirely confined to sober-looking advice-cards, circulars, prices-current, and invoices, generally very similar in kind and appearance, in good-sized envelopes, with very plainly written or printed addresses. Now and then a lawyer's letter, written in a painfully distinct hand, or a thick, fat, banker's letter, groaning under the weight of bills and notes, escapes from company such as we have described; but still the letters sustain the town's real character. Now we are at an old country town, with quiet-going people, living as their fathers did before them, and inheriting not only their money and lands, but their most cherished principles: their letters are just as we expected, little, quiet, old-fashioned-looking things, remarkable for nothing so much as their fewness. *Now* we are among the coal-districts, and almost all the letters have a smudged appearance, making you imagine that they must have been written by the light of pit-candles, in some region of carbon 'two hundred fathoms down.' *This* bag comes from a sea-bathing place, and so long as summer continues, will unmistakably remind you of sea-shore, sea-sand, and sea-anemones. *These* bags have previously had to cross a broad sea ferry, and the letters tell of salt water as certainly as if they were so many fishes. Another twenty miles, and we come to an old cathedral town with its letters looking as orthodox as any convocation could wish; whilst that other town is clearly a resort of fashion, if we may judge from the finely-scented, perfumed, elegant-looking billets that escape from its post-bag.—*Her Majesty's Mails.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps. By DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC., of the British Museum. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith.

AN old friend with a new face. The penny red stamp, rather inappropriately figuring on the first and second editions of this valuable work, has given place—as we suggested in a former review—to a representation of the green shilling, the nominal but certainly less than intrinsic value of the publication, which has been considerably enlarged and improved. Eight-and-thirty pages have been added to the number contained in the second edition, besides a couple of dozen devoted to advertisements. The illustrations form no mean feature in the present improved edition; engravings of at least one specimen—often several copies—of the issues of every country figuring in the volume, all executed with the usual neatness and accuracy of Mr. Whymper. The paper, printing, and general getting-up of the publication are deserving all praise. In the valuable table of facilitation the word *centessimi*, by a clerical error, stands for *centesimi;* and *tornese* should be substituted for *tornesi*, in juxta-position with Naples, the sole stamp of the denomination being the medio or half tornese. In accordance with the present rapid stride of timbrophilic enthusiasm, we may hope and expect briefly to hail a fourth edition.

Having only received the work for review on the eve of going to press, we are sorry not to be enabled to give the lengthened notice it so well deserves; but must not omit to mention that an appendix includes some recent issues that appeared too late for insertion in their proper places.

The Stamp-Collector's Pocket Companion. Manchester: Thorpe & Burns.

THIS small unpresuming candidate for the patronage of the timbrophilist is sure of obtaining the same, for the best of all possible reasons—that it is a gratis presentation to the public. Independently of this, it may take fair rank among the minor literature of timbrophily; containing notices of new stamps, postal chit-chat, notices, addresses, advertisements, &c., all in connection with its ostensible aim. The conundrum, now some score of years old, we should have thought by this time too well known to be mis-quoted. The answer is correct, but the question should stand,—'What is the *difference* between a postage stamp and a schoolmaster?'

We see the publishers project the establishment of a postage stamp exchange at Manchester. In the infancy of timbromaniac enthusiasm, such an institution would have been a success, when stamps were scarcely ever attainable in any other way, and before the great commercial stamp vendors sprang into being; but in these days of general buying and selling, when the more exclusive collectors even do not think it derogatory to to do a little in the latter department, in addition to a vast amount of the former, we do not think it likely that the excitement and semi-romance of Birchin Lane and Change Alley, the Tuileries Gardens and Boulevart Sebastopol, or the courtyard of the Post-office of Turin, will be again revived.

The Liverpool Stamp-Collector's Journal. Liverpool: J. C. Wroe.

AGAIN a claimant on the part of the North of England for the support of postal amateurs. We are glad that another spirited individual, nothing daunted, or perhaps encouraged, by the discontinuance of some few kindred serials, has launched his fragile bark amidst the storms of criticism. The scope and aim of the publisher appear the same as those of his congeners. Notices of new stamps, forgeries, reviews, geographical and other information, chit-chat, correspondence, and advertisements fill eight pages of small octavo letterpress. It is neatly printed, and every individual connected with its getting up, with the solitary exception of the corrector for the press, seems to have done his duty.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHY ARE GENTLEMEN'S LOVE LETTERS so liable to go astray? Because they are always mis(s)-directed.

WHY IS A POSTAGE STAMP LIKE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT? Because it has M.P. at the end of its name?

JONES AND BROWN MEET AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Jones complains of a bad smell about the office, and asks what it can be? Brown doesn't know, unless it may be the dead letters.

ON THE EVACUATION OF RICHMOND by the Southerners, the Confederate post-office was set on fire and burnt down; probably the blocks of the Confederate stamps were also destroyed with the building.

A POST-OFFICE STAMPER, CALLED MARTIN, was lately fined £5 for attempting to use an obliterated stamp. He urged that he was a collector of such curiosities, and had used the stamp in question by mistake, but his explanation was not favourably received.

DIALOGUE IN A COUNTRY POST-OFFICE.—*Clerk*, 'What have you done with the stamp I just sold you, to prepay your letter?' *Bumpkin*, 'I put it inside.' *Clerk*, 'But you ought to have stuck it on outside.' *Bumpkin*, 'I'm not such a fool as that: to get it stolen, I suppose?'

THE DESCRIPTION OF PAPER CALLED 'POST PAPER' owes its name to a horn, which was visible on holding up the paper to the light, impressed on it because the old postmen were accustomed to carry with them a horn, which they blew to announce their arrival to the householders.—*The English at Home.*

THE OLD 3 KR. BADEN STAMPS.—In 1857 it was noticed that the 3 kreuzer stamps were more frequently lost off letters than others, through want of the adhesive substance at the back being sufficiently strong. This defect was attributed to the chemical action of the green colour upon the gum, and the stamps were henceforth ordered to be printed in black on blue paper.—*Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper.*

We regret having to record the death of Mr. EDWARD CORNER HALL, of Hartlepool, who died on the 26th of March, in the 18th year of his age. His premature decease is a source of great affliction to his immediate relatives and friends. We had not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him, but his punctuality, honesty, and integrity ranked him among our most valued correspondents.

COST OF OUR POSTAGE STAMPS.—The total cost of the manufacture of postage labels and envelopes, in the year 1863, was nearly £30,000, of this sum, £19,000 was expended on the paper, for labels, and the printing, gumming, and folding. About £5,000 was appropriated to the salaries of the various officials, including the supervisor (£500), and the superintendent of the perforating department (£100). The poundage to distributors is estimated at £4,600.

TIMBROPHILY LONG ANTERIOR TO THE AGE OF HOMER, *vide* an unpublished play of Euripides, now being acted at one of the Parisian theatres. Paris, the shepherd prince, is surprised that the prophet Calchas has not yet received a letter of recommendation, sent in his favour by the goddess Venus. At length it is brought by a lovely carrier-pigeon. The prince is impatient at the delay of Calchas in opening the missive, who explains it by remarking that he is carefully taking off the *postage stamp*, for the collection of the young princess Hermione!

A PARIS LETTER-SORTER'S MISTAKE.—An anecdote is afloat about an invitation sent by a noble lady to the composer of the new opera setting forth the glories of Charlemagne eclipsed in disaster amongst the Pyrenees. The invitation bore on the envelope, '*A Monsieur Mermet auteur de Roland a Roncevaux*,' and was to be delivered personally by the lady's valet to the maestro in the green room. The lazy fellow threw it into the post-office, and nothing was heard of it for a week. The fair writer was yesterday sent her own letter 'returned' from Navarre, where at the village of Roncevaux 'no such person was known.'—*Globe.*

AMERICAN COUNTERFEIT.—The U. S. 4c. envelope, a comparatively rare stamp, has been *reproduced*, likely by the same bright genius who counterfeited the Canada envelopes, but who fails on this occasion to produce a *facsimile* at all calculated to deceive. The genuine stamp is distinctly printed; the counterfeit is tolerably well done, but the lettering has a blurred, imperfect appearance, owing, probably, to the inferior quality of the ink used.

Collectors should avoid purchasing, unless the entire envelope is attached, which, bearing a watermark, will not be found easy of reproduction.—*Stamp-Collector's Record, Albany, (N.Y.)*

SUNSHINE BY POST.—'Post free. *Coils of Sunshine.* Twelve stamps.'—Will Stanley of Alderley allow it? Will he not rather prohibit 'sunshine,' along with fireworks, lucifer matches, paraffin, petroleum, and other combustible articles? If he does not, then our post will indeed be a 'pattern' post. But how can such an inflammable mixture be secured? What wax has ever been manufactured that will not melt before it, like butter on a July morning? What envelopes, however adhesive, will submit to be hot-pressed in this way? Untie me these knots, for I am burning to know what you think; especially as I have been startled by a shocking report that the speculators, if they find themselves doing a good (sun)stroke of business, intend to supply us with rolls of earthquake per book-post; and rumours are rife of negociations with the lessees of the Milky Way, which, if successful, will enable the contractors so to plan it as to furnish opera companies, theatres, dinners, and evening parties with stars of every magnitude in a twinkling. Yours respectably, Wynkyn de Chaffe.—*Punch.*

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE IN AMERICA.—Since the commencement of the American war ordinary postal communication between North and South has ceased, but letters have passed from one side to the other under flags of truce. From some unknown cause letters so exchanged did not come to hand, but the press came to the aid of humanity in this as in some other respects. The newspapers very soon had a few advertisements inserted by good people who could not otherwise reach their friends, and who had news to tell or inquiries to make. Latterly these advertisements have multiplied to an incredible extent, and they are doubled by the mutual accommodation of copying similar advertisements on the other side. That is, the Northern journals copy the 'personals' as they are called in the Southern papers, and the Southern papers those in the Northern. The *New York Daily News* appears to have been foremost in this practice, which however is by no means confined to this paper. On Monday, the 16th January, the paper had five closely-printed columns of 'personals,' including those copied by request from the Southern journals. There is not anywhere a description of the state of things in the United States more speaking and touching than that which these five columns contain, in the form of innumerable details and inquiries. A painful proportion of the advertisements consist of inquiries after persons not heard of since such an action, captured in such an affair, left wounded on such a field. or sent upon such an expedition. A few of the 'personals' appear to be addressed to Northerners fighting in the Confederate armies, or *vice versa*, asking about their health, the state of their wardrobe, &c., and whether they would like a bundle by the next flag of truce. But, by orders from Washington, the governor of New York has stopped this method of communication, and henceforth the military line is to be a wall of darkness.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HERALDRY OF MOENS' ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have till now forgotten to make a few remarks on 'Nora's' and 'X. Y.'s' ideas of heraldry, and if possible to add to their stock of information. The arms of Oldenburg are *or, divided per double fesse, gules.* This occurs on the dexter side of the second, third, and present issues of the Oldenburg stamps. The lion *rampant argent*, alluded to by 'X. Y.,' represents some petty state either incorporated with or allied to the house of Oldenburg, and occurs *per chevron inarched, on field azure*, in the second and third issues, but it is omitted (as is also the fourth quartering) on the present issue.

The 'three-armed cross' of Sweden is in heraldry called a *pall-cross*, and should be, as Nora states, *or*. The inescutcheon is blazoned quarterly: first, Norway; second, Sleswick; third, Holstein; fourth, Stormarie,—the same, I fancy, as Mariestad. The details of these bearings I have not yet been able to ascertain.

The 'three roots with fibres' are stag's horns, the actual arms of Wurtemburg; the whole stag forms the sinister supporter, as represented on present Wurtemburg stamps.

The horse *courant* on the Hanover stamp, should be *argent*, not *azure*. Occupying the lower part of the stamp, it cannot be the *chief* quartering; and as the shield has but three compartments, *divided per pale and per chevron*, neither can it be a *quartering* at all—which presupposes at least four divisions. The arms of Wurtemburg, as quoted in *D'Eschavannes' Armorial Universel*, are, *or, palewise; dexter three stag's horns, sable; sinister three lions passant gardant sable, the dexter paw gules.*

Clifton. FENTONIA.

A 'VERY FANCY' STAMP ALBUM.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—The object of your useful periodical seems to be to bring the collector of stamps into contact with the possessor of stamps. One of my pupils has been benefitted to a considerable extent by your pages. Another was led by him to write to a person at Salford, advertising (not in your columns, I believe) to send for 10d 'A collector's album, post free, ruled to hold 1700 stamps, and very fancy strong covers. Two *unused* stamps with each.' By return of post he received a little unruled manuscript book in marble-paper back, size 3 in. by 2½ in.—such as a common copybook would make four of, and with it four poor, common used German stamps. I hate to see any one cheated; so I wrote to the man at Salford, and inquired if there was not a mistake. He has not condescended to answer my letter. If he sees this in your journal, he may begin to feel that honesty is the best policy, when collectors hesitate to deal with him. I send you his name and address, as well as my own, and remain, Yours, &c.,

A PRIVATE TUTOR.

Wimborne.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE BALE IN THE SYDNEY STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have a twopenny blue View of Sydney similar to the one described by your correspondent in the last number, but with *horizontal* waved lines in the spandrils. It is printed in a greenish-blue, from a very early state of the plate, and I have positive proof of its genuine character. The face of the figure sitting on the bale of goods is in direct profile to the right, and a powerful lens shows the end of the bale to be thus marked:—

No.	0
17	SS

The same inscription is also on the bale of goods in two other Views of Sydney in my album—a penny and a threepenny—save that the ss are more like long figures of 8, or hanks of cotton.

U. O. N.

Westminster Club.

WEST INDIAN POSTMARKS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—There appears to be some system in the postmarks of the West Indian colonies and British Guiana. The latter postmarks with the letters and figure *A. O.* 1, Antigua with *A. O.* 2, and Bahamas with *A. O. 5*. What is the meaning of these? I have seen a British Guiana with *A. O.* 3 on it, but they generally have *A. O.* 1, and I think that 3 is the Jamaica number. Grenada does not use this system, but I think numbers according to towns. I have seen the numbers 1 and 15 within lines on some of them. Barbadoes and Trinidad also have independent postmarks; but I shall be glad if you or any of your subscribers will inform me of the meaning of the letters *A. O.* and the accompanying figures.

Yours faithfully,

York. ANTILLES.

A NEW CANADIAN LOCAL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Bancroft, the proprietor of the City Express, is soon to issue a 5 cent stamp for his own use. He had a woodcut made, but as he was displeased with it he rejected it. Some person obtained an impression from the rejected block and counterfeited it, and has put the counterfeits in circulation. I understand that the genuine Bancroft stamp is to be engraved on copper and perforated.

Yours very truly,

Montreal. I. A. N.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUIRER, Southsea.—Some of the Ceylon stamps, especially the envelopes, fetch good prices, in consequence of their high facial value; but they cannot be considered rarities, the question being merely a matter of purchase. A few of the earlier impressions, whose tints have been altered, as the eightpenny, ninepenny, sixpenny—especially the one of a peculiar lilac-brown hue—are rarely met with in an uncancelled state; neither are the unperforated varieties, except the twopenny, tenpenny, and one-and-ninepenny, which we have never seen with the improvement of perforation.

J. M. F. T., Richmond, Yorkshire.—Ce correspondent ci demande à Mons. Moens s' il a l' intention de faire publier un supplément à son album, pour inclure les nouvelles émissions telles que les Mecklenbourg-Strelitz, les Moldo-Vallachie, les Turquie, &c. Peut-être ce monsieur aura la complaisance de nous répondre sur ce sujet-la.

A SUBSCRIBER, Dublin.—Thanks for your information, of which we had an inkling previously.

N. A. B. B., Bury St. Edmunds.—The initials on the breast of the Prussian eagle are those of the engraver's name.—We can only hail the fact, reason unexplained, of the almost annual variation of the Spanish, interrupted in 1858, '59, '61, and '63 only, since their first issue in 1850.—The Java stamp seems not to be used in the Dutch West Indies, which gives strength to our idea that the East was the real locality of what have been known as Dutch Guianas.—A letter appeared some time ago in our magazine stating authoritatively the entire abolition of the United States' locals. When employed, they did duty as far as intended equally with the government impressions.

ACADIA.—You are right in the supposition that the characters in the corner circles of the Turkish stamps denote the values. The crescent has been the armorial emblem of the Turkish power ever since the capture of Constantinople.

A COLLECTOR, London.—Like yourself, we have often seen that impertinent falsity, the Cochin China stamp, unblushingly exposed in a shop window.

OVERY TAYLOR.—Our correspondent, Acadia, sends us the acceptable information that the flower represented in the lower disc of the old Nova Scotia stamps, that you regretted your inability to identify, is called in the colony the Mayflower. It grows wild, in small white or pink clusters, and yields a most delicious perfume. We would ask if it has been yet naturalized in England, and what is the botanical name?

UNCERTAIN, Shrewsbury.—Your large green oval impression is a Vienna newspaper stamp, employed for some official, but we imagine, not postal purpose. The other is evidently a fictitious Italian.

TIMBRO-AMATOR, Leicester.—This correspondent informs us that the new 20 centesimi of Italy comes into use on the first of May; and that the United States envelope impressions, except perhaps the 2 cents and 3 cents, will be shortly disused.

VIVE UT VIVAS.—This writer complains of having unfortunately fallen into possession of a forged Cuban, and points out several discrepancies by which it may be distinguished, asking our opinion on the subject. We have frequently given it already; but are sorry we can do no more than exclaim against the unblushing effrontery of the Swiss, German, and other forgers who inundate the market with their monstrosities. The safest way of avoiding such cheateries is never to purchase but of parties who have a character at stake.

B. J., Huddersfield.—Your stamp is evidently a hand-impression employed officially in the Würtemberg post-offices, similar in character to those on returned letters or other communications on postal service emanating from St. Martin's-le-Grand.

W. H. L., Crawley, Sussex.—In reply to your query we can but repeat what we have often stated, that the English stamped envelopes above the value of one penny can be procured from Somerset house alone, and that by special application, at great cost of time and trouble, and payment of the required fee. Thin paper not being allowed to be printed upon, they are virtually of no use for the majority of foreign correspondence; and we believe that with the exception of a few private firms, as Smith & Elder, Stafford Smith & Smith, the *Home News*, &c., they are little employed but to ornament the pages of timbrophilists' albums.

R. J., Gravesend.—There neither is, nor ever was, a genuine 50 centimes French.—We regret to inform you that your quartette of Pony Express stamps are gross impostors. The red and the black are coarse imitations of the genuine impressions; but the blue and the brown have not even that slight claim to notice.

E. C. HYDE.—It not unfrequently happens that stamps printed in two colours, and consequently impressed with two dies, such as the Sardinian, &c., and in the instance of your own specimen—the 12 cuartos present issue of Spain—have part of the impression what the Irish call, downside up. We cannot appraise it. Such a monstrosity is eagerly sought for by some, and ignored by other collectors.—This notice will perhaps serve as an advertisement, and get you an offer for its purchase.

N. M. M., Manchester Street.—We have just had an opportunity of observing an individual such as described by you last month; but are assured on unexceptionable authority, that it never emanated from the Confederate government.

J. BURT.—The stamp engravings in Dr. Gray's new Catalogue are not on one large sheet. They are scattered throughout the work, opposite to their respective countries.

NOTES ON THE GERMAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE German stamps are old acquaintances of the stamp collector. Next to the French, they are the easiest to be obtained, and are consequently amongst his earliest acquisitions. Poor indeed must be the album which does not contain a fair sprinkling of Wurtemburg, Baden, Bavaria, &c. In commenting upon the stamps emanating from those and the other states and cities comprised in the Germanic Confederation, our aim will be to unite with the already existing information such new matter as we have been able to collect.



Just as there is a family connection between the numerous German princes, so there is a kind of relationship between the German postage labels. There are similarities of type, colour, value, and even date of issue, which are not presented by any other group.

The first country to issue stamps was Bavaria, which came out with the well-known 1 kr. black in June, 1849. There are two varieties of this stamp, a lithograph and a woodcut. There are also lithographed forgeries of the woodcut, and a photograph, now seldom met with. In November of the same year the 3 kr. blue and 6 kr. brown followed, but proofs of the two were first printed in blue and rose respectively. A proof exists of the former in black also, by some accredited to the old, and by others to the current series. In 1850 the 9 kr. green was issued, and the 1 kr. black gave way to the same value in rose. The 18 kr. yellow and 12 kr. red were respectively issued in 1854 and 1858. Of the former we have seen a proof in rose, and a German authority catalogues, though doubtfully, a black impression of the latter. It will be seen by the foregoing dates that Mount Brown is in error in giving 1851 as the date of the whole issue. The present series commenced business in 1862, and is expected to retire in November next. As Bavaria is now the only country having a separate post, which retains the figure of value as the sole central ornament of its prepaying stamps, we trust it will, after the example of its neighbours, adopt the national arms, which will be far preferable.

The 'instruction stamps' are not usually admitted by amateurs in this country, but we have seen them in several foreign collections, and they are catalogued by Dr. Gray. There have been two issues of these stamps, as well as of their orthodox fellows. The colours of the old issue are—1 kr. grey, 3 kr. blue, 6 kr. violet-brown, 9 kr. green, 12 kr. rose, 18 kr. yellow; and of the current series are—1 kr. yellow, 3 kr. rose, 6 kr. blue, 9 kr. stone, 12 kr. green, 18 kr. red.

The once-rare 3 pf. red commenced the issue of Saxon stamps, forestalling the set bearing the late king's head by more than a twelvemonth, and remained current until the issue of the 3 pf. arms green, in 1854. The 10 n. gr. envelope, produced in 1856, was not reprinted in 1859, like the rest, with inscription to right. Mount Brown catalogues only the three lower values as so reprinted, but there is no doubt that the 5 n. gr. was included. It is found in two shades, dark violet and mauve—the latter being the last colour; and there are spaces for both in Moens' album.

'Doctors differ' as to the date of the first issue of Thurn and Taxis North and South. Mount Brown gives the year 1850, whilst Levrault gives 1850 for the South and 1852 for the North; but the complete uniformity of colour between the stamps of both divisions favours the belief in a cotemporary emanation. Moens, who appears to have paid considerable attention to dates of emission, states the issue of both to have been on the 1st of January, 1852. But this is, we think, a mistake. The *Deutsch-Oestr Postverein*, or 'German-Austrian Postal Union,' named on the right-hand side of all the Thurn and Taxis stamps, doubtless preceded their issue. This Union having been concluded, as appears by the inscription on the side of the figure Baden and Wurtemburg, on the 6th of April, 1850, we may presume that the first issue took place some time afterwards in the same year. The English manualist's figures will therefore be correct.

The designs of these stamps are as handsome as any could be in which the numeral of value is the leading feature. Post-horns, shields, shells, and variously-patterned groundwork contribute to beautify them; and their appearance has been much improved in the later series by the impression of the dies in coloured inks on white paper. The borders of the lower value stamps, up to 3 s. gr. in the North and 9 kr. in the South, are alike, only the background to the figure in each varying slightly; but the 5 and 10 s. gr. and the 15 and 30 kr. respectively differ from the rest not only in the design of the border, but also in having the groundwork behind the central figure in each formed of a mosaic of the numeral of value repeated in minute type. In the 5 s. gr. the figure 5 and the roman V are multiplied on irregular discs formed by the interlacing of the framework at the back, and in like manner, *mutatis mutandis*, the 10 s. gr. In the 15 kr. the background figure 15 is placed within hexagons, and the roman numerals XV. in the centre of six-rayed stars between them. The 30 kr. resembles the 15 kr., but, as the reader will see by the engraving given, there was not sufficient space between the figures for the insertion of the roman letters.

The old Baden and Wurtemburg stamps resemble each other closely, bearing as they both do the figure in centre, the same inscription in the border, with only the name of issuing state changed, and being both printed on coloured paper. In the old Baden there have been several alterations in colour, the 3 kr. having been respectively on yellow, green, and blue paper; the reason for the latter transition being that the colouring matter of the green paper affected the gum on the back, and rendered it unadhesive. In the 'arms' series there have also been several changes, caused, however, principally by the general revolution in colours effected after the example of Prussia. The current series is a great improvement on the preceding one, the omission of the lined background to the arms being very advantageous. The alteration was first made in 1862 in the 3 kr., when that stamp was issued in rose. The 18 kr. and 30 kr., which made their appearance at the same time, were also of the new type, and probably the authorities only delayed the production of the other values in the same until the old stock was exhausted. The old 9 kr. brown is sometimes to be met with of a light greenish tint, and the new stamp of that value is printed in bistre, not brown.

We do not think the LAND-POST stamps are obsolete. Mount Brown stated that they were nearly two years since, but other stamp authorities, whose works have subsequently appeared, make no mention of such being the case: in particular, no such statement is made in Levrault's valuable catalogue. Had these stamps become obsolete at the time named, they would have been in use only a few months, and must by this time have become scarce; but the fact is, they still sell at the ordinary prices.

The old Wurtemburg stamps underwent no change of colour. Within the last six months the entire series has been reprinted at the Stuttgart office, and the stamps sold to amateurs at their facial value. In the same manner, proofs of all but the 18 kr. have been produced on white, green, pink, and blue paper, and sold at the same prices as the reprinted stamps, and the proceeds of the sale of both stamps and proofs applied to a fund for the benefit of superannuated post officials. The reprint 18 kr. is on violet-tinted paper, instead of neutral-coloured. The 1 kr., 6 kr., and 9 kr. of the perforated obsolete set, bearing the Wurtemburg arms, are printed in two shades—light and dark, and there are also two distinct colours of the current 9 kr.

The Schleswig-Holstein stamps came out on the same day as the first issue of Prussia, the 15th of November, 1850, and remained current until the 1st of February, 1851. The discovery, a little time since, of several sheets of these once-priceless stamps has brought them within the reach of every collector of ordinary means. Genuine used specimens are, however, very scarce. We have never seen one ourselves, but there are plenty of forged copies in the market, emanating from the well-known Hamburg manufacturers of 'imitation stamps.' The obliterating marks on such copies nearly cover the design, but the absence of the silk thread and of the

dark colouring in the letters of the inscription which cross the eagle's head and claws, are sure tests of their genuineness. In the real stamps the position of the thread varies very much, being as often on the right or left hand as in the centre.

There are two varieties of the Holstein 1¼ sch., issued in March, 1864—a dark and a light blue. The dark blue has the wavy lines of the background much finer, and the band inclosing the central inscription thinner and better drawn than in the light blue. The two I's in SCHILLING in the dark variety are dotted, in the light they are not. There are also dots between the letters H.R.Z.G.L. and F.R.M. in the dark, but not in the light blue. The outer border of the latter is also much thicker, and the lettering of the inscription contained in it larger than in the dark. Both varieties bear the letter P as a watermark in the centre, and are equally genuine. The current 1¼ sch. also has the letter P in the centre behind the figure, but it is not a watermark. There are some slight differences between the 1¼ and 4 sch. Schleswig. The word SCHILLING is spelt with an E at the end, in the 4 and without in the 1¼, and the figures in the latter have not an outer line surrounding them as has the 4 sch.

From the beginning the Brunswick stamps have been, with one exception, of the same unvarying type, which, however, is to be abandoned in the expected issue. This issue, if it be really about to be made, is behind its time. The ominous 1st of April, on which its appearance was promised, has long passed and yet there is no sign of the over-due novelties. The essays certainly had a far more genuine look than many others. They seemed to be in reality 'trial stamps'—printers' proofs,—being impressed on paper with scraps of printing on the back. The idea of issuing small 3 pf. stamps in fours appears to have been taken by the Brunswickers from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, as we find that in 1856 the latter emitted its well-known diminutives, and that the present 4-4ths superseded the old brown ¼ gr. Brunswick in the following year. The Mecklenburg ¼ schs. are, notwithstanding, the smallest stamps in the world, for each one of the four, now surrounded by a line of perforation, is quite separate from the rest, whilst the 4-4ths have a common external border. By the way, all the Brunswick stamps are now perforated, or rather,—denticulated.

The stamps of the two Mecklenburgs present no other noticeable features. For all necessary information concerning the Oldenburg and Luxembourg stamps, we cannot do better than refer the reader to Dr. Viner's able papers on those countries; and concerning the Hanoverian stamps, to Fentonia's article in the last number of this magazine.



We have now to deal with the stamps of the free cities. We append an engraving of one of the stamps of Bergedorf, by which any one not already acquainted with them will perceive their quaint character. The city, being under the joint protection of Hamburg and Lubeck, displays the arms of both; and the letters in the corners (as the readers of volume ii. of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* will have already learnt) signify 'Lubeck-Hamburg post office.' The old issue, comprising the ½ schilling violet and 3 schilling rose (black impressions on coloured paper) are now extremely scarce, owing to their having been in use only from the 1st to the 10th of November, 1861.

Of the Bremen stamps there are two kinds —those inscribed BREMEN or FRANCO-MARKE, for general use, and those inscribed (including the envelopes) STADT POST AMT BREMEN, for local postage especially. The 5 gr. and 7 gr., though they very much resemble each other, and are generally considered to be of the same type, differ in fact sufficiently to show that the two are not from the same die. The curved ornament separating FRANCO from MARKE and the ornaments at the four corners are different in each stamp, and whilst there are four jewels in the crown on the 7 gr. there are but three in the 3 gr. The background of the shield in the 7 gr. is also composed of finer lines than that in the 3 gr. A 1 gr. stamp, bearing a figure 1 surrounded by rays and surmounted by the word UMSATZSTEUER in the centre, and with a key in small circle in the middle of the

figure, is sometimes admitted by young collectors into their books as a postage stamp: in reality it is only a receipt stamp.

The old issue of Lubeck has been the theme of much admiration, and the subject of a disreputable and very fine forgery. The 4 sch. black is mentioned by Mount Brown as a proof, but a well-known stamp authority has stated that it was actually in use for a few days, and was then withdrawn to make room for the ordinary green stamp.

We have lately become possessed of a doubtful stamp, circular in shape, and inscribed STADT POST AMT LUBECK. Within the circle containing this inscription is the Lubeck shield, and beneath it a bugle-horn. Our copy is rather indistinctly printed in black on white paper. The word LUBECK is spelt without an E after the U, and without the two dots over the U as in the old issue. Dr. Gray catalogues it without remark, but no other writer includes it in the list of Lubeck. It appears to be an envelope, and if genuine may have been used before the introduction of adhesives for local postage.

The learned doctor also gives place to a mythical Frankfort journal stamp, bearing a 'spread-eagle on white disc in large oval frame, inscribed FREI STADT FRANKFORT in upper, and ZEITUNG STEMPEL in lower edge; black ink; dentated adhesive stamp.' Trustworthy information respecting this stamp is much to be desired, for the stamp-collecting world has hitherto received no further enlightenment concerning it.

The Hamburg state stamps adorn the albic page on which they rest with a numerous array of castles and figures. The combination thus effected of the numerical and heraldic styles of ornament has a very happy effect, and the stamps have lately been improved by perforation. The entire issue are easily obtainable, but Lallier has given space in his album to an 'interpostal' stamp, all efforts to gain which have been fruitless, and it is now clearly settled that it has no existence. What however appears to have been so christened by the French compiler is an oblong stamp, lately sent to us by a friend, —mentioned by Levrault as an essay—engraved in 1858, a year before the first emission, and containing the figure 1 in centre on castle, SCH^{G} on each side, FR. STADT HAMBURG above, and beneath POSTMARKE. This design is printed on a delicate rose ground, in black ink on white paper, and surrounded by a wide border. An engraving of this stamp is given in one of the articles on postage stamps in *Cassell's Paper*, as one of the circulating series. Proofs of some of the individuals comprised in that series have been struck off in several colours, in particular the 9 sch. To those already noticed by Mount Brown we may here add 1¼ sch. brown, blue, and 4 sch. mauve, blue, yellow, and black. The variety of the ½ sch. on brown paper, included in the list by the last-named gentleman, is merely an 'instruction' stamp, impressed on wrappers containing a specified number of the stamps in question, and the 1¼ sch. and 2½ sch. black ink on buff paper are impressions for the like purpose.

The local Hamburg 'boten' have been the subject of much controversy. The whole have often been declared unworthy of admission into albums, and not without cause. Stamps bearing the names of four persons have been issued, viz., Hamer, Scheerenbeck, Krantz, and Lafrenz. Of these the first two alone are generally considered to have been used for postal purposes. A German correspondent states in the magazine that they were issued by a company of merchants, and the inscription on the figure, Scheerenbeck's VEREINIGTE CORPORATIONEM, in some degree, bears out his assertion; but he further remarks, 'Most of these stamps are *not* used for paying letters, and it is a well-grounded suspicion to believe that a great part or all of them are a speculation on stamp collecting.' The truth of his supposition appears from the fact that all the 'boten' stamps are the property of one person, Mr. Scheerenbeck, and are sold in this country in sets at prices far beneath their facial value. Moreover, none have ever been seen postmarked, or with any sign of their ever having been on letters or parcels. The Krantz stamps are said to have been mere frauds, and the Lafrenz are known to have been the work of clerks more enterprising than honest. The Lafrenz series are now scarce, but the Krantz 'postman' sets are obtainable on the same terms as the Scheerenbecks and Hamers. The Scheeren-

beck set with castle are obsolete. Their maker found that the employment of the Hamburg arms for a private speculation was illegal, and in consequence brought out the 'commissionaire' series. The others, however, have not become scarce since their supercession.

The 'Van Diemen' stamps, issued last year, have this guarantee for their genuine character, that their owner is the agent of one of the largest carrying companies in the world, and therefore not likely to engrave stamps merely for the purpose of a petty speculation. The stamps are also of different values, ranging from 1 to 8 schillings. They come over to England in used sets, with a postmark of dots and the letters CH. V. D. in a circle, covering the entire stamp; but the gum on the back of every such postmarked stamp that we have seen has been intact, and without any indication of its having been stuck to a letter, so it seems not unlikely that they are obliterated for the purpose of sale. But even if this is the case, it would not militate against the belief that they are *bonâ fide* stamps.

We must now bring our notes to a close. The stamps of Prussia and Austria, although those countries are comprised in the Germanic Confederation, are hardly fitting for notice in the present paper, and we therefore lay down our pen,—equally to our reader's delight and our own.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DON BERNARDINO RIVADAVIA.

From *Moens' Stamp Magazine.*

THIS individual, celebrated in South America, will indisputably be indebted to postage stamps for wafting his renown across the Atlantic, and establishing it in Europe, whose priority of birth endows it with the privilege of consecrating reputations and decreeing posthumous honours. Throughout the Old World his name is a novelty, for—with the exception, perhaps, of some old diplomatist, some antiquated minister with whom he may have had relations during the course of his diplomatic career — he was nearly unknown to the European public. Thanks to the postage stamps that the gratitude of his country has impressed with his likeness, and to the curiosity that they necessarily aroused respecting the acts which obtained him that distinction, Don Rivadavia, his life and his labours, will soon be more familiar to collectors on this side the Atlantic, than some dozens of princes, dukes, and grand-dukes of the Germanic Confederation. The summary of his life which we are about to present is drawn from documents yet unpublished in Europe. They are in the possession of M. Nathalis Roudot, of the Magasin Pittoresque, to whose politeness we are indebted for them.

Don Bernardino Rivadavia, son of a distinguished lawyer, was born at Buenos Ayres, May 20th, 1780. He was educated at the college of San Carlos. In 1806 he took part in the defence of his native city, when attacked by the English, and contributed to their expulsion from the country. After having remained a long time undecided on the choice of a profession, and trying by turns, but unsuccessfully, law and commerce, he plunged soul and body into the revolution of the 25th of May, 1810, when the Spanish colonies began to shake off the yoke of the mother country. The executive Junta named him Secretary of War and Foreign Affairs, in September, 1811.

He had found his fit vocation: active and military politics. Revolutionary periods require men of rapid perception, prompt resolution, and Protean ability. It is only in a completely organised government that functions are specially defined. None could have been fitter than Rivadavia to render services at a time, when one domination was on the point of fall, and its successor not definitely constituted. He busied himself in the formation of the army, repressed the *émeute* of the patrician battalion on the 6th of December, 1811, signed the abolition of the treaty with the blacks in May, 1812, and crushed the conspiracy of Algaza, which broke out on the 2nd of July, in the same year. These active services did not prevent his engaging in the elections at Buenos Ayres on the 8th of October. After a short period of comparative repose, he was entrusted with a mission to Europe in January, 1814, by Don Gervacio A. de Posadas, the Constitutional Director. He had several

conferences at Madrid with Ferdinand VII., but it may be easily imagined that such a prince, who never professed much wish for the freedom of his subjects, would negociate but with a very poor grace with a former subject, whom he regarded as a rebel: he sent him his passports, with orders to quit Spain in four and twenty hours. He retired to France, and thence to England. On the 20th of October, 1817, he addressed a note to Lord Castlereagh, protesting against the language used by certain members of the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle, and against the construction of vessels in French ports, under the auspices of Ferdinand VII., for the repression of the revolt of his American colonies.

During the six years of his European mission, he applied himself to the study of social and political science, and in travelling through England, France, and Italy.

The government that succeeded the Directory, recalled him towards the middle of the year 1820. On returning to his native country, he was named, on the 13th of June, 1821, prefect of the department of studies preparatory to the University, a function which he discharged till the 19th of July only, on which date, the portfolio of Foreign Affairs was entrusted to him.

As minister, he introduced numerous reforms, especially some relative to the emigration of European families; the creation of a copper coinage; the establishment of archives; and, finally, his most glorious achievement, the abolition of slavery.

In the month of October, 1821, he introduced a general amnesty for political offences; on the 13th of December, he forbade interment in churches, and ordered the establishment of cemeteries; on the 14th, signed a decree for street improvements; on the 24th, established justices of peace in the towns and villages; and, at the same time, organised the police. On the 28th of December, he completed the territorial division of the country.

This administrative campaign very much resembles that of the First Napoleon at Ulm; some law, and that an important change for the better, every day.

From that epoch, till the day when he was appointed President of the Republic, the 8th of February, 1826, he signed numerous decrees, all dictated by the sagest understanding. Nothing was forgotten which could directly or indirectly affect the welfare of his country, or elevate its intellectual scale: public edifices, agriculture, instruction, commerce, and treaties with foreign powers. In the interval of these reforms, he again for a short time, represented his country in England: and it was on his return home, that he attained to supreme power. From that time his star began to pale. During the course of his administration, he had contrived to put an end to many abuses, send to the right-about many incapables, lop off a crowd of useless branches from all parts of the administration; and as a necessary consequence, raise up a host of envious malcontents. All the dispossessed officials, and others who fancied themselves injured, leagued against him, and for a time, precipitated the country anew into the chaos whence his genius had extricated it.

All this was passing whilst the republic had to sustain a war against Brazil. He managed, nevertheless, to conclude a peace, and then resigned that power which never seems so heavy as in the hands of those who know how to bear its weight.

His public career was terminated. After some travelling, he returned, like Cincinnatus, to his home, to cultivate his lands, raise his silkworms, and nurse his bees. But his enemies had not forgotten him, for Don Manuel Oribe, then President of the Republic, exiled him in 1836, with several other Argentine notabilities.

He set off for Santa Catalina, thence for Rio Janeiro, where he lost his wife, Dona Juana del Pino; then, for the last time in his life, traversed the ocean and came to Europe.

His travels, the labours of administration, and the vicissitudes of his life, had undermined his health. He lingered for some years, and on the 2nd September, 1845, the first President of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata breathed his last at Cadiz.

It was not till 1857 that his country recalled his memory: his remains were exhumed, and sent to Buenos Ayres; and on the 1st of January, 1863, in grateful remem-

brances of his services, it was resolved to perpetuate his features on the postage stamps then projected. We may take occasion to remark, that illustrious men are better treated in our days than formerly: the shade of Don Bernardino Rivadavia, as the ancients would say, waited eighteen years only for reparation, while the pedestal is still minus the statue, only six months since decreed by Spain to Christopher Columbus!

THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

'THOSE puzzling Peruvian varieties!' exclaims the wise man of Warwickshire, when commenting on the catalogued arrangement of the wise man of Cheapside.* They *are* puzzling; there is no question of that; so different and yet so alike. Still it is quite possible to classify them, so that even the most ordinary capacity may easily understand them. Having recently had several opportunities of inspecting between three and four hundred specimens of Peruvian stamps, we are in a position, if not to become an authority, at least to form an opinion, and to give an accurate description of them, founded both on experience and observation.

We were rather amused the other day, when making some purchases at a stamp depôt, by a lady who entered the shop and asked for a Lima stamp to add to her collection. In vain the courteous tradesman assured her, that, though he had a large variety in stock, there was no such stamp mentioned in any catalogue; in fact, he did not think Lima used any postage stamps; would not some other do as well? But she was firm in her determination to obtain a Lima stamp, and though subsequently she saw several Peruvian stamps, in looking over various sheets placed before her, yet the geographical connection between Lima and Peru did not seem to strike either party, neither had we the good nature to enlighten them. So much for the boasted education and intelligence of the nineteenth century!

We are not going to venture upon a definition of the exact boundaries of the modern republics of Peru, Bolivia, and the Equator (Ecuador), the two former of which formed part of old Peru, when forty years since it was a Spanish colony; but for the satisfaction of the lady who was in search of the Lima stamp, and who probably has not yet found one, we might as well mention that the province of Lima is still included in the present republic of Peru; or, as it was styled at the time of separation, and perhaps still is, *Estado Sud Peruano*.

Premising the fact, patent to the most casual observer, that all Peruvian stamps are square, and that each issue has but two values, un dinero and una peseta, except the third, which has a medio peso,—we proceed to say that in our own album we divide them so as to reckon seven different issues, which we shall endeavour minutely to describe in chronological order.

We have no means of positively ascertaining their respective dates of issue, our assumptions being almost exclusively derived from postmarks, and therefore can be considered only as approximating towards truth.

1.—1856. 1 dinero pale-blue, 1 peseta red. The earliest postmark which we have met with, and that somewhat difficult to decipher, is 1856. These and all succeeding stamps have the same armorial bearings which are said to be the present arms of Peru. They occupy the sinister side of the shield only in Lallier's Album, the dexter containing the original bearings as chosen at the time when Peru threw off the Spanish yoke. Of the original supporters, the llama and the condor eagle, the one has stepped into the shield, the other seems to have been handed over to the neighbouring republic of the Equator. The inscription is between a double lined frame, PORTE-FRANCO above, and value beneath, in upright letters, CORREOS on each side in slanting letters, on white paper. There has never been any variation in the white paper up to the present time. Shield surmounted by a chaplet slightly open at top, and enclosed in a circle, which circle has in the blue stamp an inner line of fine *oblong* dots; in the red an inner line of fine *triangular* dots; the corners being filled up by a fine wavy perpendicular pattern. In the blue, the shield is almost surrounded by a chaplet (a wreath we should say, only it is not heraldic as applied to leaves), which

* See *Stamp-Collector's Review*, vol. ii., pp. 26 and 74

is a larger reproduction of that which, though it occupies the place of one, we can scarcely call a crest. In the red, the shield has two flags on each side, the lower and largest being even with the middle line of the shield; the upper being very small, and proceeding from the highest corner of the shield. In the blue dinero, and in the red peseta—of which we annex an engraving—the llama, *field azure*, is standing with a long giraffe-like neck, its nose touching the boundary line; the plaintain tree, *field argent*, touches the top of the shield; and the cornucopia, *field gules*, is thick and shapeless. Letters large.



2.—1858. These do not differ from No. 1, except the spaces between the double lines and in the corners, being white or nearly so. A magnifying glass will, however, generally disclose the faint remains of No. 1 pattern. Some may perhaps cavil at calling this a separate issue, as it was doubtless produced from the worn-out dies of the former one, still as it did not appear till the first was exhausted, we think it more correct to do so. The stamps of the first and second issue are about the twentieth part of an inch larger than any of the succeeding ones.

3.—1859. We have seen a specimen dated Aug. 1858, but we do not fancy they were in general circulation till the following year, as No. 2 issue is constantly found bearing the same date. The letters are smaller, but still between double lines. The llama's neck is shorter, and its head thrown back, while its tail touches the shield. Dots inside circle of dinero *round* instead of *oblong*, and the plantain does not touch the top of the shield. To this issue belongs the medio peso, now become so rare as to cause those who have never seen one to doubt whether it ever existed. But there are too many postmarked specimens still in preservation to admit of a reasonable doubt in the minds of their fortunate possessors. They are generally yellow, but we have seen one postmarked specimen red. The medio peso resembles its companions of this issue, with trifling exceptions. It has the chaplet as well as the flags; the one resting on the other, the lower flags being placed higher up so as to receive the whole of the chaplet. The lettering stands thus, PORTE FRANCO above, CORREOS below, in upright letters; MEDIO PESO to the left, and 650 CENTIMOS to the right, in slanting letters. Dr. Gray says 50 centavos; perhaps he means that is equivalent to a half peso.*

4.—1860. The leading feature of this issue is the cornucopia on a *field argent*, or, as it is commonly called, on a white ground. This was evidently a mistake of the engraver, issued probably towards the close of the year and amended within a few months. The blue seems scarcely to have got into circulation before it was set right, so rarely is it met with; but the red seems to have been taken off in large numbers before the mistake was discovered. We have even met with two stray ones dated as late as Dec., 1861, and Jan., 1862. Our idea that but few of the blue were taken off, is confirmed by our having a red, with cornucopia on white, side by side with a blue of the new, or most generally known issue, dated March 26, 1861. The lettering of this No. 4 issue now becomes larger, the ground instead of being wavy, becomes a decided zigzag. The frame is of single lines; the llama having in one case hit his head against his enclosure, and in another hit his tail, now appears comfortably in the middle of his allotted space, and is seen attempting to walk. The cornucopia also assumes a more graceful curve.

5.—1861. We now come to the Peruvian stamps generally seen in collections, which must have had at least a two years' existence, else they could not have been so common—say from the beginning of 1861, to the end of 1862; the latest date we have met with, is Dec., 1862. They are apparently from the same die as the cornucopia on white, the only difference being, that the white space is filled in *gules*, therefore they need no further description.

6.—1862. The characteristic of this type is the white flag in the red stamp, and the disunited zigzag of the corner pattern in the

* [The numeral on our yellow Peruvian, which may be intended for a 6, looks more like a 5; but we will venture to suggest that it is neither, but the letter o with an accent: the purport of which would signify the legend to be—medio peso, *or* 50 centimos.—ED.]

blue stamp. It seems to have had but a short life, and is much less common than No. 5 issue.

7.—1863. We now come to the type in current use, having the arms embossed on white, the chaplet crest joined at top, the cornucopia remarkably ugly and nearly topsy turvey. The lettering is somewhat differently arranged. The one dinero is pink, the one peseta is brown; of both values there are two shades. We have recently met with a one peseta stamped with smaller shield, which, unless it be a forgery (and we have never heard that any of the Peruvian stamps have been forged), may be considered a variety.

But what shall we say to the postmarks? They are puzzling indeed, and three or four seem to be used arbitrarily by the same town. We know of seven different ones, of which only the square found on the earliest stamps, but not later than No. 5 issue, seems to have become obsolete.

There are few of the commercial world who have not friends or correspondents in Peru; while to the literary world it must ever be known through Prescott's elaborate History of the Conquest of Peru. To the play-going world, Pizarro possesses thrilling interest; and to the French student is generally familiar the fall of the Incas, who, like the Cæsars, were twelve in succession, and then gave way to revolutionary change.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THIS present year of grace has been, and bids fair to continue, fertile in postage novelties. Besides the complete series already described, such as those of Moldo-Wallachia, Turkey, &c., and gradual additions, as the 3 pfennige of Prussia, &c., new sets for the United States, Prince Edward Island, and other localities are said to be in course of preparation; though we can offer but a meagre assortment of really new impressions in this number, and must content ourselves and our readers with the mention of some trifling variations in colour, one or two locals, and some rare essays not previously noticed in our magazine.



Our solitary engraving represents a local stamp for Montreal. It was alluded to in the correspondence of our number for April, and its genuine character is confirmed by a letter received direct from a trustworthy party in its native city. We confess we cannot understand why the price should be so comparatively high for a stamp apparently destined for mere local duty, but suppose Canada continues in the same state of destitution of local government post office, as was formerly the case in the United States. The portrait sufficiently describes the stamp in question, which is neatly designed and executed, perforated, and impressed blue on white.

The small ¼ schilling of Mecklenberg-Schwerin is now greatly improved in effect by the substitution of a uniform white in lieu of the former dotted ground. The four annas India, of which a few specimens, printed in green instead of dirty black as previously, have figured for some few months in the choicest collections, has now totally superseded its unprepossessing predecessor, and the two annas is straw coloured. It is probable that the other values are or will be likewise modified in tint.

We have before us a batch of proofs and essays, some of which evince more than the average amount of skill exerted in their production. The most noticeable for beauty of design and exquisite execution are proofs on thin cardboard of the proposed stamp for Bolivia. The cut given in our number for April gives but a poor idea of these choice specimens of the engraver's art.

A series of stamps proposed in 1864 for the small republic of San Marino, before the postal convention concluded with the kingdom of Italy, is neatly printed in five different colours on a white ground: green, rose, brown, blue, and black. A circular centre contains three mountain peaks topped by turrets, each of which is surmounted by a smaller, and that again by the semblance of an ostrich's feather much exceeding itself in dimensions, but which, it is just possible, may be intended for smoke. A small square

at each angle, and a band above and below the central circle are left blank for the insertion of name and value. The rest of the field is filled in with ornamental scroll work. Some of these essays, moreover, are devoid of the device in the centre. They bear the same engraver's initials as the Bolivians described above, as does also a set for Moldo-Wallachia of equal number, and impressed in similar hues. A much rounded central oval contains a spread eagle, looking to the right, with a cross in his mouth. Above his head is a small crown, and beneath his feet a posthorn. The urus of Tacitus and Cæsar, with a star on his brow, by some queer legerdemain, hangs on the bird's breast. Bands on the top, bottom, and each side of the stamp are left blank for the name, &c.; and the outline of a leaf at each corner is evidently intended to hold a numeral for the value. This is a novel and tasteful idea. These impressions are incomparably superior to the accepted current issue, but we suppose the designer was destitute of the necessary friend at court.

We have also the essays for Brunswick, one of which was figured in our February number, and there reported as coming out on the 1st of April. For that date, we are given to understand, must be substituted the 1st of August. They are imprinted on white, grey, green, and buff paper, the device itself being in relief on a black ground. We may next notice proofs of the 6 pfennige Prussians in pale and deep yellow, and slate-colour, and of the 3 silbergroschen in gold; and conclude by mentioning the original essays on cardboard, offered for the adoption of the Sardinian government. They are fac-similes of the earliest issue, blue and red as adopted, but instead of the black there is a green impression; neither are the values in accordance with those ultimately employed.

A correspondent describes what she states to be a local Swiss, and in present use. It is a small square, not perforated, and printed in green, red, &c., on white according to numerical value. At the top and bottom is a railway train; on one side JURA, on the other INDUSTRIEL; figure in a central circle. From the description, we should not take it for a postal emission, but should like further information from a qualified party

Another correspondent calls our attention to a variety of the fourpenny English, carmine on *blue* paper. The watermark representing the garter is one-third smaller than that of the stamps of the same value in present use, and the paper is glazed, and a trifle thicker. He had identified some individuals of this description from a hoard of some thousands of old English, and lately saw one on a letter that passed the post, Oct. 20, 1856. Our readers may remember an article by, we may venture to call him, the prince of British timbrophilists, in which he denies, on official authority, the existence of any of our stamps on blue paper. The individuals under consideration may consequently be under a fit of the blues from the effects of climate or other deleterious agency. Again we court information.

New specimens of Mr. Hussey's ingenuity have just reached us. This gentleman's name is well known to the timbrophilic world, and he may perhaps be designated the postal Barnum. The *Stamp-Collector's Record* for last month says the design is copyright. We observe three variations in pattern. One bears simply the representation of a clock's face without hands, TIME POSTED above. These are printed black on white, pale blue, and yellow. Others, besides the clock and upper legend, have DAY and MONTH below, and a circumscription (is there such a word?) in small letters, ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1865, BY GEO. HUSSEY, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. These we have seen both blue and black on white. The third variety is like the first, but with HUSSEY'S POST below and 50, W^M. S^T. between it and the dial. All are perforated, or, as it should rather be, 'denticulated.' Two strokes of the pen or pencil, made by the sender of the message, shows the recipient how long the despatch has taken to reach its destination.

The same authority mentions a 6 c. envelope for the United States, similar in other respects to those issued with larger figures in October last; and also alludes to the

stamp which has been in use several years, but (according to him) remains unchronicled. However that may be, it is well known to English collectors; consisting of the U. S. 3 cents envelope, with an oblong printed either in red or black, bearing the words PAID, WELLS, FARGO, & CO., OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES, if we may credit the testimony of our own eyes looking at the specimen before us; or, 'THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIA AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS,' vide the letterpress of the Albany magazine. There are most probably both varieties in issue.

The 3 schilling blue of Hamburg now figures in a much more celestial hue. A French magazine describes a change for the worse in the 50 baj. of Rome. It is just possible it may be a forgery. Another Parisian authority announces the perforation of the 19 cuartos existing Spanish, also the discovery of the second series of Wurtembergs with a thread in the paper, a new issue for Moldo-Wallachia, and a contemplated change in the stamps of the Ottoman empire.

The latest mail from Victoria is in time to redeem our present number from the charge of absolute destitution of real novelty, presenting us with a hitherto unrepresented value for that colony, in the shape of an eightpenny orange, same as the current penny, twopenny, and fourpenny. We shall gladly hail a sixpenny and shilling of the same design.

THE CONNELL STAMP.

NEW BRUNSWICK has the honour of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz.: the 'Connell,' as it is universally called. Now this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much-abused word; the circumstances are as follows; in the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius, and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Company, to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of elegance and neatness by any stamps in Christendom. Mr. Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam engine on the 1 c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12½ cents, a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17 cents, and his own portrait on the 5 cents.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public, but, alas! unfortunate Mr. Connell had, in the eyes of Her Majesty's lieges of New Brunswick, committed a frightful crime. That he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a similar piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain, on which the sun never sets, was depicted! It was monstrous, it was outrageous, it was frightful, it was treasonable! A mass-meeting, *presided over by a political opponent* of Mr. Connell, was instantly called, to express its horror at the dreadful deed, and it was resolved to request Mr. Connell to resign; but, long ere the fumes of the whisky consumed on the eventful night of that mass-meeting had evaporated, Mr. Connell had dashed the reins of the post-office department back in the face of the Governor, and retired, at once and for ever, from the political arena.

The stamp was only used for one day, and a number having passed through the post-office, it, therefore, could not be an essay. — *Stamp-Collector's Record* (*Albany, N.Y.*)

TO WHICH COUNTRY DO THE WENDEN STAMPS BELONG?

'One simple fact is worth a hundred conjectures; for in the absence of fact, what mad pranks are sometimes committed by the most sober writers.'—T. F. DIBDIN.

THE two papers which appeared in our April magazine, setting forth different hypotheses with regard to these stamps, have elicited an answer from our German contemporary, *Das Magazin für Briefmarken Sammler*, which

confirms our preconceived notions, frequently expressed respecting these disputed stamps.

The writer having praised Dr. Viner—whose views agree with his own—as not only a zealous collector but also a learned man, waxes somewhat irate with Fentonia for having ventured to call him 'more hasty than wise,' and returns the compliment by characterising his opinion as both 'weak and untenable.' He is also most indignant at being supposed so ignorant of his native country as to be obliged to have recourse to a gazetteer. (Query, if *zeitungs lexikon*, literally a 'gazette dictionary,' be a correct rendering of our English word *gazetteer*, when it means a 'geographical dictionary.')

The writer goes on to say that he received his Wenden stamps direct from two correspondents at St. Petersburg, who both assured him that these stamps were destined for the Livonian Wenden; that their value is reckoned in Russian coin, which is current in that province (he might as well have told us its amount); that the Wenden district, as also the Livonian capital, Riga, is almost exclusively inhabited by Germans, hence the inscription being in German; but that if these stamps had originated in Mecklenburg he should surely have received some from thence. He further politely adds that Fentonia's account of the Lusatian-Wendish literature is wholly false, but he does not tell us what it should be. The main point in dispute, however, seems cleared up; and the resemblance in shape between the Russian and Wenden stamps rather favours this conclusion than otherwise.

DATES OF THE ISSUE OF ENGLISH POSTAGE STAMPS.

PEARSON HILL, Esq., of the General Post-Office, London, has kindly furnished us with the following table of dates of the issue of English stamps, upon the entire accuracy of which our readers may rely.

PRINTED STAMPS.

Penny labels, black	6th May, 1840.
Ditto, red	January, 1841.
Ditto, red, with letters at the four corners	June, 1864.
Twopenny labels, with letters at lower corners only	July, 1840.
Ditto, with letters at the four corners	July, 1858.
Threepenny labels	1st May, 1862.
Fourpenny labels, carmine	31st July, 1855.
Ditto, vermilion	15th Jan., 1862.
Sixpenny labels, without letters	21st Oct., 1856.
Ditto, with letters at the four corners	Sept. 1862.
Ninepenny labels	15th Jan., 1862.
Shilling labels, without letters	1st Nov., 1856.
Ditto, with small letters, at all four corners	October, 1862.
Ditto, with much larger letters	Feb., 1865.
Mulready envelopes, penny and twopenny	6th May, 1840.

EMBOSSED STAMPS.

Penny embossed stamps, without dates	January, 1841.
Twopenny, without dates	April, 1841.
Threepenny	July, 1859.
Fourpenny	Nov., 1855.
Sixpenny, without dates	March, 1854.
Tenpenny first issue	October, 1848. Withdrawn in 1855, and in 1863 the few thousands remaining on hand were re-issued.
Shilling, without dates	Sept., 1847.

The dates in the embossed stamps were first inserted about the middle of the year 1855.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Liverpool Stamp-Collector's Journal. Liverpool: J. C. Wroe.

THIS magazine, the second number of which lies before us, is an octavo of 16 pages, very well got up, and garnished with some wood cuts. It contains postal, geographical, and other information; notices on new and proposed emissions, with correspondence, the usual quantum of advertisements, and a stamp dealers' directory.

The Collector's Herald. Kingston-upon-Hull: J. Cheeseman.

THIS publication, like the preceding, appears at the beginning of each month, and is similarly priced. No. 5 is before us, neatly and carefully printed; and though primarily destined for timbrophilic circulation, by no means confines itself to that branch of semi-literary pursuit, taking a much more extended range, and touching upon birds' nests and eggs, angling, &c., &c. We demur to the editor's opinion as to the improvement in the appearance of our shilling stamp, from the increased size of the square letter-holders at each corner, and think they decidedly detract from its good effect. We remark the notice of a defaulter, and think such swindling transactions ought to be fully exposed.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

IF A CHIFFRE TAX of a higher value than 15 centimes is required in France, the postmaster crosses out the 15, and inserts another number on the side of it.

STAMPS OF IDENTIFICATION.—The head post-office sends stamps round to the local offices to show what stamps are in official use. In England the stamps so sent are marked across with the word 'specimen' to prevent their being used for postage purposes. In Canada stamps so sent round have a hole punched out of the centre of the design. In Germany they circulate for this purpose stamps which are printed in black or some other colour not officially used. Such stamps have been catalogued as *stamps of identification.—Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

A FEW FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN TO TYROS.—First, The twelvepence Canada stamp was not an essay but was in circulation for some months. In the Post-master-General's report, for 1858, the receipts accruing from stamps of that denomination appears in the financial column. Second, The U. S. essay, 3 c., described in vol. ii., page 100, *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, as Franklin, is not the profile of Franklin, but of Robert Fulton, the memorable inventor of the steamboat. Third, The idea that the local stamps of the U. S. were intended, in great measure, for packages, is erroneous; with the exception of the defunct Metropolitan Company, no Despatch Post ever made a business of the joint delivery of letters and packages. Lastly, will some of the British *literati* favour us with some items regarding the eminent individual Colquhoun, whose effigy appears (so it is said) on the first Confederate label. Peter we know, and Paul we know, and John C. Calhoun we know, but *Colquhoun*, who art thou?—*Stamp-Collector's Record, Albany, (N.Y.)*

THE CAP OF LIBERTY, so frequent an emblem on the South American stamps, originated in the practice of allowing none but free men to wear anything on the head. For a slave to appear covered, was to bring upon himself swift punishment. In memory of Gessler's mandate to the Swiss, to salute his hat placed on a pole, the arms of the United Cantons of Switzerland have a round hat for a crest, as emblematic of liberty. Britannia is sometimes represented with the cap of liberty on the point of a spear. In France it was hoisted as a symbol of freedom in the beginning of the Revolution of 1789. For many years the kings of France had sent those condemned for crimes and serious offences to the galleys at Marseilles. When the Revolution opened the prison doors, the red cap worn by the convicts was elevated on a standard of freedom, and borne before those who soon changed liberty into license and placed all France under a reign of terror. The 'cap of liberty' was originally used in the manumission of a slave: as soon as the bondman was made free, he covered his head as a symbol of his liberty.

COLOURED PORTRAIT OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.—As a specimen of 'cheek,' we beg leave to publish the following communication for the benefit of our readers:

Bronxville, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1865.

Mr. S. Allan Taylor, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find 1 dollar 50 cents, for which please insert the following advertisement. I also enclose 1 dollar, for which send me the value in 1 centime stamps of France.

'Upon receipt of 15 cents and a stamp for postage, the advertiser will send an elegant coloured portrait of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, profligate, policeman, and emperor, executed in France by Mons. Barre, engraver to the government of France.—Address, E. A. HURLBUT, Bronxville, Westchester Co., N. Y.'

Upon receipt of this we confess to smelling a large sized, full grown mouse, and with thanks for Mr. Hurlbut's kind patronage, we returned him the funds which he judiciously wished to spend in advertising, desiring him to try the *Rowdies' Journal*, or some other paper of its class in the metropolis, which devotes its columns to the advertising of stale, played-out dodges; and we would say to our readers, beware of elegant portraits of eminent individuals, advertised after the manner of Mr. E. A. Hurlbut.—*Stamp Collector's Record, Albany, N. Y.*

POSTE RESTANTE (French, to remain at the post-office till called for), a usual mode of addressing letters to persons who are merely travelling in, or passing through, a country in which they have no fixed residence. English travellers on the Continent very generally have their letters so addressed to some town through which they expect to pass. The *poste restante* office is open at certain hours and the letters are given out when called for, production of a card, passport, or other evidence of identity being sometimes required. Letters unclaimed for a certain time are opened, and either destroyed or returned to their writer. There is a *poste restante* office in London under stringent regulations as to the conditions on which letters are given out. If the applicant for a letter be a British subject or subject of a state not issuing passports, he must state the place from which he expects letters, and he, or the messenger who applies for him must be provided with some proof of identity. If he be the subject of a country which issues passports, his passport must be produced. In the provincial post-offices of Great Britain, commercial travellers, tourists, and persons without a settled residence, may have their letters addressed *poste restante*, and they are kept at the post-office till called for; but residents are not allowed to have their letters so addressed, and the post-office authorities have orders to deliver them. In the British post-office, letters addressed *poste restante* are kept one month and then returned to the writer through the dead letter office.—*Chambers's Encylopædia.*

A CARICATURE ON THE MULREADY ENVELOPE.—In 1839, when the plan submitted by Mr. Rowland Hill was adopted by the British Government, the Lords of the

Treasury invited the public to compete for a prize offered for the best method of carrying out the proposed scheme, and also for the best design for envelope or stamp. Three thousand designs were sent in, chiefly executed in lithography, and comprising mythological, satirical, and burlesque treatment. The adoption of Mulready's design did not suppress the sportive humour of the satirists. One of the caricatures of the Mulready envelope represents Queen Victoria, having the portrait of Prince Albert suspended round her neck. At her feet is a lion, with the head of Daniel O'Connell, reposing on the Blarney stone, and having a tail extending from one side of the envelope to the other. To the left of the Queen, Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham are represented as approaching the King of Hanover (Duke of Cumberland), the incarnation of old Toryism. To the right is the Duke of Wellington, carried on the back of Lord Brougham, preceded by Burdett. Below, to the left, are the Duchess of Kent and Queen Adelaide (Queen Dowager); to the right, Prince Albert and a ragged foreigner. On the other side, at the bottom of the envelope, is Lord Palmerston, arranging a case of opium, and being hoisted from his seat by a Chinese of the true barbaric type. Facing this design, Lord Melbourne to the right, Lord John Russell in the centre, and Spring Rice (Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Melbourne cabinet) to the left, are feeding John Bull with packets of *Rice* paper. The design was drawn on stone, and published in June, 1840. The caricature is a very good example of what was considered witty three-and-twenty years ago. It shows us, by comparison, that in the art of humorous design we have made progress; just as this envelope caricature is an improvement, both in conception and execution, on the comical sketches popular twenty or thirty years earlier.—*Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper.*

MARVELLOUS EFFECTS OF STAMP COLLECTING.—The following letter appeared in the *Bristol Daily Post* of the 19th ult.

'SIR—Permit me, through the medium of your paper, to pass a remark or two upon the present most fashionable and much persecuted practice of "collecting foreign stamps." An honest sense of duty, inspired by visible effects produced upon my own children, &c, alone induces me to this. Whilst I am aware there are very many habits now so much accepted amongst us that we lose sight of their absurdity, which is yet very palpable upon a proper scrutiny, still I cannot see what objection can possibly be raised to this certainly innocent, and, I believe, highly elevating and intellectual amusement. It calls forth the greatest amount of attention, care, method, taste, and all the most useful faculties of the mind; and as every stamp possesses the leading feature of the period or country which it represents, hence the historical and geographical information is immense. I hear my children familiarly talking of times and nations which I have almost forgotten. Then the amount of skill and business tact called forth in correspondence, purchasing and exchanging, &c., is quite a pattern. I cannot overlook, also, the effect which is due to this mania produced upon a maiden relative who had been for some years past in a dreamy state of despondency. Since she has taken an interest in this, her faculties are much enlivened, and she appears to have forgotten former aches and grievances; new animation is imparted to her, and the pleasure which others feel (save the doctor and the priest) at this interesting change more than compensates for the prospect of having to wait much longer for anticipated legacies. I would strongly recommend parents and teachers to encourage as far as possible this useful diversion. I hail it as a great boon amid the innumerable inducements of the present day. I am, sir, your much obliged and obedient servant, THOMAS WAIT.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OLD MAURITIUS STAMPS AND THE PRINCE CONSORT 'ESSAYS.'

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I notice in your magazine, vol. ii., page 56, a reference to the old Mauritius stamps. The difference in the positions of the words and in the background, &c., arises from the fact that the copperplate from which they were printed contained several heads, all engraved separately by hand, and from the engraver having been unaware that these differences were objectionable. I was in that colony six years ago, and had the plates in my hands. Having one of these stamps, I do not regard the others as admissible varieties, any more than I should think of placing in my book a whole sheet of penny postage labels of this country, on account of all the two hundred and forty stamps being lettered differently at the corners. In fact, as these latter stamps all contain an *intentional* difference, and the former only an *accidental* difference, it would be less absurd to regard our 240 penny stamps as varieties.

I notice in your publishers' catalogue that mention is made of two English essays, bearing the head of Prince Albert: permit me to tell you that these so-called 'essays' never were made for any purpose whatever, by any department of the Government. As all matters at the General Post-office connected with the manufacture of postage stamps pass through my hands, and all at Somerset House through those of a cousin of mine, and as I am, moreover, the son of Sir Rowland Hill, the original proposer of the postage-label system as applied to letters, and have—for the last fifteen years, at least—been consulted by him in all important steps connected with this question, you will, I daresay, permit me to call myself an authority.

The history of the so-called essays is as follows:—In 1852 a Parliamentary Committee was appointed to inquire into certain allegations made by Mr. Henry Archer—who had suggested the perforation of postage labels—and who wanted, among other things, to tender for the printing of the penny postage labels, then and now produced by Messrs. Bacon & Petch, of Fleet Street.

It was at that time supposed that stamps printed from line engravings were more difficult to forge than those produced by surface printing, as equally fine work could not be produced by the latter process; but Mr. Archer held a different opinion, and in order to support his view he had a penny stamp engraved, but fearing probably to copy the Queen's head without authority, he substituted that of Prince Albert (thus omitting to copy the most important portion of the stamp), and showed it to the Committee. If you will turn to the 'Evidence of the Select Committee on Postage Labels' (*Parliamentary Paper*, No. 386, of 1852), questions 1002 to 1033,* you will see the facts. I may add that I was myself present at the examination of Sir Rowland Hill, and that I can identify the stamp. Further evidence is at my command, should it be necessary at any time to produce it.

The stamp, therefore, is no more an English essay than the Queen's head which I have seen with the name of the publishers of your magazine, Stafford Smith & Smith, surrounding it, and should not be included in a catalogue having any pretensions to accuracy. The story that I have heard of its being engraved in consequence of the Queen desiring to have the Prince Consort's head placed on the postage stamps, is wholly without foundation.

* For the convenience of such of your readers as may not be able to refer readily to the Report in question, I give the following extract from Mr. (now Sir Rowland) Hill's evid nce:—

'Question 1010. [Mr. J. Green.] "Is that a respectable forgery (handing a specimen to the witness)?"

"[Mr. R. Hill.] "No, it is not a respectable forgery: in the first place, it is not an imitation of the stamp; it is the head of Prince Albert."'

Many rude suggestions from the public for new postage stamps, which yearly pass through my hands, are quite as much entitled to be regarded as 'essays' as these to which I have referred; though probably few persons would care to include them in their collections, even if they could be obtained for nothing, while no one out of Bedlam would care to give ten shillings for a copy of one, which is the price demanded for the so-called 'Albert essays.'

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

General Post-office. PEARSON HILL.

FORGED LA GUAIRA, NATIVE MAURITIUS, &c.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Allow me to call your attention to three erroneous impressions which appeared in your April number, and to offer you my corrections of the same. Mr. Taylor mentions the second type of the 'Porto Cabello' stamps as if forgeries; these are the stamps printed from a new die, and, I believe, on the spot. However, Mr. Taylor has certainly erred upon the right side; but I know both stamps well, and am certain that both are equally genuine.

The 'native' Mauritius were engraved by a man named Barnard, I believe in sheets of twelve stamps, each stamp differing in design from each. Eleven of them have POST PAID on the left side, the twelfth has POST-OFFICE. You are therefore wrong in engraving this rare variety as the type. The same illustration appeared in Maury's paper a short time since, but Mr. Herpin there explained it to be the variety.

The Wenden stamps form the subject of Fentonia's last paper to you. Fentonia displays great ingenuity in arguing so untenable a theory, as that these stamps emanate from Mecklenburg; the stamps bearing the inscription, WENDEN KREIS (circle of Wenden) belong to the circle of that name, which now forms a fifth part of the province of Livonia,—the other four being Riga, Dorpat, Arenburg, and Pernau. It was a colony of Protestant German emigrants near Riga, who settled there in olden time. Formerly belonging to Sweden, it was in 1721 ceded to Russia, but to this day nothing is spoken but German; hence the Wenden stamps bear German inscriptions. I may mention that this information is from Riga, and is therefore undeniable; the information was accompanied by the four genuine stamps used in Wenden, which you mention on page 60. By the bye, you there quite ignore the square one (blue) so recently given by yourself (page 25) as an old issue; however it is a myth, and was engraved a year since in the *Stamp-Collector's Review*, and there regarded, as Fentonia remarks, 'with grave suspicion.'

The Costa Rica 2 and 5 cent. of which 'L B.' inquires for information, I believe to be a delusion; I have seen them, but they are sold at so low a price that they can scarcely be real essays.

'F. H. H.' is quite correct in supposing his twopenny Sydney to be different from any I mentioned in my paper on the subject. I have seen two copies of it lately, the engraving is beautifully clear, not 'too good to be true,' but good enough to be valuable. The No. vii. I mentioned was on dull white, and the colour rather a pale blue; this other variety is a dull blue on yellowish paper.

The Connell essay and, I believe, the Sicilian essay have both been reprinted. All the sets (or nearly all) of P. S. N. Co.'s stamps, sold in so many colours, are reprints. The genuine red is on blue paper and of a brown-red colour, the genuine blue is paler than the reprint, other colours I have never seen postmarked. The Connell essay is found on three different papers:—1. Gummed and perforated, chocolate-brown, on thick paper. 2. On thin paper, ungummed, chocolate-brown. 3. On still thinner paper, ungummed, reddish-brown. 1. is the 1861 stamp as prepared for issue, and is very rare, as all the sheets were destroyed; 2 is the first proof from the die; whilst 3 is the reprint of 1863. There must be some mistake in the idea that the die was destroyed: fifty Connells were recently advertised in America.

Though so many writers deny the existence of the Canada envelopes upon buff paper, genuine, I am convinced that no forger could imitate those on white paper, producing a fac-simile true in every little stroke, as are those upon yellow paper.

How can you class the 1 franc vermilion French Republic amongst your list of rarest known stamps, and not mention in that list either Luzon 1854 5 or 10 cuartos, or either of the two oldest Bergedorfs? These latter have recently fetched £4 the pair.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE OLD FINLAND ENVELOPES AGAIN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of your periodical, there is an article about current stamp forgeries, from the pen of Mr. E. L Pemberton, treating, amongst others, of the Porto stempel envelopes.

Last year during my journey in Finland, I was fortunate enough to get a couple (at 10 kopeks) of these rarest envelopes at the principal post-office of Helsingfors. It struck me most forcibly that, on closely examining and comparing them with the description given by Mr. Pemberton, the letter s was really a little below the level of the T, which circumstance that gentleman considers to be the chief mark of the imitation; but, on the other hand, the s is not badly shaped nor smaller in the lower part than it ought to be. I do not think there is anything to be blamed in the execution of the other letters; I do not see whether there are five transverse ovals with a dot between each of them in the band of the crown, or not; the word kopek (not kopeck, as Mr. P. says) is printed in clear letters; finally, the cross on the top of the crown is decidedly not crooked, and the colour rather distinct.

I have not the slightest doubt, that both my stamps are genuine, the very paper giving evidence of it (it has the appearance of being at least fifteen years old); still there is one circumstance—the position of the letter s—that answers Mr. Pemberton's description of the forgery. I fully acknowledge the well-deserved authority that gentleman enjoys in this branch of stampology; but I cannot help confessing that he is mistaken this time. The stamp he considered as a forgery must have been the genuine one, and *vice versa*.

Fentonia, page 55, of the April number, seems to think it impossible that the Wenden stamp should emanate from Livonia, because it is not likely, that situated in a place so far in the north-west of Russia, the inscription on its stamp would be in German. This opinion is quite as erroneous as that which makes of 'Porto stempel' a German denomination. The predominant language in Livonia is German; in Finland, Swedish.

I am given to understand (on very good authority) that the Finland stamps and envelopes are to be withdrawn from circulation within a very short space of time.

Claiming your kind indulgence as to my certainly very imperfect style of using your native language,

I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

Poland. MAX JOSEPH.

BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have seen the counterfeits of the Bancroft referred to by your Montreal correspondent, in the

last number. It is a woodcut, resembling in some respects the newly-issued steel-engraved stamp. The border is filled with the same inscription, except that ST. is there START. The portrait in the centre has also a semicircular band above and below, inscribed BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS; but, apart from the execution, the chief difference lies in the portrait. On the genuine it is that of a middle-aged man, stern and determined, with a large bushy beard and whiskers entirely hiding the lower part of his face, of which only one side is shown. The counterfeit portrait is that of a fashionably-dressed young man, full-face, with pendant Dundreary whiskers, and the colour of the stamp is a light blue. I hope that no one will be taken in by the forgeries, which come from a suspicious New York source.

Another humbug of the same class is the British American College Stamp; a *fac-simile* of the lately-issued penny New South Wales, in all except the inscription, green colour.

Yours respectfully,

Norwich. CANADIAN LOCAL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OBSERVER, Manchester.—This correspondent sends for inspection a blue stamp of the first and pink of the second issue of Saxony, affixed to the same letter as a proof of their simultaneous currency. Such instances are by no means unusual.

I. L. H., Montreal.—Thanks for the specimens of Bancroft's Local Stamp, of which we given an engraving in our article on new appearances.

S. C. B., Yarmouth.—Your large blue impression is a Russian official stamp, and, if we mistake not, has been already noticed in our magazine.

B. B., Hyde Park.—Your 40 c. French empire is merely a discoloured specimen. We have frequently seen such, and possess a 40 c. French Colonies of the same colour, which was placed perfectly fresh and bright in our book some months since; exposure to air or sun cannot therefore be the cause of the change, which must be produced by some of nature's chemistry.—The other stamp you describe is alluded to in our notice of novelties.—There is a complete set of Swiss in relief of the 1858 type.

HONOLULU, Macclesfield.—There have been five individuals, value each 2 cents, among the stamps of the Sandwich Islands, but four of them are obsolete. The first and rarest is blue on white: this was succeeded by a black impression on a bluish tint; then came out the stamp bearing the image of the late king. We can only account for the re-appearance of the impression with the large figure, on the supposition that it was a revival of the earlier form used after the decease of the sovereign, and before the current stamp of the same value was issued; but this second appearance was impressed on white, not on tinted paper.

D. P.—Romagna has nothing in common with Roumania, one of the aliases of part of the territory now comprehended in Moldo-Wallachia. The former country you will find fully described in the January number, and the latter in the numbers for March, April, June, and July of last year's magazine.—The *soi-disant* Berlin express stamps are public, inasmuch as any one can have them by purchasing them; and private, because they are the private speculation of some unprincipled swindler.

NOVELTY.—We have ourselves seen the 1 peso rose coloured stamp of the present series of New Granadines.

MARGARETTA.—The letter F on the Cuban stamps is a contraction of *fuerte*, signifying strong; when applied to money, 'good weight.' F on the Cuba, or PO. PE. on the Luzon stamps, therefore simply means 'sterling coin.'

ROBERT, Windsor.—The figure 2 (reversed) is the watermark on the blue Ionians, and a 1 is conspicuous in the red; but we cannot distinguish anything of the kind in the yellow.—The abbreviation SCHW. on the green Oldenburgs of the first issue stands for some small coin which we are unable to identify; perhaps a German correspondent will enlighten us on the subject.

LUZON.—We believe that what are known generally as the Cubans, have been allowed to do duty in other Spanish colonies as well, inclusive even of the Philippine Islands, although these latter possess postage stamps of their own.

A SUBSCRIBER, Derbyshire.—The addresses &c., of the trading firms you mentioned will be found in the advertising columns of our magazine, if we know them.—Of English penny adhesive stamps, we ourselves reckon six; black, red on blue tint, red with figures on lower corners only unperforated, ditto perforated, red with figures at each corner, and the black official V. R.—We acknowledge four twopenny stamps exclusive of the apocryphal black: blue without white lines, ditto with lines unperforated, the same perforated, and the current stamp with letters at each angle.—We did not know Mr. Pemberton was about to publish a catalogue.—We cannot apprehend your meaning in suggesting the questions in the defunct *Stamp-Collector's Review* as a good model for our imitation.

RED INDIAN.—The mere fact that the Indian ½ anna blue is worth a penny, and the ½ anna red a pound, does not prove that they are different stamps in anything but colour. The two colours are mentioned in Dr. Gray's catalogue, but there was no reason why special reference should be made to the red. Dr. Gray professes to describe types of design which are the same on blue or white paper, and in ink of any shade.—Your blue 10 c. United States is probably a green stamp, chemically or otherwise changed.

T. A. R., Wakefield.—Your U.S. stamp tells its own story, and is evidently not at all postal.—Some of your other queries are quite beyond our depth, but we will try and procure authentic information and insert the same in our number for July.—The stamps of Great Britain are used in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.—No stamps but its own are current in Liberia.—The Nova Scotia stamps are used in Cape Breton.—An explanation of the use of the uni-coloured series of Turkish stamps has been already given in our pages.—In mentioning the stamps of Hesse Cassel in our holiday tour, we of course alluded to those of Thurn and Taxis North; which, as we stated, we travelled twenty extra miles to obtain, not being aware at the time that a small isolated territory belonging to Cassel exists two or three miles only from Frankfort.—The French Colonies stamps are sometimes advertised under that name, and sometimes as Martinique or Guadaloupe natives.—If you have any money to throw away, you cannot do better than send for the advertised envelope of British Guiana.

RUSSIAN.—The stamp you describe was alluded to in our answers to queries last month. It is not postal.

CONFEDERATE.—We are sorry we cannot enlighten you with regard to the likenesses on the 2 c. and 10 c. Confederate stamps. We are sadly in want of reliable information as to many of the facial impressions of the United States North or South, and trust some qualified American will find leisure to favour us. The late lamented Mr. Leslie, American vice-consul at Nice, who died on the 15th of April, possessed of one of the finest known collections, would doubtless have obliged us were he living.

A. E. P. H.—Your inquiry respecting a rare English variety, is embodied in our article on new and undescribed stamps.

NOTES ON THE ASIATIC STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

FIVE European colonies are the sole contributors of Asiatic postage stamps. No independent country in that vast continent has sufficiently advanced to possess those indispensable auxiliaries of speedy communication, adhesive labels. We have had, indeed, Chinese falsities and Japan humbugs, and also rumours of an authorized issue for Japan (though what foundation there could be for such rumours, or how they could have originated, is difficult to imagine); but the Llama of Thibet, the Brother of the Sun and Moon, the Shah, the Siamese Lord of unnumbered elephants, and the Tycoon, are still postally unrepresented.



From the East Indian post-office, two series of postage stamps have emanated. The first in 1854 comprised the ½ anna red and blue, 1 anna red, 2 annas green, 4 annas red (blue head), and 8 annas blue (red head). The first-named stamp is excessively rare. It has been often counterfeited, sometimes by substituting HALF for ONE in the one anna stamp, and oftener by blocks. The genuine stamp being from the same block as the blue, ought to resemble it in everything but colour. The 4 annas and also the 8 annas (a recent discovery) are printed from two dies, and consequently the head is found (as in the old Italian) differently situated in different stamps.

The quaint old issue was succeeded in 1858 by the decidedly poor series now current, comprising the same values, with the addition of an 8 pies stamp for newspapers, and in 1860 of two envelopes, value respectively ½ and 1 anna. Mount Brown is in error in putting 1860 as the date of emission of the entire issue. We ourselves well remember receiving letters from an Indian correspondent in 1858, franked by stamps of the second series. Its only rarities are the 2 annas in pink and in green, especially the latter. A change in colour of that stamp from pale yellow to straw colour, and of the 4 annas from black to green, is chronicled in the last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and so far as they go these changes are for the better; but we should like to see our Indian empire represented by a really good series of stamps, for certainly those which now receive the spider-web postmark are most ineffective. The design of the envelope stamp is a step in the right direction, and the newspaper stamp is better than its fellow adhesives (reminding us of the Sierra Leone), but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

At the present time, Ceylon uses a larger number of stamps than any other country: her adhesives and envelopes together numbering twenty-two. Of the former there are (besides the half-penny stamp, which has a separate design) two types and shapes:—rectangular, and resembling in a considerable degree the St. Helena, and evidently done by the same engraver; octagonal, and resembling, at least in the arrangement of the inscription, the sixpenny Tasmania, and presenting a rather poor appearance. Altogether, the adhesives are very inferior to the envelopes in design and execution. An engraving of the least-known, and at present only unperforated, stamp is subjoined. There is a difference of tint between the perforated and unperforated varieties of nearly all the stamps; the sixpenny has been printed in three, and the shilling in two colours. Among the rectangular stamps the tenpenny is peculiar for bearing the numeral of value in the four corners. A correspondent announced, in No. 23 of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, that the penny stamp is now issued the tenth of an inch shorter than formerly. It would be interesting to know for what particular routes the Cingalese stamps are used. We presume that some must be employed to prepay to various Asiatic ports, as they do not come over in any quantity to this country.



Ceylon may with justice claim to possess the finest set of envelope stamps in the world. Chaste in design, excellent in execution and of well chosen colours, they unite the requisites to superiority in an over-

whelming degree; the differences of pattern also tend greatly to relieve the eye. We have heard, but cannot vouch for the truth of the statement, that the Ceylon envelopes are only procurable in packets.* If this be the case, it probably acts as a preventive of any large importation of the higher values into this country.

The series of stamps in use in Hongkong (engraved by De la Rue & Co.) is well known, and its extreme beauty renders it a most desirable acquisition. It consisted at first of seven stamps; the 2, 8, 12, 18, 24, 48, and 96 cents, but this number was subsequently augmented by three values; the 4, 6, and 30 cents. The 30 cents is now printed in a deeper shade than formerly, the 8 cents has changed from light to deep chrome yellow, and the 96 cents has become light brown. They were the only stamps bearing a Chinese inscription; but we believe that some queer-looking labels (to judge by the description) produced by a local steam-ship company, plying between Hongkong and some Chinese port, now shares the honour with them. As the Hongkong dollar appears to be of such changeable value, we should like to know the exact worth of the 2 cents stamp in English money.†

The Dutch colonies, Java, Sumatra (query, Borneo also), use the handsome stamp with which collectors are now familiar, although doubts were at first thrown on its existence as a genuine emission. Hamburg has favoured us with a forgery of this stamp, but though the design is well copied the colour is so pale, and the paper so different, that none but tyros are likely to be taken in by them. It has been suggested, and with some probability, that the home of the so-called Dutch Guiana stamps may in reality have been in Java. Can no one set these surmises at rest by an authoritative explanation?

Most writers include Luzon in Oceanica, but in our opinion unjustly, as the Philippines form a part of the great Indian Archipelago. We think that they should therefore be included in Asia. The early issues for those islands comprise some of the greatest rarities. Poor imitations of the Spanish, they are interesting as being the only Spanish colonials of native manufacture. Our own collection is, unfortunately, the reverse of rich in these choice specimens; we are therefore unable to annotate on them, and relinquish the attempt;—the more readily, as we trust ere long to see an exhaustive article on them in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.*

* [This report is quite correct.—ED.]

† [The approximate value is one penny and two twenty-fifths.—ED.]

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

THE rarest of the Confederate States postage stamps is the 1 c. buff, bearing the effigy of John C. Calhoun, of whom so little has been known here that his very name has been corrupted into *Colquhoun*. Yet Calhoun was in his day and generation a power in the land, though unfortunately a power for evil. It is not surprising that the Confederate authorities decided on perpetuating his memory on their 1 c. stamp, for no man worked harder than he to support, extend, and cherish, the baneful 'domestic institution' of the South (now happily obsolete), and to establish the doctrine of state rights. He was one of that band of statesmen, whose great object was the exaltation of the United States at whatever cost; who were inimical to the existence of friendly feelings between this country and theirs, and who, by prohibitive tariffs, would have shut their ports against the world.

Born at Abbeville, South Carolina, in March, 1782, and descended of a good Irish family, he early distinguished himself at the bar, and his success there (as was the case with many other American statesmen) opened the way to congress. He took his seat in 1811, and his fiery eloquence soon placed him at the head of the party favourable to war against England. In 1816, he brought forward and procured the passage of a tariff very favourable to his native state; and the ability he manifested in preparing it, caused his appointment by President Monroe to the office of Minister of War. In that position his administrative abilities had full play, and the reduction of the army expenditure, and reformation of the accounts of his department, were the results of his exertions.

* [We purpose giving one next month.—ED.]

Calhoun remained at this post until elected to the vice-presidency, when General Andrew Jackson (old Hickory) was made president; still continuing in his new office to distinguish himself by his patriotic views. But in 1828, his allegiance to the Federal Government clashed with his strong affection for the Southern States. In that year a new tariff less favourable to them passed both houses. Calhoun hoped the president would veto the measure, but, disappointed in this hope, he soon after went down to South Carolina, and there carried in the legislature the notorious resolution, 'that any State in the Union might annul an act of the Federal Government.' This act nearly precipitated the contest which is hardly yet terminated. Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama, promptly gave in their adhesion to the principle thus enunciated, and threatened a dissolution of the union. But the energetic measures taken by the president to render the resolution of no effect were successful, and its author lost popularity. He had hoped to occupy the presidential chair on its vacation by Jackson, but finding his chances of election small, resigned the vice-presidency.

He had still, however, many partisans in the South, and was shortly afterwards returned to the senate. In 1838, he delivered a famous speech in favour of slavery, which electrified the states, and continued thenceforth to agitate on behalf of the slave-holding interest, and for a dissolution of the Union, both with voice and pen, until his death, which took place at Washington, March 31, 1850. Since his death his great work, *The Philosophy of Government*, has been published.

By the foregoing narrative it will be seen how much the Confederates were indebted to him for the advocacy of their favourite principles. To his influence in no small degree may be attributed the lamentable civil war; he 'fanned the embers of discontent' between North and South, and encouraged the latter to a course which has ended in desolation.

His features are not inaccurately portrayed on the 1 c. stamp, but the colour of the impression is not favourable to a clear view. The thick folds of hair, falling back like a lion's mane from the massive forehead, the square-cut determined chin are there, but the most noticeable features in his face, his eyes, are hardly perceptible in the stamp portrait. They lit up and gave character to his face with their strange, almost supernatural, brilliancy and keenness, and were in truth the index of his soul. His private life was blameless; he was a Southern gentleman, and possessed all the courtesy and high-bred politeness for which Southern gentlemen are noted.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

'DAMUS PETIMUSQUE VICISSIM.'

ONE of the best informed of our English writers on these subjects has declared that the stamps of South America present peculiar difficulties to the collector; and the accuracy of this remark will be abundantly verified by any one who sets to himself the task of forming a complete series of this colony. The difficulty of the collector is, however, far less than that which is involved in an attempt to describe completely the various issues of this country; and yet the very obstacles themselves seem to have induced some of the more zealous European amateurs to try their hands at classifying these stamps. Mons. Herpin, whose name is well known as that of a most distinguished and discriminating collector and author, in the December number of *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste*, published an article containing much valuable information, but also exhibiting some inaccuracies, which probably arose from descriptions being given without access to the stamps, and from suppositions hazarded, plausible enough in themselves, but which the result of inquiries as to the facts does not verify. Several papers relating more or less to this subject have also appeared in the journal published by M. Moens, at Brussels.

After a careful analysis of these papers, and from information directly received from the postmaster of George Town, the following list has been compiled. Every stamp described has been verified by actual comparison with undoubted specimens, and the greatest care taken to present a reliable and complete catalogue up to the present time; it is therefore hoped that the amateur may find in the subjoined lines a trustworthy guide.

FIRST ISSUE.

1850. The postal system was first introduced into the colony of British Guiana in this year, solely for inland purposes, and the rates of postage were fixed according to the distance which the letter had to travel, viz.: 4, 8, and 12 cents for single, double, and treble postage respectively.

The design of these first stamps was of the simplest description, consisting merely of a rough circle formed by a single line, at times approaching an oval; within this line the words BRITISH GUIANA in Roman capitals were printed (in moveable types) in a circular shape, following very irregularly the outside line of the stamp. In the middle of the stamp is the value in figures, followed by the word CENTS in italics, printed in one straight line. This issue is printed on coloured paper in black ink, viz.:—



4 cents . . yellow.
8 cents . . green.
12 cents . . deep blue.

Every stamp, before being issued for circulation, was authenticated by the initials 'G. R. D.,' written with pen and black ink across its face, by Mr. G. R. Dalton, the then and present postmaster of George Town. These stamps were printed in the colony, but no stock of them was ever kept; the supply was only made to meet the current wants, and the issue was never intended for other than a preliminary and temporary expedient.

The shades of coloured paper used vary in deepness, especially the green. Some specimens exist in collections which do not bear any initials, having evidently never been issued for circulation. The extremely rude design of this issue, and its consequent liability to imitation and forgery, rendered it one which could only serve a temporary purpose, and its ugliness by no means tended to recommend it. It is scarcely to be wondered at, that almost immediately new stamps were ordered, and the very short period this issue was in use accounts for its exceeding rarity, and the proportionately high prices these stamps command when to be met with.

Mention has been made of a stamp of this issue on pink paper, the value of which has been variously stated at 4 and 8 cents. No specimen is known to exist, nor has the writer any authentic information which would justify him in inserting such a stamp in this list.

Since the above was in type, the writer's attention has been called to a copy of the yellow 4 cents stamp: uninitialed, but bearing the usual Demerara postmark, and the date 27 November, 1850: probably a case of accidental omission of the signature of the postmaster.

SECOND ISSUE.

1850, 1851. Large upright rectangular stamp, printed in black on coloured paper; device, ship sailing to the right in a Norman escutcheon; legend, BRITISH on left, GUIANA on right; value above, DAMUS PATIMUS QUE VICISSIM below, a fort in the distance.

The design of these stamps was engraved on steel, and some small and inconsiderable variations exist between different stamps from this plate.

1 cent . . magenta.
4 cents . . ultramarine blue.

At the meeting of the Combined Court of Policy of Demerara, held in 1850, it was resolved to adopt one uniform rate of postage for letters, namely, 4 cents, and to impose a charge of 1 cent upon newspapers forwarded by post from one part of the colony to another. Stamps of these two values were ordered from England, and Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, stationers, of London Wall, were intrusted with their execution and printing. To this firm is due the famous error which has given an almost fictitious importance to the issue. The error 'PATIMUS' for 'PETIMUS,' for which Lord Macaulay's traditional schoolboy would be deservedly flogged, has unfortunately been fathered on the colony, which thus had to undergo the ridicule of choosing a motto it could not spell, when the blame of this most unfortunate error rested in London. But there is nothing which happens without compensation, and the firm who at the onset unfortunately passed this issue, has more than redeemed the blunder by the eminent beauty of some of the types we shall presently notice. The stamps

of this issue were printed on brightly-coloured paper, and were in circulation from the end of 1850 till about 1853. They are of an ungainly size and unmanageable shape, which, combined with the engraver's error, soon compelled a fresh commission to England. In 1853 the newly-ordered series was produced, but meantime, the supply of the second issue failing, came the third series.

The stamps of this issue are, and always have been, of excessive rarity, especially the blue, and classed among the gems of a collection. Their rarity is not diminished by the fact that in September, 1864, a reprint of the issue took place, at the instance of the colonial authorities, chiefly to enable them to gratify the wishes of foreign governments and others. These reprints were executed by Waterlow & Sons; the paper is of a brighter tint, showing the presence of the new colours; and, to crown all, these reprinted stamps are perforated. It has been asserted the plates are now destroyed; one thing is certain, the value of the old issue is still unchanged; the reprints sell for a very trifling sum comparatively, and every real lover of stamps will at once discriminate between the worthless reprint and the almost unattainable original issue.

THIRD SERIES.



Oblong rectangle, printed in black on coloured paper; BRITISH above, GUIANA below; POSTAGE to the left, FOUR CENTS on the right; in the centre, a ship — barque rigged—sailing to the right; DAMUS PETIMUS above, QUE VICISSIM below.

On deep magenta.
On dark azure blue.

These stamps are engraved on wood, and printed in the colony; a sheet or so only was printed on blue, to replace the old blue 4 c. upright rectangle, but the supply of blue paper failing, they were also printed on pink paper, the shape sufficiently guarding against confusion with the former issue. The circulation of these stamps was of the most limited duration, both kinds are of the highest degree of rarity; few indeed are the happy possessors of either, while those who have the blue may be reckoned twice over on the fingers of one hand, and may be congratulated on having probably the very rarest stamp known to collectors. Two English collections, it is believed, and two only, boast of this matchless blue; while on the continent a specimen is not known to exist. The pink is also of but one less degree of rarity, scarcely known even among the *élite* of collections. All stamps of this issue, which the writer has ever seen, bear an initialed signature, in addition to the usual postmark. In their perfect state these stamps have a margin of considerable width.

FOURTH SERIES.

1853. Rectangle, vessel in full sail to left, in oval, bearing the motto prefixed to this paper; POSTAGE above, value below, BRITISH to left, GUIANA to right, date 1853, one figure in each corner.

1 cent . . red (vermilion).
4 cents . . blue (azure).

These stamps were engraved and printed in England, the die is well executed, and the whole appearance of the stamp is fine and artistic. Proofs in black of both values, and in red-brown of the 1 cent, are extant, these show well the beauty of the engraving. Unhappily, this issue has also been reprinted, with the other in 1864. The newly-printed stamps are perforated, and the colours are,—

1 cent light-red (verging on orange).
4 cents light-blue (bleu-du-ciel).

Unused specimens of the original issue are very scarce; the post-marked copies known usually bear the date 1853 in the defacing mark.

FIFTH ISSUE.

1860. Rectangle, vessel in full sail to right, encircled by garter bearing the motto above mentioned, GUIANA above, value below, BRITISH to left, POSTAGE to right, date 1860, one figure in each corner; coloured impression printed on white paper.

1 cent . . rose-pink.
1 cent . . red-brown, 1862.
1 cent . . deep brown, 1862.
1 cent . . black, 1863.
2 cents . . deep orange.
4 cents . . blue (a dull tint).

4 cents	. .	azure-blue, 1864.
8 cents	. .	rose-pink.
12 cents	. . .	pearl-grey.
12 cents	. .	lilac.
12 cents	. .	mauve.
24 cents	. .	green.
24 cents	. .	green, a bluer shade.

The colours of this issue vary much; a fresh set printed in 1864, showing generally much brighter and clearer colours throughout the series. There exist proofs of the 1 cent in black printed on thick paper which are not very difficult to meet with; besides the thickness of the paper, the care of the impression and the absence of perforation will prevent the proof being confounded with the stamp.

The stamps of this issue are correctly described as perforated, but copies are to be found which do not bear the marks of that process; copies are also to be met with obliterated with the word *Specimen*, in red ink printed across the face; the latter are impressions, as their name imports, struck to show the die and the proposed stamp; they are not uncommon and their value is by no means great. The changes of colour of the 1 cent as above detailed are singular; while it stood rose, it was almost identical in hue with the 8 cents; the red-brown was no very permanent hue, and was not the contrast desired; the deep brown again is a colour which never lasts on any issue of stamps for long; why, printers and ink makers best can tell, and it certainly is liable to be simulated by the accidental or designed changes of other tints. Recourse at last seems to have been had to black, at first of a greyish dusky shade, now of an unmistakeable deep hue, and this last expedient really seems the best under the circumstances to avoid confusion in the value of the series.

PROVISIONAL STAMPS.

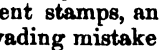
1862. These stamps so well known, and so commonly catalogued as *Newspaper* stamps, have hardly received the attention they merited; the various writers seem to have assumed that a complete series of each variety existed, and why or wherefore, it seems difficult to conceive, but most, if not all, concur in describing them as issued for newspapers only. With whom the original error may rest it is impossible now to say, but, it has borne a goodly crop, and caused general misapprehension. In England, Mount Brown (fifth edition, page 10), Dr Gray (third edition, page 18), and Bellars and Davie (second edition, page 21), may be named; while abroad Lallier, Moens, (English edition, page 100), and Berger Levrault (page 92), participate in the common misunderstanding. The real history of the issue now under discussion is by no means without parallel in the annals of postage stamps. In the year 1862, and towards the end of the month of October in that year, the supply of the current stamps of 1, 2, and 4 cents ran short in the colony. The necessity therefore arose for providing some substitute till the fresh supply arrived from England. These stamps were then printed for immediate use in the colony, under the instructions of the Postmaster; they were of the three values above mentioned, and printed as under.

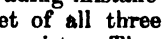
1 cent on pink paper.
2 cents on yellow paper.
4 cents on deep-blue paper.

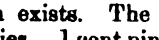
The design was of the simplest, consisting merely of the words BRITISH to left, GUIANA above, POSTAGE to right, with value beneath, printed on the four sides of a rectangle; in most cases four plain lines are placed within the letters, thus forming an inner rectangle. These stamps are surrounded by borders of different patterns, printed in what are called *types d' imprimerie*, moveable types, which, placed in the press, will print one of the continuous fancy patterns used sometimes for ornament and finish by printers; and it is in the difference of pattern in these borders that the varieties consist. Before being issued for circulation the initials *R. M.* were signed in the central space of each stamp, with something added underneath in the same hand-writing which is not deciphered. These initials, &c., were written by an employé in the post office, and on the pink are in black ink; on the yellow, in red ink; while on the blue, they appear in a white colour; a result perhaps attained by some chemical element in the ink, which has discharged the original blue of the paper. The stamps are perforated, or rather punctured by an instrument the French call a *roulette*, which

removes no piece of the paper, but makes a line of longitudinal incisions separated by short intervals, so that the stamps are easily separated. The stamps were adhesive.

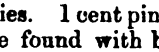
After the utmost care in collating and examining every specimen to be obtained, the writer of these lines has come to the conclusion that no authentic copy of the 4 cents value can be found bearing a border of the same identical pattern as that of any of the 1 or 2 cent stamps, and that it is a general and pervading mistake to assert that any complete set of all three values with the same pattern exists. The following is a list of the varieties. 1 cent pink, and 2 cents yellow, are to be found with borders of the following patterns.

I. Pearls  or shaded balls. (Moens, plate 35, type 4).

II. Sprigs (or grapes)  (Moens, plate 36, type 6).

III. Crossed ovals —  (Moens, plate 35, type 5). (The series of this pattern with the end of the ovals in the border turned upwards seems forged.)

While the blue 4 cents is only to be found in

IV. Quarterfoils, with an internal quarterfoil  and four small lines (Moens, plate 36, type 8, accurately engraved).

V. Fleur-de-lis (nearly so) commonly called *dotted ovals* (Moens, plate 36, type 7, very incorrectly figured).

VI. A fancy pattern quite indescribable (Moens, plate 54, type 10, inaccurately figured).

A complete series of the trefoil pattern is often seen; it is figured in Moens (plate 54, type 9), but is altogether fictitious. The bright colour of the blue, and the thinness of the paper of the issue are in themselves decisive; there is not only the absence of the real, but the presence of a false signature in the centre, which reads 'Nov.' instead of R. M., the forger evidently not knowing how to read the genuine initials. A curious proof of the accuracy of some of the above remarks can be found in the minute discrepancies to be detected in some specimens. The type at the corner of the 2 cent grapes, number II., either slipped from the frame and was replaced, having been meantime turned so as to form the line of pattern continuously with the other side to that it before joined; or, this pattern was set up twice and this small variation occurred between the two prints; or, another probable explanation may be given; the printer used all his types of one pattern for the pink and yellow papers, and this difference may be a mere accidental variation between two adjoining stamps, the fact of the puncturing seems also to favour the idea that more than one copy was printed on a sheet at the same time. Specimens of the blue 4 cents, number IV. are known, from which the internal set of lines are omitted, and the central space only defined by the legend; while no copy of number V. has been met with having these lines. It is very likely some others may exist in this state.

The use of these stamps was, as before explained, for general postal purposes, to which ordinary stamps of the same values were applicable. The writer has taken specimens of the 2 and 4 c., types I. and VI., from a letter addressed to one of the West Indian Isles, and placed between two common 12 cent stamps, and many have come to England on both letters and newspapers. The blue are rather less common than the other colours, but none are of any exceeding rarity or value; four, or at the most five, shillings ought to secure a good copy of any one of the series. As soon as the fresh supply of the usual stamps was procured these were immediately suppressed, and the colonial authorities not regarding this issue with much pride, destroyed all the stock then existing.

SIXTH ISSUE.

1863. Rectangular stamp, printed in colour, on white paper, perforated, size larger than the preceding.

Device, ship in a circle surrounded by the motto of the colony, bearing the date, one figure in each corner; in a label above B. GUIANA, and in a similar one beneath the word CENTS, prefixed by the value in Roman numerals. This issue consists of three values viz.:—

6 cents	. .	blue.
24 cents	. .	green.
48 cents	. .	red.

Various shades of colour may be found,—the later printed reds being almost a deep carmine, the greens also differ in intensity. The design of this issue shows great taste and skill, but it seems a retrogression to go back to the Roman method of notation as in this issue, and the 8, 12, and 24 cents of the 1860 series; and the effect of the two systems on the face of one stamp seems rather incongruous and bizarre. These stamps do not seem to come over in any great abundance, and their nominal values, at least the two higher ones, one shilling and two shillings, keep them comparatively scarce. Proofs on card board of these dies in black do exist, and the writer has one (the six cents) now before him: they were only privately struck to judge of the effect of the engraving, and are of excessive rarity.

Messrs. Waterlow and Sons are the manufacturers of the fifth and sixth issues, which are printed in London, and are exported ready for use in the colony.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE institution of postage stamps not having been designed for the gratification of collectors and convenience of timbrographists, it is no marvel that postal issues are not contrived so as to give us the benefit of a new series for description each month. In the earlier part of the year we had the greater part of our cake at once, and our readers must content themselves for the present with a few stray crumbs.

In default of a worthier claimant for first notice we must introduce another United States private speculation. It is large-sized, rectangular, black on deep orange. Above is JOHNSON'S FREE P. O. BOX; below, U. S. PRES'T. N^O. 7 N. 10TH ST., PHILAD'A, 1865; left and right, PRINTER, PUBLISHER, AND STATIONER. A profile head of the late President Lincoln adorns the centre.

A French label has been forwarded to us for inspection under assurance of being really a postage stamp. We cannot take upon ourselves to pronounce what it is; but we think, as will be clear from the description, we are competent to say what it is not. It is a rectangle, not so large as the specimen just described, but larger than the generality of postals. The impression is blue on a yellowish tint, but the legend is in perfectly white characters. A spread eagle turning to the right, holding thunderbolts, and surmounted by an imperial crown, occupies the greater part of the stamp in a rectangular field. The frame has TIMBRE IMPERIAL above, 20 CEN. below, ARTICLES D'ARGENT on the left, and VALEURS COTEES on the right. Silver articles would seem too heavy for 20 centimes to prepay their freight, and the value being marked or registered is no proof of the label's employment for strictly postal purposes.

Proofs of the new series of stamps for Mexico lie before us. They are very similar to the original set for that country, the designer having reverted to the original head of the priest, Hidalgo. He has, however, greatly improved upon his model both in design and execution. The bust is enclosed in an oval, ornamented on the exterior with graceful scroll work; CORREOS MEJICO above, and the value below. The stamps are four in number only, no half-real appearing as yet. They are perforated, and impressed in colour on white. One real, red; two reals, blue; four reals, brown; and one peso—a novel denomination for Mexico,—black. This last is engraved as a specimen.



A correspondent forwards a very unpretentious specimen, with the information that it franks newspapers from San Francisco to New York, on Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s envelopes, adding that when the newspaper is transmitted to England, the stamp in question is covered with the common 2 cents United States. This description seems rather cloudy, but must do till we receive fuller information. The stamp is rectangular, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE PREPAID BY THE QUARTER, in red on white.

We are also favoured by a lady with

the sight of an individual, most probably American likewise. It has been ruthlessly cut, but appears to have been originally rectangular. A full-faced portrait occupies the central circle, TWO CENT above, and STAMP below; perforated, impression black on white. The engraving is superior to most of the local United States emanations, and rather bespeaks a government origin. A specimen of the Frankfort stamp has also been sent us, and is fully described in the correspondence.

We have just received direct from Venezuela some of the La Guaira stamps, and observe some discrepancy between them and what we received on a former occasion. In both the green 2 reales, and the red ½ real, the white ground is much more distinct; the colours too vary, the green being much paler, and the red more of a rose tint. Moreover, the perforations, in lieu of being small round holes not sufficiently close to allow of the stamps being separated without great risk of being torn, are almost sundered by regular vandykes. We got none of the ½ real blue, or 2 reales orange, though we requested to have all the current series.

Another contributor transmits a label similar in shape to the ninepenny Mauritius envelope, supposing the four lower sides to be rounded off into one. It is chocolate coloured, and bears a crown, ONE PENNY and CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, all in white relief, as is also a line following the six-sided border. We shall be glad of information respecting this and the other novelties alluded to in the present paper.

The 2 paras of Moldo-Wallachia is now printed orange coloured. The sixpenny English, unlike the shilling and threepenny, is rather improved in appearance by the recent alteration. Besides the magnified letters and blocks in each corner, below the upper two are small stars in a circle, and above the lower ones, small figures also in circles (5 in the specimens before us). Extending from asterisk to figure is an engine turned ornamentation.

Messrs. Young & Stockall and our own publishers are now using stamped envelopes of all values, after the manner of Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co.; Grindlay & Co., &c.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

ISLE OF REUNION.

THIS African island of many names was discovered by the Portuguese navigator





Mascarenhas in 1545, and by him taken possession of in the name of John IV., his sovereign. Though beautiful and fertile it was totally devoid of human inhabitants, and never having been colonized by any of the nation of its first visitors, remained so for nearly a century, when Pronis, agent of the French East Indian company at Madagascar, appropriated it on the part of the king of France, and named it Mascareigne, from its original discoverer.

Its first colonists were about a dozen exiles or convicts who were united to a consignment of Madagascar negresses, and reinforced by a few pirates. This unpromising stock nevertheless, fell into habits of regularity by degrees, for the simple reason that no individual was rich enough to tempt the cupidity of another; and a few years after, M. de Flacourt, the successor of Pronis, more ceremoniously renewed the French occupation of the isle, and gave its second appellation Bourbon.

At the beginning of the first revolution the name of Bourbon was abolished and Réunion substituted. Under the consular government it was known by the alias of Bonaparte Island, and another whim bestowed during the Empire a fifth designation, Napoleon Isle. On the restoration of the Bourbons in 1815 it reverted to its second title, and after the revolution of 1848 was finally renamed Réunion.

If we may credit the French chroniclers, the descendants of so unpromising a stock in the course of a century had become a realization of the fables of the golden age. Doors were seldom closed and bolts and locks

unknown in the island. The usual cashboxes of the simple-minded inhabitants were small tortoiseshell bowls in an exposed situation. Such was the general hospitality of the island, that it might be traversed from end to end without possession of the smallest coin!

It is represented as blest with one of the finest climates in the world. To use the words of M. Victor Charlier—if one wished to erect anywhere a temple to physical health, it should be there; then might vessels disembark their sick, and few cases would be so desperate as not to be speedily ameliorated, without physic or physician, by the mere sojourn in so enchanting and salubrious a spot! In this glowing panegyric, of course, such slight drawbacks as insects and hurricanes are totally ignored.

The charm of variety is certainly obtainable by a sojourner there, for the cultivated land does not extend above five or six miles from the sea. Here grow maize, mandive, sweet potatoes, ignames, haricots, mangos, mangotteens, strawberries, grapes, plantains, pine and custard-apples, vanille, chocolate, coffee, cinnamon, and, in great perfection, sugar. The interior is scarcely inhabited, nor is it likely to be, on account of the sterility of the soil. A large tract of ground is covered by volcanic rocks, the debris of former and the craters of more recent eruptions. The comparatively large space termed the *Grand-pays brûle*, or burnt ground, is covered with lava like a vast cuirass of metallic brilliancy, glittering beneath the sun's rays, warm enough to scorch the feet of travellers, and sharp enough, when trampled on, to wear out the strongest soles.

The inhabitants number, perhaps, 120,000, more than a moiety of whom are slaves. Its extreme length is about 40 miles. We may conclude the geographical portion of our sketch with the astounding information, given on the authority of the English Encyclopedia, that the shortest days in the year are *two*, namely June 12 and December 12!

Very misty ideas with regard to the stamp or stamps (if any) of this island were a long time prevalent in the timbrophilic world. The earlier editions both of Moens' and Mount Brown's catalogues gave one only, the 30 centimes black on green paper. It is evident that a few, but very few, of these rarities were to be seen in continental collections, but so discoloured that it was difficult to ascertain their normal hue. As far as we can ascertain, the 15 centimes is quite a modern revival, not being noticed by Moens in his manual so lately as 1863. The engravings we give sufficiently portray the curious and unusual design of these long-doubted and mysterious individuals. The date of issue is given by Moens and Mount Brown as being 1862, but Berger Levrault, with more probability and doubtless on good authority, adds half a score years to their antiquity.

What we can gather of their origin is this,—that the governor of the time, whoever he was, like his co-equal of New Caledonia, on his own responsibility created the two stamps in question. They are both printed in black on bluish paper, and, as we remarked above, if found otherwise tinted it must have arisen from age or accident.

They were formed by means of some small ornamental dies, common in all printing offices, and usually employed for stamping book covers; in the same way as the large figure impressions of Honolulu and the provisional labels of British Guiana were struck off. With due regard to this, the veritable Réunions may be distinguished from the numerous counterfeits.

We have not ourselves ever been privileged to examine any considerable number of the true and untrue of these impressions together, but are assured by those who have, that the great regularity of form in the former could not be attained by any ordinary means from lithography or engraving. On similar authority, we learn that among several specimens may be remarked slight differences resulting from the position of the small ornaments. For instance, the balls forming the inner border of the 15 centimes label have the lines of shadows in some specimens turned towards the left, whereas in others they fall towards the margin as if the light were in the centre. There is a discrepancy also sometimes in the two small points marking the abbreviation TIMB:

As might reasonably be expected from the extreme rarity of these stamps the imitations are numerous, and more or less faithful; some are printed on a close copy of the original paper, others are deep blue, grey, or, following the early catalogues as guides, green.

Although these stamps were some years in use they have now become perfectly unattainable. With the exception of a very infinitesimal minority of philatelists, collections whose owners do not condescend to content themselves with the best fac-similes cannot boast of containing even one of these singularities, notwithstanding the countless epistles, some of them glaring with most illustrious signatures, addressed to the governor and the postal officials of the isle. The reply, more or less courteously worded, according to the rank of the recipient, is always, alas! to the same disappointing effect—that the stamps are suppressed, and in spite of every research not one solitary individual can be met with.

One of these replies, signed by a functionary who was for several years postmaster of St. Denis the chief town of the island, and sent to a zealous Parisian collector, gives the intelligence that during the five or six years' duration of the stamps of Réunion, about 8 *francs* worth were sold in his office,—that is to say, something like a dozen per annum, on an average, in the capital!

The paucity of purchasers is to be accounted for from the fact that the labels were not supplied with adhesive gum; and as each individual had not always the means of fixing them on his letter, from the great difficulty of preserving gum or paste in a liquid state in so warm a climate, prepayment at the post-office was found, on the whole, to be most convenient.

At last—tell it not in Gath!—as these apparently valueless bits of paper seemed only in the way, a general holocaust was decided on. The innocents were collected from all parts, and mercilessly consigned to the flames! What treasures for ever lost to the timbrophilic community!

Immediately after this catastrophe, the institution of a uniform series of stamps for the French Colonies prevented the chance of a re-issue of these now for ever defunct curiosities.

Comparatively few as were the missives on which any of these stamps had been attached, it is likely that some numbers might have been found on old letters, were it not for another circumstance to which their great scarcity may be attributable. It appears that unless papers are preserved with the greatest care in hermetically sealed metal cases, they are sure to be devoured by an insect called hakerlac in the island, and which is a large variety of the genus Blatta.

Cockroach and fire their fury pour
With rage that is not puny, on
The luckless stamps now seen no more
In Bourbon's isle, Réunion.

THE CONNELL STAMP.

IN our last number we inserted without comment, an article on the above stamp, which appeared in the *Stamp-Collector's Record* (Albany N. Y.); we now feel it our duty to lay before our readers a 'smart,' but apparently well-grounded contradiction of the statements it contains, extracted from the columns of the *Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette* (New Brunswick), and to which we have elsewhere referred. After transcribing the article in question, the writer continues:

'Comment on the above will be altogether unnecessary to any of our readers who are at all acquainted with the real facts of the case; it is quite enough merely to place it before them, and they will at once perceive the vein of misrepresentation and untruth which pervades and—we might safely say—comprises the whole.

'For the benefit of those who may not be very well posted in the true circumstances of the affair, a few remarks may not be amiss.

'Well, in the first place, the writer of the strange medley of humbug and bosh, states that in 1861 Mr. Chas. Connell, "a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius, and benevolence," was Post-master-general of New Brunswick, and as a remarkable proof of his said "genius," he actually discovered that the stamps of the province were "susceptible of improvement." Now it will be remembered that it was about this time that

the decimal currency was introduced into New Brunswick, and the old system of reckoning by £ s. d. done away with. A large quantity of specie was ordered from England, consisting of one, five, ten, and twenty cent pieces, for the purpose of making change. Our "unsightly labels" were three in number, viz., a threepenny, sixpenny, and a one-shilling stamp. One would think that it would not require a very large stock of "genius" to discover that a set of stamps, representing cents instead of pence, would now be needed. The gifted writer then goes on to show how Mr. C.'s ingenuity was set forth in "putting a different design on each stamp," for example, a locomotive on one, a portrait of Queen Victoria on another, &c. But as a mark of his own appreciation of the great services rendered to his country, he conceived the wondrously brilliant idea of having engraved on the 5 c. stamp a delineation of his "own honest countenance."

'Our talented friend then proceeds to inform his readers how it was that these stamps were not allowed to be used, and imparts to us a little piece of information which has, at least, the merit of being entirely original. His account of the "mass meeting," which he says was held for the purpose of expressing the popular indignation of the public with the Post-master-general in his high-handed act, has not one word of truth in it; no such event ever took place, and therefore his silly prating about *political opponents*, and the *request to resign*, is altogether unfounded. As for the fumes of "whisky," they exist only in the muddled brain of the author of the story.

'The facts of the matter are simply these: when this celebrated stamp was issued, the attention of the government was at once called to it, and it very properly ordered Mr. Connell to stop the issuing of them. The worthy Post-master-general then declared that if the command was enforced he would resign; it was, and he did. And there is the truth of the matter.

'The wisdom of the New Brunswick government in their course is too apparent to need any comment. Were such an unusual precedent as that of Mr. Connell's once suffered to be established, it is hard to say where it might end. In a short time his term of office would have expired, and then most likely, some other individual would have taken his place, and it can scarcely be supposed that his successor would possess such a high opinion of Mr. Connell's career of usefulness as to allow "his honest countenance" any longer to grace the stamp, if he could help it. It is not at all unlikely that Mr. Connell's successor would try to have it removed, and his own substituted in its place.

'We are next informed that Mr. C. got so terribly disgusted with the people, and the government, and every body else, that he "retired at once and forever from the political arena." Again the writer has blundered most surprisingly. In 1861, the very year that he resigned his office, he again offered himself as a candidate at the general election; *he was defeated*, however, and returned to private life, although not "once and forever," for when the election again took place, he again came forward, was returned, and now represents Carleton County in the House of Assembly. So much for the reliability of this account.'

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette. St. John, New Brunswick: George Stewart, Jun.

THE start of another periodical in the far west devoted to the interests of philatelism, should be an object of congratulation to our now-extended community, proving, as it does, not only the non-decadence but the wide spread of the fantasy. As respects the merits or demerits of the publication, the four pages of letter-press sent us for review, as No. 1, are insufficient for a fair criterion. The editor fills the first page with the information of his good intentions. He says he was wanted, and 'HE CAME,' evidently ranking himself as the right man in the right place; though, as the Dean of Canterbury has it, it would be difficult to tell how a right man could be in a wrong place. He also very judiciously tells us, that he intends giving a synopsis of the contents of other

timbrophilic periodicals every month; in plain words, he purposes the copious use of the editor's sheet-anchor—scissors.

Much more than another page is filled with a long tirade against an article which appeared in the Albany magazine, and which was quoted in our last month's number: we mean that on the Connell stamp. He reproduces the whole, and then cuts it up *secundum artem*, with no small amount of rancourous irony. He might, however, as the word 'susceptible' appears rightly spelt in the original, have forborne to mis-spell it in his own remarks. We may add that his compositor, or reader, or some one else, has much to answer for in orthographic slips. Two remarks in the United States journalist's paper appear to have excited especial ire: his styling New Brunswick an 'obscure colony,' and his giving the New Brunswickers the credit of taking too much whisky! As, however, we have reprinted the greater part of the article in question, our readers can judge for themselves as to its merit.

Notices of new stamps, postal chit-chat, advertisements, &c., fill the remaining space, and altogether the publication is well worth the modest sum of five cents at which it is rated. With every wish for its success, we commend it to the notice and patronage of the world of postal amateurs.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Mr. Regan, was captured with President Davis.

THOUSANDS OF THE THREE-HALFPENNY ENGLISH were made, but the Bill for a three-halfpenny rate was rejected at the last moment, and so they were never used.

IN RICHMOND a Confederate 3000-dollar bond is worth five cents; will some mathematician favour us, *pro ratio*, with the value of the Confederate 2 cents stamp?—*Stamp-Collector's Record.*

ANOTHER INSTANCE OF THE VERITY OF THE OLD SAW that we must go abroad to hear news of home, is exemplified in the communication of a correspondent from the far-distant West, who dates from the Appallachians, in which he informs the editor of a Parisian journal that a 'London Timbrological Society' is in process of formation.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, POST-OFFICE 5 c. STAMP.—It is not generally known that this stamp was issued by the P. O. Department and by the authority of the United States in the year 1846. The plate is still preserved by the authorities of Providence, and may be seen in the State Library in that city.—*Stamp-Collector's Record, Albany (N. Y.)*

THREE BLACK LINES and the inscription in type, PAT. NOV. 20, 1855, are printed on the interior of the 3 cents small oval U. S. envelope on white and on buff paper. All the obsolete envelopes are watermarked with the letters 'P. O. D. U. S.' (Post-office Department, United States), repeated in different parts of the paper apparently without design.

POMEROY'S EXPRESS.—Information regarding this being desired by the British journalists, we beg to state that Pomeroy's stamps were issued in 1849,—the large one for delivery of large parcels, the small one for letters. Pomeroy's express, now defunct, was merged in the American Express Company, but was in its day a well-known institution. The proprietor, G. Pomeroy, resides at present in Toledo, Ohio. The stamps were engraved by Gavit, now vice-president of the American Bank Note Company.—*Stamp-Collector's Record, Albany (N. Y.)*

PROOF STAMPS.—Before stamps are printed, it is usual to take off from the plate one or more impressions on common paper, and in ink of a different colour from those in which the stamps are officially used, to see if the plates are in a condition to print, so that none but perfect stamps should be issued, and that the government may not be cheated by these prior impressions being used as postage stamps. Such impressions of an unusual colour have been called 'proofs,' they are so in a printer's use of the word but not in that of a collector of engravings.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

THE WEIGHT OF A STAMP.—The other day, says a Paris correspondent, a gentleman wrote a letter for Brighton, weighed it, and found it the exact weight. He then put on the stamp, which turned the scale, and sent the letter to the post by the concierge. Concierge gave it to the post-office clerk, who weighed it again: 'Over weight.'—'Impossible!' said the little cobbler, 'impossible; I watched monsieur weigh it before he put on the stamp.'—'Then the stamp has made the overweight. You must put on another.'—'Ah, joker!' said the cobbler, 'that would make it heavier;' so he took the letter back, and missed the post—of course to the delight of his master.

THE UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE IN VIRGINIA.—The pacification of Virginia has been closely followed by the re-establishment of Federal authority within that state, and by an executive order made for that purpose, from which the following extract has been made, the reader will see that amongst other things the United States Post-office has been re-opened in the lately rebellious state. 'Fourth. That the postmaster-general shall proceed to establish post-offices and post-routes, and put into execution the postal laws of the United States within the said state, giving to loyal residents the preference of appointment; but if suitable persons are not found, then to appoint agents, &c., from other states.'

TURKISH STAMP NUMERALS.—The values of the Turkish stamps, 10 paras, 1, 2, 5, and 25 piastres, being in Turkish, not in Arabic characters, may not be easily perceived by new collectors, for whose benefit we propose to give some explanation of them. The number 1 is represented by a kind of comma, thus ١; the number 2 by two commas at right angles, thus ٢; and 5 by a circle ٥. To make 10, a dot, to represent a 0, is added to the comma, thus ١٠; and the dot added to the figure 2 makes 20, ٢٠. 25, the highest stamp-number, is made by adding the figure 5 to the 2, thus ٢٥. In the old issue the value was given in a circle under the crescent and in the centre of the ornament beneath, in the new issue the value forms the corner ornament.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ESSAYS OR NO ESSAYS?—THAT IS THE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Mr. Hill, in his valuable letter in the June number of the magazine, denies the right of the Prince Albert stamps to be called essays, on a new ground, namely, that they were 'never made by any department of the Government.' Of course he would, for the same reason, condemn the majority of the stamps now known as essays, but his definition seems to me to be really too narrow. Together with trial stamps, manufactured by order of the government, I think that stamps which are really offered to the post officials, in reply to a request for the tender of designs, are also entitled to be called essays. This I say, not in defence of Mr. Burns' *protegés*, which I consider unworthy the title for other reasons, but with the design that collectors may really come to some decision as to what are and what are not essays.

With all respect for your experience and knowledge in postal matters, I beg to submit that the stamps described in your last 'Newly-issued' article, as having been proposed for San Marino and Moldo-Wallachia, and also those for Bolivia, have not been proved to be anything more than an engraver's speculations. Before they are accepted as anything better, I think that it ought first to be proved that they ever were asked for by, or offered to the governments of the respective states named. You state that the San Marino 'essays' were 'proposed' in 1864,—but who proposed them? You also suppose that the reason of the non-adoption of the Moldo-Wallachian 'essays' was because 'the designer was destitute of the necessary friend at court;'—but was the designer himself ever at Prince Couza's court, or did he ever send his inventions to Prince Couza's postmaster? If, as you assert, the San Marino essays really were proposed in 1864, it is somewhat strange that they were not heard of before. At the present time every timbro-postal rumour is eagerly spread, yet not a word was whispered of the intention of San Marino to issue stamps; indeed, according to your lately-published account of the 'donkey post' to the town of San Marino, it would appear that the republic hardly possesses more than the rudiments of a postal system, and could scarcely have required stamps. The essays themselves I have seen. They look very new, as if freshly worked off. Neither they nor the Danubian essays have the name of the country on them, but merely blank tablets at the top and sides, and some of the San Marino essays are without any device in the centre. What then is to prevent the engraver from slightly altering the device of the Danubians or of those San Marinos which have the three peaks in the centre, or from putting a new device in the centre of those which have none, and then palming them off as, perchance, essays for some South American republic, or for Patagonia itself?

I fear that you have accepted these engravings as veritable essays with hardly enough proof. The truth is, that the San Marino, Danubian, Bolivian, Greek, and Mexican essays all emanate from one or two engravers living at Milan, and I do not believe that their productions are any other than fraudulent speculations on the gullibility of stamp collectors; nor do I suppose for a moment that they were ever submitted to the authorities of any of the countries whose names they bear. Beautiful as engravings they doubtless are, and so are a good many Yankee medicine stamps, but no more entitled to admission into postage-stamp albums than the labels on bottles of Bass's ale, or those on tins of Coleman's mustard.

A young friend of mine some months ago showed me a fine essay, quite as genuine as the Italian humbugs, which bore an engraved portrait, and a very accurate one—at any rate, in accordance with tradition—of a gentleman renowned for the possession of horns, hoofs, and tail, in the centre, surrounded by a square border inscribed with cabalistic characters. The stamp was printed in black on white, and intended, since the decline of spirit-rapping, to frank communications to Hades.

Seriously, I cannot but think that the mere mention of the Milanese essays, without contemporary condemnation, is very injurious to the pursuit of stamp collecting. If we profess to be *stamp* collectors, let us stick to stamp collecting pure and simple, for if once we stray off into the gathering of a miscellaneous crowd of unaccredited essays our first object must be lost sight of, and the pursuit itself lose its distinctive character and become what its detractors assert it to be—a senseless hobby.

Yours faithfully,

London. CONSERVATIVE.

ENGLISH STAMPS ON BLUE PAPER, &c.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—The value of your periodical, as a medium for the interchange of information and the correction of error, has been prominently exemplified in your recent numbers. Permit me to endeavour to rectify a blunder into which I have fallen, and through your columns communicated to many of our philatelists. It is with regard to my statement that stamps of Great Britain have never been printed on blue paper. I had my information direct from Mr. Pearson Hill and from a gentleman at Messrs. Bacon and Petch's establishment; this, coupled with personal inquiry at Somerset House, certainly convinced me; and I am still satisfied it is, with one remarkable exception, correct. I may here state that, though not printed on blue paper, the stamps so commonly known as such deserve to be taken and classed as varieties; for varieties they are in fact, although the difference is not attributable to the commonly supposed cause. But now to the English stamps on blue paper. Your remarks at page 90 of this month's number induced me to turn to my own series, which is unmounted and waiting to be arranged. I there found a specimen of the fourpenny carmine, no letters in angles, on blue paper, perforated, and also a proof of it printed '*Specimen*' over the centre of the stamp, and I remember recently to have seen a badly-preserved post-marked copy in a lad's album. There is no mistake as to the paper, it is decidedly blue, of a delicate tint and highly glazed. On making inquiries, I find that some few sheets were in 1855 printed quite accidentally on blue paper and put into circulation with the others, but as soon as the paper was noticed no more was used. Hence these stamps are exceedingly rare, and among the points of honour in a good collection. I notice Berger Levrault, a most accurate authority, gives this variety, page 24 of the German edition.

To Mr. Pearson Hill, for his most valuable list of dates of English issues, we all owe great thanks. It seems to me to clear up, not directly but impliedly, a long vexed point.

'J. P.,' Torquay, asked long ago, 'Were there ever British envelopes sixpenny and shilling undated in issue?' All I can say is, I never saw either, or heard of one used or unused. Mr. Hill's list would appear to put the sixpenny and shilling undated and embossed in the same category with the tenpenny, which we know were only adhesive stamps. Can any of your numerous readers show a whole envelope shilling or sixpenny undated? That this question should be still unsettled is a remarkable

proof of the folly of cutting envelopes; the foreigners only take them entire, and are wiser than ourselves in this respect.

I think I can help the lady who inquires about the 'local Swiss' or 'Jura' stamps: they are certainly not novelties, I first saw them four years ago. Your conjecture is perfectly right, they are not postage stamps at all, but labels used for parcels going by a particular route, and correspond to our Metropolitan Parcels Express stamp, described and figured in last year's magazine.

'Luzon.'—Your reply to this correspondent may be a little amplified. Some of the stamps we know and class as for Cuba did unquestionably serve for the Philippine Isles. The issue of 1855 on blue paper, curved watermark, had currency in these isles, at least the 1 real plata and the 2 reales plata had; I scarcely think the ½ real plata had,—it was precisely equivalent in value to the 10 cuartos of that year issued for Luzon specially. I incline to believe the series of 1856 and 1857 were restricted to Cuba, Hayti, and Porto Rico, and did not extend to the Philippines.

London. AMATEUR.

THE FRANKFORT STAMP, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—As Mr. Overy Taylor, in his 'Notes on the German stamps,' considers the Frankfort stamp mythical, and as Dr. Gray also gives rather an incorrect description of it, I think that a few particulars about it will not be altogether without interest to the readers of your magazine. Dr. Gray describes it as a 'dentated adhesive stamp,' but as this impression is hand-stamped on newspapers (not affixed by gum, as is usually the case) it can hardly be called an 'adhesive' stamp, and could not possibly be 'dentated.' It is used exactly in the same way as the English newspaper stamps, and as it is a moot point whether these should be included in collections, the journal stamp of Frankfort will also be probably excluded from many albums.

The reason why the inscription on the Schleswig stamps is SCHILLING on the green, but SCHILLINGE on the red stamp (see vol. iii., p. 83, of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*), is, that in the former case the singular, in the latter the plural of the word *schilling* is employed. This is not more anomalous than the inscriptions 1 CENTIME and 5 CENTIMES, which we find on the French stamps.

Allow me to bring to your notice an American local, which is not quoted in any catalogue I have seen, and which has I believe never been mentioned in your magazine. It is similar to those described in your June number, and consists of the 3 cents United States envelope and an oblong printed in black, bearing the words, PAID, WELLS, FARGO, AND CO., OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES. You will see that this inscription differs slightly from either of those mentioned in your magazine. I have a post-marked stamp of this kind in my collection, which was sent me by a relative residing in New Westminster, British Columbia, who had received it on a letter from San Francisco. There can, therefore, be no doubt of the genuine character of this stamp.

I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

Darmstadt, Grand-Duchy of Hesse. F. L.

THE 'PORTO STEMPEL' ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I ought to have explained some time since, that there are two reprints of the oldest Finland envelopes. After the original die had been reprinted from some time, and the lettering PORTO STEMPEL getting worn and indistinct, these words were re-engraved; and thus we have two reprints of these stamps,—the one from the original die and the only genuine reprint, the second with the arms and value as in the original but with new lettering at top. This latter cannot be considered a genuine reprint, having been touched-up for sale to collectors, Original 'porto stempel' envelopes are on a greenish wove paper, the reprints upon a white laid paper; as originals, few stamps are rarer than these, and the few which adorn our English collections are deservedly valued. The stamp from which I described the genuine 'porto stempel' was this second reprint, which I then thought was from the original die; the stamps of Mr. Joseph, if not originals, are of course original reprints, doubtless they are the former.

Reverting to the subject of Connell essays, there is a proof of this stamp now offered in orange; a sure sign that the die has not been destroyed. I would advise collectors not to be in any hurry to purchase these, as they will probably be produced in any quantity or any colour, after the well-known habit of reprints.

I remain, yours truly,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE NEW MOLDO-WALLACHIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Either the new Moldo-Wallachian stamps have been re-engraved, or else they are engraved, as the New Caledonian were, from several dies I have two sets in my possession, one obtained immediately after the first emission of these stamps a few months since, the other within the last fortnight.—both from a reliable source; and I find considerable differences between the stamps of the same value. The 2 paras, first printed in pale yellow, is now light orange. The figures in the corners of all the stamps are now much thicker than formerly, the lettering better done, and the central oval more correct. In all the first-issued stamps the hair at the side of the head is nearly straight, inclining to the left; in those lately emitted it is decidedly curled. There are also slight differences between the faces on the old and new stamps. In the old (or first-issued) 20 paras the Prince is looking up, the forehead slopes back, the nose is straight, the chin long; in the new the forehead is rounded and nearly upright, the eyes are directed downwards, the nose is almost a pug, the chin short, and the cheek very much shaded. These differences must constitute the lately-issued stamps varieties.

Yours respectfully,

OVERY TAYLOR.

THE OLD ENGLISH SIXPENNY, TENPENNY, AND SHILLING ENVELOPE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the table printed in your last number, showing the dates upon which the different English postage stamps were issued, it may be useful to your readers to know that the sixpenny, the tenpenny, and the shilling embossed stamps, without dates, were never, I believe, put on envelopes; as the practice of the public sending paper to Somerset House to be stamped was not in operation while these stamps were in use, and the Government never embossed any envelopes for sale, except the penny and twopenny.

It may be interesting to you to know, that on another point connected with our own postage stamps the public are at fault. In many catalogues you see mentioned English penny labels *brown*, and penny and twopenny labels on blue paper. Now the brown and the brick-red penny labels are

simply labels (originally printed of the same colour as the present) in which the ink has faded by time; and as regards the blue paper, none of our stamps were ever printed on any but white paper,—the change in colour having been produced in time by chemical action between the gum and either the oil of the ink or the size in the paper,—I forget which. So also as regards our Indian, Trinidad, Barbadoes, and many other stamps; those on blue paper are merely old stamps originally printed on white paper.

Yours truly,

General Post-office. PEARSON HILL.

'SCHW.' ON THE FIRST ISSUE OLDENBURG.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—As you request information as to the meaning of the abbreviation SCHW. on the ½ s. gr. first issue Oldenburg, permit me to state that it stands for *schwar*, a small copper coin current in Oldenburg, and worth about half a farthing; consequently the stamp in question was equivalent to a halfpenny postage.

Yours respectfully,

Clifton. FENTONIA.

ARRANGEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Will any of your numerous correspondents favour us with their views and experience as to the best method of mounting a collection, the kind of album, and the mode of arrangement? Information is particularly desired how to deal with watermarked stamps, so as to show their distinctive character.

London. A. J. H.

THE 'DUTCH GUIANA' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I am quite tired of seeing the question mooted as to the Dutch Guiana stamps. I have the authority of a newspaper proprietor, and also that of a bookseller at Paramaribo (Surinam), for saying that no such stamps have existed.

Yours faithfully,

London. C. P. ROBERT.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. F., Clifton.—Your Bremen stamp is employed by the post-office of that city for official letters; and, like our own Admiralty stamp and others, as it frees from postage, is admitted by some collectors into their albums.

ABRAHAM.—Your 5 cents Canada envelope stamp is decidedly a forgery, and by no means a good one.—The 1 c. of that colony is not obsolete. Perhaps you mean the halfpenny, which has been long disused.

D. A. N.—We notice your Cape of Good Hope specimen in our article on novelties.

C. E. B., Camden Town.—We give you a similar reference.

DUDLEY, London.—We cannot find that Dr. Gray made the mistake for which you give him credit. The newspaper stamp you forwarded is not alluded to at all in his catalogue.—Thanks for your information, of which we avail ourselves elsewhere.

F. B. X., Bury St. Edmund's.—The imitative 5 s. gr. Bremen you enclose is no proof of there having been two issues of that stamp, but merely that it was wretchedly copied.

Miss J.—We are inclined to believe in your Argentine, notwithstanding your misgiving.—We notice the other stamp elsewhere.

HEROD, Bodmin.—For the derivation of the most recent term for postage stamp collecting, *philatelie*, you may take your choice among the following. The former part of the word, of course, simply implies friend or lover; the latter you may fancy as from *atelier*, the French term for a general place of meeting for artistic amateurs. If you prefer the Greek, choose between the adverb τηλε, from afar, allusive to the distant habitats of our specimens; τελος, a tax, which word may figuratively mean a postage stamp; τελειος, perfect, because its votaries wish to get a perfect collection; or ατελης, endless, for there really seems no end to it, if you go in for everything; and to this last derivation we ourselves incline.

AMICUS, Leeds.—*Geestemünde* means the sandy mouth of a river, and *Zollverein* you rightly interpret Trade Union. Perhaps the former word may be the name of a town in Hanover, whence the stamps you forwarded for inspection came on a letter; and the latter may imply that the place is included in the states forming the Zollverein,—a term which puzzled so greatly the visitors to our first Great Exhibition.

RUSSIA.—We find, on reference, that our notice of the so-called 'Black Sea' was omitted. It is evidently an official, but not strictly for postal purposes, and has no claim on collectors as such.

FENTONIA.—We think the change of value in the new series for Moldo-Wallachia simply proves a fiscal reform in the post-office.—'*Parale*' is evidently the Roumanian equivalent for the Turkish *para*, and is most probably the plural of *parala*.

NO REPRINTS.—Most of the old series of New Granada have been reprinted, for the benefit of those fastidious collectors who prefer an unused revival to a post-marked original.

A. C. L.—There is no reason why any particular colour should denote any particular value, either in the English or any other stamps.

LUCY, Harrogate.—The stamp of Wells, Fargo, & Co., purporting to carry from St Joseph to Placerville, you *may* find duly registered in Mount Brown's catalogue, among the special postage United States envelopes; a ? prefixed denotes the writer's doubts of its character.

URUGUAY.—We believe the diligencia labels were disused immediately on the introduction of the 1859 series of Monte Videans, having lasted three years only.

A. B. C., Wexford.—This correspondent adds to the information of 'Antilles,' that the Mauritius stamps are postmarked with '*B* 53,' and those of Hong Kong with '*B* 62;' evidently on the same principle that signalises the Bath, Liverpool, and Manchester letters with '53,' '466,' and '498' respectively.

SULTAN, Shirehampton.—We do not see how the fact of the 10 paras green Turkish being advertised as for unpaid letters would militate against its being in use all over the Ottoman Empire.—The dealers you allude to offer a set of four as for paid, and a set of five as for unpaid, of course excluding the highest value in each instance. Most probably the error is the printer's, as the uniform-coloured series are understood by some as doing duty for correspondence not prepaid, though you will find it stated in a previous number that they are designed for the use of places in the Ottoman Empire where there is no regular postal service.

JAMES JONES, Chester.—We think the higher values of English postage bear facial evidence of not having been built by the same architect as are the elaborately-engraved but ugly penny and twopenny.

SCHOLAR, Winchester.—Your 6 pf. Prussia appears a genuine specimen of the first issue of its country.

NOTES ON THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Amongst the countries of northern Europe Russia is so conspicuous as to require priority for the notice of its stamps. Dr. Gray considers them 'the most beautiful stamps that have yet been issued;' and they doubtless are the most beautiful stamps of the class to which they belong; but there are many different styles of stamp engraving, and superiority over the stamps of one style, by no means implies superiority over the stamps of all other styles. Leaving the question of beauty to be decided according to the individual taste of our readers, let us turn to the history of the stamps in question.



At the outset we are met by doubt. The three principal manualists vary in their statement of the date of issue of the Russian envelopes. Choosing Berger-Levrault as our surest guide, we find that 1848 was the year in which the entire series, including the one of St. Petersburg, was emitted. It is somewhat strange that the issue of envelopes should have preceded by nine years that of adhesives. The values also are very high, but probably Russia has not adopted a uniform rate of postage. If the charges are according to distance, the want of railroads to the farther provinces must operate to raise them considerably. The adhesives issued in December 1857, were unperforated, but the very necessary improvement was made about a year after. In 1863 the iron-grey adhesive 5 k., to match the envelope of that value, made its appearance, but was superseded by the lilac 5 k., one of the charming set issued last year. These stamps were erroneously supposed to have been intended to prepay foreign postage, a mistake which was caused by their emission at the time when labels for that purpose were expected. It was only lately that the prepayment of postage to foreign countries was permitted. For this purpose the stamps previously in use are employed, though we have seen one of the 1864 issue, together with the higher values, on a letter received from St. Petersburg.

It would be interesting to know how it came to pass that Finland was three years in advance of Russia proper in the emission of envelopes. Such is the case. The large upright-oval 'Porto stempel' stamps were issued in 1845, and remained current eleven years. They are now very scarce, but there are some deceptive imitations in the market. For information concerning the reprints, see an interesting letter from Mr. Pemberton in the last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. The 1856 type was employed for adhesives as well as envelopes, though the latter had the high value 20 k. to themselves. The envelope stamps having in most instances been cut out, it is difficult to distinguish between them and the adhesives. The thickness of the paper of the former is, however, a safe test. The 5 k. is much more seldom met with than the 10 k., it having probably been, like the St. Petersburg stamp, used only within a small district. This issue continued in use until 1860, when it was succeeded by the more artistic series now current. Of this series the only notabilities are the 5 k. envelope with ground-work of thin waved lines, and the envelopes with double impressions referred to in vol. ii., of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, page 149.

The genuineness of the Wenden stamps has been placed beyond doubt, and collectors may now safely admit them into their albums, where they will act as representatives of the Moravian colony in Russia. Of the oblong stamps, green and rose respectively, the rose inscribed BRIEFMARKE, and used for letters, has been superseded by the upright rectangulars, but the green PACKENMARKE is still in use.

The kingdoms of Sweden and Norway, though governed by one sovereign, appear each to have a separate postal administration. The last named was the first to issue stamps, commencing with the 4 sk. blue in 1854. Two years afterwards the *head* series was adopted. Moens falls into the gross error of giving the same date, namely, 29th of September, 1854, for the emission of the

4 sk. blue 'arms,' and the 4 sk. and 8 sk. 'head.'

Although king Oscar died in 1859, the stamps bearing his effigy were not entirely withdrawn until about four months since, when the 2 sk. yellow 'arms' was issued; indeed, for aught we know to the contrary, the 3 sk. lilac head may still be in use, but its comparative scarcity favours the idea that it has been withdrawn. The new issue may be indefinitely continued, as the death of the sovereign will not necessitate a change.

The Swedes were enabled to prepay their letters with stamps in 1855; according to Moens, on July 1st of that year Both the old and new issues have a very ineffective appearance; the barren shield being placed in the centre of a poorly-done background. In fact there are few more unattractively-designed stamps, yet when they are all placed together, their variety of colour redeems them from the charge of utter ugliness. The necessity of a lower rate for local postage, was perceived from the first by the Swedes, and led to the emission of the small oblong stamp, inscribed FRIMARKE FUR LOKALBREF, intended for use in the city of Stockholm, and value 1 skill. bco. The current 3 öre brown, equal to 1 sk. bco., is stated to prepay letters delivered within a single postal circuit; and judging from the inscription thereon, we should think this was correct. Levrault notices a proof in black of this stamp.

The sk. banco stamps remained current until 1858, when the present issue commenced. They were formerly difficult to obtain, but the demand has occasioned a sufficient supply, and no collector need be without them. The Stockholm stamp, first issued in black in 1855, changed its colour to light brown, and its value to 3 öre in 1862, and was finally superseded by the 3 öre, with lion in centre, in 1863.

On April 1st, 1851, the small square stamp, now pretty well known, was issued for use in Copenhagen. The ordinary 2 sk. blue came out in 1854, but as Thiele the Copenhagen trader imitated the 2 R. B. S. in 1856, we presume it was current then. The 4 R. B. S. was issued in 1851. In the following year the celebrated essays were made, and it is much to be regretted that they were not adopted. The 2 s. and 4 s. 'dotted ground' appeared in 1854, and were followed, according to Moens, by the 8 s. and 16 s., same ground, in 1857. The 4 s. and 8 s. were reprodnced in 1858 with lined ground, and the whole set was subsequently perforated. Last year a new type appeared, value 4 s., and a 16 s. of the same has since been emitted, doubtless a new 8 s. and 2 s. will follow when the present stock is exhausted. The 2 s. and 4 s. envelopes are also welcome additions, and we trust will be followed by those of the higher values.

The northern European countries have been tolerably fruitful of stamps, but their emissions possess comparatively few points of interest, and comprise a smaller number of specialities than perhaps any other group of countries. Fewer changes have been made, and there are fewer obscurities to clear up. Even in the issue of stamps there is a considerable difference between the countries of northern and southern Europe respectively.

PASSES AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

PROCEEDING homewards from Turin we had the choice of two routes; one by way of Mount Cenis to Chambery and Geneva, and the other across the pass of the Great St. Bernard to Martigny. The previous year we had chosen the former, and being detained at Susa, after inspecting the Roman ruins, witnessed an Italian comedietta in a temporary building erected for the purpose.

The pass of Mount Cenis must be seen to be appreciated, and in a few short years will be traversed only by the poor wayfarer and the pedestrian tourist, as the majority of travellers will, of course, content themselves with penetrating its bowels by the iron road in process of maturity. The descent into Savoy down the noble ranges of zigzag terraces, drawn in the massive diligence by ten or twelve animals going full drive, must appear to a spectator more dangerous than it does to the admiring occupant.

An intelligent and agreeable young companion, proceeding in the same direction as

ourselves, considerably lightened any rising tedium. He was a government official on a few weeks' holiday, and could go where he liked, home, or any where else, he said But (pointing to his neck) he dared not go home, or he should be *hanged* forthwith! 'What company to fall among!'—said a stiff old party to whom we were relating our adventures. Our readers may think the same: but, stop, and we will explain that we might justly feel honoured in such company. He was a Venetian patriot, and had taken part in his countrymen's rise against Austrian rule. He had been in three engagements, and a scar on his face bore testimony to a severe wound received. ''But,' said he, with all the vehemence of manner and animated expression of an Italian, 'the man who gave me this wound *non pur vive*, lives no longer: his sword cut me here, but mine went in there (before), and out there (behind).'

The ascent to Aosta occupies eleven hours. Darkness veiled the landscape ere the early dawn, when the enchanting *mèlange* of rock, wood, and fell burst upon view, and continued in uninterrupted variety of beauty, till the city of Augustus, in its lovely mountain valley, offered a by no means unwelcome halting place. The antiquary might devote days and weeks to research here, but we could only spare an hour or so to a cursory view of the place. Outside the Duomo stands one of those curious representations of the Passion in terra cotta, frequently seen in Italy, but rather more elaborate than usual. Not only the crucifix appeared, but the cock, the sponge, the hammer, the cup, and sundry other accessories all in their natural colours!

The carriage ride from Aosta to San Remigio is exquisitely beautiful. We never felt more inclined to commit highway robbery, the rich clusters of ripe grapes were hanging so temptingly by the road side. The rippling streams, charming landscape, and wondrous luxuriance of vegetation, seemed to make the country a Paradise.

At San Remigio we were transferred to a muleteer, and performed the rest of the journey on the back of one of his animals. The temperature became now sensibly rarer, and at the expiration of our two hours' ride we were so benumbed with cold that we could with difficulty walk a step on alighting from the beast. The scenery was picturesque in the extreme. On one side, perfectly inaccessible snow-clad rock; and on the other, a bird's-eye distant view of the world we seemed leaving behind us, and an apparently much nearer view of the world to come should the mule make a false step, and dash herself and burden down thousands of feet into the deep abyss stretching far, far beneath! Strange to say, the creature would persist in treading on the very verge of the precipice, from which no inducement of ours could manage to make her swerve. At last level ground was reached, and the Hospice came into view. Surrounded, if not by everlasting, at least, by ever-renewed snows, upwards of 8000 feet above the sea-level, and where never a night passed without frost, this loftiest of European habitations reaches the acme both of dreariness and sublimity.

We were received with the usual urbanity and hospitality, by the clavandier of the Monastery, who conducted us to a small but scrupulously clean sleeping apartment, insisting on carrying our luggage himself. After refreshing ourselves here we descended to the dining room, which we found tenanted by four English tourists only, who had just arrived, and two or three others. After a while, however, a few more stragglers arrived who had been roaming about the environs, and dinner was served.

Before the first party had half dined, more tourists poured in,—English, French, Germans, Italians, Swiss and Americans, so that the table had to be replenished twice more before all were served. There was a blazing wood fire, before which those who had finished feeding were glad to congregate, and then such of the company as were able, sang, or played on the piano which stood in one corner of the vast saloon. Altogether, the scene was perfectly romantic and anomalous. It was a cross between a Christmas evening party and a summer picnic, possessing some of the characteristics of both, but very unlike either. The music, the cold, the white snow seen through the windows, recalling a winter assembly; and the light summer clothing, singular variety of costume, and

general *dégagé* air of everybody, rather imaging a July picnic. By ten o'clock the party had all broken up, the clavandier politely conducting every individual to his or her chamber.

Being comfortably located, we fell asleep hoping a good long night's rest, but a bell loud enough to wake the dead, and precluding all possibility of sleep, aroused us in what appeared to be the middle of the night, we believe about five o'clock, summoning the monks to early matins. There was no help for it, and we got up. We descended to the saloon and had some hot coffee, &c., and then repaired to the chapel to morning service, thence went to see the Morgue, and admire the noble dogs, numbers of which were bounding about the premises. Then had a second breakfast, and at eight o'clock commenced the descent of the Swiss side of the mountain.

This part of the journey is by no means either so grand or so picturesque as the other. We travelled for about an hour and a half on the mule, and then in an open car, resting for about three quarters of an hour at one of the most wretched villages we ever saw. There was not one redeeming quality about it. It is filthily dirty, destitute of the slightest natural attraction, and so situate in a ravine as not even to have any prospect; yet, although a few miles farther there is an exceedingly pretty, neat little town, where one would be glad to roam about, the pig-headed muleteer stopped in that wretched hole, and could give no better reason for so doing, than that 'he always did.' We fancy the facts of the case were, that he was feed by the proprietor of the apology for an hostel there to bring him all the custom he could. After this the face of the country gradually assimilates to that of our own rural districts, and, eight or nine hours after leaving the Hospice, Martigny is reached. Our vehicle lasted just long enough to deposit ourself and our traps in a very undignified way at the door of one of the principal hotels, a wheel starting off for a run on its own account. We set off for a walk to see the watery lion of the neighbourhood rejoicing in a name equally inapplicable and objectionable, and then returned to a comfortable meal and good night's rest, leaving next morning by the earliest train for Bouveret, one of the *ports* of the Lake of Geneva.

The brief steam trip to Vevay and that prettily situated town and its neighbourhood I need not dwell upon; visits, views, or description, rendering the spot familiar to all. Though not professedly collecting adhesive labels other than postal, we make an exception in favour of any that came in our way by chance or gift, having an eye to a time when such impressions will form a valuable appendix to every important collection. In fact, for elegance of design and execution, these hitherto almost distregarded individuals, in many instances, our own for instance, in an eminent degree far outstrip their better-known cotemporaries. Like the earliest issues of the Swiss cantons, the several devices of which differed so greatly, the commercial stamps of Switzerland are notably varied, and perhaps none are more chastely pretty than those of the canton of Vaud—bearing its arms and the necessary inscription in white cameo on a coloured ground, scarlet, green, blue, and violet, according to value. Those of the Vallais are simply in white relief, on paper like our original receipt stamps. The better known quartette of Bern, with the representative bear, seem to stand on debateable ground; it seeming to be pretty well agreed that they may be, and occasionally have been employed for local postage. The William Tell stamps, as they are termed in Germany, alias the commercial Genevas, are less varied, the colours being nearly, and the design (value only excepted) perfectly similar. We speak of the current series, those in original use having been much more varied. In our early days of collectomania we frequently marvelled at their appearance in albums, where they figured as rare and extinct locals.

From the number of stamps exposed for sale in Lausanne, there should be no lack of collectors there; but they must be the simplest novices to venture on an investment, the forgeries—not even veiled under the gauzy sobriquet of fac-simile—being in the astounding proportion of a hundred to one!

Swiss tourists have need to be sharp in timing the trains, in consequence of the variation in reckoning as one goes east or west. On reference to the intricacies of your Bradshaw, if you make no allowance for this, you will find the train you wish to catch leaves some five or ten minutes before it arrives! This inconvenience is obviated in a measure at all the principal stations by dials, three in number—one for Paris, a second for local, and a third for Bern time; the first being considerably earlier, and the last much later than the other. The same convenience is also conspicuous on the town-hall of Geneva. A curious instance of doctrinal anomaly here struck us. In Roman Catholic Verona and most other Italian towns, the shops are closely shut on Sundays, but in pre-eminently Protestant Geneva, where one would expect an ultra-Scotch sabbath, not only are shops but the theatre is open!—'soldiers in uniform, half price;' we are uncharitable enough to suppose this intended as an enticement for the female part of the population. In the play represented (which, we beg to say, we were *not* tempted to witness) the principal characters were devils, and there were seventeen tableaux concluded by an apotheosis of one of the demons.

Neither here, before, nor in Neufchatel, whither we next went, could we get at any of the obsolete locals direct from the post-offices; and though procurable at a price, they were mostly palpable imitations. The post-office of Neufchatel is appropriately decorated with a brass post-horn in high relief, red ornaments, and white metal pendants; the whole being a tolerably correct representation of the Vaud stamp—not its own. There is, moreover, to signalise the receiving box, a letter imaged in white metal with a red cornelian 'L. S.,' surmounted by a white cross on a gilt ground. On the lake shore is fixed a telescope, so adjusted as to name by means of a pointer the various mountain-peaks of the chain in view. Like many of the Swiss cathedrals, that of Neufchatel is fronted by a platform, whence, on leaving the house of prayer, one can enjoy a varied and extensive prospect of some of the most beautiful and glorious achievements of the divine Architect. The interior contains the recumbent effigies of the Counts and Countesses of Neufchatel, with uplifted hands, in the present ultra-high-Church orthodox position.

Had space permitted, we should have ventured some remarks on the numerous regular postage emanations of Switzerland, but look forward with eagerness to the promised catalogue of Mr. Pemberton, who has professedly bestowed so much attention on that interesting assemblage. There are so many moot points still to be settled,—such as the distinctive characteristics of the genuine Basle stamp, the Zurich varieties, the admissible colours of the local Genevas, which is the impostor of the Vaud and Winterthur claimants,—besides the introduction into English timbrology of the long-ignored but perfectly distinct first series of Helvetic impressions. These, from some cause, probably from the short duration of their existence, are rather rare; still solitary individuals have turned up from time to time, but none seem to have been till lately noticed by any cataloguer, except the 5 rappen and 20 rappen of Mount Brown, of which the former, though quoted and earnestly inquired after, never turned up till very recently. The 15 r. and 40 r. we had in our first collection, and considered them of some value; nevertheless the amateur who purchased the whole, as well as three or four others who had the after-pick on its resale, did not think them worth extracting, and we bought them back again ourselves some time afterwards from the party into whose hands our album eventually fell.

Regretfully quitting this lovely spot, with its lake reflecting the solar rays in the form of myriads of golden spangles, we passed the beautiful and romantic valley of the Jura—where the Alpine scenery we had lately enjoyed is repeated in miniature—to the French confines, and broke the tedium of the long journey by a night and part of a day at Dijon. What has been lately caricatured in a broad transpontine farce, actually happened to us in this place. Occupying a double-bedded room, we were actually charged for both beds! but stoutly resisting this imposition and threatening an appeal to the *maire*, of which personage the provincial

French are in wholesome awe, we escaped the mulct. In this neighbourhood we saw several of the old castles so frequently and so graphically described in G. P. James's novels.

Onwards thence to Paris for five or six days' stay, then home to our daily routine of work, like—for one is allowed to take liberties with oneself—a donkey at the wheel; after a pleasurable trip of two month's duration, having visited some half-hundred European towns and cities, all interesting, each in its own point of view, in the course of a tour embracing upwards of two thousand miles.

CANADIAN ENVELOPES.

A CONTROVERSY has long existed between the adherents and the opponents of the Canadian envelopes embossed on yellow paper, and, as commonly in all contentions, some hard words have been exchanged. One is almost tempted to refrain from stating an opinion, lest a charge of partizanship should be alleged: but as facts are stubborn things, and we here deal with facts, the readers of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* are entitled to the benefit, *vulcat quantum*, of our judgment.

And we will at once explicitly state that we are convinced of the real, genuine character of the envelopes on yellow paper.

One favourite ground for scepticism has been the allegation that no entire envelope on yellow paper had made its appearance; the simple fact that four such lie at the moment of writing before our eyes meets this objection.

The engraving of the die and the beauty and finish of the impression alike testify to the truth of our conclusion.

A supposed point of differentiation ('difference' hardly expresses the refinement of these acute objectors) takes refuge in the jewelled ornaments projecting above the crown, which in some instances show a point of colour behind. On closely examining these specimens they appear all struck with over much colour on the die which has run towards this point; but even admitting the die were retouched and resharpened in these places, how do the incredulous get over the wondrous identity in the defects and peculiarities in the surrounding lettering?

The more close and accurate the comparison, the more will the truth of our conclusion be manifest. These yellow-paper envelopes are from the genuine dies, and authentic. These envelopes of Canada are printed by the same printers as print the American (U. S.) envelopes. And beyond giving credence to these yellow-paper envelopes, as being struck from the official dies, we must not be understood as committing ourselves.

The recent reprints in orange, blue, green, red, and all the colours of the rainbow, from the dies in the control of these printers, have done more to destroy confidence and disturb the faith of the philatelic community than all the invading hosts of the Milan 'essays' and continental rubbish; and we are glad, whilst accrediting these envelopes, to be able to base our faith on surer grounds than those which Dr. Latham adopts as the canon of English, viz.,—'Whatever is, is right.'

No authenticated specimen on yellow paper post marked has been seen by us.

To return to our immediate subject.

The envelopes are of two values, 5 and 10 cents. Of the former value there are

On white paper,
On yellow paper,

printed in vermilion:

On white laid paper,
On blue laid paper;

printed also in vermilion of a more carmine hue.

Proofs of the die, printed in green and blue on white wove paper, blue lined on the reverse side, also exist: these appear of recent manufacture.

We have also an envelope, 5 cents on yellow paper, with the stamp twice struck, so as to be of the nominal value of 10 cents. The paper of this specimen bears the watermark, P.O.D., U.S.: Post-office Department, United States—clearly referring to its origin.

It has inside the three black lines, showing through the front, on which to write the address; and bears the printed date of the patent, Nov. 20, 1855; as do a series of the United States envelopes.

The ordinary envelopes on white paper are

watermarked C.P.O.D. Canada Post-office Department.'

This watermark is also to be found on the 10 cent envelopes on white paper.

There is now before us an impression of a 5 cent die on yellow paper, laid like that of the ordinary type. The inscription is the same, and the head of the Queen of a similar design; but much coarser in engraving, and rougher in the execution. The chief points of difference between the two heads are in the *chignon* at the back of the head, which, with its pendant curl, are much larger and freer than in the adopted design.

The projecting jewel above at the extreme left of the crown is wanting, and the details of the profile, especially in the nose, are strikingly distinct. The lettering also is entirely different.

We are inclined to class this as an essay. It is evidently a design emanating from the same source as the adopted die.

It is exceedingly rare; and the only other specimen we know has been for upwards of four years in the hands of its possessor. The one we describe from has been nearly that time within our immediate knowledge. No copy of it has come over in the recent wholesale importations of essays and reprints from the other side of the Atlantic.

Of the 10 cents envelope there are

On laid white paper,

struck in deep chocolate brown.

On laid yellow paper,

struck in purple brown.

The water-marks have been previously mentioned.

Proofs also exist of this value in blue and green, in every respect corresponding to those of the 5 cents previously mentioned.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

These islands—whose stamps, perhaps at once among the rarest and most inartistic of postal labels, have long been in such peculiar request among philatelists—are about a hundred in number, although about a dozen and a half only are known by name to the European world. Their situation is familiar to the veriest tyro. They were discovered by the celebrated navigator Fernando Magalhaens in 1521, and by him named the Archipelago of San Lazaro. He perished in the small island of Matan in an imbroglio with the natives.

In 1566 Bohol and Zebu were conquered, christianized, and annexed by the Spaniards during the reign of our queen Mary's husband, whose name they still bear. Fifty years after the death of their discoverer, Luzon, the chief island, was taken, costing the lives of 250 Spaniards, and the town of Manila founded. It was the handsomest and most populous city in the Malayan Archipelago; we say *was*, because it suffered so severely from the recent terrible catastrophe, as to be now but a mass of ruins.

For the sake of the lucrative trade, the Chinese had settlements in the principal islands, and fraternised pretty amicably with the Spaniards; but in 1603 wishing to surround their quarters with a wall, the jealousy of the latter was excited, and three-and-twenty thousand Chinese were massacred. We read, however, that in 1639 their population had increased to 40,000, but becoming troublesome, or likely to be so, that number was summarily reduced to 7000!

In 1662 the famous adventurer Coxinga, who had delivered the 'beautiful' island from the Dutch yoke, was preparing to attack the Philippines with an army of 100,000 followers, but his sudden death freed the colony from this threatened danger. In 1709 the Spaniards had become sufficiently powerful to expel all the Chinese from the islands. In the middle of the 18th century Manila was attacked by the English with the vain expectation of seizing vast treasure. Notwithstanding the vigorous resistance of both settlers and natives to the 'heretics,' the city was taken, and 20 millions of francs demanded by General Draper as its ransom from destruction. The conqueror afterwards agreed to be satisfied with a quarter of the sum. After no long time, however, the invaders were attacked by their late victims, and exhausted by famine and disease were just saved the disgrace of capitulating by the

arrival of a frigate with the news of peace being concluded between the English and Spanish governments. Since then the islands have continued uninterruptedly in possession of their original settlers.

Like other tropical lands, the Philippines have no experience of winter. The six months preceding May are fine, and the others wet. On the whole the climate is both healthful and beautiful. The principal productions are rice, maize, sugar, indigo, cotton, cacao, tobacco, areca nut, betel, inferior coffee, nutmegs and cinnamon, cassia and sarsaparilla; besides pine-apples, oranges, mangoes, aloes, ebony, sulphur, and pearls. The tamarind tree merits special mention. This useful production of the tropics derives its European appellation from two Asiatic words signifying 'Indian palm,'—not that it is at all allied to the palm species, but because the Arabs—'who first imported the fruit,' fancied it bore some affinity to their own dates, the fruit of the date-palm. This tree evidences a remarkable instance of what may be termed vegetable instinct. At the approach of evening, all the leaves near the fruit incline towards and enclose it as protective from the chills of night, till the rising sun's warm beams release them from their fostering care! The juice is frequently employed as a substitute for vinegar when in a crude state; but thousands and myriads of fever-stricken sufferers throughout the civilized world have gratefully quaffed with parched lips the refreshing preparation concocted from the preserved fruits.

There is scarcely a town of any note except Manila in the islands. The cigars and cheroots are deservedly esteemed, and the straw hats are second to those of Panama alone. The islands contain mines of gold, silver, iron, mercury, and cinnabar; and there is a large trade in cowries, a species of shell employed in lieu of coin throughout the majority of the East Indian Isles. The mention of shells reminds us of the fine specimens of terrestrial testacea indigenous in the Philippines. The introduction of scores of superb new species by the indefatigable Mr. Cuming, some five-and-twenty years since, formed quite an era in conchological history.

But the productions with which we have more particularly to do, and which are eagerly appropriated as soon as imported into any timbrophilic country, are the postage stamps, of which the obsolete issues have ever been exceedingly rare, and cannot possibly be reprinted, as we learn by a recent communication from Manila that the terrible earthquake destroyed with the palace, the cathedral, chapel royal, military hospital, and many churches and other public edifices, the post-office and all its stamps and dies. There has not been such a violent shock in the islands for upwards of two hundred years, a very terrible one having taken place in 1645.

(*To be continued.*)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our usual monthly notice of novelties will not this time be so comparatively barren of fruit as it was last time. We have to introduce to our readers more than one new issue; a whole series of private speculation locals; modifications in colour, perforatory improvements, or other minor change.



The first cut is a representation of the envelope stamp just issued in Saxony, of a lower value than any heretofore employed in that country. It will be remarked that the design is similar to that of its congeners, but the shape is octagon in lieu of oval. Colour, orange.

We refer to Mr. Pemberton's description, in another column, for the distinctive characteristics of the second edition of the current Wallachian stamps. They would not strike a casual observer at first glance, unless his attention were attracted by the variation in colour. An equally minute discrepancy is observable between the first and two following series of St. Lucia stamps, which are evidently not from the same die; the letters now, particularly, being more defined than before.



A representation of the black penny is appended.

Annexed is an engraving of one of the Prince Edward Island stamps, which we are given to understand will shortly become obsolete by the emission of a new and, we trust, more attractive series. If, as is very likely, the execution of the new stamps has been confided to the American Company, collectors will find them a desirable acquisition, and worthy to be placed by the side of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick issues.

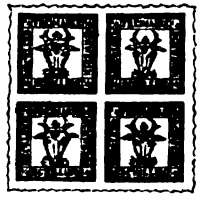


It will be seen that our previsions respecting the English fourpenny are verified; that stamp now being improved or deteriorated, according to individual taste, by the unpicturesque square-figure blocks.

A more noteworthy appearance is that of a New Granada stamp lower in denomination than any hitherto emanating from that most fertile-in-variety country. A friend has kindly favoured us with a drawing from which we proceed to describe. It is perfectly genuine, having come direct from the British Consul at Bogota. The impression is rose coloured, upright oblong, device unlike any of the previous labels, although the ubiquitous eagle is for the second time introduced. The centre exhibits the usual shield, on which the bird rests, having nine stars over his head. CORREOS above; 1 CENT. below; E. U DE COLOMBIA NATIONALES left and right: the whole enclosed in a fancy frame not entirely occupying the whole stamp, of rectangular shape with the corners rounded off.

An alteration has taken place in the existing Wurtemburg envelopes as far as regards their inscriptions: that on the 3 kr. rose is now in black letters; on the 6 kr. blue it is yellow; but on the 9 kr. brown it remains green as before. A more important change is the addition of a value corresponding with that of the lowest priced label, viz., 1 kreuzer. The impression is green, the inscription violet. The paper is of bluish tint: on the flap of the envelope is a small horn enclosing the figure 1. One would imagine the expense of printing and providing paper for these very low rated envelopes would run away with all the revenue derivable therefrom. Perhaps the government of Wurtemburg reckons upon the profit that will accrue from the thousands that will be vended solely for timbrophilic purposes.

The 12 cuartos of Spain, the ⅓ silbergroschen of Brunswick, and the 2½ schillinge of Hamburg are now perforated.



The same improvement may likewise be perceived in the '*quatuor juncta in uno*' of Mecklenburg, the other variation in which we noticed in our number for June.

In addition to the variation in colour which we noted last month, in regard to the medio real and dos reales of La Guaira, we find there is so sensible a difference in the size of the letters, that had we not received both lots direct from San Tomas we should have been inclined to believe one an imitation of the other.

The private-office series above hinted at is from Dresden, emanating from an Express Company started nominally, if not really, for the public convenience. In that city, it seems, the last collection from the letter-boxes takes place at six o'clock in the evening. Communications posted after that hour must wait till the next morning, unless carried to the railway termini whence they can be transmitted up to the departure of the trains. In Paris, in like manner (and in a more qualified degree in London), letters can be received at the railway stations as late as seven, half-past seven, or eight o'clock, according to time of departure, and on the Havre line so late as twenty minutes after ten.

The Dresden agency, then, undertakes to transmit correspondence from any distance to the railways, up to the latest hour for reception, on payment of the supplementary fee represented by the several values of their stamps, which are as follow:

3 pfennige, . . green.
½ neu-groschen, . dull yellow.
1 „ . pink.

These are labels, and the the two latter denominations are repeated in envelopes, making five impressions altogether. They are lithographed in colour on white, and are a feeble imitation of the current series of Saxony.

A central oval contains the coat of arms and inscription EXPRESS COMP. A surrounding or rather surovalling frame has DRESDEN above; PFENNIGE or NEUGROSCHEN below; and a figure denotative of the value in a small oval on each side; which figure is repeated, moreover, in the four angles, filling up with a few small ornamentations the spaces between the frame and bounding rectangle. The envelopes, as may be imagined, want this last mentioned characteristic, the frame forming the outer circumference.

A series of essays for Wurtemburg, printed probably in 1862, at which date envelopes were first started in that country, may be alluded to, notwithstanding the strictures of a correspondent who disapproves of our chronicling such cattle. With all due deference to the opinions of our critic, or of the many others entertaining his by no means unshared views, we would submit that it is our duty 'when found to make a note of' all new appearances, worthy or worthless, leaving to our readers the onus of acception or rejection.

The envelopes under notice have round impressions on the left, and are all of the same value, 3 kreuzer. The armorial bearings of Wurtemburg are beautifully stamped in relief: value beneath; KON. WURTEMBERG'SCHE FREIMARKE above. Some slight discrepancies may be observable in the annexed list of varieties.

3 kr. brown, large sized, inscription in roman characters, value 9 kr.
3 kr. green, ditto, ditto.
3 kr. blue, middling sized, gothic letters.
3 kr. pink, ditto, ditto.
3 kr. yellow, narrower rectangle, ditto.

In our April number we chronicled and figured an emission of Schleswig-Holstein, similar in device to the then current stamps of that duchy, but bearing as inscription the above designation, instead of Herzogth Schleswig, or Grand Duchy of Schleswig. We intimated also the probable appearance of a companion whose value would be one silber groschen according to the Prussian coinage. This seems to be realized by the lately-issued one-and-a-quarter schilling, which is, as far as we can unravel the mysteries of German coinage, the nearest equivalent to the proposed value.

Philatelists may expect to receive at an early date the promised issue for Brunswick. The stamps are already printed, and are only awaiting the sale of the remnant of the present series to enter upon active service.

The identical die employed for the penny adhesive labels of New South Wales at present performs double duty by impressing the newspaper covers of that colony, superseding, we conclude in totality, the embossed stamp now little more than a twelve-month in circulation!

The junction of another country to the postage-stamp-adopting ranks (how useful a long German compound word would be here!) is always an object of congratulation to the philatelic world. Honduras is the last aspirant for postal honours. We have before us some of the first specimens issued, and can vouch for their genuine character on the faith of a well-known Liverpool firm, to whom all collectors are ready to attribute the good qualities of truth and honesty. From them we obtain information that the 'welcome little strangers' were designed by a gentleman in the consul's office, and executed by a Belgian firm. They were printed at first as essays in three colours, one only of each; rose, green, and yellow. One value for all, 2 reals. The latter, consequently, is unique, the former two colours having been selected; and about three millions struck off and sent to the Honduras government, where they will be now just come into use. One colour only will be issued at first till exhausted, after which the other will come into play, until superseded in its turn by a *third* hue, and so on, every edition being different in colour.

Like most of the Central American series, and we wish the custom were more general, the device is figurative, but we cannot give

the engraver much credit for his execution. The stamp is a xylograph, and altogether has but a poor appearance. The impression is very nearly square, printed in black on coloured paper. A broad oval occupies the centre, the rectangle being completed by transverse lines, on which appears the figure of value in each corner. A faint line bounds an inner oval containing a pyramid resting on the sea. Either the Bay of Honduras is peculiarly buoyant, or the bricks or stones of that territory marvellously light! This triangular anomaly forms the background to a pair of small turrets supporting an arch, beneath which the rising sun flames behind a rock topped by the cap of liberty. Over this is the legend DIOS UNION Y LIBERTAD. Encompassing this device is CORREOS DE HONDURAS above; DOS REALES below. Right and left of the lower angles of the pyramid is a star, and following the curved outline of the sea, a couple of branches. The pink is of the precise tint of the 2 gr. Oldenburg, second series; the green neither pea, apple, emerald, grass, or verdigris, but the undescribable shade last in fashion.

From Brazil we again receive information that there will be a new issue of stamps, but our correspondent wisely adds that it will most likely be a long time before they are ready. The supply of 20 r. black was exhausted a couple of months since and will not be renewed.

Carnes and Co., 621, Montgomery Street, San Francisco, afford us a series of locals equal in number to the Muses. Half a dozen of them are precisely alike except in colour. They are transversely oblong. A central oval exhibits a bear, over whose head is a star. Inscription in a frame; CARNES, SAN FRANCISCO LETTER EXPRESS. The angles are filled in with radiating lines and monetary denomination in small ovals, the figure 5 denoting that number of cents. The colours of these are, black, blue, red, bronze, silver and gold. There is a seventh very like them, but of smaller size, rose-red impression. The star is absent; the corners are not filled in, and the legend is CARNES' CITY LETTER EXPRESS. This stamp is noted as obsolete. The number is completed by two much larger labels, same colour as last described, without device; bearing merely, CARNES AND CO., CITY PACKAGE EXPRESS, 621, MONTG. ST. around, and 15 CENTS and 25 CENTS respectively in the interior oval.

A correspondent assures us that the *Bell's Dispatch* stamps of Montreal are from the *atelier* of one of the many unprincipled forgers. He possesses an obsolete local Montreal envelope, black on yellow, round impression: PORTLAND above; MONTREAL below; EXPRESS, WINSLOW & CO., NO. 3, PLACE D'ARMES, in the centre. He also calls our attention to a variation in the twopenny New Zealand, which again favours a bluish tinted paper. There is, moreover, a slight variation elsewhere in the stamp; the pattern of the ground work being larger, and Her Majesty's dress not quite so high.

Our concluding illustration is a fac-simile



of the newspaper hand-stamp now employed in Frankfort, and probably superseding the impression catalogued by Dr. Gray, and by Mount Brown in his earlier editions, which seems to have been without reason ignored by most collectors. It is impressed in black ink, after the same manner as its English congeners.

ODDS AND ENDS.—I.

BY FENTONIA.

UNDER this unpretending title we have strung together a number of desultory observations which have occurred to us, as doubtless to others also, in the study and arrangement of postage stamps.

INDIA.—Mount Brown is mistaken in the date of issue of the present blue half anna Indian stamp. We have a letter from Lucknow, dated July 1st, 1856 (the writer of which died during the memorable siege in the following year), which was freed to England by one half anna stamp of the old issue, and by a number of half annas of the present issue, on *white* paper. If stronger proof were necessary, the stamps are actually crossed in writing with the date—a well-known Indian custom. It may therefore be

presumed that this was the transition period from the old to the new issue as regards the half anna. The old issue of the higher values, however, continued to be received on letters for a year afterwards. How much longer than that we have had no opportunity of judging. Probably Mr. O. Taylor, writing in last month's number, is correct in assigning the completion of the new series to 1858, though, as stated above, we have proof positive that the blue half anna long preceded the rest. The red half anna is said to have been originally intended for newspapers, hence its extreme rarity, as nobody cares to keep newspapers. If so, newspaper postage must have been raised since then, as the present newspaper stamp of 8 pies is a trifle higher in value, a pice being the twelfth of an anna.

We are inclined to doubt the existence of a whole series on blue paper as stated by Mount Brown; it was certainly not a first issue. Bluish, as stated by Bellars and Davie, rather than blue paper, would most fitly describe the only specimen we have seen, a four annas.

The one anna red occurs in large and small lettering, the latter being the earliest; an unused specimen of this variety is very rare.

China.—It has been denied that the Hong Kong cent is equivalent to an English halfpenny, and at last we are told (p. 98) the infinitesimal difference which supports this assertion. All that we can say in support of the common opinion is, that we lately saw a letter from an English family at Hong Kong freed by stamps to the value of thirty-two cents, and underneath was written *Post paid, one-and-fourpence.*

Luebeck.—There *is* a set of envelopes with inscription to the right (inquired for at p. 32), probably the last issue.

Austrian Lombardy.—Why do Stafford Smith & Smith omit the 15 *soldi of* 1861, *profile to right*, in their last price catalogue? Because Mount Brown expunged it from his fifth edition. Why did Mount Brown do so? Because the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, (vol. ii., p. 112) denies its existence.* We have seen this 15 soldi, as also the whole set identical with the envelopes of 1861, in a foreign collection, perforated, but being unused, we are not prepared to prove that they were all issued. The 2 *soldi yellow* mentioned by Bellars and Davie was not there, nor is it probable that it ever existed, as the envelope series of 1861 includes no such value. We demur to Bellars and Davie appropriating the *centes* and *soldi* Austrian stamps exclusively to Venetia, which is only one of the two governments of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, or Austrian possessions in Italy; the other being Milan or the Austrian Milanese. We are inclined to fancy that Venice, one of the eight provinces into which Venetia is divided, of which Venice of gondola celebrity is the capital, uses *kreuzer* stamps, as the only stamp we have seen with the Venice postmark is a 3 kreuzer, while from Bassano, ever memorable as the birthplace of the founder of the Aldine press, not far distant though in another province, we have a 5 *soldi* stamp. From Milan we have invariably *centes* or *soldi* stamps. Mount Brown, therefore, steers most clear from error, by ascribing these stamps to 'Austrian Italy' generally.

The Philippines.—Why does every writer, dealer, and collector, call the Spanish stamps used in the Philippine islands Luzon stamps? We think they would be more correctly designated Philippine stamps. We have an unmistakeably genuine 5 c^{s}., red, postmarked Iloilo. Iloilo is the capital of a flourishing province of the same name in the island of Panay, situated in the centre of the Philippine group and far distant from Luzon—proof positive to our mind that the stamps are intended for the whole group, at least for such of their inhabitants as care to write a letter or know how to write, probably not

* [At the Venice post-office, in 1863, we purchased specimens of *all* the current, and many of the obsoletes; and were assured that the 15 soldi head to right had never been required, all those with the small head not being yet exhausted, nor was it needed or expected to be issued, as some of the eagle series were already in circulation, and of course when the 'heads left' failed, the 15 soldi arms would duly succeed. The Venetian currency is florins and soldi, *not* kreuzer. The latter two coins are identical in value. The centesimi series was common to the Lombardo-Venetian provinces; the soldi series exclusively to Venetia. What does our valued contributor mean by saying that from Milan we have invariably centes or soldi stamps? The soldo is not current in Milan.—Ed.]

a very numerous class in the smaller islands. The fact that most of our letters come from Manila, and that all European trade centres there, of course makes the island of Luzon best known to collectors, but it would be as reasonable for the Cubans (who are reported in vol. i., p. 124, of this magazine to have turned their attention to timbrology) to imagine that the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man do not use English stamps because they never receive any letters from thence, as for us to suppose that the less known islands of the Philippine group do not participate in the privilege accorded by the mother country to Luzon, simply because we have no correspondence with them.

Peru.—Can there be a half real of Peru, as stated in vol. ii., p. 48, or was the allusion intended for the half peso? Perhaps it was a mistake, owing to the 'almost hopeless confusion observable in the then descriptions of Peruvian stamps' (see ibid, p. 32); at all events 'it is so rare' that we have never seen it!

Blue paper.—Mr. Pearson Hill has thrown a sad damper on our treasured specimens on blue paper. Does he mean to say that our penny envelopes on blue paper were never issued by government, but have been simply stamped on packets for private individuals? We could resign our Barbadoes and Indian as *aged* specimens; but our much prized Trinidads! We possess a blue and a slate which seem unmistakeably on blue paper, though others which we possess of the same series, we should be willing, in deference to Mr. Pearson Hill, to put down as merely *tinted* by the gum then in use. But there are some colonials, happily not yet ignored by Mr. P. Hill, which we cannot renounce, viz., the 1d., 2d., and 1s. New Zealand. They have no water-mark (which the early 2d. blue and 6d. dark-brown always have), and are also on peculiarly thick paper. We feel convinced no gum ever brought these to their present colour.

Pliny Miles, a gentleman well known in the United States from his efforts in behalf of cheap postage, died recently at the island of Malta. He was a native of Watertown, New York.—*Cincinnati Daily Gazette.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Stamp-Collector's Examiner. Leamington: A. Parsons.

This being the primal number of a new series, we conclude there must have been a former, but we never remember seeing such. It opens with an amusing and interesting account of the humours of a Californian Post office, by a Secretary of Legation to the United States of America. Some scenes connected therewith are very graphically described, and would our space allow, we should like to quote the whole article for the benefit of our readers. Next follows a prize essay on postage stamps. This must be read to be properly appreciated. It is a pity the compositor had not been more careful, or that the writer had not corrected the press, the deficiencies in orthography are so very glaring and ridiculous. We are told that the 'authorites' suppressed stamp selling in the Tuileries, and that 'Seina' is Italian for monkey! Even Dr. Gray and Messrs. Bellars & Davie get their names metamorphosed into 'Grey,' 'Beller,' and 'Davies'! A paper on the Pony Express is succeeded by a retrospect of the month. This commences with another instance of Hamburg cheatery, and proceeds to tell us that a 5 cents and 13 cents are about to be issued for the Sandwich Islands, in the same type as the current 2 cents, bearing the head of king Kamehameha V. Papers on the Wenden stamps, and on Nicaragua, reviews, correspondence, answers to correspondents, and, finally, a batch of advertisements, complete the publication, to which we cordially wish all the success it deserves.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A Letter was lately received from Hamburg, the postage of which was defrayed by eight *forged* 7 sch. stamps, duly obliterated at the post-office.

Until lately the French (home) stamps were used in Reunion; the French colonial are now employed there. The former are still the only kind in use in Algeria.

The 15 c. Swiss Stamp of the 1855 issue, was suppressed August 31st, 1862, the others of that issue were in use until, and even after, the next series was issued.

The Tribunal of Justice at Paris has condemned a certain M. Marion to pay 5000 f. for advertising and selling the current French stamps above their facial value.

It is stated that a stamp magazine has been started in Panama, entitled *The Star of Panama*, containing 16 pages, printed in the English language, and illustrated with cuts of European stamps. The price required is three specie dollars per annum, or one shilling monthly; which, all things considered, is, perhaps, not too high.

The Chinese Postal Service.—According to a work on China, recently published by M. D'Escayrac de Lauture, the Middle Empire is traversed in all directions by 20,000 imperial roads, most of which are badly kept. There is, nevertheless, a postal service, but of a very rude kind. The couriers who are despatched by the local functionaries are allowed to carry private letters for a trifling remuneration. Letters from Pekin reach Shanghai in fifteen or twenty days, and Canton in forty, fifty, and even sixty days. The postage of a letter from Pekin to Shanghai is 50 c. The couriers change horses about every seven leagues. M. D'Escayrac de Lauture thinks that if the government could be induced to grant a post-office contract to Europeans it might be made a very profitable speculation, and would render great services to commerce.

How the American Local Stamps were Abolished.—The United States government never did abolish the Express Posts, for it never had the power; one thing it certainly did do, it prohibited the using of the term 'Post-office' on any of the stamps or signs, to the end that the public might not mistake the Express post-offices for the G. P. O.,—a course of which the Express Post proprietors had no just reason to complain. The manner in which the Government finally got rid of a great many of the Express Posts was by putting a government letter-box on every lamp-post in the cities where Express Posts existed, and conveying letters to the G. P. O. free. This event took place in 1859; previous to which time, however, boxes of tin (the lamp-post boxes are of cast iron) had been placed throughout the cities in great profusion, but had signally failed to shake the confidence of the public in the Express Posts' character for diligence and punctuality.—*Stamp Collector's Record.*

The Mulready Envelope.—This cover is thus described in an old periodical: 'Britannia in the centre despatching four winged messengers to the four quarters of the globe; the figures on each side are groups emblematical of British commerce communicating with all parts of the world. On her right are East Indians and Chinese directing the embarkation of merchandise; next are Arabs with camels laden. On her left are American Indians concluding a treaty, and Negroes packing casks of sugar. In the foreground, on one side, is a young man [young woman?] reading a letter to his mother [?] whose clasped hands express her emotion. On the other side is a group of three figures each striving to catch a glimpse of the welcome letter. The whole is forcibly told, and suggests gratitude for the blessings of a free correspondence.' The Laplander with his reindeer in the back ground doubtless represents the mail-cart of his country.

An extensive collection of Franks is now-a-days a curiosity, and those who cherish a taste for such a thing must be contented to be regarded as amiable and antiquarian enthusiasts, and 'worshippers of relics.' But it is curious to look back more than a quarter of a century, and to see the same firm, bold, round and legible hand of Lord Palmerston, with the 'thick up-strokes,' which he recommended so recently to the good people at Romsey as one prime object of education; to mark the prim, neat, square hand of Gladstone, then fresh from Oxford; the rapid, flowing penmanship of Lord John Russell and the late Sir Robert Peel, the huge gaunt rugged signature of Harry Brougham, the scholarlike and thoughtful texthand of Lyndhurst, and the small copper-plate 'chirographum' of Winthrop Mackworth Praed. It is curious to see franks of all the tribe of O'Connells addressed to Tommy Moore, at Sloperton, and those of statesmen long deceased addressed to Sydney Herbert and Gladstone, at Eton and Christ Church, and to Dr. Newman at Oriel. All these things touch upon tender, pleasant reminiscences, and call back days that are long since passed away.—*Once a Week.*

The Collection of Stamps is not so vain and puerile as is sometimes represented. It belongs essentially to our times, and deserves to stand beside the labours of the collector of foreign coins, who is proud of his Austrian ducats, Egyptian sequins, Japanese kopangs, Persian rupees, Russian imperials, American eagles. With young people especially the collection of postage stamps should be encouraged, as it naturally leads to the study of geography and the currency of foreign nations. To all who are interested in the progress of civilization, the subject is of importance. It is one of the novelties of the nineteenth century, but a novelty that promises well for the future of mankind. Free communication—these postage stamps its symbol—serves to break up the isolation of nations, serves to make us accept the terms of common brotherhood, and hasten the day when the ploughshare and sickle shall supersede spear and sword. Art is not uninterested in the collection of foreign stamps. Typography, engraving, lithography are employed in their preparation; eminent men are engaged in their design and execution. The postage stamp of a nation also throws light on the progress and condition of its people—commercially, industrially, and artistically. It is, therefore, no idle or useless labour to collect these interesting memorials of the world's advancement.—*Cassell's Paper.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW STAMPS AND SUNDRY QUERIES.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—In the July number you offer an apology for the few new emissions, and state that your readers must content themselves with a few stray crumbs, but you do not give the said readers the full benefit of all the crumbs that fall.* For instance, you have not noticed the 1 kr. green Wurtemburg envelope stamp; this must have been issued in May, for I received it in the beginning of June. There is also the 1½ sch. green Schleswig-Holstein, likewise a 2 real green Ecuador, neither of which you have recorded. Among unrecorded essays there is a Denmark one; it is a square stamp bearing in the centre the head of the king (Frederick VII., Charles Christian), to the right, within a circular band, on which is inscribed KONGEN AF DANMARKS BRVSTSUKKER. Outside the circle is a square frame (ornaments between corners and circle, stars in corners of frame), with inscription on left, LA PATRIA; above, CHR. L. LANGE; right, KJOBENHAVN; at the bottom, the value. The specimen I possess is a 24 skilling black, but there were other colours and values. It is

* [In our remarks last month we never dreamt of *apologizing* for the paucity of novelties: they do not certainly emanate from us. We have the will but no power in the matter. Our readers must remember that a magazine is not like a newspaper, prepared a few hours only before publication. We usually complete all our letterpress towards the middle of the month previous to its appearance. The Wurtemburg and Schleswig-Holstein stamps alluded to by our correspondent are noticed in the present number. The Real of the Ecuador was chronicled so long ago as in our April magazine and again alluded to in May: we know nothing of a 2 reals. We agree with our correspondent, and have frequently expressed the opinion that all stamps used for payment of postage are admissible in timbrophilists' albums. 1½ simply means, and a quarter; sch being Spanish for and.—Ed.]

beautifully engraved. I have had it upwards of a year. It is strange it should not have been noticed. You may, perhaps, be able to give its history, from whence it proceeded, &c.

Compilers of catalogues seem to neglect newspaper stamps. There are a great many, and, with few exceptions, they remain quite unrecorded. I agree with your correspondent, F. L., with regard to the Frankfort stamp. I do not believe there is any adhesive stamp of the kind mentioned in Gray's catalogue. It is a newspaper stamp, and not dentated or adhesive; but I should like to know his reason for saying 'it is a moot point' whether newspaper stamps should be admitted into collections. Does he admit the Austrian 'Mercury' and 'arms' newspaper stamps? If so, why exclude others? Whether adhesive or handstamped, if they frank the papers through the post, they ought certainly to be admitted, and in all instances recorded. But, with careless inconsistency, compilers, though they fail to record genuine newspaper stamps, persist in ascribing to newspapers, stamps which in nowise belong to them; such, for example, is the 8 pies India. This never was a newspaper stamp. It was issued in 1861 to correspond in value to the penny English stamp. It is used to frank soldiers' letters in India, and to pay the home portion of the postage from India to England.

I do not know whether it is generally known that there are two types of the first issue India in the 2 annas green: first type, shading high on the cheek and on the nose, which the second type wants. In the 1 anna red the hair knot curls to a point (as in the 4 annas), which it does not in the second and common type.

There is a good article in your last number on J. C. Calhoun, whose portrait graces the rare 1 cent stamp. The writer, however, does not explain the cause of the rareness of this stamp. I recollect seeing in one of your magazines that the vessel bearing the supply of these stamps never reached its destination; admitting this, it is not sufficient to account for their rareness. Were no others printed?

I have never seen given (though the question has been asked in your magazine) the meaning of the inscriptions on the Holstein stamps. On the 1½ sch. blue, within the circle, is 1½ SCHILLING CRT, below is 4 S. R. M. On the other, within the square, is 1½ SCHILLING CRT., below is 1½ S. L. M.; on the left side of each are the letters H. R. Z. G. L. The F. R. M. on the right of the first of course signifies freimarke.

What does the Y ½ stamped on the Cuba 2 reals plata stand for? Perhaps you may be able to interpret all this.

Do stamps with and without a thread through them constitute varieties; if so, this distinction in the Bavarian stamps has not been noticed.

Besides Hong Kong, China has another local post. The merchants and other residents at Shanghai, subscribe towards a post sufficient to defray its expenses. Letters, therefore, are not paid for separately, but all have a clear hand-stamp impressed on them before delivery. It is circular. In the interior of the upper part of the circle is printed SHANGHAE; in the lower, LOCAL POST; in the centre, an X (or other letter showing the quarter), and the month, date, and year. This might be admitted as a China local. It proves the establishment of a post-office there.

In your answer to an inquirer regarding the derivation of the term *philatelie* 'I concur in the selection of the root ατελης, but not in the sense you so sarcastically applied it. It implies 'a lover of endless [pleasure],' for the pleasure of stamp collecting lasts for ever, or at least as long as new issues of postage stamps continue. I must not, however, allow this letter to be endless; I therefore subscribe myself ever

A PHILATELIST.

London.

THE 'HEAD OF LIBERTY' ESSAY.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I judge from the remarks in one of the later numbers of your valuable magazine that some English collectors doubt the existence of the French essay, profile of Liberty (Republic), ESSAI, 1858, 00 POSTES 00.

In the third edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, page 90, that gentleman writes, 'This is either a political effusion or a hoax, as the empire was declared before 1858.' The explanation is nevertheless easy, and may be found at page 32 of my German catalogue, published in January, 1864.

The post-office authorities in 1858 had an essay made for which any original die could be employed; and as it was liable to be broken during use, some obsolete die, such as that of the Republic, was naturally chosen. The essay in question is therefore perfectly genuine and authentic.

Moreover it could not be otherwise, in consequence of the strict precaution with which everything connected with the printing of postage stamps in France (always at the mint) is managed.

I remain, sir, yours very obediently,

Strasburg. OSCAR BERGER-LEVRAULT.

USES OF THE NOVA SCOTIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Overy Taylor, in the April number, writing of the one penny old Nova Scotia stamp, says, 'Was it like the 2 cents for soldiers' letters?' The one penny was not issued for soldiers' letters, but for local postage principally in the town of Halifax, payment of newspaper postage, and making up any odd sum of postage that might be required; nor was the 2 cents issued for prepayment of soldiers' letters, but for local postage: formerly there was a uniform rate of postage in this colony of 5 cents, but now a letter may be sent between any two places in the *same county* for 2 cents, and to meet this and the local postage of the town was the 2 cents stamp issued. From county to county the postage is 5 cents.

In the May number of the magazine you ask some information respecting the mayflower of Nova Scotia, &c. The following is from Gray's Botany:—'MAYFLOWER.—*Heath, sub family.* Corolla falling off after blossoming; fruit, a dry naked pod; corolla, salver-shaped, with a slender tube; a trailing scarcely-woody evergreen, with round heart-shaped leaves; epigæus.' It is perhaps the earliest flowering plant we have, prized for the rich spicy fragrance of its pretty rose-coloured blossoms. The plant has been sent to England to many private and public gardens, and, I believe, it is flourishing at Kew.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours, &c,

Halifax, Nova Scotia. NOVA SCOTIA.

RED HALF ANNA, BLUE-PAPER ENGLISH, MOLDO-WALLACHIAN, &c.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Having recently had an opportunity of personally examining the red ½ anna India, I find that *it is not from the die of the ½ blue*, as I had been given to understand by those who possessed the stamp. Certainly, the corner ornaments and the value are identical in blue and red, but there the resemblance ceases; the number of arches in the sides of the frame, and the hair, eye, &c., of

the Queen are different, though these latter are very minute differences. The paper upon which the red ½ anna was and the blue ½ anna is printed, seems identical. Through the paper runs a vertical sinuous watermark of a single line, and these lines are rather wider apart than the width of one stamp. I do not think there can be much doubt that the much-talked-about red ½ anna is an essay. I know of a copy of this stamp which has the letters 'ens' upon it in writing; this is, probably, the ending of the word 'specimens,' written across several of the stamps.

Supposing the English fourpenny has been really printed on blue paper, according to Amateur's letter, it is merely a variety by his own showing, and a purely accidental one. A few sheets 'printed *quite accidentally*,' do not constitute an issue, but simply a variety, and not therefore, to my apprehension, a 'point of honour,' *i. e.*, indispensable to a good collection. This is of course going on the supposition that this stamp *is* printed on a blue laid paper; but these copies with which I have met, were certainly not so printed originally, owing the blue tinge of the paper to the action of the gum on the colouring matter of the ink; the gum being chemically prepared, after a certain combination of causes—as exposure to the air, or a damp situation—changes the paper from its pristine whiteness to that tint, which Amateur seems to have mistaken for purely blue paper; so that this instance (though mentioned with a contrary intention) proves the correctness of Mr. Hill's assertion that no stamps on blue paper were ever issued, or ever intended, by the English Post-office.

Of the Wells Fargo envelopes there are two varieties; one (the most recent) is lettered OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES. This is far from uncommon; but the other variety is somewhat rare, and is lettered THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIA AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS; this I have seen postmarked with a horse, and the words 'Pony Express,' and bearing the Liverpool postmark of October 11, 1861.

And now for a few words on the recent issue of the Moldo-Wallachian stamps. These stamps are all lithographed, and each value is separately engraved, consequently the 2 paras differs from the 5, as the 5 differs from the 20, but only in some minute points in design, background, and inscription. Two issues have already taken place. (1). 2 p. yellow, 5 p. deep blue, 20 p. dull palish vermilion red. (2). 2 p. orange, 5 p. paler blue, 20 p. bright vermilion red. No. 2 seems more strongly printed than No. 1, making the numerals appear larger to an inexperienced eye than those on No. 1, although they are not so in reality.

Yours faithfully,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

[CORRIGENDUM.—In Mr. Pemberton's letter on 'Porto Stempel envelopes,' p. 111, for 'Original porto stempel envelopes are on a *greenish* wove paper,' read 'Original porto stempel envelopes are on a *yellowish* wove paper!']

THE DUTCH GUIANA STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I think that your correspondent, M. C. P. Robert, is wrong in stating that no such stamps as the Dutch Guiana ever existed. A friend of mine had a case of birds' skins sent to him from Dutch Guiana, and wrapped round one of these birds was an envelope with one of the much-valued and disputed stamps affixed to it. Whether or not my friend has it still in his possession I am uncertain. Fearing your correspondent will be still more tired,

I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

Blackheath. C. D.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I. C. D., Staindrop.—The only accredited return stamp is that of Wurtemberg. It is affixed to undelivered letters to send back to the writers. We have also mentioned before that what are called the Austrian complementaries have been employed for a similar purpose.

J. S., Leicester.—The 12 k. and 18 k. Baden envelopes have been long disused, and are almost unattainable except occasionally from broken-up collections. The blue on white label, current series of Brunswick is not yet in circulation.—Adhesive stamps precisely similar to the second series of Finland envelopes were employed in that country previous to 1862.—The words DREI ZEHNTEL SILBERGROSCHEN on the 3 pf. Hanover now used mean three tenths of a s. gr.—The Romagna is now comprised in the kingdom of Italy. There was a long article on that country in our last year's volume.—The change of colour in the two-shilling Victoria was also duly chronicled in our present volume. As you favour us by taking in our magazine, you might as well honour us by reading it.—We believe no change has taken place in the Swiss Republic for many long years.—Duke Charles of Parma was assassinated in 1852, and Berger-Levrault gives that date to the first issue of that territory, but whether they appeared previously or subsequently to the catastrophe we cannot decide. The second series came out during the government of his widow.—Queen Maria of Portugal was born in 1819.—We have previously lamented our inability to comprehend the currency of Buenos Ayres, and remarked that the London money-changers themselves are at issue on the subject. We paid two sovereigns for a ten peso note, the value of which on arrival in South America, proved to be something like 2/6. We are bound to add, that the party from whom we purchased it, readily refunded the difference on application. We ourselves have an idea that peso and real *there*, not elsewhere, are synonymous.—As the San Tomas on the higher valued La Guairas is anglicized into St. Thomas in the lower ones, so *paquete* of the former becomes packet in the latter.

BEGINNER, Leeds.—Most probably the Guianas you allude to as so cheaply priced in a catalogue are forgeries. Rather a high value is certainly assigned them by our correspondent in last month's magazine; but they are now considerably rarer than formerly.

S. K. L.—The Prov., R. I. stamp *is* noticed in our number for July. The abbreviation stands for Providence, Rhode Island; that place is not in Canada, but in the United States. Thanks for your information on other matters, of which we avail ourselves elsewhere.

O'REGAN, Donegal.—We consider your variety of the 6 kreuzer Wurtemburg envelope, coloured on the reverse side by some unaccountable hap, certainly merits a place in your album; and that the dark blue New Zealand is to be distinguished from that of lighter shade.

A. J. H.—Mr. John M. Stourton considers that, as Lallier's album is illustrated, contains spaces for all countries, heraldic stamp devices, a catalogue, and accurate historical information, it is the best out. He also recommends that water-marked stamps should be stuck only by the tops as a means of distinguishing them from others. Another correspondent suggests, that water-marked stamps should be fastened at the four corners, and the paper behind them cut so as to form a flap, which if lifted up when the sheet be held in the light would clearly exhibit the marks.

The queries of J. M. H., SPATCHERON, J. H. R., M. L. M, and TRAVELLER, are received, and will meet attention in our next.

THE CHILIAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

SOME months since we ventured to doubt the accuracy of the statement that the head on the annexed stamp was that of Columbus,



and our objection was supported by the editor, who conjectured that 'the word COLON, the name of the Chilian port, was mistaken by the first manual writer as designating Columbus, it being, as is well known, his unlatinized name.' There can be no question that the effigy is that of some ancient Chilian worthy; and we can find no one more deserving such a perpetuation of his fame than Pedro de Valdivia, who may almost be considered the pioneer of civilization in that quarter. He was one of the first settlers there, an emigrant from Peru, and with a small band of followers he conquered the native savages, made various laws, and founded several cities, of which the most influential bears his name to the present day. No other sixteenth-century man named in Chilian history at all equals him, and we incline to think that it is he whose effigy has been mistaken for that of the great discoverer. This, of course, is but a suggestion, and we should be glad of authentic information. If timbrophily possesses any followers in Chili, this point will not remain many months in doubt.

It is unusual for the stamps of a country to be inscribed with the name of one of its towns, but Chili is not alone in this peculiarity, the Newfoundland stamps being characterized by the same. And it would certainly have been more odd had the inscription ran, 'Columbus, Chile.'

The stamps themselves belong to the multitude of mediocrities which is as noticeable and as natural in stamps as in everything else. They are said to have been first issued on blue paper, but a careful examination of specimens in our own possession has convinced us that the dark tinge has been acquired since the impressions were made. The paper of the 5 c. red is of a brown tint, and that of the 10 c. blue is grey, but neither approaches to a blue shade such as that of the present twopenny New Zealand, or of the laureated New South Wales.

Of the ordinary 5 c., Moens gives two varieties, chocolate and rose-red, and both Moens and Mount Brown allow two shades, a light and a dark, to the blue 10 c. But we begin to feel chary of acknowledging shades, and so, we are sure, will our readers if they will examine a few sheets of English stamps. We have seen the current penny in half-a-dozen shades, but should hardly be inclined to collect them, knowing that a little more or less ink or exposure to the sun has been the sole cause of the difference. And we cannot help remarking that the number of spaces in Lallier's album for tints and minutely-differing varieties is calculated to confuse and dishearten, rather than to encourage, a novice willing to spend a moderate, but not an extravagant, sum in the pursuit of timbrophily.

To return. As to the matter of dates, Mount Brown and Levrault both give 1860 as the date of issue of the 'blue paper' stamps. The former places the omission of the highest and lowest values, together with the 5 c. and 10 c. on white paper, in 1861, and also catalogues proofs of the two last named in black. The 1 c. is now stated to be obsolete.

HANDY ANDY'S VISIT TO THE POST-OFFICE.

ANDY ROONEY was a fellow who had the most singularly ingenious knack of doing everything the wrong way; disappointment waited on all affairs in which he bore a part, and destruction was at his fingers' ends: so the nickname the neighbours stuck upon him was Handy Andy, and the jeering jingle pleased them.

Andy had been taken into the service of Squire Egan, and was at first located in the house, but his numerous mishaps there resulted in his assistance being required only for out-of-door affairs.

But here his evil genius still haunted him, and he put his foot in a piece of business his

master sent him upon one day, which was so simple as to defy almost the chance of Andy making any mistake about it; but Andy was very ingenious in his own particular line.

'Ride into the town and see if there's a letter for me,' said the squire one day to our hero.

'Yes, sir.'

'You know where to go?'

'To the town, sir.'

'But do you know where to go in the town?'

'No, sir.'

'And why don't you ask, you stupid fellow?'

'Sure I'd find out, sir.'

'Didn't I often tell you to ask what you're to do, when you don't know?'

'Yes, sir.'

'And why don't you?'

'I don't like to be troublesome, sir.'

'Confound you!' said the squire; though he could not help laughing at Andy's excuse for remaining in ignorance.

'Well,' continued he, 'go to the post-office. You know the post-office, I suppose?'

'Yes, sir, where they sell gunpowder.'

'You're right for once,' said the squire; for her Majesty's postmaster was the person who had the privilege of dealing in the aforesaid combustible. 'Go then to the post-office, and ask for a letter for me. Remember—not gunpowder, but a letter.'

'Yis, sir,' said Andy, who got astride of his hack, and trotted away to the post-office. On arriving at the shop of the postmaster (for that person carried on a brisk trade in groceries, gimlets, broadcloth, and linen-drapery), Andy presented himself at the counter, and said, 'I want a letther, sir, if you plaze.'

'Who do you want it for?' said the postmaster, in a tone which Andy considered an aggression upon the sacredness of private life: so Andy thought the coolest contempt he could throw upon the prying impertinence of the postmaster was to repeat his question.

'I want a letther, sir, if you plaze.'

'And who do you want it for?' repeated the postmaster.

'What's that to you?' said Andy.

The postmaster, laughing at his simplicity, told him he could not tell what letter to give him unless he told him the direction.

'The directions I got was to get a letther here—that's the directions.'

'Who gave you those directions?'

'The masther.'

'And who's your master?'

'What consarn is that o' yours?'

'Why, you stupid rascal! if you don't tell me his name, how can I give you a letter?'

'You could give it, if you liked: but you're fond of axin' impident questions, bekase you think I'm simple.'

'Go along out o' this! Your master must be as great a goose as yourself, to send such a messenger.'

'Bad luck to your impidence,' said Andy: 'is it Squire Egan you dar to say goose to?'

'Oh, Squire Egan's your master, then?'

'Yes, have you anything to say agin it?'

'Only that I never saw you before.'

'Faith, then you'll never see me agin if I have my own consint.'

'I won't give you any letter for the squire, unless I know you're his servant. Is there any one in the town knows you?'

'Plenty,' said Andy; 'it's not every one is as ignorant as you.'

Just at this moment a person to whom Andy was known entered the house, who vouched to the postmaster that he might give Andy the squire's letter. 'Have you one for me?'

'Yes, sir,' said the postmaster, producing one—'fourpence.'

The gentleman paid the fourpence postage, and left the shop with his letter.

'Here's a letter for the squire,' said the postmaster; 'you've to pay me elevenpence postage.'

'What 'ud I pay elevenpence for?'

'For postage.'

'And sure didn't I see you give Mr. Durfy a letther for fourpence this minit, and a bigger letther than this? and now you want me to pay elevenpence for this scrap of a thing. Do you think I'm a fool?'

'No: but I'm sure of it,' said the postmaster.

'Well, you're welkim to be sure, sure;—but don't be delayin' me now: here's fourpence for you, and gi' me the letther.'

'Go along, you foolish fellow!' said the postmaster, taking up the letter, and going to serve a customer with a mousetrap.

While this person and many others were served, Andy lounged up and down the shop, every now and then putting in his head in the middle of the customers, and saying, 'Will you gi' me the letther?'

He waited for above half an hour, in defiance of the anathemas of the postmaster, and at last left, when he found it impossible to get common justice for his master, which he thought he deserved as well as another man; for, under this impression, Andy determined to give no more than the fourpence.

The squire in the meantime was getting impatient for his return, and when Andy made his appearance, asked if there was a letter for him.

'There is, sir,' said Andy.

'Then give it to me.'

'I haven't it, sir.'

'What do you mean?'

'He wouldn't give it to me, sir.'

'Who wouldn't give it you?'

'That owld chate beyant in the town—wanting to charge double for it.'

'Maybe it's a double letter. Why didn't you pay what he asked, sir?'

'Arrah, sir, why would I let you be chated? It's not a double letther at all: not above half the size o' one Mr. Durfy got before my face for fourpence.'

'You'll provoke me to break your neck some day, you vagabond! Ride back for your life, you omadhaun; and pay whatever he asks, and get me the letter.'

'Why, sir, I tell you he was sellin' them before my face for fourpence a-piece.'

'Go back, you scoundrel! or I'll horsewhip you; and if you're longer than an hour, I'll have you ducked in the horsepond.'

Andy vanished, and made a second visit to the post-office. When he arrived, two other persons were getting letters, and the postmaster was selecting the epistles for each, from a large parcel that lay before him on the counter; at the same time many shop customers were waiting to be served.

'I'm come for that letther,' said Andy.

'I'll attend to you by-and-by.'

'The masther's in a hurry.'

'Let him wait till his hurry's over.'

'He'll murther me if I'm not back soon.'

'I'm glad to hear it.'

While the postmaster went on with such provoking answers to these appeals for despatch, Andy's eye caught the heap of letters which lay on the counter: so while certain weighing of soap and tobacco was going forward, he contrived to become possessed of two letters from the heap, and, having effected that, waited patiently enough till it was the great man's pleasure to give him the missive directed to his master.

Then did Andy bestride his hack, and in triumph at his trick on the postmaster, rattle along the road homeward as fast as the beast could carry him. He came into the squire's presence, his face beaming with delight, and an air of self-satisfied superiority in his manner, quite unaccountable to his master, until he pulled forth his hand, which had been grubbing up his prizes from the bottom of his pocket; and holding three letters over his head, while he said, 'Look at that! he next slapped them down under his broad fist on the table before the squire, saying—

'Well! if he did make me pay elevenpence, by gor, I brought your honour the worth o' your money anyhow!'—*From 'Handy Andy,' by Samuel Lover.*

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—II.

IN drawing up a monograph of the Luzon stamps, as we have taken our geographical, historical, and other information from a French source, so we must quote copiously from an article by that zealous and accurate Parisian philatelist, Mons. G. Herpin, in the pages of a French magazine.

Two or three years ago, very vague was the knowledge of these far-distant emissions.

Both Moens and Mount Brown so lately as 1862 give three species only: a 6 cuartos and 1 real *without indication of value;* we are not told how their values were ascertained, in fact there is no such stamp as a 6 cuartos of Luzon. The third is a 5 cuartos red *correos interior.* This is probably the well-known label having the queen of Spain's head very similar to that on the 1855, '56, '57 impressions. Mount Brown's third and fourth editions discard the mythic 6 cuartos; give the 1 real as *brown*; add a blue one with no value indicated which cannot be identified, and the 10 c. rose, *correos interior*, the companion of the 5 c. red. Moens in 1863 catalogues the same trio as before, but removes the Philippines from America to Oceania. Bellars and Davie catalogue seven and Dr. Gray ten species, including the fabulous blue above mentioned, which appears also in Brown's latest edition, though Moens discards it in his *Illustrations*, mentioning fourteen Luzon stamps inclusive of the 1864 series. These latter four were not out when Berger Levrault's valuable catalogue was published; with this exception he describes the same individuals as Moens, but instances a 2 r. fte. *brown* as well as green.

Mons. Herpin commences his article with the just remark, that as far as regards the mysterious stamps of the Philippine Isles, the dawn is beginning to show; and if the sun has not yet reached the zenith, the darkness is at least dissipated, and we enjoy full daylight to all appearance.

He proceeds to say, that from documentary evidence direct from the islands, and worthy all confidence in respect of the source whence they emanate, there exists (or alas! may have existed) a first series, composed of a quartette of round-shaped stamps whose respective values were 5 and 10 cuartos, and 1 and 2 reales.

We have just received a note from a friend, the possessor of perhaps the finest and most copious of known collections; and who from his world-wide connections would most probably ere this have succeeded in procuring at least one of these reported emissions, purporting his disbelief in their existence.

It is scarcely possible that the genius of philatelists has been so regardless of the interests of his votaries as not to have preserved any visible trace of such valuables. With regard to the actual being of certain stamps, without any tradition of their issue at all, several instances of the verification of collectors' suppositions may be quoted. For example, the fourpenny rose provisional Cape of Good Hope, though rare was well known. A distinguished amateur, we remember, suggested to us some time back that there might have been a blue penny companion. This apparent phantasm actually turned up not very long after. In like manner, analogy pronounced that there ought to be a blue as well as a red oblong British Guiana; and lo! in like manner as the complete skeleton visible to the acute imagination of Professor Owen, from the study of a single bone, became afterwards corporeally evident to the eyes of his delighted followers, so this wonderfully rare species burst into view. We remember seeing the first that showed up. It was in an old collection, belonging we believe to some schoolboy, and was obtained by its lucky purchaser for an old song. The author of the faithful and elaborate monograph on the British Guiana stamps, in our July number, is the possessor of another specimen, and a third only is known to be at present in any collection. Unfortunately the parallel is not quite accurate, the rarity being a mere repetition of its companion in monetary denomination.

To return from this digression, in a manner forced by the subject of the non-appearance of the ghostly primal Luzons, it is further remarked by Mons. Herpin that these supposititious stamps are by some fancied to have been essays. If so, he continues, it is quite unlikely that these should have so totally vanished as they have done. Moreover, it is difficult to believe any essays could have been so wretchedly executed that the 1854 and '55 series could have been preferred to them! Time alone, if aught, must clear the obscurity. The round shape of these individuals, probably assigned them by a non-expert, may have arisen from their having had the circular centre containing the Queen's profile cut out

by some barbarian, as we so frequently see the beautiful envelopes of Ceylon, &c., cruelly lopped, because a square stamp could not be located in a round space!

After this long exordium we may proceed to business, giving all the information hitherto obtainable on the Luzon emissions.

The first actually-ascertained series, of uniform type, is that of 1854 and '55 bearing the profile of queen Isabella II. of Spain to the right in a circle encompassed by a frame set with pearls: value above and date below; coloured on a white ground. There are eight species including varieties; consisting of four values, of which two are repeated in different shades of colour, and two what may be termed misprints. The correct card is below: the type will be found figured in Dr. Gray's manual, in our publishers' priced catalogue, and in Oppen's album.

5 cuartos	. .	orange.
10 „	. .	pale pink.
10 „	. .	deep carmine.
1 real	. .	deep blue, and var.
1 „	. .	bright lilac „
2 reales	. .	green of various shades.

This series was copper-plate, and engraved in the colony. Each sheet contained forty stamps slightly varying in design; eight rows, five in each. Every sheet of both colours, value 1 real, exhibited a solitary variety, being the first impression in the sixth row, having CORROS in place of CORREOS.

Our authority, reviewing this series, gives the designer credit for the full attainment of his ambition, always providing *that* were the perfection of ugliness in stamp typography. Though the Spanish of 1853 were evidently the models to work from, they themselves being by no means master-pieces of engraving, an unartistic imitator could not fail to produce an inferior edition of his model. Still, as the darkest cloud may have a silver lining, the very barbarity of these *recherché* specimens adds a peculiar charm to their attraction, and at the worst embellishes the collector's album with a welcome variety.

Somewhat resembling this first series, but, as Ophelia says, 'with a difference,' are a pair of still more exceeding rarity, one of which has but recently emerged from the mists of obscurity, and its comrade only communicated by Mons. N. Rondot while the preceding notice was in press. One is a 5 cuartos orange impression (type 4, plate 54, in Moens' *Illustrations*). CORREOS and date in this instance are *above;* FRANCO and value *below*—a vice-versâ arrangement to the above described set. The other is a 10 cuartos, lilac. They are lithographed, and the former was issued in sheets of eight rows, six in each. There were four different types, so that the complete sheet of four dozen must have been stamped in twelve strokes, by a die containing four impressions in two rows. The design of these is no improvement on the others, though the artist chose the 1852 Spanish as his model, not those of 1853. From this circumstance we ourselves should have been inclined to the supposition, that they were anterior to the first-named series, and their exceeding rarity would also favour this idea; but Mons. G. Herpin is of opinion they were a subsequent issue, and offers the following evidences in confirmation of his views. We should premise that they bear no facial evidence of priority or otherwise, the date on both being the same.

He thinks the circumstance of their being lithographed, not engraved—like the earlier Van Diemen, Mauritius, and other stamps—indicative of a later date, as is also the improvement of a four-die group, and a general appearance of decision about the execution in general, not usual in a primitive essayal. He suggests, moreover, in contradiction to the nominal date, that they remained in use so late as 1860, when the *correos-interior* set entered appearance. To account for their extreme rarity, he instances the trifling amount of correspondence between the islanders in general; the preference of letter-writers for sending their communications by friendly agency; and, finally, their objections to prepayment, the onus of postage usually falling on the recipient.

Our gifted philatelist proceeds to catalogue as next in use the series on blue paper, similar to that of Cuba, or (with the exception of the additional words *plata f.*) the Spanish of 1855. He omits designedly the

½ real, deeming it never employed at Luzon, where the 10 cuartos of equal value supplied its place. Each sheet contained a couple of hundred impressions, in ten rows of twenties. The dies were steel, and the sheets headed with '*Sellos de uno* (or *dos*) *real* (or *reales*) *Plata*.' Touching the similar-in-type series, with cross-lined water-marks and that on plain paper, he pronounces, without insisting at all on his own *ipse dixit*, that they were for the exclusive use of Cuba and Porto Rico; relating as an ascertained fact that the blue paper set were still employed in the Philippines till a very recent date when the last sheets remaining were finally exhausted. We may add that the peculiar oval cancelling stamp of the islands readily distinguishes those specimens which reached Europe from the East, from their congeners in every respect coming from the West. The existence of such marked labels lattice-marked or on wove paper would decide the question above mooted. Can any of our readers afford guaranteed individuals of such character?

We have now arrived at the well-known sets marked CORREOS INTERIOR, destined for inter-island communication. Like the 5 cuartos stamp before quoted, the series next in rotation presents four slightly varying lithographed types printed in the same way. It appeared in 1860. The type seems represented in plate 41 of Moens' *Illustrations*, No. 2, lowest row.

5 cuartos	. .	orange.
5 „	. .	vermilion.
10 „	. .	very rosy lilac.

Almost, but not quite, identical with the 5 cuartos vermilion just described is another, similar in colour and value, whose discrepancies are as follows. Each sheet contains uniform types, not four diverse ones; and a single copy of each may be distinguished one from the other by noticing that the lines forming the hair-bands in the later issue, 1861, '62, are more regular than in the former, *all* touching the face or diadem on one side, and the plait at the back of the head on the other. Eight rows of eight vignettes compose a sheet. Mons. Herpin conjectures there must be or have been a correspondent 10 cuartos. Time has plenty to do in disentangling knotty timbrophilic points.

The terminating word of the preceding paragraph is a good cue to introduce the 1863 issues, answering to each other in all respects, except that the emanation of the earlier part of the year has *one* point only, and that of its close *two* points forming a colon between the words CORREOS and INTERIOR. The former consists of a solitary individual value 5 cuartos. It is lithographed, and the types in a sheet are all alike. It is easily distinguishable from the stamp of the same value, 1861, '62, by a trifling variation in the arrangement of the hair and the smaller size of the containing circle; but still more decisively by the smaller size of the letters in the top and bottom bands. It is figured on the right-hand lower row of plate 41 of Moens' *Illustrations*.

The double-pointed or colon group consists of four values of uniform type, and lithographed.

5 cuartos	. .	vermilion.
10 „	. .	carmine.
1 real	. .	deep violet.
2 reales	. .	blue.

The 5 cuartos sheet is composed of rows each containing ten, excepting only that the first and tenth are wanting in the lowest row. The 10 cuartos sheet has six rows in tens, and that of 2 reales four rows in fives. Mons. G. H. cites a variety of the 5 cuartos stamp with thicker lips, smaller neck, and the top of the crown nearer the pearly frame; but Moens and one of our most reliable London philatelists pronounce it a decided forgery. There exists, moreover, a very well executed German cheatery, under the gloss of fac-simile, of the same stamp. *Cavete, amici.*

Contemporaneously with the said colon quartette, or if not, very soon after, was issued another 1 real label, in most respects a copy of it, except in the framework and bearing CORREOS *without* any point between it and INTERIOR. The colour is greyish blue, and one sheet contained two dozen in four rows.

At the commencement of the year succeeding was started a third 1 real, bright green; otherwise exactly doubling its predecessor. Both were lithographs. These two impressions we do not find catalogued by Dr. Gray, Mount Brown, &c.: Moens

duly chronicles them; but ignores the 1 real and two reales that preceded them; disagreeing, however, with our authority in their close similarity, and stating they differ in the characters of the inscription. Having no opportunity of verification by ocular inspection, we are reluctantly obliged to leave the matter in abeyance. Berger-Levrault instances three 1 real stamps—dark blue, pale blue, and brown; and two 2 reales, green and brown—but assigns the whole quintette the early date 1854 and '55. We are unable to divine whether he meant these as mere varieties in colour of the primal issue, or, without personal demonstration, on aural evidence only, placed three of the four 1 real Luzon-proper stamps in one batch, misquoting also the 2 reales blue as brown.

The difficult and, consequently, most interesting part of our essay on the Philippines is now concluded. All the rest is plain sailing, as we have but to chronicle the latest and existent series—a precise reprint of the 1864 Spanish, monetary denomination alone excepted. They are taken from steel dies, and the sheets, whatever the value of the stamps, expose ten rows of seventeen vignettes, inscribed above, ULTRA MAR. 170 SELLOS DE * * * CENTIMOS.

3½	centimos	peso	forte,	black on buff.
6⅔	„	„	„	green on lilac.
12⅔	„	„	„	blue on very bright vermilion.
25	„	„	„	vermilion on lilac.

The page or pages of a postage-stamp collector's album may therefore exhibit, of impressions peculiar to the Philippine Isles alone, no fewer than twenty-two distinct species, besides two varieties, two common also to the West Indian colonies of Spain, and a brace of fac-similes or counterfeits, which may or may not be relegated among the other barn-door vermin.

NO NAME.

BY THE EDITOR.

'Pity the sorrows of a postage label,
And give, kind timbromaniac (if able),
This stamp, long, but obscurely known to fame,
A local habitation and a name!'

CONTINENTAL and home collectors are incessantly applying to us to procure the *soi-disant* tenpenny of Van Diemen's Land. Under this *nom-de-guerre* a certain stamp has retained place in most published catalogues, though Mount Brown in his last edition judiciously prefixes a ? to the stereotyped description. Both Dr. Gray and Berger-Levrault recognise it upon traditional information.

The possessor of this really unique specimen is well known as one of our earliest and most indefatigable timbrophilists. Whether genuine emission or mere essay, the assumption of its locality being Van Diemen's Land is gratuitous: nothing but the fact of its having been presented to its present owner by a Tasmanian colonist tending to that idea. The accompanying description of this rarity may excite the research of some qualified individual, and eventually produce more accurate information.

The impression is round, but we believe there is no satisfactory proof of its being label or envelope. Queen Victoria's diademed bust to the left, in centre: POSTAGE above; before and after which is the representation of a sealed letter: TENPENCE below; preceded by a roman D, and followed by Z: a slight ornamentation between these capitals and the portrayed letters.

The stamp is impressed in red on a white ground. No country's name appearing, it is just the number of colonies entitled to bear our queen's effigy to one against Tasmania. The figure-head is as much like those in the St. Helena or South Australian issue as any others. The former island is out of the question, as it never had occasion for a tenpenny. It may not be un-pertinent here to remark (we dislike the orthodox word, impertinent, as suggestive of another interpretation), how strange it is that so useful a denomination, required some thousands of times per month for postage viâ Marseilles, should be represented by one impression only, that of Ceylon! Our own issue of that value, long disused, and some months back employed briefly until the remainders were exhausted, is now totally obsolete. Was the stamp under survey an essay for England, after all?

It is rather singular that the elegant series

of Ceylon, though consisting (besides the halfpenny) of no fewer than *eleven* labels, has but *ten* envelopes. The hiatus would be filled by a tenpenny value. May not the nameless and homeless individual under consideration be allowed to fill the vacancy until further notice?

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WHEN the miser cannot add to his hoarded heaps, he amuses himself with an inspection of them. We are forced, for the nonce, to



do the same, and commence by calling attention to a representation of the New Granada stamp, described in our last number. The new low-valued envelope for Würtemberg our subscribers must now be well familiarized with, from the visible and gratuitous specimen which accompanied the same number in its progress to the four quarters of the globe.

We have previously alluded to a proposed new issue for the United States. Essays for the 1 cent, we are given to understand from an American postal journal, have been already submitted to the government. One variety exhibits the bust of the late lamented president Lincoln in ornamental framework. In the upper corners are the letters U. S.; in the lower is 1 C. The inscription above is POSTAGE; below, ONE CENT. A star with rays (we never saw one without those necessary appendages), according to the writer's description, is suspended over the bust. The impressions are green, mauve, and vermilion, on a white ground. By an official letter in our correspondence columns, our readers will also see that it is intended to issue a new style of stamps for 'packages of newspapers carried outside the mails.'



Our next engraving presents to view the Honduras stamp, introduced to the timbrophilic public in our last magazine.

The *Stamp-Collector's Record*, published at Albany, New York State, chronicles a set of locals issued by Robert McLachlan, 143, Bleury street, Montreal. The design is described as exhibiting the octagonal face of a clock without hands; the proprietor's address appears in the margin. We presume the hour at which the despatch is sent is intended to be marked by pen or pencil. Coloured impression, lake, blue, green, or black, on white paper. The publisher of the said magazine, indignant at the continued persistence of certain individuals in belief of the buff Canadian envelopes, promises an official denial of their existence in his next number, which we shall take care to reprint for the benefit of our own subscribers and readers.

The same magazine affords the copy of a letter from a customs official in Montreal, denying in toto the Bancroft upstart of that city. He writes that Mr. Bancroft delivers nothing but packages, trunks, furniture, &c., and that the *soi-disant* Bancroft stamp was got up by a boy for a lark. We expect the boy realized something tangible by his larks. *En revanche*, he vouches for the stability of the double college stamp, the genuine character of which was denied in a late number of our magazine. Oh truth! truth! truth! we do not wonder you keep close at the bottom of your cool well during this oppressive heat!



The correspondent who sends us the original of the annexed engraving puts a question which we in turn must ask our readers, 'Can you tell us what it is?' Our knowledge of Russ is sufficient to assure us that the brief inscription is in that tongue, but the words forming the cancelling-mark of the specimen before us are French, and are as follows, *Compagnie Russe* * * * *Navigation* in circle; there is also the remnant of another word before *Navigation*, and in centre *Smyrne*, *Mai* 15, 1863,—conclusive proof that the stamp is not newly issued. We cannot say whether it is, or is not, a postage stamp, but by engraving it we have adopted the best means to obtain authentic information concerning it. We may add that the whole stamp, ex-

cept the space occupied by the inscription, is covered with a ground of diagonally-crossed blue lines. The impression is in rose on white paper.

Too late for publication in our August number, we received a communication from Mons. Riester, of Paris, to the effect, that having perused the letter of 'Conservative' in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for July, in which the writer took occasion to animadvert on certain essays, which he pronounced as emanating from one or two Milan engravers, but which he did not believe were ever really offered to any postal authorities—he, Mons. Riester, begs to assure ourselves, and the timbrophilic community in general, that he is thoroughly understood in Paris to be the sole designer and engraver of the essays principally alluded to, namely, those of Bolivia, San Marino, and Moldavia.

Monsieur Riester proceeds to say that he is fully able to prove the genuine character of the essays in question; that they were really submitted for approval to the respective governments they represent; and that no Milan engraver whatever had anything to do with them.

We shall be visiting Paris shortly, and during our stay there, shall take an opportunity of examining the correspondence that has taken place between Mons. R. and the aforesaid governments, the whole of which he has promised to place in our hands for whole or partial publication.

A correspondent kindly figures and describes for us another candidate for local U. S. honours, now obsolete. It was used by J. H. Prince on his Eastern Express route between Boston and Portland. The stamp is small-sized, impression copper-plate. An oblong oval contains a steam-boat; LETTER DESPATCH above; proprietor's name below: it is printed black on white paper.

Another correspondent notes an undescribed specimen; description as follows: large 10 in centre; CALIFORNIA printed *over* it; TO between and above the figures; BEDFORD & CO.'S EXPRESS above; NO. 2, ASTOR HOUSE, N. Y. below: a glory surrounds it. (We cannot say why.) Large oval; dull purple impression. We are indebted to the same individual for the information, that the French stamp described in our July number is used in the post-offices for money-orders above 10 francs value. It is affixed to the part sent, and the recipient has to give it up on receiving payment. He, moreover, favours us with the assurance of possessing a further variety of the very Protean 20 c. Italian; being the *dark* 15 c. *without any* dots transmuted.

THE QUEENSLAND STAMPS.

QUEENSLAND, although one of the latest founded of our colonies, has produced a most creditable series of stamps, and one



which will compare favourably with those of the other Australian divisions. It cannot boast of any of those tantalising rarities, spaces for which appear, but are not occupied, in our albums. Moreover, its uniformity of type does not admit of the existence of any ugly exceptions. No unsightly shilling, or dirty sixpenny, as in the case of Victoria, shames its more presentable companions on the albic page. Collectors who would fill the page devoted to Queensland must have resort to shades, and to varieties perforated and unperforated, and even then they will not find much difficulty in obtaining all that are known to exist.

The first issue took place in 1861, and comprised the dark shades and violet-brown shilling. In the following year denticulated sheets in the primal colours were emitted, and in 1863 those colours gave place to the lighter tints;—the penny lake-red to orange, the twopenny dark-blue to light, the sixpenny chrome-green to pea-green, the shilling violet-brown to brown. This change probably took place upon the exhaustion of the star water-marked paper, by which also the earlier issues may be distinguished from the current.

The stamp above engraved is, as may be supposed, the rarest of the Queensland stamps; it differs in one slight point from the rest, namely, the notching of the corners; all the others being square.

We can hardly expect an alteration in device—scarcely desire it. The present title of the colony renders the portrait of her majesty by far the most suitable adornment of its stamps.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—II.

ISABELLA II. OF SPAIN.

WITH no illustrious personage, save and except our own gracious sovereign, are collectors better acquainted through the medium of their favourite study than with the above-named lady. The acquaintance is however probably limited to her features, which appear not only on several score of Spanish stamps, but also on the numerous issues of Cuba and Luzon; and even concerning them our readers can form no very decided conclusions, owing to the great differences which exist between the various stamp portraits of her majesty of Spain. Of her history comparatively little is generally known, but we propose to give a few particulars which we trust will prove interesting.

Queen Isabella, daughter of Ferdinand VII. and Maria Christina, was born at Madrid, on the 30th October, 1830. A short time previously her father had been induced by the influence of his wife to issue the Pragmatic Decree revoking the Salic law, an enactment which prohibited the succession of females to the Spanish throne. This step had the effect of excluding the king's brother, Don Carlos, from the succession; when, therefore, Ferdinand died in 1833, and his infant daughter, Isabella, was proclaimed queen under the regency of her mother, Maria Christina, civil war commenced, and continued for seven years to desolate the country. The future chiefs of the Spanish cabinet, Espartero, Narvaez, and O'Donnell, were amongst the number of Christina's adherents, whilst the famous Zumalacarregui headed the forces of Don Carlos. The latter were for a long time successful, but the efforts of the queen-mother's supporters at length overcame all obstacles; the Carlists, after many hard fights, were thoroughly defeated; and in 1840 the Cortes confirmed the claims of Isabella by pronouncing sentence of banishment on her uncle and his adherents. In 1837 Espartero was summoned by queen Christina to assist her in the government; and when, in 1840, she refused to grant the reforms demanded by the progressive party, she resigned her power into his hands. He became regent, and for the three following years, during which he was able in a great measure to direct the education and training of the young queen, she was subject to purer and better influences than it had yet been her fate to experience.

The queen-mother on her resignation of the regency retired to France, and became a vigorous opponent of Espartero's administration. From Paris she directed numerous intrigues against this able minister, in which Marshal Narvaez took a conspicuous part. In 1841 an insurrection took place, having for its object the overthrow of the regent, but the attempt miscarried, and its authors had to seek refuge in France. But two years later the efforts of Christina and her friends were successful; a fresh rising resulted in the entry of Narvaez into Madrid, the expulsion of Espartero (who sought refuge on board a British frigate), and the declaration by a decree of the Cortes dated the 15th of October, 1843, that Isabella—at that time not quite thirteen years old—had attained her majority: thenceforward the queen took her place amongst the reigning sovereigns of Europe.

Two years later Maria Christina returned to Madrid, and her restoration to influence was marked by the marriage of Isabella II., to her cousin Don Francisco d'Assis, the elder son of her maternal uncle Don Francisco de Paula, which took place on the completion of her sixteenth year. The marriage was entirely one of policy, and its result has been very sad. The young queen has never known the beneficial influence of domestic happiness. Estrangements and reconciliations have by turns succeeded each other in her married life, and even in her maternal hopes she has been doomed to disappointment by the death of two of her infant children a short time after their birth.

We cannot attempt to detail the various political changes which have taken place since the queen's marriage; and we are con-

vinced that, even were the space at our disposal sufficient, such a history would prove uninteresting to the majority of our readers. A brief epitome must suffice.

In 1845 Narvaez became prime minister, t his ministry was overthrown in the owing year. Dissensions at this period e between the queen and her mother, various plots were formed against her r mother and Louis Philippe, in the ng of which Marshal Narvaez, then ador at Paris, had a large share. In , 1847, a reconciliation was effected; ne was chosen president of the council and head of the ministry, which post he retained till January, 1851, when his administration broke up on account of financial embarrassments. From this date until 1854, several ministries were formed and fell. In that year the queen reluctantly called to power Espartero, who had been dwelling in Spain for some years as a private citizen. He united with his former rival General O'Donnell, and for two years governed the country. His efforts were put forth in the right direction, and his great abilities would have enabled him to compass numerous much-required reforms, had he not encountered the opposition of the queen whom he served. The corruption of the court and the administrative departments, the hostility of the clergy, the restlessness of the Carlists, the fickleness and insubordination of his own professed supporters, and most of all the intractable character of O'Donnell, nullified Espartero's policy. It was impossible that he could long work in harmony with the thick-and-thin supporter of Queen Christina.

In the summer of 1856, affairs came to a crisis; Espartero was dismissed, and insurrections in Madrid, Barcelona, and Saragossa broke out; but he took no part in the quarrels made in his name, and in 1857 resigned the dignity of senator. O'Donnell held office for a short time after, and was then succeeded by Senor Armero Mon, in whose cabinet Marshal Narvaez had a seat. Since that time several changes have taken place in the position of parties. The telegraph every now and then conveys the intelligence of a political crisis, and the formation of a new ministry by O'Donnell or Narvaez. In 1862 an expedition was undertaken against the emperor of Morocco, and was attended with great cost and little honour. Last year the Chincha islands were seized, and unjustifiable demands made on Peru. The Spanish government has however acted wisely in compromising this quarrel, and also in at last recognizing the kingdom of Italy.

The queen's personal influence on Spanish politics has been considerable, and her obstructive prejudices have much retarded the progress of the nation. We cannot of course throw light upon her private life, indeed it is rather doubtful whether it would bear too curious a gaze. Like our queen, she has been the mark of a would-be assassin, and, as the following narrative will show, with worse result. The attempt in question was made in 1852, and is thus described by an eye-witness.

The queen, who had not made her appearance abroad since the birth of the princess, was to leave the palace shortly before two o'clock, accompanied by the king and the high functionaries of the court. Her Majesty had just heard the mass of child-birth in the chapel royal, and was proceeding along the gallery towards the great staircase, when her progress was arrested by Merino (a mendicant friar, 63 years old), who being dressed in clerical attire, and being, as was supposed, about to present a memorial, met with no obstacle from those around. He immediately struck at the queen with a dagger, which grazed her arm and entered her right side, penetrating through the folds of her mantle of velvet and gold and cutting through the stays, the whalebone of which diminished the effect of the blow which it is now understood has not injured any vital organ. The assassin at the moment of striking exclaimed, "*Toma ya tienes bastante*" (take it, you have now got enough). The queen's first thought was for her child. "*Mi mina*," she exclaimed, "*que ciudem à Isabel*" (my child, let them take care of Isabel). There was a moment of confusion. The nurse, alarmed at the queen's shriek, let the infant fall from the cushion on which she was being carried. The king drew his sword. One of the royal halberdiers struck down the assassin, who let fall the dagger and was secured by the duke of Tamanes and the members of the royal suite. The queen leant against the wall of the gallery, her hand pressed against her side, which was covered with blood. The king and other members of the royal family rushed to her support. She was instantly carried to her apartments, and then fainted. The whole scene passed quickly, occupying not more than a quarter of an hour.

The queen recovered, the friar was executed, and the valiant king, who 'drew his sword,' was so frightened that he was obliged to be bled five days afterwards.

The queen has been until lately very much under the influence of the bigoted

clerical party. In particular her confessor, Father Claret, and a certain nun, Sister Patrovincio, were the chief instruments in preventing the practice of a liberal policy. These two worthies are now banished, much to the disgust of the ecclesiastical faction, prominent members of which have also protested against the recognition of Italy. This faction has the power to work much evil, and as the widow of Don Carlos is at present pursuing that delightful occupation of Spanish lords and ladies—intrigue—further disturbances may arise. The queen has gone to seek Espartero, and her mother has at last seen the necessity of a liberal policy.

Amongst many rumours, the latest is that the queen will resign in favour of her son, the prince of Asturias, under the regency of O'Donnell, but we doubt this. Isabella is now in her thirty-fifth year, of a vigorous constitution, and likely therefore to occupy the throne for many years, we trust to her country's advantage, and perchance to have her profile engraved on many more series of postage stamps.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Stamp Argus. St. John, New Brunswick: Craig and Melvin.

MOTTO, '*Resurgo.*' This publication being No. 1 of vol. i., we cannot by any means account for the motto chosen. Things *are* certainly rather queer in America; and it is just within the pale of probability that a journal *may* rise there a second time without having ever risen before; though we thought such an anomaly was confined to a certain green island in the eastern hemisphere. Be that as it may, we hail, and ever hail, the appearance of every printed emanation devoted to the interest and furtherance of timbrophily.

Subscribers to this journal pay a trifle more than twopence per month. With respect to No. 1, the preface alone is worth the money. The style, the humour, the spelling, the everything, are of the choicest, and must be perused to be appreciated by the 'timbroplalic' world!

It would be unfair to pronounce upon the merits of a work such as this from its first number. The editor evidently intends to do his best to fill the gap hitherto unoccupied by a New Brunswick magazine; and apparently has not commenced his speculation without securing a reasonable amount of support, if we may judge from the number of advertisements figuring in the sheet before us. In fact, they bear about the same proportion that Falstaff's sack did to his bread.

In a late number of our magazine we quoted some authority to the effect that the 12 c. and 40 c. envelopes of the United States were to be withdrawn from circulation. The magazine under notice, as well as No. 7 of the *Albany Stamp-Collector's Record*, positively pronounce on their non-withdrawal.

For those who, in the editor's words, 'don't see any distinction between the label on the end of a reel of thread and an issue of the Re-union island' (we have ourselves met with many such), this new candidate for timbrophilic favour is not calculated; but to the collectors of the western world, we gladly take opportunity of commending it with every wish for its permanent success.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

IT IS STATED that the Italian government is about to transfer its postal monopoly to the house of Rothschild.

ENGLISH PENNY STAMPS.—It appears that in the year ending March last, the revenue from penny stamps was £519,288 5s. 3d., and the net produce £500,249 18s. 6d.

THE NEXT STAMPED ENVELOPES issued by the United States are to be covered on the reverse with instructions regarding prepayment of postage, &c. The official information is contained in the Post-office Department paper, the *United States Mail.*

POST OFFICE YARN.—A letter was lately put into a provincial letter-box, the appearance of which denoted that the writer was unaccustomed to the use of stamps, and had failed to make one stick at all. He had tried, and had vainly tried; but the inveterate portrait of her Majesty would curl up. At last, in despair, he pinned it to the envelope, and wrote under it: 'PAID, *providing the pin doesn't come out.*'

WHO ENGRAVED THE CONFEDERATE STAMPS?—De la Rue certainly engraved the rare 1 c. and the last 5 c. At the bottom of a sheet of the last 10 c. we saw the inscription, 'Archer, Bank note printer, Richmond, Va:' and now the *Stamp Argus*, a new American publication, asserts that the Confederate States stamps were the production of Barre, the celebrated French engraver; and that the plates 'were captured by a detachment of cavalry

under Federal General Krantz, at Columbia, South Carolina, and are now deposited in the patent-office at Washington.' We should like to know why the plates were taken from the Richmond post-office to South Carolina, and whether there was any guard over them; also why the United States patent-office was chosen for their reception.

THE FREE CITIES OF GERMANY.—Four German cities, remnants of the ancient Hanseatic league, retain their independence and peculiar form of government. The present constitution of the most important of their number, the state and free city of Hamburg, came into force on Jan. 1, 1861. The government is entrusted in common to the Chambers of Representatives, the Senate, and the Bürgerschaft or House of Burgesses. The Senate, composed of eighteen members elected for life by the House of Burgesses and presided over by a first and second burgomaster, has the principal executive power. The House of Burgesses is composed of 192 members, the majority of whom are elected by ballot by the citizens, the remainder consisting of deputies from various guilds, corporations, and courts of justice. The free city of Bremen is governed by a Senate of 30 members, under the legislative authority of the General Assembly of Citizens, known as the 'Burger Convent.' Two burgomasters direct the affairs of the Senate, through a ministry divided into eight departments. The state comprises an area of 106 English square miles, divided into the city proper, the rural districts, the township of Vegesack, and the port and city of Bremen haven. The population is about 100,000. The free city and state of Lubeck is governed by a constitution similar to that of Hamburg. The High Court of Appeal for the four free cities is established at Lubeck, and is composed of a president nominated by the Houses of Senators of the four cities, and six councillors chosen by the four Houses of Burgesses. The constitution of Frankfort-on-Maine is similar to that of Hamburg. The Diet of Plenipotentiaries, the organ of the Germanic Confederation, assembles at Frankfort. Of the four cities named, the first three issue postage stamps of their own, the last-mentioned uses those of Thurn and Taxis South.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NEW ISSUE OF STAMPS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have received the following note from Washington in regard to the new issue of United States stamps, which may perhaps be of some use to your readers. If you think so, it is at your service.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES M. CHUTE.

Boston, Massachusetts, U. S.

Post-office Department, Finance Office,
Washington, July 26, 1865.

SIR,—In reply to your inquiries of the 19th inst., I have to say that no immediate general change of the United States postal stamps is contemplated. It is proposed, however, to substitute the engraved head of the late president in the place of the present design on one denomination of the stamps, and, also, to issue a new style of stamps to be used on packages of newspapers, carried outside the mails.

The National Bank-Note Company, New York, are the manufacturers of the stamps now used.

Very respectfully, &c., &c.,

A. N. ZEVELY, *Third Asst. P. M. Genl.*

Jas. M. Chute, Esq., Boston, Massachusetts.

THE UNITED STATES STAMP PORTRAITS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—As I now have the opportunity, thinking I may give a little information on one or two points, I take occasion to address you.

The heads on the United States stamps are as follows: 1 c. and 30 c. Franklin; 2 c. Andrew Jackson, the same as on the rebel 2 c.; 5 c. Jefferson, the successor of Washington to the presidency of the United States; 3 c., 10 c., 12 c., 24 c., and 90 c. Washington. The difference in the portraits of Washington arises from the difference of the original portraits from which they are engraved. Thus the 10 c. and 12 c. are copied from the 'Stuart' portraits, the more common and correct likeness; while the 60 c. is derived from the 'Trumbull' portrait.

Of the envelopes, the 1 c. contains the head of Franklin, the 2 c. of Jackson, and the rest that of Washington. These remarks apply to the second and third issues of adhesives, commonly called the '57 and '61 issues, and to all the envelopes of the first issue of adhesives; the 5 c. bore the head of Franklin, and the 10 c. that of Washington.

With respect to the 1 scudo Roman, allow me to state that I recently received from a friend residing in Rome a letter prepaid with this stamp, and this I think proves it is not a 'cardinals' stamp,' as hinted in your May number. The letter referred to was triple weight, which accounts for the use of the high value.

I remain, yours respectfully,

L. H. B.

East Hampton, Massachusetts, U.S.

THE AMERICAN BANK-NOTE COMPANY.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—The author of the paper on Canadian envelopes has said with much truth, that 'the recent reprints in orange, blue, green, red, and all the colours of the rainbow, from the dies in the control of these printers, have done more to destroy confidence and disturb the faith of the philatelic community, than all the invading hosts of the Milan "essays" and continental rubbish' (p. 118). The printers he refers to are the American Bank-Note Company. This company holds the dies of the current stamps of Nova Scotia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Canada, New Brunswick, Mexico, and the United States, and the proofs referred to are of these stamps. The 2 c. United States *proofs* have been for a long time before the world, as also those of the old 5 c. and present 90 c. Lately there has been a fresh issue of other spurious proofs, principally in orange. The Nova Scotian 2 c., 5c., 8½ c., and 12½ c. have been produced in this colour, and the 2 c. has been worked off in brown and black, the 12½ c. in green, and the 8½ c. in scarlet. The two Nicaraguan stamps, and the ½ rl., 2 rl., and 1 peso Costa Rica have been impressed in orange, and the ½ rl. of the latter country in black. The Canadian ½d., 6d., 10d., 1 c., 10 c., and 12½ c. may be procured in orange, the 3d. and 6d. also in black, the 2 c. in green, the 12½ c. in blue, and the 17 c. in no less than four colours—vermilion, green, black, and brown. The New Brunswick 1 c., 10 c., and 17 c. have been done in orange, and the 2 c. in green; even the valuable Connell has not escaped, and those who value a rare stamp in an abnormal colour, may now obtain it for a consideration in blue or orange. To complete the list, even the bighead stamp has been produced in red, brown, mauve, and green; and the new Mexican 4 rls. in dark-brown, scarlet, and green.

These proofs, except to a person who collects everything in any way connected with stamps, are absolutely worthless. They can in no sense of the word be considered 'trial stamps,' and I hope collectors will put their veto on them by rejecting them when offered for sale.

Yours respectfully,

Edinburgh. A. T. M.

THE RED HALF-ANNA INDIA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Mr. Pemberton informed us that the red ½ anna of India was probably an essay, and not made from the same die as the blue ½ anna; also he asserts that the number of the arches on the sides of each is different.

I have a red ½ anna, *undoubtedly genuine*, in my own collection, procured from India by a friend of mine, when that stamp was current, and I, having carefully compared it with the blue ½ anna, find that the number of arches are precisely the same in both, and all the border is identical; but (as Mr. Pemberton states) the head has a few minute differences. I do not know how this is to be accounted for; I think it is most probable that as the red was issued first, the die from which the blue was made was rather worn: I am decidedly of opinion that they were made from the *same* die, and that the red is *not* an essay. I do not think that the fact of one stamp having 'ENS' on it proves it to be an essay, for it may be the end of the name of a town, or the scrawl of a pen through the stamp accidentally having taken that form; in fact, it is *very* probable that for a short time that manner of obliteration was employed. The red ½ anna is a much better executed stamp than the blue ½ anna, and is a much brighter colour than the red 1 anna, and its paper is *perfectly* white.

The following, and doubtless accidental, defects in both blue and red, go strongly to corroborate their being made from the same die; in the fourth and fifth arches from the bottom of both, on the right-hand side, their bodies do *not* touch each other, and are the least bit farther apart than the others; also on the right-hand side, the two arches nearest the bottom of the stamp are imperfect in both, but not so much in the red as in the blue.

I now have given all the information I can concerning the celebrated red ½ anna, and will now sign myself

A LOVER OF RARITIES.

THE LOMBARDO-VENETIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—You courteously ask in a foot-note to some remarks of mine, what I mean in stating that *centesimi* and *soldi* stamps were used at Milan. I admit that the whole paragraph is rather ambiguously worded, but I will endeavour to explain myself. I quite agree that the *centesimi* series was common to both governments while in use, which, as all catalogues state was up to the year 1858, I take for granted is the fact.

If I understand the political consequences of the battles of Solferino and Magenta, the result was the cession of the Austrian Milanese to the kingdom of Italy. This did not, if I recollect rightly, take place till 1859 or 1860. Therefore I would ask, what stamps were used at Milan during 1859, if not the *soldi* series? The other small states—Parma, Modena, and Romagna (if, indeed, this may be called a state),—had provisional stamps during that memorable year; but Milan was, I believe, still dutiful to her Austrian master, and the scheme of a 'United Italy,' as Garibaldi terms it, had then but partially developed itself. I am under the impression that I have seen a *soldi* stamp posted from Milan, but I have not one in my collection to prove it; and if it be a fact that the Austrian Milanese was ceded to Victor Emmanuel in 1860, they could only have been in use about a year, and, therefore, specimens so post-marked would necessarily be rare. You say 'the *soldo* is not current in Milan,' perhaps never was. But a despotic government like Austria would not regard that; and even in England how often do we find articles priced at a guinea, though that coin has long been withdrawn from circulation, and many who use the word guinea have probably never seen one. I know not if a similar instance exist in any other country of the name of an obsolete coin being in common use to represent the value of anything. This, however, is not altogether a case in point with regard to the *soldo* at Milan; still, as the *soldi* stamps were used in Tuscany, and you do not deny their being used in Venetia, I do not see that I have wandered far, if at all, in thinking that as Austria issued a uniform set of stamps for both her governments from 1851 to 1858, so she would continue to do so when the home government adopted the head series, and a new series to correspond, had to be simultaneously issued for her Italian provinces. If, however, I am mistaken, I am quite willing to be corrected.

FENTONIA.

Clifton.

CALIFORNIAN LOCALS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—It is much to be desired that more detailed information concerning the Californian locals should be laid before collectors. I think they might class higher than the ordinary locals, for many of them are, it is my impression, issued by companies to some extent connected with the United States Post-office. But surely one of your numerous San Francisco correspondents can favour us with an accurate account of the history and uses of these interesting stamps.

I am glad to see that you take notice of the Wells, Fargo, & Co. envelopes, which, however, form but a small proportion of those not catalogued. Having myself lately received, direct from San Francisco, several undescribed locals now or formerly in use in California, I take the liberty to enclose a list of them, trusting it may be of service to some of your readers.

I.—*Pacific Stage and Express Company*:—

a. Oblong wood-block engraving of coach drawn by three pair of horses. In label above PACIFIC STAGE & EXPRESS CO.; below PAID. Printed in black on the left of the old 3 c. United States envelope on white paper.

b. Transverse oval border enclosing woodblock engraving of coach and two pair of horses; PAID beneath. Inscription in border PACIFIC STAGE & EXPRESS CO., SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, AUBURN, GRASS VALLEY, NEVADA, EUREKA, VIRGINIA. Printed on the left of same envelope, in black ink on buff paper; in blue on white paper. This Express, my San Francisco correspondent states, was in operation only six months, and is now extinct.

The envelopes of the *b.* division are much rarer than those of the *a.*, particularly the blue on white.

II.—*Wheeler's Express*:—A scroll inscribed PAID WHEELER'S EXPRESS in two lines, printed in black on left of same envelope, on paper of each colour

III.—*Wheeler, Rutherford, & Co.'s Paid Express*:—A scroll inscribed WHEELER, RUTHERFORD, & CO.'S in block, and PAID EXPRESS in roman letters; printed in black on left of same envelope; white paper.

IV.—*Greenhood & Newbauer's Northern Express*:—Lined oblong inscribed in the middle PAID, GREENHOOD & NEWBAUER in old English type, and in label beneath NORTHERN EXPRESS; printed in black on left of same envelope; buff paper.

V.—*Bamber & Co.'s Express*:—Scroll inscribed PAID BAMBER & CO'S EXPRESS; printed on left of same envelope; buff paper.

VI.—*City Express*:— (adhesive stamps).

a. Rectangle composed of plain outside line and waved inner one. In the middle G. & H. PAID, in an arch above CITY EXPRESS, and in two straight lines below 423, WASHINGTON STREET, S.E. COR. SANSONE: blue on white.

b. Similar but smaller rectangle; the figure 5 in each corner, G. & H. in the middle, CITY DELIVERY above, SAN FRANCISCO below; blue on white.

VII.—*Zack's Snow-Shoe Express*:—Large fancy oblong rectangular border enclosing inscription ZACK'S SNOW-SHOE EXPRESS PAID in three lines: black on white. The execution of this stamp (an adhesive I believe) is very coarse, and its queer inscription must throw doubt on it. I received it without any explanation of its use but I am inclined to believe it genuine.

Of the above named, II., III., and IV., I have only seen one each, and do not think they can be in use now. I have seen a great many of No. V., which is much commoner than the other envelopes, and may still be current.

I was rather surprised to find that Mount Brown does not catalogue the LANGTON PIONEER EXPRESS stamp, which was long ago accredited as genuine. It is printed on the left of the old 3 c. U. S. envelope stamp on white and on buff paper. Those on white paper are very scarce. Little care is used in impressing these stamps which are often hardly more than mere blotches. The beautiful HUMBOLDT EXPRESS adhesive stamp engraved in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ii., p. 169, is doubtless issued by the same firm, and is still amongst the unattainables.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
OVERY TAYLOR.

THE STAMPS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As information is so continually being asked for concerning the stamps of the Philippine Islands, I have no doubt that the list which I have recently compiled for my own reference may possess some interest to your numerous inquirers on this subject. The list is founded on the well-known paper on Luzon, by Mr. Herpin, but I have amplified some points, and rendered clearer the distinctions between many of the approximating types, as well as arranged the stamps into divisions, according to their characteristic points of resemblance. In 1855 the well-known stamps with the water-mark of double loops were introduced into the Spanish Indies, and in 1856 they extended to Luzon, and were used there (in addition to existing issues) until the end of 1863. This applies to ½, 1, and 2 reales of the issue known as 1855 Cuban.

I. 1854.—Diademed head of Isabella II. to the right in beaded double oval; spandrils, horizontal lines. Up. col. imp.

(1) CORREOS 1854 Y 55 below, FRANCO and value at top.
1 rl. fte., deep indigo, pale purple.
2 rls. ftes., green (varying).

var. 1 rl. lettered CORROS instead of correos.

(2) CORREOS 1854 Y 55 above, FRANCO and value below.
5 cuartos, orange red; 10 cuartos, deep carmine, pale rose.

§ Engraved on copper-plate, plate of forty stamps, eight rows of five, each separately engraved. The var. 1 rl. occurs once on the plate, 10 cuartos are rarer than 5 cuartos, and the pale rose is the rarest.

II. 1854.—Diademed head, as above, in dotted double circle, crown has crosses. Up. col. imp.
CORREOS 1854 Y 55 above, FRANCO with value below.
5 cuartos, red; (10 cuartos, lilac, query if existing).

§ Lithographed in fours, differing slightly from each other. This is, perhaps, the 'plain-circle' stamp mentioned by some. It is one of the rarest Luzons.

III. —Laureated head in pearled circle to the right, anterior part of bust cut square, spandrils scaly, CORREOS INTERIOR above, FRANCO with value below. Up. col. imp. Back of neck square, hair with two distinct lappets.

(1) 1859.—Hair neither touching the wreath or parting of the hair; no dot after CORREOS. Correos in smaller capitals than the value.
5 cuartos, orange red, vermilion.
10 cuartos, rosy pink.

§ Stamps engraved in batches of four, and electrotyped to make a sheet. The 10 cuartos was used until 1864.

(2) 1861.—Hair touching the wreath and parting; a large dot after correos, and lettering larger.
5 cuartos, vermilion.

§ Stamps engraved all alike.

IV. General design as above, but head different, lettering and scales smaller, engraving better. Back of neck curved, hair with one lappet. Up. col. imp.

(1) Jan. 1863.—One dot after CORREOS, and two after value.
5 cuartos, creamy vermilion.

§ This is the commonest Luzon, and is that usually sold with the 10 cuartos above as a pair. Stamps engraved all alike.

(2) 1864.—As 1, but scales smaller, and pearls in circle much closer. Two dots after CORREOS, and one after value.
5 cuartos, vermilion; 10 cuartos, carmine;
1 real, dark violet; 2 reales, blue.

§ Stamps engraved all alike,

var. (but doubtful), lips of queen thicker, neck thinner, and top of wreath close to pearled circle.
5 cuartos, vermilion.

§ The 10 cuartos, 1 and 2 reales, though engraved, do not seem to have been sent out to Luzon.

V. Design as 1860 Spain, but a coarse lithograph, and different in detail and size. Up. col. imp.

(1) 1863.—1 real plata f., blue green.

(2) Jan. 1864.—As above, but wider.
1 real plata f., pale green.

VI. 1865.—Design as 1864 Spain, but not dated. Up. col. imp.

3½	cent.,	Po. Fe.	black on buff.
6⅔	,,	,,	green on lilac.
12½	,,	,,	blue on flesh.
25	,,	,,	vermilion on flesh.

§ Engraved in 1864 early, but not used in the Islands until this year. 3⅓ cent. Po. Fe. means three and an eight-hundredth of a peso fuerte or peso sterling (as opposed to currency).

Yours faithfully,
Edyburton. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SPATCHEROON.—The 6 pf. 1858 issue of Prussia has no water-mark; the earlier has a crown, and is altogether darker looking.—We have repeatedly stated our opinion as to the admissibility of the Austrian and Venetian complementaries.—The impressions on the Würtemberg accredited envelopes are all of the same size.—Lallier's album has room for many non-existents.—It is a mathematical axiom that the greater includes the less; consequently the dissolution of the Confederation at the end of the war must necessarily nullify its postage stamps.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—The modification in our own fourpenny stamp is noticed in the articles on novelties. This correspondent states his possession of an American local like the one described in our July number, with the oblong printed in black; and that a friend has another in red.

J. M. H., Boston, Massachusetts.—Thanks for your figure and description of a United States local, of which we avail ourselves in our paper noticing new stamps.

M. L. M., Brighton.—You will find the Buenos Ayres impressions, respecting which you desire information, fully described in the October and figured in the December numbers of last year's volume of our magazine. They are again alluded to in the article on the stamps of that country in the January number of the present year. —*Gaucho* is equivalent to cavalier or horseman.

TRAVELLER.—We never heard of any stamps whose value was marked both in oboli and pence. The only impression we can call to mind with two currencies are the ante-penultimate Swiss and some of the Canadas.—Your information respecting the French stamp, for which we thank you, is embodied elsewhere.—We have ourselves seen the Italian revenue labels you describe, but it does not *at present* lie in our province to chronicle stamps *decidedly* non-postal.—We note also your remark on the Italian 20 c.—You will find the Carnes noticed in our August number. We think you are mistaken in dubbing the represented animal a rhinoceros.—It would be well if collectors would make notes, like yourself, of the various postmarks of countries; in process of time the result might form a series of interesting papers.

CORREOS, Liverpool.—We should imagine the Spanish official stamps are procurable at the post-offices. We have no means of ascertaining their monetary value.—There is no black line on *our* 19 cuartos, Spain 1860.

INCOGNITO, Macclesfield.—The current 1¼ of Schleswig Holstein, supersedes those of Schleswig and of Holstein.

NOVICE, York.—We have been informed that the inscriptions on the 3, 6, and 9 kr. envelopes of Würtemberg, and, consequently the stamps, are intended in future to be impressed on the left like the new 1 kr.

MARTIN, Eton.—Our correspondent in Corrientes gave us to understand that the stamps peculiar to that place are now disused, the Argentines superseding them.

Miss G., Exmouth.—The inscription on the set of yellow Badens, means, Inland Postage Carriage Mark.

CORRECTOR.—This correspondent favours us with the information that the Cape of Good Hope stamp, described in our number in the article on novelties, is for receipts.

N. R. T., St. Neots.—We write this in Dresden, yet cannot find a native able to throw light upon the inscription printed on your Austrian newspaper stamp.

JULIAN.—There never was a dentated adhesive Frankfort newspaper stamp.

RUPERT.—Your 20 cent current French certainly looks as if stamped from a new plate. When we get to Paris we can inquire as to such fact.

TIMBROLOGIST, Clifton.—It is not surprising the spiral ornaments on each side the old Belgians have never been noticed, those stamps being almost always so wretchedly disfigured by the cancelling marks.

STUDENT.—Like yourself, we never remember seeing any Bavarians unthreaded.—We replied to our correspondent's question simply as a question.—We do not understand Danish.

X. L., Winchester.—The first series of St. Lucias consists of a red, a blue, and a green stamp. The second is easily distinguishable on actual comparison; not only from difference in tint, which is respectively lighter in each colour, but from the impression having been evidently struck by a different die. The engraving in general, and the lettering particularly, are more distinct. The current series appear from the same die; but the colours are totally distinct. Neither of the former hues appear, and there is an additional individual, value one shilling. Instead of red, blue, and green, the present emission is black, yellow, violet, and orange.

EMMA, London.—It is no marvel that we are ignorant of many timbrophilic facts relative to exotics, when we are almost in the dark as to the history of our own V. R. impression. Perhaps some postal or other official will kindly enlighten us on its rise, progress, and decay.

J. H. N., Reading.—We have the authority of the South American correspondent of Mons. Moens on the identity of the portrait on the existing Argentines as that of Rivadavia. What may yours be for the statement that it represents the present president, General Mitre?

NORMAN JAMES.—Our publishers are allowed to use their ring-encircled stamps. On favouring them with an order for specimens selected or on approval, you will receive one according to the weight of the packet.

B. H.—Your Würtemberg envelope has received colour from the impression underneath; the one described in July, like some of the higher values we possess ourselves, is colourless.

ESSAYIST.—Your Danish Mercury is a miserably executed imitation of the veritable emission.

AZURE.—Your remarks on the Barbadoes blue paper impressions tally with those of Mr. Pearson Hill to the effect of the non-issue of such varieties. The paper may have been porous, and the colour consequently affected the white ground.

PREUSSEN.—Your 1850 Prussian seems merely an old and very faded impression.

UNCERTAIN, Nottingham.—One of your stamps is cut from the often-described Ocean postage envelopes,—a species of advertisement. The other is a Berlin government stamp, not strictly postal.

ISAAC.—We have seen the work to which you refer, viz.:—*How to Detect Forged Stamps*, by THOMAS DALSTON (copies of which may be procured of the publishers of this Magazine). A review of it is in type, and will appear in our next.

SULTAN, Shirehampton.—An importer of the Turkish stamps assures us that the uni-coloured series is intended for newspapers, and that there is also a third series exclusively designed for receipts, &c.

NOTICE.—Owing to pressure of matter, we are obliged to postpone the replies to several of our correspondents' queries until the October number.

An article on Mauritius is in preparation, and any of our friends who possess, or know of the violet Britannia hand stamped, with value, will greatly oblige by forwarding the stamp or the name and address of the possessor to us.

THE QUEEN'S HEAD.

It is the fate of royalty to be caricatured. A hundred wretched portraits of kings, and queens, and princes, exhibited in the windows of petty news-agents and second-hand book-shops, evidence the truth of our remark. No one has suffered more at the hands of draughtsmen than Queen Victoria, though, in her case it is but fair to say that, on the other hand, no great personage has been more indebted to them. In many of the sketchy portraits of the day the queen is still represented in the prime of youthful beauty, and on the majority of postage stamps bearing her majesty's head, the likeness, where there is any, is a flattering one. The home stamps have, for the last quarter of a century, given precisely the same representation of the queen's features: on *them* she still appears untouched by the hand of time, smiling good-humouredly. The same portrait was transferred to the intended 1½d. essay, but for the higher values a new drawing, and a new style of stamp altogether, were thought necessary. The resemblance on these is very slight, there is an over-young, almost childish, expression in the features, differing in this respect very much from the embossed stamps, the heads on which are perhaps the most like of any. The full chin and slightly-projecting under lip, mark the accuracy of the portraits.

The style of the home stamps has much influenced that of the colonial labels,—particularly in the position of the face. Out of one hundred and eighty-six colonial 'queen's heads,' one hundred and fifty-two are turned to the left. But among so many stamps there are several different portraits, though not so many as might have been expected. The twenty-six colonies whose stamps bear a representation of her majesty, employ only three or four firms in England, and one in America, to manufacture their supplies. De la Rue & Co., we believe, print off the greater number. The Hong Kong were executed by them, and to judge from the close resemblance which those of Malta, Sierra Leone, British Columbia, the current Mauritius, and penny and twopenny New South Wales bear to the Hong Kong, they also emanate from the same firm. To this list we may add the ½d. Ceylon, though the diadem on this stamp is peculiar, being formed of flowers in a border; and the 8 pies India, which also has a peculiar crown. The Maltese stamp, which we engrave, will show the peculiarities of this type,—the slightly aquiline nose, and general dignified appearance. All the stamps named in one sentence above have also one kind of diadem.



The South Australian stamps are of a totally different class, not to be compared with that above referred to. The blunt, homely features present a very slight resemblance, and the entire execution is inferior. To this type belong the Ionian stamps and the octagonal Ceylons, and, in a modified degree, the large rectangular 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1s. New South Wales. There is, however, one exception amongst the South Australian stamps, to which we shall immediately refer.



Some of the handsomest portraits of the queen are to be found amongst the West Indian stamps. The Antigua, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, though differing in general design, have all the same style of head. The engraving is remarkably delicate, and the effect is heightened by the shading at the back, which brings out the portrait in semi-relief. This style of portrait is peculiar to the islands above named, and to the 9d. South Australia. In the latter, however, the sombre colour rather injures the appearance of the stamp.



The rectangular Cingalese and the St. Helena stamps are evidently both by the same hand; the engraving is excellent, but the likeness is not perceptible. The somewhat

frigid look with which the portrait is endowed, is quite different from the calm, dignified aspect of the queen, and the long pendant curls have not their counterpart in the reality, or in any other stamps. The portraits on the envelopes of Ceylon, Mauritius, and India are alike, and all equally beautiful.

The old Indian heads have all the roughness and indistinctness peculiar to first and native issues. The current heads are of a quite peculiar style—straight-nosed and insipid.

The type of which the Grenada may be taken as the representative is shared by the Natal, Bahamas (except the 1s.), Queensland, and Tasmania. In all these stamps the portrait is the same though its surroundings may differ considerably in each. The New Zealand and the 1d. Nova Scotia also bear a very similar effigy.



The Canadian and New Brunswick full-face portraits resemble each other, but cannot be put in comparison with the often-eulogised Nova Scotian heads, which are remarkable equally for their beauty and for their correctness.

The Jamaica stamps and the New Victorian are the only current ones which bear laureated heads. The former are particularly tasteful.

The quaintest portraits are, undoubtedly, those on the native Mauritius—reminding us of nothing so much as a milliner's doll; following these come the 5s. New South Wales and the ancient Van Diemen's Land emission. The latter are the only stamps which bear the queen's head to the right.

The Victorian stamps possess amongst them seven different portraits, and the heads on all the laureated New South Wales differ from each other. The 1d., 2d., and 3d. of the diademed series resemble the English 1d. and 2d. most nearly of any of the colonials.

The total number of stamp-portraits of the queen is two hundred and eight; or rather, including those noticed in our 'Newly Issued' article, two hundred and thirteen, of which number twenty-two belong to this country. Though not wanting in loyalty, we wish the number were less; and should be glad to see the colonies generally following the examples of Nevis, British Guiana, and Western Australia in the adoption of some peculiar and distinguishing device instead of the monotonous 'queen's head,' significative only of what all the world is aware of,—namely, that the queen is the ruler of the British colonies.

THE STAMPS OF VICTORIA.

In attempting to form a list of the stamps issued by this enterprising and thriving colony, we feel sure that we shall respond to a wish, more or less developed on the part of every amateur, who has devoted any, even the briefest, attention to the numerous and perplexing questions which are involved; and which to our mind are more formidable than those the stamps of New South Wales so freely offered to any thing like an accurate analysis or classification.

Premising that in our subjoined catalogue and the remarks which accompany, we have selected the most reliable authorities at command, and in no case admitted any stamp in our pages the existence and description of which have not been verified by personal observation and experience, we therefore feel the less hesitation in submitting the following lines to the philatelic community: our errors ought to be those solely of omission, and while it would be chimerical to hope to attain perfection, yet, we have done our best to guard against inaccuracy and to ensure completeness.

FIRST ISSUE.

1852. Queen Victoria seated on a throne placed under an arch; below, TWO PENCE. Coloured impression, large upright rectangle.

2d. brown.
brown-violet, verging at times on purple-brown.
mauve.

Various shades of brown, ranging from pure cinnamon-brown through shades of purple to mauve may be found; but the above three comprehend all we can distinctly

classify without over multiplying our list in the matter of colours.

This type is certainly the earliest postage stamp introduced into the colony, and it was designed for the local use of the town of Melbourne. In assigning 1852 as the date of emission, we do so with some reservation; for we are by no means sure that it was before the commencement of the year 1853 that this stamp first made its appearance.

These stamps are lithographed; and the designing, engraving, and printing are all the work of the colony.

Mount Brown in his last edition (5th, p.p. 92, 93) has divided the stamps of this issue into 'wood-block' and 'die-printed:' although to an ordinary mind it seems difficult to understand a 'wood block' that is not a 'die,' yet, it is probable the author intended to draw a distinction between a wood-engraved die, and one on metal, as copper or steel. Whatever be the meaning of the writer he is quite inaccurate in his assumed distinction. The whole of this issue is printed by lithography, and neither 'wood block' nor any other 'die' was used.

In examining any number of these stamps, one is struck with the great differences and discrepancies between the specimens, especially in the minutiæ and style of the engraving: some appearing to be most carefully executed, every line being as distinct and visible as in the most scrupulous copper plate; others of exceeding roughness, bearing evident marks of hasty execution and worn plates: perhaps to this circumstance the error above alluded to owes its origin, the better copies being classified as 'die-printed.' The original design was no doubt first engraved, and then transferred to the lithographic stones. Probably there were twelve specimens in one row alongside each other engraved in the commencement, and being all done by hand, they present various smaller or greater differences among themselves, just as in the views of Sydney, the Corrientes, the old Luzons, and the New Caledonias similar differences are observable. We believe that the row of twelve thus transferred, was repeated ten times, each below the other on the same stone, only varying the letters in the right-hand lower angles in the manner explained below. The entire sheet would thus comprise ten rows of twelve stamps in each, and be of the total value of one pound sterling.

Following the example of our English stamps current at that time, a letter of the alphabet was placed in each lower angle of the stamp, and these varied, according to the English plan, on each stamp.

Tracking the course of the letters in parallel lines down the sheet, at the left hand we find they begin at the top with, say A (for example); at the left hand, every stamp downwards in the row underneath the first bears that same letter in its corresponding corner; the second row, reckoning downwards, bears B in a similar manner; the third row C, and so on.

The right-hand lower angle is filled by a letter chosen arbitrarily at first, for the top left-hand stamp; follow down the row immediately beneath, and one finds, that, whatever the initial letter chosen to start with, the other letters of the alphabet follow in order; thus, if P were taken, and A—P were the lettering on the top left-hand stamp, the stamp immediately underneath it would be A—Q; the first of the third row A—R, and so on. Similarly the series extends itself laterally along the top row, the lettering would in the case put, run A—P, B—Q, C—R, &c. The following perhaps more clearly shows the plan adopted.

1st row	A—P	B—Q	C—R	&c.
2nd „	A—Q	B—R	C—S	&c.
3rd „	A—R	B—S	C—T	&c.
4th „	A—S	B—T	C—U	&c.
5th „	A—T	B—U	C—V	&c.

Great differences may be noticed in the size of the lettering of the words TWO PENCE, and the small groups of foliage and flowers in the spandrils of the arches vary much in these stamps, as does also the height of the steps of the throne: some compilers of catalogues have given this latter variation as in itself constituting a separate variety, whereas it is only a salient feature by which a variety is distinguished. The impressions from these plates, in their early state, and before they became worn, are usually very good and creditable to the printers. The

paper used varies greatly, some, especially the brown, are found on a paper of considerable thickness and a spongy texture, with a somewhat yellowish tone; others, the brown-violet more particularly, are on a much thinner paper of the same hue. This coloured impression is also found on a thin paper, with a decided blue tone. These last are far from common: their existence is easily accounted for, from the same cause as the views of Sydney on blue toned paper, viz., the difficulty of keeping to one recognised standard in the first attempts of a colony, at so delicate a matter as postage stamps.

The variations in these stamps seem to have provoked a great desire to make separate varieties. Mount Brown, at the page before quoted, makes a double set by giving the *upper part of the throne on white ground* as a distinct kind. Lallier out-Herods Mount Brown, and states 'dull-claret, brown-grey, and brown' as the colours, adding 'in this last the background behind the throne is shaded, in the two former it is white.' This last statement is absolutely and simply untrue. The so-called dull-claret and brown-grey, and indeed every colour and shade of these stamps exist with the background more or less completely shaded. In point of fact as engraved, the shading at the upper part is lighter than that below where a shadow is cast, and in imperfectly-printed copies, and those taken from worn plates, the upper part in some is quite untouched by colour, in others partially so. Some specimens show patchy marks of the original shading, and all discover some trace; even where the paper is least touched, the edge where the shading breaks off plainly reveals that the plate was engraved to show a shaded background extending all round the throne.

The throne itself is worthy of notice; it appears to be a representation of the chair used in Westminster Abbey at the coronation of our sovereigns, and known as Edward the Confessor's chair.

SECOND ISSUE.

Half-length portrait of Queen Victoria, with orb and sceptre; value in words beneath; coloured impression; rectangular; lithographed.

ONE PENNY,	rose.
	carmine-rose (deeper tint than the preceding).
	vermilion.
	red.
	brick-red.
	brown-red.
TWO PENCE,	pale blue-grey.
	ash-grey.
	lilac-grey.
	light-purple.
	light-brown.
	yellow-brown.
	grey-brown.
THREE PENCE,	light-blue.
	deep-blue.
	deep-blue, perforated.

These stamps all bear at their lower angles two letters; but, unlike the precedent type, these letters are constant in each value and do not change.

In the penny the letters are E—W.
In the twopenny they are T—H.
While the threepenny shows E— ?

The second letter in the threepenny is illegible, and after minute examination of some hundreds we believe that it was commenced as a K; the second stroke downwards having been blurred in the engraving, and to conceal the defect a few lines were added to fill up the space, which utterly prevented clear deciphering. Why these various values each adhere to one set of letters is impossible to say; if conjecture is not out of place, might it be the initials of the engraver? or a mere accidental persistence in a design once adopted?

These stamps are all lithographed, and show small differences between each other. The background of the penny series is formed of lines making a watered pattern like that on a lady's *moiré antique* dress.

It is said that examples of the penny, perforated by the roulette, exist; it may be so, but the fact remains, and is acknowledged by the possessor of the instance in question, that no copy of either of the other values is known bearing a like perforation.

Lately we examined nearly five hundred stamps of this series, with this very purpose, and could discover no trace of the roulette in any value, while the possibility of its

application at any period to a stamp, precludes the idea of its official use at the time of issue. For, suppose it to be used for the penny, why not for the two others, especially the threepenny, which continued in general use far later than its companions, and which we only know as perforated by machine in the ordinary way.

It seems pretty evident that the perforating machine must have been applied to the threepence after the roulette had been used, if at all, for the penny: why was not the roulette applied to both? The same necessity for its use existed in the one case as in the other. Until some official information be obtained, we shall avow ourselves unconvinced by the mere production of any specimen which bears the marks of the roulette.

We fear we have given almost too long a list of shades of colours of the twopenny, but it is found in every conceivable hue ranging between the colours we have indicated, and in its perfect unused condition is not very commonly met with. The background is formed of bands of parallel undulating lines inter-crossing at various angles.

The only remarks we need make as to the threepenny are, that examples perforated by machine are frequently to be found, and that the background is composed in the same manner as that of the twopenny, but of another interlacing pattern. Copies of all stamps of this series struck with superabundance of colour are often to be found, and are sometimes incautiously classed as varieties. The series was engraved and printed in the colony.

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

DUTCH INDIES.

There seems some shadow of reason for bestowing the appellation of Luzon stamps upon those common to the Philippines in general, and M. Moens, in his paper on them in the July number of the *Timbre Poste*, rightly objects to such unnecessary comprehensiveness. Luzon is palpably the largest of the group represented; but why the current Dutch Indian label should be usually and arbitrarily designated the Java stamp, in his Haymarket lordship's words, 'no fella can make out.'

We confess to being quite in the dark about the extent or limit of circulation allowed to the solitary emission of the colonies of Holland. The low value, twopence only of our money, would seem to negative the idea of its franking letters home to the mother country; the conclusion might, therefore, be plausibly accepted of its being an interinsular stamp; but it is decidedly not confined to the exclusive use of the island whose name it has usurped, because we have recently received intimation of its doing duty in the Dutch West Indian island, St. Eustatius.

Be this as it may, our immediate province is to follow up the heading of our article by a slight notice of the possessions of the Netherlands in the eastern world. The largest of the islands in which they have more or less extensive settlements is Borneo; next in size is Sumatra; Java ranks but third: the four smaller isles, Amboyna, Banda, Ternate, and Celebes, if inconsiderable in extent of acreage, yet, under the comprehensive alias of 'The Spice Islands,' are famed for their inexhaustible stores of fragrance, so grateful alike to the palate and the olfactory nerves.

It would be supererogatory to enlarge on the civil or natural history of these oriental oases of the sea. Reference to any gazetteer or cyclopœdia will afford every requisite information; and, in truth, except for the sake of introducing a fancy of our own, which will presently come into play, we should most probably have chosen some obscurer locality for illustration in this month's number: still, we may briefly epitomise with a few passing remarks.

If Australia may be allowed to aspire to the dignity of being a small continent, Borneo remains the largest island in the world. Comparatively speaking, not much of it has been yet explored; all the Dutch settlements being on or near the coast. It is marvellously rich in vegetable and mineral

productions. Whoever visits (and who does not?) the many fashionable horticultural exhibitions, cannot help being struck with admiration of the superb Bornean plants, whose *leaves*, glowing with all, and more than all the tints of the rainbow, rival in beauty and variety the *flowers* of other countries. Rich in the treasures of the mine, it has long shared with Brazil and Golconda the triple prestige of the production of diamonds. One of the largest in the world, weighing more carats than there are days in a leap year, is in possession of a native prince of the island.

Sumatra has been bounteously endowed by nature with all the richest and rarest tropical productions; six or seven distinct nations, moreover, in addition to the European settlers, diversify the face of its earth; but this variety of population is toned down by the eternal sameness of day and night, twelve hours of each from January to December. The equator, cleaving the centre of the island, assigns the rising and setting of the sun at six sharp all the year round. Some of the inhabitants are Mahometans; others, heathens and cannibals. The Sumatran Malays seem in a much higher state of civilisation than that people are in the adjacent isles. Of the interior tribes, one lot appears not much higher in the animal scale than the orang outangs; being, like them, covered with long hair. Another interesting tribe allows none of its young braves to marry until he has presented his chieftain with the head of a stranger!

Java, like its neighbours, knows nothing of the variations of spring or autumn, summer or winter. Six months of fair weather, with a few occasional grateful showers, and six months rain, pleasingly varied by a few fine days, is the normal state of meteorological affairs. The glorious uncertainty of our own climate, assigned us, as foreigners say, that we may have topics for conversation, obtains not there. Picnics can be settled without any misgivings as to the weather; and umbrellas, goloshes, and books for rainy days are safe for demand in their due season.

Beauty and fertility are endowments of Java. Coffee, sugar, pepper, ginger, and cotton grow in abundance and perfection. We can bear testimony to the excellence of the first-mentioned article from our personal experience lately in Holland and North Germany, where it seems in general use. Maize yields four or five hundredfold, and most of the tropical plants flourish in profusion. The curious edible birds' nests are exported chiefly for Chinese consumption. The celebrated upas or poison-tree, like many other bugbears, turns out not to be so black as it is painted. Poets and romancers place a single one in the centre of a wilderness formed by its own baleful effects, near which no plant can bloom, no animal dare approach; whereas, in sober fact, the most delicate creeper does not hesitate to avail itself of the supporting trunk of this supposed tree-demon; neither do its friendly branches refuse a refreshing and innocent shade to the weary traveller's head.

The island of Banda and its eight or nine companions are almost exclusively producers of nutmeg and its concomitant, mace. Ternate also grows that same valuable spice. The lovely island of Amboyna is more peculiarly the progenitor of cloves, and furnishes also the medicinal cajeput oil. Celebes, more generally called Macassar, is reported to be the sole grower of the ingredients composing the well-known oil commemorated in Byron's distich:—

> 'In virtues nothing earthly could surpass her,
> Save thine incomparable oil, Macassar!'

The small island Banca, once belonging to the British East Indian Company, but by them exchanged in 1816 for the settlement of Cochin on the Malabar coast, is one of the few terrestrial spots productive of that rare and valuable metal—tin; and the Chinese, for some reason, prefer the produce of Banca to that of Cornwall.

For a considerable period, somewhere about three centuries, these islands were all partially colonized, and virtually ruled by the Dutch, till they fell into the power of the English in the wars of the early part of the present century. On the proclamation of peace, however, they were again ceded to their original industrious possessors.

We hinted in an early paragraph of this paper that a crotchet of our own induced

the choice of the territory here illustrated. It is this:—may not that opprobium of timbrophilic lore, that most tantalizing and mysterious of labels, the titular Dutch Guiana, be an obsolete emission of Java? We have positively no convincing proof, and merely an infinitesimal evidence for this idea; amounting to thus much only, that a friend, unfortunately no collector, some two years since, aware of our timbromaniac propensity, mentioned cursorily having just seen on a letter received by a Dutch merchant from Java, a stamp unlike one he ever remembered noticing, and which, as far as could be comprehended from his imperfect description, corresponded with the impression under remark.

To cap this very meagre quantum of probability we are content to advance the sadly-unmathematical suggestion—*if not, why not?* The fact stands incontestible that the stamp in question, we may say stamps, there being two varieties, have actual and veritable being. We have had them in our own possession, and have seen them, though but sparsely, in albums; this too, long ere the extension of philately had held out any premium for Swiss or Hamburg forgeries. Thus much being granted, it is singular that so scanty a ray of light has ever illumined the obscurity in which this Dutch stamp is enveloped. We give it that designation in all confidence; the inscription, value, and armorial bearings, combining to justify such premises.

The slight occasional notices we meet with respecting this rarity simply mystify the matter more hopelessly. The postmaster of Demerara, in reply to our request for information on the subject, assured us he had never met with nor heard of a Dutch Guiana emission; and, in a recent number of this periodical, a correspondent volunteers similar testimony, adding that he is quite tired of the subject. Again, another correspondent, equally worthy of credit, bears testimony to the reception of a genuine specimen on a packet from Surinam!

In face of these contradictory statements where can we turn for light? Stranger still! we have ourselves recently visited the principal cities of Holland, and, of course, took occasion to broach the topic before several dealers and collectors, none of whom could render us any service in elucidation of the obscurity, and some had never even heard report of such an impression! Hoping and trusting this appeal will elicit something satisfactory, we append an engraving, subjoining a full description of the mooted label.

It is rectangular, black impression on coloured paper, of which there are two diverse tints; rose and lavender. Like the emission of British Guiana, it bears the four figures evidencing the date of issue, one at each corner. Above, POST ZEGEL; the same inscription as on both the current and superseded Dutch stamps; below, 10 C.; value identical with that of the existing Java (so-called) label. Armorial bearings of the Netherlands figure in the centre; a crown and two branches. We fear the well, in the depths of which lies the true history of this stamp, must be unusually deep; yet, the city of Pompeii lay dormant for hundreds, and the source of the Nile for thousands of years: so we need not despair, but may patiently and confidently await the advent of some philatelic Grant or Speke.



The accredited current issue for the Dutch colonies is too well known to need description. It is figured in our number for December, 1863. The stamp certainly does credit to its engraver, and the king to his keep. By way of warning the unwary, we may passingly allude to one of those barefaced essays on credulity palmed off by tricksters as a verity. The impression, lithographed and rectangular, is printed black on buff paper: POST ZEGEL above in a banderole; the arms of Holland, a lion emblazoned on shield, topping a crown, in centre; the figure 2 on the left; letter C (for cents) on right; and below, JA VA!

ONE HONEST GEORGIA POSTMASTER has paid over to the Post-office Department, in greenbacks, the value of the postage stamps he had on hand at the breaking out of the war. This is the only case of the kind which has come to the knowledge of the department.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Ever anxious to secure for our numerous readers early and authentic information on all matters connected with the province of our magazine, we hasten to announce a budget of novelties, such as it does not often fall to our lot to chronicle. And first we have to state that the entire series of rectangular stamps for the Cape of Good Hope is printed, has been sent to the colony, and may be expected as soon as the stock on hand of the old triangles is exhausted.

Those of our friends who have not satisfactorily completed their sets of the triangular stamps will do well to do so without delay, as they must soon become scarce, and eventually almost unattainable in their perfect and unused state.

We would specially counsel great care to be paid to securing copies of the lithograph series, which to our knowledge are fast becoming most rare; the one penny blue and fourpenny rose being practically unattainable.

Resuming then; the new series of Capes runs thus:—

Device, figure of Hope seated on an anchor; a vine to the left; her left arm leaning on a ram: above, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE; beneath, POSTAGE and value in words: coloured impression, rectangular, perforated, on white glazed paper, watermarked C C below a crown.

One penny, red, a carmine hue, somewhat like the current penny English.
Fourpence, blue.
Sixpence, lilac.
One shilling, green.

British Columbia.—The illustration in the margin conveys a better idea of the effect of this exceedingly novel and pleasing stamp than any description.



Within an oval band, inscribed BRITISH COLUMBIA, POSTAGE THREEPENCE; an imperial gothic crown placed above a capital v (for Victoria); within the v the rose: to right and left the shamrock and thistle: the corners formed by the tangents of the ellipse and the rectangle of the stamp filled in with a plaid ground: coloured impression, rectangular, perforated, on white glazed paper, watermarked C C beneath a crown.

Threepence, blue.

Vancouver's Island.—Head of Queen Victoria to left, crowned with a diadem with pearls at the points, in a plain circle: above, in a straight line, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND; beneath value: coloured impression, rectangular, on white glazed paper, watermarked C C under a crown, perforated.

5 cents, red.
10 cents, blue.

In the red the words of the value run in a curved line following the circle containing the head, while in the blue they are straight at the bottom of the stamp.

Bermuda.—At last this group of West Indian Islands has determined not to be left dependent on the stamps of other islands, but has decided on asserting her right to an issue of her own. Certainly the design adopted combines neatness with beauty, and shows the artistic skill of a practised hand very plainly.

The description of the Vancouver's Island stamp precisely applies to this issue; the same engraver executed both at the same time.

Head of Queen Victoria to left, with diadem of pearls in a circle: placed in a rectangle above BERMUDA; below value in words: coloured impression on white glazed paper, watermarked C C below a crown, rectangular, perforated.

One penny, red.
Sixpence, lilac.
One shilling, green.

In the red the words BERMUDA, ONE PENNY are in straight lines, above and below. In the lilac BERMUDA is in a curved line following the circle enclosing the head; while in the green, both BERMUDA and ONE SHILLING are placed in similar curved lines.

We may also state that all colonial stamps without any exception which are supplied from the mother country through crown agents in England, have for some time been printed on paper expressly made for the purpose, and watermarked C C (Crown

Colonies) beneath a crown. The columns of our magazine are hardly open to a legal discussion, but the popular sense of 'dependencies of the British crown' will satisfy the device, without entering into questions of crown law.

Also that the effort is being made to assimilate, as far as possible on every change, the colours of all colonial stamps to that of their proto-types or corresponding values in the issues of Great Britain. There are many cases where this is not practicable, but where it can be done, the standard red for one penny, blue for twopence, green for a shilling, &c., greatly assist in the post-office arrangements, and this is a step, though a small one, in the direction of an universal postal currency for the British empire.

In conclusion, we may add that all the foregoing stamps are designed and printed in England, and have been exported for use to the colonies.

New Granada, or rather Columbia.—There has scarcely been time for a mail to arrive in England since the last issue was completed by the appearance of the 1 peso deep-rose, before we are again called upon to describe new and most singular stamps of this prolific country.

The last issue stands thus,

E. U. DE COLUMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES, round an oval bearing the arms, surrounded by an eagle (*qy.* condor) supported by banners; value below; coloured impression; lithographed on white paper.

5 cents,	orange.
10 cents,	lilac-purple.
20 cents,	blue.
50 cents,	green.
1 peso,	deep-rose.

The shades of colour in the 5 and 10 cents vary much in intensity.

To these was lately added the 1 centavo rose, figured in our magazine last month.

Now come, not 'in order due,'

'Two by two,'

but in no sort of order at all, three new candidates for places in our collections. The first is triangular in shape, the only triangular stamp ever issued for any country of the South American continent.

Device, three scutcheons of arms of the country, united in the form of a triangle; bordered with small fancy pattern, inscribed E. U. DE COLOMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES 2 ; ½ (2½) CENTAVOS, on the three sides respectively. Black impression, lithographed on faint-lavender paper of a rather pinkish hue. This stamp is, we hear, intended for newspapers; we append an illustration in the margin.



The other pair are, firstly,

Device, large roman capital A in a circular wreath of oak leaves to the right, and bays to the left, surmounted by the words E. U. DE COLUMBIA; above the A within the wreath, CORREOS NACIONALES; below, 5 CENTS. Black impression, on white paper, large square. This stamp appears to be lithographed; if so, the execution is very fine. The supposed use is for unpaid letters.

Secondly, *Device*, a six-pointed geometrical figure formed by interlacing two equilateral triangles, comprehending a circle; within the circle a large roman capital R; in each angle a figure of 5; surrounding in a circle, the legend, E. U. DE COLUMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES, CINCO CENTAVOS. Black impression, lithographed on white paper, large square. This stamp is we are informed for registered letters.

These three stamps are of a very singular and odd appearance, so much so as to throw great doubt, *prima facie*, on their authenticity; we are, however, able to state that specimens have been sent to the foreign office by her majesty's acting consul at Bogota, together with the information we have above detailed, so that every confidence may be placed in their really being a genuine issue, by the authorities of New Columbia. We await further details of the use of these stamps, which will be placed before our readers so soon as they arrive.

Denmark.—The series at present under issue has received an accession in the shape of the 2 schilling. The device is the same as that of the 4 s. red, and 16 s. neutral-green. Like its congeners, it is perforated, and printed on white paper, bearing the water-mark of a crown.

2 schilling, blue.

The 8 s. alone is now wanting to complete the set.

Schleswig Holstein.—Whether the Gastein convention merits the universal execration of the Duchies or not, one thing is very certain, the result of the war has been, in a philatelic point of view, a gain. Besides the pair temporarily issued for the Grand Duchy of Schleswig, we have a series of very homely useful-looking stamps, bearing round an oval the legend SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN, and a figure of value in the centre. The past month has witnessed the issue of three of these series, namely;

1½ schilling=1 s. gr., lilac.
2 schilling, blue.
4 schilling=3 s. gr., bistre.

These stamps are rectangular and perforated, and the device is embossed in white relief.

There are at present issued, in addition to the above,

½ schilling, rose.
1¼ schilling, green.

In all, five stamps.

Italy.—We hear from an Italian correspondent that a new 20 cent. stamp may be shortly looked for, in lieu of the provisional stamp in present use. Our informant states the colour will be *brown*.

Sandwich Isles.—A new issue and a reissue for these distant isles both await our chronicle. We will describe the latter first. The old 1 and 2 cents, figure of value surrounded by border bearing the inscription, have been reprinted.

The reprints are, of course, identical with the old stamps, except that they are printed in black ink on cream laid paper; the paper appears to be common English manufactured letter paper; for the entire sheet bears at the top left hand corner the word *Bath*, impressed as one often sees it in note paper. We are inclined to think these reprints were executed, as also the new issue, in the islands. A similar reprint on plain wove white paper has also taken place.

The new issue in all essential features resembles the stamps we have just described; the only difference is the placing of the legend round the border of the stamp. UKU LETA above, value below, INTER ISLAND to left, HAWAIIAN POSTAGE to right; large figure of value in the middle, rectangular, coloured impression.

1 cent, blue } on thickish white wove
2 cents, blue } paper.
5 cents, blue, on thin blue wove paper.

The two former, we are informed, are designed for unpaid letters; the latter, we believe, is only provisionally issued, the old stock with the portrait of the late king being exhausted, and the new die, ordered in New York, not having been yet executed.

Nova Scotia.—A set of essays of envelopes for this country has come under our notice, and we believe we are the first to notice their existence; unless we are misinformed but one or two sets have arrived in England, and it is not likely that more will come.

Queen's head, crowned, with pendent curl behind, to left in circle: above and below, outside the edge of the circle, a small carved band leaving space sufficient for the name of the country and the value. The impressions are embossed in colour at the top right hand corner of envelopes formed of thick cream laid paper without watermark.

Red.
Blue.
Green.

These are the only three colours we have seen and we do not know of more: we can add no further information except that they were designed and produced in America, and we are inclined to attribute them to the New York Bank-Note Company, to whom the credit of the beautiful current issue of Nova Scotia is due.

Spain.—We have also to announce the actual appearance of a stamp whose existence has long been known to certain well-informed philatelists, but specimens of which have never been current. We allude to the 1 real, 1854, arms of Spain, printed on a thin paper with a faintish blue tinge in azure blue. The 4 cuartos, lake pink, of the same issue, is found both on white and on similar bluish paper, both impressions being of the same shade: in this instance, however, in lieu of the deep indigo blue (so deep that Mount Brown called it black), of the well-known stamp, a light cerulean tint has been adopted.

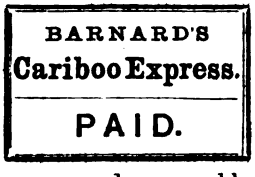
Several sheets of these stamps have recently come to light at the post-office in Madrid; of their authenticity no doubt can reasonably be entertained, and that they are not of the detestable genus of re-impressions is satisfactorily guaranteed by the fact that the die no longer exists, but was converted, years ago, into one with a different design for judicial purposes.

These stamps, therefore, may be classed as proofs; they were never put into circulation, the deep-coloured one on white paper being that which was adopted.

All these specimens are cancelled by three thick black lines, the centre one being broadest, printed across the face of the stamp.

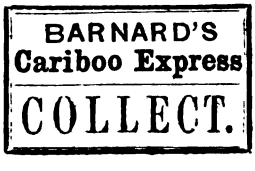
We advise our collecting friends to secure copies without delay for their albums; the present supply can never be replaced or augmented.

An esteemed foreign correspondent has forwarded to us the appended description of some local British Columbian labels and envelopes, which he has just received direct from the colony, and which have not heretofore been noticed.



1. Inscription; BARNARD'S CARIBOO EXPRESS, PAID. in centre; printed in black on orange-red paper, oblong.

2. Inscription; BARNARD'S CARIBOO EXPRESS, COLLECT. in centre; printed in black, on green paper, oblong.



3. Envelope. Inscription above, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VICTORIA EXPRESS COMPANY; below, PAID FROM VICTORIA TO LYTTON OR LILOOET; black, on white paper.

4. Envelope. Inscription above, same as on No. 3; below, PAID FROM VICTORIA TO YALE OR DOUGLAS. Black, on white paper.

5. Envelope. Inscription on scroll in left upper corner. PAID, DIETZ AND NELSON'S BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VICTORIA EXPRESS; black, on yellow paper.

6. Envelope. Inscription in left upper corner. BALLOU AND CO.'S CARIBOO EXPRESS, PAID; surrounded by ornamental square border.

We will now conclude our notes and remarks by a little piece of gossip which may interest some of our readers.

The rarest of all colonial stamps is undoubtedly the 4 cents oblong British Guiana blue; of which only three copies were known to exist. A fourth has recently turned up in a collection formed by a gentleman in South America: it bore the post-mark *Demerara*, was in tolerable preservation, and a fair copy; but the corners were cut, destroying part of the lettering.

This specimen was sold with the collection, and has, we almost regret to say, gone to enrich a continental album. Unless we are misinformed, it fetched *four guineas;* a pretty good indication of the real value of a genuine and rare stamp, even though the condition be far from first rate. We note the above, as we often hear it said the pursuit has had its day, is declining, and the like; we believe on the contrary, that serious collecting and patient research never had so many votaries as at the present time.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—III.

LEOPOLD, KING OF BELGIUM.

Few European sovereigns have gained such world-wide honourable notoriety as Leopold George Christian Frederick, king of the Belgians—the wise ruler of a little kingdom. He is remembered with particular kindness in this country on account of his whilom connection with the royal family, and its sad termination: and stamp collectors must be familiar with his features as portrayed on the Belgian postage stamps. He is of German extraction—one of the Saxe-Cobourg *Sualfield* family. He was born on the 16th December, 1790, and is consequently in his seventy-fifth year.



All accounts agree in representing him as most studious in youth. He received

an excellent literary and scientific education, and at the conclusion of his studies, had the reputation of being one of the best-informed and most accomplished princes in Europe. His sister Juliana having married the Russian Grand Duke Constantine, he was attracted towards Russia, and entered its army in 1808. Although only eighteen years of age, he was made a general, and was present at the battles of Lutzen, Bautzen, Culm, Leipsic, &c. In 1810, however, Napoleon by his menaces compelled him to resign his commission, and he from that time took no prominent part in the struggle of the day, though he was present at the capitulation of Paris.

Subsequently he accompanied the Emperor Alexander to London, and whilst there became enamoured, and won the affection, of the Princess Charlotte, the only child of George IV., then regent. He was naturalised by "act" of parliament, received the title of Duke of Kendal, and an annual pension of £50,000, and on the 2nd May, 1816, married the Princess Charlotte; but his connubial happiness was destined to be brief. On the 5th November, 1819, the princess died in childbed, and her premature death was mourned by the entire nation with a depth equalled only by that shown on the decease of the Prince Consort.

After this sad event Prince Leopold spent many years in retirement, partly in London, partly at Claremont, his mind ripening for the great duties he was yet to fulfil. In his fortieth year, the Greek throne, just raised as the result of the great insurrection against the Turks, was offered to him, and was at first accepted by him under certain conditions. But either the extensive intrigues then on foot throughout Europe and in Greece itself, or else his knowledge that the arrangements made by the great powers for the government of Greece were distasteful to his intended subjects, induced him to decline the offered dignity. However he had not long to wait for a crown.

The Belgians, in 1830, rebelled against the Dutch. The two nations had been united under one government in 1815, by the Congress of Vienna, but the union had been an unhappy one; the interests of Holland having been chiefly regarded. Dutchmen were in most of the offices of state, and they turned a deaf ear to the representation of the Belgian delegates. The upshot was that the Belgians turned out the Dutch, and appointed a provisional government, by which, on the 4th October 1830, the country was declared independent, and freedom of education, the press, and worship, proclaimed. The London Congress, assembled December 10, recognised Belgium; a regent was appointed in the following February, and Prince Leopold, of Saxe-Cobourg, made king on the 21st July, 1831. The Dutch did not acquiesce in the decision of the London Congress immediately, but carried on war against the new country for two years, at the end of which time, it was coerced into an acknowledgment of Belgic independence. This war added Antwerp to Leopold's dominions.

A second war with Holland, however, took place in 1838, in consequence of Belgium refusing to give up Limburg and part of Luxembourg to Holland, as previously agreed. In this case, the great powers exercised a pressure on Belgium, and the war closed by its submission.

The king has since governed his realm with great wisdom. His subjects are divided into two parties, the Liberal and the Catholic. The latter was successful in retaining the reins of power down to the year 1847. Since then the Liberals have been triumphant. But the victories of either party have been peaceful ones. There has been no recourse to barricades, but under the rule of Leopold the country has steadily advanced in prosperity. In 1848, when nearly every European crown was shaken, the king offered either to remain or to abdicate, whichever his people might like. This calm conduct had its effect. No attempt was made to overturn the royal authority, but the cause of order was strengthened.

In August, 1832, Leopold married again, his choice this time being the Princess Louise, daughter of Louis Philippe king of the French; by whom he had issue, the Crown Prince Leopold Duke of Brabant, another son, and a daughter. His second

wife died in October, 1850, and the king has since remained a widower.

The long experience of Leopold in political affairs, his acquaintance with the events of his own times, and his family connections, have rendered him the safe counsellor of monarchs in difficulty. The last occasion on which his skill was called into exercise was in arbitrating between this country and Brazil, in which case he decided against us. Should his rumoured autobiography be published it will be indeed an interesting and a valuable work, throwing a light which no one else can on the secret history of the politics of the last age.

The king is not in his old age without his domestic troubles, if newspaper reports are to be believed. It is stated that during his last interview with Queen Victoria he solemnly charged her to preserve a refuge for his eldest son at Claremont, the home of the exiled French family. The unpopularity of the Crown Prince on account of his conservative principles is given as the reason of this request, but as the second son, the Count of Flanders, is favourably known to the people there is every likelihood of the succession being preserved to the Saxe-Cobourg dynasty.

The portrait on the Belgian stamps—those unjustly-despised labels—is a truthful one. The fine statesman-like face of the old king is clearly shown, and none who look upon it can doubt that it is the face of a great and an honest man.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

How to Detect Forged Stamps. By THOMAS DALSTON. Gateshead: R. Chambers. Bath: Stafford Smith & Smith.

IN most respects this publication will form a valuable addition to the library of the timbrophilist. We repeat, advisedly, *in most respects* because it evidences the bestowal of no small amount of patience, research, and ability on the part of its compiler, and though time will not allow us to follow the descriptions of discrepancies between the true and fictitious individuals, so elaborately carried out, the work bears ample proof, on a cursory survey, that such labour has not been futile.

The principal part of the pamphlet is devoted to the detection of forgeries of bonâ fide impressions; this is succeeded by a page or two cataloguing more audacious impostors under three heads; firstly, pure fictions, as the Jerusalem, &c.; secondly, real stamps, but being designed for bills, receipts, trade-labels, &c., introduced erroneously into collections; and lastly, chemically-changed specimens. A summary of contents in the shape of an index is prefixed.

In such a publication as the one before us, where the variation of a letter even is frequently the distinguishing characteristic of a forgery, more peculiar attention ought to be given to the mechanical department. Some errors, of course, are too palpable, such as the misprint of *expiate* (for *expatiate*, we imagine) in the introduction, to mislead the reader; but the tyro in timbrophily would be puzzled at two or three less easily detected mistakes, which we will specify in a hurried seriatim glance over the whole.

The first glaring blunder, page 8, is in the inscription on the black Bavarian, quoted as 'Bayern Franco *kiu* Kreuzer,' the third word a sad substitution for *ein* the German rendering of *one*. In the notice of Buenos Ayres imitations, the ship series, of which there are extant extremely good and sometimes hardly distinguishable forgeries, are unaccountably forgotten.

Passing on to the Danubian Principalities, we cannot tell whether to blame the writer or printer for stating that none of the Glasgow imitations show the thin stroke which should connect the two thick ones of the H in Hap! An examiner will search in vain for the word Hap either in copies or originals. ΠΑΡ., the abbreviation of *paras* in Greek characters, is evidently meant, and it is possible the writer alluded to the top connecting stroke of the initial letter.

In the remarks on Finland, the forgery of the 20 kop. black, is noted as being of a greenish slate colour. Our impression is that such was the actual tint of the originals, and that the black are reprints. The same holds good for the pair of upright ovals.

Under France, we are told that the V in *purcevoir* is like a U. In Monte Video we learn that the accent is wanting in *centesinias!* In New South Wales, *siegillum;* and soon afterwards *Nie Calidonia* caricature the words intended. The latter erratum is repeated in the index.

Coming to Paraguay, we may observe, that the set stamped with dots and L P, are believed to be veritable essays; but that *no* labels have ever been issued by that government for postal purposes.

The imitations of the early sets of Spanish are not sufficiently enlarged upon. We possess some so nearly identical with the genuine, except in tint, that they are perhaps reprints. In the 1855 officials the C of *official* is represented as touching the I. The tyro reading this, would reject a good stamp on seeing only one *f* in the word. According to the Spanish way of spelling, the consonant *l* is the only one ever doubled, and that at the beginning of a word only, forming, in fact, a distinct letter in the same way as the ff of the Welch language.

There are several *fac-similes* of the Réunion stamps, which ought to have been touched upon as existing, though some of them so closely resemble the originals as to be undistinguishable, except by personal comparison, the very paper used being identical. We have a returned letter label of Würtemburg which must be fictitious if our author is correct, as, though corresponding in all other respects with the reality, it is printed on *white* paper. We have *seen* the forgery of the Corrientes, mentioned from hearsay in the *Addenda*, but it is not sufficiently well executed to deceive the general public.

Under the head of fictitious stamps, the Austrian crosses, for which we always stand up, are called complimentary, as if destined, like the rare old Polish envelopes, for franking visiting cards, &c.; and the Bavarian 'outsiders' figure as 'tribers,' whatever that may signify.

Messrs. Spiro, of Hamburg, ought to be, and doubtless are, extremely obliged to the author for his frequent use of their name, thus affording them a gratuitous advertisement. If those gentlemen achieve *notoriety*, we imagine they are not particular of what kind it may be, provided they can sell their productions.

In our remarks above, we beg to be understood as criticising in a friendly manner. The errors are, generally speaking, merely spots on the sun, and we hope the rapid sale of the present edition, will necessitate the publication of a second, when the misprints and other errors we have denounced, may receive due correction. Hoping ere long to meet with our author again, we take leave of him, with best wishes for the success of his essay.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

Postmaster-General Regan is now the only one of the Confederate leaders kept in close confinement.

Mr. Mulready received the first prize of £200 for the design of the envelope now known by his name.

The Woodblock Luzon Stamps, we are informed by a Spanish gentleman, were the work of a negro engraver.

The Dies of the large old Brazilian Stamps were destroyed in the year 1861 by order of the Postmaster General.

The Canadian Stamps were first issued in the year 1851, and not in 1856 or 1857, as stated in several catalogues.—*Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette.*

A Cotemporary states that 5 c. stamps are about to be issued for Belgium, and are intended to prepay letters to towns situate within thirty miles of the place of posting.

The British Post-Office at Buenos Ayres, for letters forwarded by English residents, is attached to the consulate. English stamps of the value of 1d. and 1s. are the only ones used, the former being employed for newspaper postage, but it is optional to prepay the postage or not.

How Stamp Collecting commenced.—It has been stated that the first collections of postage stamps were made in the schoolroom of a Paris tutor, who suggested that his scholars should obtain the stamps of foreign countries and place them on the blank pages of their atlases—where they would serve to assist them in their geographical studies.

Minding His Own.—We remember an Edinburgh tradition to the effect that on the occasion of a fire at the post-office, a voice was heard, with a nasal twang in it, shouting to the firemen, 'Play on the Kirkintolloch bag!' The poor fellow had posted a letter directed to that town, and it naturally was to him the supreme point of interest in the conflagration.

A 'Registered' Handstamp similar in all respects to the postmarks is now in use at the London District Post-offices. The outer circle of the stamps encloses the inscription registered s. w. d. o.—South Western District Office (or otherwise as the case may be), and in the centre is the date. The impression is made in the right hand upper corner of the envelope on payment of the registration fee.

A Post-office Machine.—Any one who sees the letters and papers piled up every night at the London Post-office, would be inclined to fancy that it would take a week's work only to get everything in readiness for a start. Well! two hours later these masses of written or printed paper take their flight to all parts of the known world, being carried to the various railway stations in small red-painted carts. It is true that mechanism comes to the assistance of hands; a Jacob's ladder, that extends through all the floors, is constantly engaged in ascending and descending, bearing with it men and packages. It is very curious to see the steps of this ladder appear at every moment, as if in an English pantomime. At first the feet of a man are visible at the ceiling, then his entire body is gradually displayed, until he disappears again beneath the boards, and is soon followed by another. Each step of this double staircase, which is animated by a rotary movement, reaches the ground floor of the building in its turn, then moves a step forward, rests on the ground to give the men time to remove the sack it bears, and then proceeds of its own accord to another part of the ladder, when it ascends again.—*English at Home.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNKNOWN RUSSIAN STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—The stamp mentioned in your September number, and about which you ask the question, 'Can you tell us what it is?' is Russian, and, I believe, a *postage* stamp. I have one similar to the one engraved in your magazine, and another blue with a ground of diagonally-crossed pink lines; it is much like the pink one, the difference being that the eagle is above the steamship, with P on the left side, and O on the right of it: below the steamer is H. N. T. in an oval. Both mine are unobliterated; they were sent to me by a friend from Alexandria, as 'Russian postage stamps.'

Hoping this may be of some use,

I remain, yours respectfully,

King's Teignton. W. C. G. F.

THE HONDURAS STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Having read the description of the Honduras stamps contained in the August number of the *Stamp-Collector's-Magazine*, and compared it with the stamps themselves, I did not feel quite satisfied therewith, as the design does not appear to me to be so anomalous as it might do at first sight.

I derive from an examination of the stamps the idea that the legend DIOS UNION Y LIBERTAD explains the design: thus, there is the triangle for DIOS; the two castles connected together by the arch signifying UNION; and LIBERTAD being designated by the Cap of Liberty surrounded by rays, resting on the conical mountain: the sea in the foreground representing the Bay of Honduras.

As, no doubt, other philatelists as well as myself like to know all the particulars to be obtained as to stamps, I beg leave to trespass a little further on your space, to ask those collectors who may be learned in Arabic or Turkish if they would be so kind as to translate the legends of both the old and new series of the Turkish stamps for us; I myself, and, I have no doubt, many others would be glad to receive this information.

I remain, sir, yours truly,

Westminster. W. E. H.

THE HISTORY OF THE V. R. OFFICIAL.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—Observing that in last month's magazine you expressed a wish for information respecting the V.R. penny postage label, I hasten to send you the following. The V.R. penny postage stamps are stamps printed from the first plate engraved, and were intended, I believe, to have been issued to the Government Department for the purpose of defraying the official postage; the V.R. being inserted to distinguish them from the ordinary labels, so as to prevent any one using them for his private correspondence. They were never issued, as it was ultimately determined to allow official letters to be franked by the signature of the dispatching officer. Some few of these stamps, however, were printed, and some cancelled, in order that experiments might be tried with several kinds of obliterating inks which had been suggested, and a specimen which has been mentioned to me as cancelled with concentric rings is one of these.

The sixpenny and shilling embossed stamps without date, and the tenpenny stamp, were all adhesive labels, and, to the best of my belief, never were printed on envelopes.

The penny embossed envelopes without any colour, are simply imperfect accidental stamps. In embossing the envelopes, sometimes by accident two are put into the same machine at once, the upper one of course receiving the ink, though both get embossed. These spoilt ones are always destroyed at the stamp-office if detected, but occasionally one or two get overlooked and come into the hands of the public.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

General Post-office. PEARSON HILL.

THE FRANKFORT STAMP, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

Dear Sir,—The reason for my considering it a moot point whether the Frankfort stamp should be included in collections or not (see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August 1, 1865, page 127) is that this stamp is not used exclusively for the prepayment of postage, but also for the payment of a duty on newspapers, which is still levied in the town of Frankfort. The Austrian 'Mercury' stamps should, I think, decidedly be admissible in albums, as they are used exclusively for prepayment of postage, but I do not think that the same thing applies to the 'arms' newspaper stamp. It was only lately that I discovered the use of these stamps. Whilst staying at Vienna a short time ago, I received an English newspaper (the postage of which was prepaid) and on examining the cover, I found on it not only the sufficient number of English stamps, but also a brown 2 kreuzer newspaper stamp of the 'arms' issue of Austria. I was told that this stamp indicated the amount of money required in payment of the duty on newspapers, which has not yet been abolished in Austria. You will see by this, that these labels (for the same thing, of course, applies to the 1 and 4 kreuzer stamps) are not at all used for postal purposes.

The letters H.R.Z.G.L. on the Holstein stamps signify *Herzoglich* (ducal), and the letters F.R.M. on the first and F.R.M.R K. on the second issue stand for *Freimarke* (postage-stamp) schilling C.R.T. means *Schilling Courant* (the currency of Schleswig-Holstein), S.R.M. means *Skilling Rigs Münze* (a Danish coin), and S.L.M., *Schilling Lauenburger Münze* (Lauenburg currency), 1¼ Schilling Courant, or 4 Skilling Rigs Münze, or 1¼ Schilling Lauenburger Münze, is the equivalent of an English penny.

Ostend, Belgium. F. L.

THE NEW MOLDO-WALLACHIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Dear Sir,—As Mr. Pemberton asserts that there are no differences between the earlier and later printed new Moldo-Wallachian stamps except such as arise from the latter being more 'strongly printed,' I beg to enclose for your inspection three varieties of the 2 paras and two of the 20 paras, in proof of my statement that 'the new Moldo-Wallachian stamps have been re-engraved, or else are engraved from more than one die; that is to say, that not only is each value separately engraved, but that there were two or more dies of each value differing from each other.

On comparing the first-named varieties, you will see that there are three colours; yellow-ochre the first issued, and light chrome yellow, and orange which I received at the same time, and which are, I believe, cotemporaneously issued, and alike in every respect but colour. You will also see that between the first issued and the other two, there are several differences, notably in the size and position of the corner figures, and generally of the letters of the words forming the inscription, and in the outline of the oval disc. The hair at the side of the head is also curled in the later emission, whilst in the earlier, it is straight and inclining to the left.

In the 20 paras the lines forming the background in the first issue are much finer and closer together than in those lately printed, and there are also the differences between the expression of the countenance in the two issues referred to in my letter in the July number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

The two varieties of the 5 paras which I cannot now put my hand on, present similar though slighter differences.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
OVERY TAYLOR.

[On examination of the various specimens illustrative of our valued correspondent's communication, we have much pleasure in endorsing all his remarks thereupon.—Ed.]

'NO NAME' AGAIN!

To the Editor of the 'Stamp-Collector's Magazine.'

Sir,—As the possessor of the anonymous individual above referred to, I may be able to add somewhat to the information contained in your last month's article thereon.

I obtained this stamp by exchange from Mr. Thornton Lewes about four years ago. He had it from a native of Van Diemen's land who guaranteed its origin, and, certainly Mr. Lewes himself did not appear to have any doubt about its being a genuine affair.

In addition to this certificate of birth, the stamp has on its face the precise obliterating mark of the Tasmanian stamps; and the head of the Queen, far from resembling that of the St. Helena or South Australian issues, is strikingly like that on the first issue of Van Diemen's Land; though, unlike the penny and fourpenny, it turns to left. Mauritius is the only other country the portrait on whose earlier stamps resembles the one in question. Both Dr. Gray and M. Berger-Levrault have seen the 'tenpence,' which was also closely examined by M. de Saulay and a party of collectors at Paris, and compared (as to the obliterating mark) with genuine *used* stamps. The result was an universal expression of opinion in favour of my nameless friend. It is worthy of remark that in colour it corresponds with the tenpenny English, and, nearly, with the tenpenny Ceylon. After having myself read an *official* denial from the Cape of Good Hope of the existence at any time in use of either blue penny or red fourpenny, I do not think such disclaimers of much worth: still, I am rather disposed to think that the 'tenpence' may, after all, have only been a *proposal*. I should add that there are on two sides of the stamp portions of other obliterating marks, but whether it was an envelope or adhesive I know not.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,
London. W. H. H.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sydney.—Your stamp is apparently a miniature copy of the five-shilling label, perhaps designed, like the well-known dwarfed French 10 centimes, &c., for a price mark.

Ετεοψλης, Rugby.—The stamp you describe is a French receipt label.—Your description of the hand-stamp of our English Admiralty is quite correct. We believe we have formerly expressed our opinion that it may with propriety be included in a legitimate collection of postage stamps.

R. T. S.—Most probably when our first-class collectors have raised their collections to a satisfactory state of completion, they will turn attention to such stamps as the one you specify, inscribed, TREASURER OF VICTORIA.

E. C. W.—The inscription K. K. POST STEMPEL is denotive of an Austrian stamp, whether in Austria Proper, or Venetia.

R. W.—The price of a cancelled specimen of the red ½-anna of India being a guinea-and-a-half, the sum of three guineas may be a fair price for one unused.

Alice.—The C. Van Diemen stamps of Hamburg were issued in the summer of 1864, and an engraving of the 1 schg. was given in No. 19 of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

Novice, Ryde.—Touching the Irish Petty Sessions' stamps, which, by the way, are handsome, well-engraved labels, we are as much a novice as yourself. We understand, however, that they are still current, and surmise that they may be used as receipt stamps for court fees.

H. H. H.—Many thanks for the stamps you kindly forwarded, and which are elsewhere noticed.

J. J. B. M, Edinburgh.—We think that not only the Würtemberg, but all envelopes ought to be placed uncut in albums; they may be either fixed by the adhesive tongues, or confined by bands.—The work on forged stamps reviewed in our present number, and that of Messrs. Lewes and Pemberton, will be your best guides for distinguishing the reality from the pretence.—French stamps at present are employed on letters from Egypt to certain quarters.—We repeat our opinion that all stamps franking letters are admissible by the timbrophilist.—If newspaper stamps are included by a collector in his album, the stamp you allude to is a decided variety.

Henry Benson.—We suppose the Livonians had not attained the privilege of representing their arms at the date of publication of Lallier's third edition.

B. K. T.—The information you require you will find in the article entitled 'Timbro-postal Statistics,' at page 60 of the present volume.

R. D.—Having examined the stamp you refer to with a strong magnifying glass, we still incline to the opinion that the date was 1863.

A. M. D.—Your inquiry concerning the history of the V. R official we are happy to be able to answer more satisfactorily than a similar question to which we replied last month On reference to our Correspondence column, you will see that Mr. Pearson Hill has favoured us with an authentic account of that rare and valuable stamp.

POSTAGE-STAMP DEVICES.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Both amusement and instruction are derivable from the devices which beautify, or 'uglify,' our favourite study—stamps. Great variety is found amongst them, representations of a number of bipeds, quadrupeds, and other animals are given, together with emblematical figures, mythological deities, and inanimate things. Giving the preference to the human face divine, we will turn our attention to the portraits of the goddess of liberty, whose head appears on the emission of the French Republic. We give an engraving of it, and need, therefore, say nothing of its appearance: its appropriateness is patent. Whether the portrait is strictly in accordance with mythological tradition; whether the head should have been encircled with a wreath formed of ears of corn, from which should hang a bunch of grapes, we know not, but incline to believe that the author intended by those ornaments to typify the prosperity which follows on free government.



A full-length effigy of the goddess is given on the beautiful Liberian stamps; and also on the stamps of Trinidad and Barbados, and the old issue of Mauritius, where she appears with her proper accompaniments, her rod and cap; though in placing the latter on her head the engravers have not copied from the ancient statues. In those which stood in the temple erected for her worship on Mount Aventine, she was represented holding in one hand the rod, and in the other the cap. Both these articles have a particular meaning. The rod was used by the magistrates of Rome on the manumission of slaves, and the cap was worn by the latter on their obtaining liberty—only free men being permitted to cover their heads. The engravers have also given the goddess a shield, and placed a ship in full sail on her left—additions which commend themselves.



We are aware that in all catalogues the figure on the Barbados, Mauritius, and Trindad issues is stated to be Britannia; but we submit, with all deference, that this statement is incorrect. We have shown that both the colonial and Liberian portraits are endowed with those emblems which appertain to Libertas, but we think that they have been mistaken for those which belong to the tutelary deity of England. The rod or spear has been looked upon as the equivalent of the trident, and the cap of the helmet which is always Britannia's head dress. Any one, however, provided with the requisite copper, will, on comparison, see the various differences between the effigy represented on them and that on the colonial stamps. On the coins Britannia is represented *seated* on the shield; her position is different from what it is on the stamps, her drapery is disposed in a different manner, she has no chain round her neck, and she is surrounded by water. The sole resemblance is in the two shields, each of which bears the eight-rayed cross upon it, though the one on the stamp shows it very faintly.

Moreover, there is greater reason, we think, why the colonies should adopt the figure of Liberty than that of Britannia for their stamps, seeing the large measure of freedom they possess: of which Britannia is not, in itself, symbolical. We advance our views, however, with diffidence, having but lately found reason to doubt the correctness of the common opinion, and are still open to reconversion.

The heads and caps of liberty on the numerous South American stamps are indications of the spirit which animates, or has animated, the nations of that continent. All the independent republics of the present day were once part and parcel of the Spanish colonies, and hard and long-continued struggles were needed to free them from the yoke of an effete monarchy. By the inhabitants of those vast regions, therefore, liberty is appreciated, and its emblems are placed upon their stamps and flags.

Buenos Ayres has a tolerably good 'head,' and Corrientes an intolerably bad one; whilst

the Argentine Republic was content with the cap on its old issues, and the New Granadians continue to exhibit this emblem. It is, however, an exercise of faith to believe that a cap is intended to be represented on any of these stamps.

Mercury, the swift and sharp, has hardly received the attention which might have been expected. He appears, appropriately enough, on the stamps of the country where of old he was worshipped; and Austria patronised him for one series of newspaper stamps. But no other country has placed a representation of him on its stamps, though Spain makes use of his *caduceus* as a corner ornament in its 1860 issue.



The Grecian series of stamps has always received the highest praise for its beauty; on these Mercury, or, to use his Greek title, Hermes, is drawn with a Grecian profile, but on the coarse Austrian stamps he is represented lacking a god-like appearance—with a rough Roman nose and coarse plough-boy features. The winged cap, called *petasus*, which in these stamp portraits adorns his head, was given him by Jupiter; and by its aid, coupled with that of the wings (*talaria*) on his feet, which he received from the same source, he was able to pass with the utmost swiftness through heaven. If need were, he could make himself invisible, and he was permitted to assume any shape he liked. His rod, the *caduceus*, he received from Apollo, in exchange for the lyre which he had invented. The top of this rod with its two wings, symbolical of diligence, is drawn in the left lower corner of the Spanish stamps of 1860, and is the portion most appropriate to be shown, as the serpents which twine around the lower part are typical of mercantile prudence only.

There are, we believe, no other deities represented on postage stamps; but those to whom we have referred furnish instances of the information which may be derived from our favourites. The majority of stamp devices remain to be noticed, and we hope to continue our remarks on them next month.

'A CHOICE ASSORTMENT WITHIN.'

THE following timbrozeteal adventure, if not true, yet very likely, and rather amusing, appeared a short time since in Maury's French magazine.

'Sir,' said a customer of ours the other morning, entering our place of business, 'I have just met with a wonderful piece of luck: 'twas scarcely fair to go elsewhere, but you know collectors must look everywhere; and rummaging about, they sometimes get wonderful bargains where one would least expect: look here now; only this very morning I had the curiosity to enter a cigar shop, close by, on my way to your place.'

He went on to say that after having looked over several sheets full of nothing but common stamps and falsities, he came upon something worth having, which the poor shopkeeper little thought he had for sale. He then asked me how much I wanted for a 600 reis Italic Brazil. I told him from 15 to 20 francs. And for a 90, large figures? I said that depended on the condition of the specimen; say from 10 to 15 francs.

'And a blue provisional Naples, with the three legs, the horse, and the lilies?'

I replied that such a stamp, at present, was so exceedingly rare, that I thought neither it nor the others he mentioned could be met with at a tobacconist's.

'Well, you are just wrong, there they were, and the proof is, that for the trifling sum of half a nap., I bagged them, and, at this very moment, here they are snug in my purse!'

I assured him he must have been taken in; but was told to look first at the Neapolitan. There was no need of a microscope to discover that *that* was false. He owned he had had his doubts about it, for 2 francs was a low figure for such a rarity.

'A fictitious stamp,' I remarked, 'is not worth 2 centimes; moreover disgraces an album, and proves how green must be its owner.'

'What about this Brazilian 90, then?'

It seemed to me right enough: genuine stamps, at first glance, prove their authenticity before anything of a judge. Still

there seemed a peculiarity about the cancelling mark, which looked unusually dark. We thought it might have been blacked for some purpose, and sending for warm water, soon detected the state of the case. Lo and behold! a nice piece of trickery—the figure nine gently detached itself from the rest of the stamp, and floated solus on the surface of the water!

My friend could not comprehend why a portion of the stamp had been cut out purely for the sake of sticking it together again; but I soon unravelled the mystery for him, and explained that the apparent 90 was really a 60, scarcely worth a third part of the other. The fact was, the figure six had been neatly cut out, turned upside down, and made to do duty for a nine; a little Indian ink had been used to darken a few suspicious places, and the trick was done!

'What barefaced swindling! But look at my 600; there is no doubt at all about that, and you told me yourself it is very rare. I bought it for a real *fac-simile*.'

I saw directly it was a photograph, and asked him how he could have been so silly as to buy it. He replied he thought a fac-simile was a sort of rare variety, and owned it was the first time he had ever heard the word mentioned. Upon this I had to explain, what I thought every body knew, that fac-simile was only another word for imitation. The unlucky amateur had fancied it was some technical term, like obliteration, for instance, and added that he might as well have thrown his 10 francs into the street.

I advised him to go and make a formal complaint at the police-office, and the knavish vendor would soon be compelled to refund: in fact, I had myself been obliged to take that step not many days past.

Such a swindle, however, for various reasons, is not prosecuted as it ought to be, people being disinclined to the trouble attending the necessary formalities. If the victims would but boldly resist the imposition, and appeal to the authorities, the vendors of forged stamps would find themselves as amenable to justice, as the baker who uses false weights, or the grocer that adulterates his coffee with chicory.

ODDS AND ENDS.—II.

BY FENTONIA.

LUXEMBOURG.—At page 32 and also at page 48 we are told that the Luxembourg stamps only do duty in that part called the Grand Duchy, viz., in that portion of the old duchy of Luxembourg which, in 1831, when the ten southern provinces revolted from their allegiance to the king of the Netherlands, and became the separate kingdom of Belgium under the present venerable king Leopold, was allotted to the old monarchy, henceforth to be called Holland. This part was still to be called the Grand Duchy, while the seceding part was to be called the province of Luxembourg. The reason why these stamps are only used for home consumption we are not told; but no doubt it is, that as the Grand Duchy is only a province of Holland, it is obliged to acknowledge its allegiance by using for all international postage the stamp issued for the kingdom at large.

It does not generally strike collectors that the sour-looking visage, turned towards the left, depicted on the old Luxembourg stamps, is identical with the equally uncomfortable-looking countenance, looking to the right, so well known to us on the obsolete Dutch stamps; yet so it is. The Grand Duke William of Luxembourg is none other than king William III. of Holland. The fact is incidentally mentioned at page 3 of last year's magazine, and might perhaps by a little stretch of the imagination be inferred from the opening remarks in Dr. Viner's able paper (page 19) on Luxembourg, county, duchy, grand duchy, and province. By-the-bye, we do not agree with the writer on 'German Princes and Postage Stamps,' who asserts that '*since* the partition of the grand duchy between Holland and Belgium, the arms of the province are represented instead of the grand duke's head.' Surely the partition of Luxembourg was decided on at the Conference in London in 1831, and finally settled by the Treaty of London, signed April, 1839—a year before postage stamps were adopted, even in England. The real reason for the change may probably be found in the following

paragraph, which appeared in a London paper in the autumn of 1863. 'Most of the continental postage stamps which were formerly illustrated with the likenesses of the rulers, have now the arms of the countries substituted instead of the heads.' Thus the example of their greater neighbours, rather than political motives, may have caused the change.

Nova Scotia.—Our slender botanical knowledge is sadly overtaxed to discover the distinctive name of the 'may-flower,' which a writer from Nova Scotia assures us is the original of the fourth emblem on the old Nova Scotian stamps. The name is of course only associated in English minds with the Hawthorn (*Cratægus oxycanthus*), the haws on which are this year so abundant that, if they tell truth, we are to have a very severe winter. In desperation we jumped to the conclusion it might be the May-apple (*Podophyllum*), a North American plant long known in England, but on glancing at a representation of it the idea at once became untenable. Till Mr. Taylor, in 'Notes on North American Colonial Stamps,' threw a doubt on the subject, we were happy and contented with Bellars and Davie's information that it was the tobacco plant. Tobacco is or was largely manufactured in the neighbourhood of Halifax, but whether cultivated on the island or imported from 'old Virginny' we have been unable to learn. There were some fine specimens of the tobacco plant (*Nicotiana tabacum*) lately growing in front of a neat cottage not far from the convent on Durdham down, near Clifton. The four upper leaves of these enormous plants exactly resemble those on the stamp, and the blossom is sufficiently like, certainly nearer to nature than the stereotyped heraldic rose which occupies the opposite corner of the design. Bellars and Davie's mistake, if it be one, is therefore highly excusable. Had we hazarded a guess ourselves we should have said the device most nearly resembled an apple blossom, for which Nova Scotia is celebrated. The apple orchards are very productive, and are said to extend along the road side in an unbroken line for thirty miles! However, in deference to one writing from the spot, we accept the theory of the mayflower, and should be glad to know why the Acadians selected it for their badge, and if there be any legend connected with its adoption.

Greece and Spain.—In vol. i., page 113, allusion is made to what is not inaptly termed the *whiskered* Mercuries. It has not we believe been noticed that there is also a complete set of whiskered Isabellas, differing even more widely from the unwhiskered series than those of Greece. The unwhiskered Mercuries have lately received the epithet of 'Paris-printed,' but as in both instances the soft series preceded the harsh features, we should fancy that in both cases the cause was the same, viz., that the die becoming somewhat worn, the engraver attempted renovation, and by so doing rendered the lines coarse and heavy. We admit both sets into our album, and as the earlier Isabellas are on different tinted paper the variety is more apparent than in the Greek stamps, the paper of which is in both sorts much the same.

Madeira.—Various inquiries are made for Madeira stamps (see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ii., p. 79), and at p. 64 of this year's magazine the editor ventures a supposition that Madeira uses the stamps of its own country (Portugal). Letters from thence to England are prepaid in the old-fashioned way, and are hand-stamped *packet letter;* and if the following extract from the *Fortnightly Review* be correct, there is little probability that the label system has been adopted for internal postage.

> Wintering in Madeira.—The invalid who contemplates spending a winter in Madeira must bear in mind that he is about to submit to self-imposed transportation to an island in the midst of the Atlantic, six hundred miles from the nearest port of communication in Europe, difficult of access, and still more difficult to escape from; to an island which the waves of civilization have not yet reached, where there are no resources of amusement or recreation for mind or body; where there is no society, no literature, no subject for conversation save sickness and death; where communication with home is unfrequent and uncertain; where everybody is indifferent to the great public questions which may be affecting Europe or America; where there is nothing to excite interest, no public question to discuss, no science to attract; where, in a word, there is only apathy, indolence, and stagnation.

The Canary Islands.—Though it is presumed that Madeira has not yet attained

to the privilege of postage stamps, this supposition does not apply to the Canaries mentioned in the same sentence as Madeira, at p. 64, as probably using the stamps of the mother country. Such proves to be the case; and we possess a Spanish stamp of the '64 issue which is beautifully postmarked *La Palma, Canaria, 7 Jul.* 64. The Canaries belong to Spain, as Madeira does to Portugal.

JAPAN.—It is reported that there will soon be a set of stamps for Japan. Perhaps it is not generally known that the Hong Kong stamps are now used at Jeddo, the capital of the island of Niphon, and at Nangazaki, the capital of the island of Kiusiu, which are the principal if not the only ports of the Japanese empire at present open to Europeans.

THE UNITED STATES.—The letter from L. H. B., of Massachusetts, identifying the portraits on the United States stamps, is not only particularly satisfactory as coming from the other side of the Atlantic, but is also confirmed by the *Times* of August 8, 1862, which, in the Special Correspondent's letter, dated from New York, gives exactly the same account. Dr. Gray and Bellars & Davie both vary in their catalogues; while Mount Brown, more cautious, merely says, 'heads of various designs,' which assertion certainly cannot be gainsaid.

THE STAMPS OF VICTORIA.

(*Continued from page* 149).

A WORD in explanation of an ambiguous sentence in the previous part of this paper. The half-length portraits do not, it is believed, differ among themselves in stamps of the same value: thus all of one penny are from identical plates; and so of the threepenny. The exception intended to be referred to, occurs in the twopence only; copies of which may (but very rarely) be met with having the bordering wider than in the ordinary stamps, showing that two different plates were in use for this value. These specimens are of a dark-brown lilac tint, and are easily recognized.

THIRD ISSUE.

Queen Victoria, full length, enthroned; above, VICTORIA in a curved band; POSTAGE on the step of the throne; VALUE in words below.

ONE PENNY, green.
SIXPENNY, blue.

Printed on paper water-marked with a six-pointed Brunswick star.

We have tried, and in vain, to discover an approximate date for this series! the dies are of steel, and were, we believe, engraved in England. The printing also, unless we are deceived, is English, and the stamps were exported ready for use abroad. The watermark in the paper which was, at the period when these stamps were current, in use for nearly all our colonies who had their stamps supplied from the mother country, tends strongly to confirm our information. A proof in black on plain paper, without watermark, of the one penny exists, but it may probably be regarded as unique; only one copy is known, and that has never passed out of the post-office, and its existence is not noted in any catalogue with which we are acquainted.

Mount Brown gives a proof in black of the sixpenny; Berger-Levrault does the like on reddish paper. Many black copies do unquestionably turn up, most of them *postmarked:* in all these last, more or less of the original blue is traceable, and the black is either the result of sea water, accidental, or *designed* change. As to the proof itself, we are not aware of its existence, other than from the sources above detailed: it may possibly exist. As to the majority of alleged examples, one test will at once decide: does the star-watermark appear? if so, that is conclusive against the specimen being a proof, that paper was only used for printing the stamps. Of course, as to postmarked black sixpennies, they carry their falsity on their face.

We are further inclined, on grounds sufficiently noted below, to attest the authenticity of the stamps perforated by the roulette, the existence of which some of our contemporaries assert; both stamps of this issue are found thus perforated.

FOURTH ISSUE.

Head of Queen Victoria, crowned to the

left; VICTORIA above; POSTAGE on the left; STAMP on the right side of the head; value in words below; coloured impression; rectangular.

SIX PENCE, orange-yellow.
reddish-brown.
TWO SHILLINGS, blue-green.

Octagon, enclosing a circle, inscribed VICTORIA, ONE SHILLING; queen's head, with plain band to left.

ONE SHILLING, blue.

This series exists perforated and unperforated. The one shilling blue is typographed; as are all the others of the series. The paper on which they are printed is plain.

In 1861, however, for some reason to us inscrutable, from the above die of the sixpenny was printed in black a set of stamps, on paper bearing SIX PENCE in the watermark; these stamps were perforated.

SIX PENCE, black.

About the same period were also issued the *too late* and *registered* stamps. The use of the former was to prepay an extra fee for the special late despatch to the English mail steamer; the latter, to pay the registration fee on letters to England Both stamps are printed from identical dies; the former in lilac of a delicate tint, the latter in rose-pink.

The device is queen's head crowned to left; VICTORIA above; POSTAGE to left; STAMP to right; a curved band above; a straight one beneath: rectangular. On plain white paper, upper corners cut out in a curve. The words ONE at left, SHILLING at right in the corners under the head, inscribed in microscopically minute characters, Moens' illustration is very accurate in this respect, showing it most clearly The *too-late* stamp was completed by adding in green letters, on the upper band, TOO LATE, and on the lower, SIX PENCE.

The *registered* had the words REGISTERED, ONE SHILLING, printed in blue ink in the corresponding position, and a blue line bordering round the whole stamp. Proofs of the die before the addition of the second colour exist, printed in lilac; but are of extreme rarity and great beauty.

FIFTH ISSUE.

1859. Crowned head of Queen Victoria to the left, in an oval band; inscribed, VICTORIA above; VALUE below; bouquet of rose, shamrock, and thistle each side of the head; the four corners filled by small emblematic groups. Coloured impression on white paper, rectangular.

Series with the star watermark in the paper: not perforated.

ONE PENNY, green.
deep-green.
FOUR PENCE, deep-red.
rose.

These stamps and all the succeeding types of the colony, are die printed. This series is found perforated both by the roulette and by the ordinary machine. The emblems placed at the four corners are very interesting.

Above is a cow suckling its calf on the one side; and on the other, a vessel in full sail: beneath, a palette and brushes, with a T square and compasses on the left hand; while the fourth corner bears the spade and pickaxe, and other implements of masonry and toil. The design shows a happy combination of agriculture, commerce, labour, and art, solid elements in the material and visible progress of this most promising offshoot of our old Anglo-Saxon stock.

Series on plain paper, not perforated.

ONE PENNY, green.
TWO PENCE, light-lilac.
FOUR PENCE, rose.

This series also exists, perforated in both manners.

Series on laid paper.

ONE PENNY, green.
TWO PENCE, violet.
FOUR PENCE, rose.

The lines of the paper in this series are as often horizontal as vertical, and the stamps are always perforated either by the roulette or the perforating machine.

Series watermarked with VALUE in words at length.

ONE PENNY, green.
TWO PENCE, lilac.

The existence of a fourpenny rose has yet to be proved, but it is extremely probable that it exists. In this issue are to be met with some of those curious and interesting specimens, which give a special charm to the

pursuit of the philatelist, and grace his collection. In using the watermarked paper, the printers have made various mistakes, and stamps from the TWO PENCE die printed on paper watermarked THREE PENCE are to be met with, as well as other similar errors. From this series all the stamps of the colony are perforated.

The last stamps of this issue were printed on paper watermarked with a figure of the value, formed by one single line.

TWO PENCE, brown-violet.
lilac-violet.
violet.

The shades vary extremely in different specimens.

SIXTH ISSUE.

Head of Queen Victoria, with diadem to left, in oval band, divided into two rings; the inner ring pearled, the outer bearing VICTORIA POSTAGE above, value in words beneath; an oval on each side displaying the value in a figure, angles rounded, edge undulating. Coloured impression on white paper, rectangular.

Series value in watermark in words at length.

THREE PENCE, azure-blue.
deep-blue.
FOUR PENCE, rose.
SIX PENCE, yellow.
orange.
grey-black.

The sixpence orange is of extreme scarceness, and such a thing as an unused copy is hardly to be met with, probably the black sixpence almost immediately supplanted it, hence its rarity.

Series on plain paper.

THREE PENCE, blue.
FOUR PENCE, rose.

Paper watermarked with large figure of value, drawn by one single line.

FOUR PENCE, rose.

Laid paper.

THREEPENCE, blue.

We also possess a fourpence, rose, of this series, watermarked diagonally, with the words at length, 'five shillings.' This watermarked value corresponding to that of no stamp used in the colony for postal purposes, has given occasion to many conjectures. The most plausible, according to our way of thinking, is to regard it as the end stamp of the row; the watermark being that of the value of the entire row: for we know fifteen stamps went to the row in the sheet, thus forming a total of 5s. The diagonal direction of the watermark also appears to favour this idea; all the values being in straight lines with the stamp.

ONE PENNY.

In 1862 a stamp of this value was issued, head of Queen Victoria to left, crowned, in oval band; inscribed VICTORIA ONE PENNY; corners filled with undulating interlacing lines. Coloured impression, rectangular, light green.

ONE PENNY, green. This stamp is found on paper, watermarked as under.

A. plain paper.
B. ONE PENNY.

1863. C. figure '1' drawn by single line.
D. figure '1' drawn by double lines.

C. is found in two distinct shades of green, light and dark.

Mount Brown catalogues the penny green with emblems in *black*, and this penny in *chocolate*. Both the stamps from which he made the above discoveries have been examined by us; they each show traces of the original green, the main body of colour being destroyed and altered by some foreign agency. Suffice it here to say, these stamps as catalogued never existed.

SIX PENCE.

A unique type of the value of sixpence also exists; it was issued in November, 1862, and is very like the stamps of the sixth issue, except that the band is in one division, not two, and bears POSTAGE in lieu of Victoria postage, in much larger letters; the figures at the sides are also much larger.

On paper watermarked SIX PENCE.

SIX PENCE, grey-black.
black.

On paper watermarked figure 6, drawn in one single line.

SIX PENCE, grey-black.

On ordinary paper.

SIX PENCE, black.

SEVENTH ISSUE.

1863-64. Laurelled head of Queen Victoria, to left in a circle; VICTORIA above;

VALUE in words beneath. Coloured impression, rectangular. Paper watermarked with figure of value drawn by a single line.

ONE PENNY, emerald-green.
TWO PENCE, lilac-violet.
FOUR PENCE, rose, light and dark.

1865. EIGHT PENCE, bright orange-yellow. Probably a threepence blue, and a sixpence black will appear and complete the issue. The design seems taken from the head of the queen on the new bronze coinage of Great Britain.

There also exists a fourpence of this issue printed on paper watermarked with a large figure 4 formed with double lines: the hue of those thus watermarked is a deeper rose than usual; and we believe they were the first printed from the die, and that the other is the later watermark.

1865. Two shillings. Printed with the same die as the two shilling stamp of the fourth issue, in deep blue, on paper of a greenish-yellow colour.

TWO SHILLINGS, blue.

1865. One shilling. Head of Queen Victoria to left, crowned with laurels, octagon. See illustration in margin. Printed in deep blue on blue coloured paper.



ONE SHILLING, blue. This stamp has made its appearance quite recently.

OFFICIAL STAMP.

There lastly remains to be noticed an official stamp, in use in the colony, and of which an engraving appears in the margin.

In a plain circle the arms of Great Britain, surmounted by the crown and supported by the lion and unicorn; VICTORIA FRANK STAMP below; while the upper portion is encircled by the name of the particular department of the executive using the stamp. The impressions are struck by hand on the letter in blue ink; and we believe each department has, and uses, its own separate die. The impression is, unlike our English *official paid*, obliterated by the ordinary mark at the post-office just as any other stamp, and, therefore, the precise equivalent of this frank stamp appears to be neither more nor less than the printed departmental style, found on English official envelopes, together with the authenticating signature of the functionary who sends the letter.



Being itself obliterated in the post-office, it does not rank in the same category as the English *official paid*, which is stamped in red and affixed only at the post-office on all letters entitled to go free; nor is it exactly the well-known V.R. black queen's head, which, during its brief currency, applied to all official correspondence, inasmuch as the use of the stamp under discussion applies only to the official correspondence of the particular department using the special stamp. In addition to that on the specimen engraved, we have seen and noted the following legends on these stamps,—

'Chief Secretary.'
'Minister of Justice.'
'Commr. of Public Works.'
'Commr. of Railways and Roads.'
'Commr. of Trade and Customs.'
'The Treasurer.'

No doubt others exist.

The introduction of these stamps is comparatively recent, and we believe we are correct in assigning the latter end of 1863, or the beginning of 1864, as that of their first use in the colony.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WE introduce the accompanying engraving of one of the early Hanoverians, to call our readers' attention to the following catalogue of so-called proofs, or rather fancy stamps, congenerical with the same. We had, ourselves, an opportunity of witnessing the pleasing effect of a complete collection of these fascinating humbugs in the album of a Viennese amateur not long since, and could not help admiring them, notwithstanding a mental disclaimer.



The 1-10, 1-15, and 1-30 thaler are *each* printed in blue, rose, black, yellow, or brown on white, with shield either of the same colour or black; brown with a black, or black with blue, rose, or brown shield. Also in black ink, on blue, rose, or brown paper; and the 1 gut. groschen black on drab, and rose, blue, and yellow on white. The 2 groschen (head) figures black on white, brown, blue, rose, and light and dark green paper; the 1 groschen, madder on green, and blue or black on a drab ground and the 3 pf. in yellow on white. Finally, the Bestellgeld Frei horse prances in blue, green, black, or rose; and the ½ gr. horn, appears orange on white paper.

Our next figure is that of one of the recent issues for the Sandwich Isles, which



were described page 154 of the present volume, and of which we did not receive the die in time for due publication. The distinction between this stamp and former emission of the same type, will be readily apprehended at a glance.

The adoption or rejection of essays being a moot point, but a large majority of amateurs giving them place in their collections, we shall continue to take notice of all that fall in our way. One of the latest claimants of attention is a proposed design for Persia. What a strange and retrograde state of civilization forces itself on view in this instance! Upward of twenty centuries ago Cyrus the great is reported to have been the first to institute a system of posts; and now, after the lapse of so long a period, his representative on the throne, proves almost the last of civilized monarchs to fall in with modern improvements on his predecessor's institution!

In the August number of a Parisian journal, we read that General Hadié-Mohsin Khan was charged with a commission from his highness the Schah of Persia, for the execution of some postage stamps; and in Moens' magazine for September, we learn some of the results of the mandate.

M. Riester (well known as the designer and engraver of several recent postal essays, one of which, that for Bolivia, has been already re-



produced in this magazine, and another, intended for Moldo-Wallachian adoption is here annexed) prepared a suitable stamp for the approval of the Persian government, and intrusted the same to a friend to be submitted to its Paris representative. An influential member of the government promised his patronage and interest. After waiting six months without reply, the author decided on presenting his stamp himself. By return of post his projected essay was returned to him with a letter, in which great astonishment was expressed that he should have taken the liberty of engraving a stamp for Persia without the authority of the government; and that, moreover, a type had been ordered. Now it appears that this adopted type is very suspiciously like that proposed by M. Riester. That gentleman has prudently destroyed his die; and perhaps it was well he did so, or he might have been, at some future period, charged with selling counterfeits.

Engravings of M. R.'s designs may be now seen at the Exposition of Industrial Fine Arts in the Champs Elysées at Paris. If we remember aright, there are forty varieties, consisting either of five different colours on eight variously tinted papers, or a vice-versâ arrangement. We describe the stamps from specimens before us, and we understand the few remnants of the original impressions are still procurable for collectorial purposes.

Horace's motto, '*simplex munditiis*,' seems to have been the designer's aim. The Persian lion—behind which rises the sun in full glory, and a space below, intended doubtless for the monetary value—occupies a central oval. Between this and the rectangular boundary is a tasty engine-turned ornamentation. We intend introducing another of M. Riester's designs for our subscribers' inspection next month.

Resuscitations are to the earnest philatelist amongst his most interesting acquisitions, and we have the pleasing duty of cataloguing a veritable addition, in shape of a long-buried American local, which we describe

from the specimen before us, and concerning which, we are informed from a trustworthy source, that the proprietor, whose name it bears, carried on a private postal business twenty years since, in Brooklyn, and has but recently discovered the long-mislaid die of the stamps he employed. It is to be concluded from this, that the present impressions are reprints; but it would be more satisfactory could some of the originals be found. The stamp is oblong oval; black on green glazed paper; centre shows jockey on horse sharply trotting, and kicking up a cloud of dust behind, enclosed in a double irregular octagon, labelled KIDDER'S CITY EXPRESS POST, 2 CENTS, with a feeble attempt at an ornamental floral design.

For a much more valuable resuscitation, our publishers are indebted to the communication of a Barbados correspondent, who gives the description of a hitherto unknown twopenny of the first issue of the island. Its appearance answers in every respect to that of the well-known green or blue, but the colour is the dull-slate of the shilling stamp. It has been long disused; the value (which, not being facial, is of course traditional) being no longer required. This interesting rarity, we are sorry to add, passed into the hands of a German amateur, in exchange for some other stamps and the tempting bonus of three sovereigns.

The following description of the Wurtemburg envelope essays (also resuscitations), referred to at p. 122 of the present vol., is from the pen of a distinguished town collector:—

'WURTEMBURG.—It has long been a known fact among those of the philatelic community who have with care investigated the records of their favourite pursuit, that in 1850 when a postal issue was first designed for Wurtemburg, it was intended to comprise envelopes as well as stamps, and that the government engraver was desired to furnish a design for the purpose. It was further known that the design had been made, and a die engraved, from which some six or eight sets of impressions were taken, in various colours, and that these were submitted to the king and ministry. A set of these essays was to be found in the royal private library, and the rest of the impressions remained with the original recipients, and with the post-office authorities.

'The expense of production, it is believed, was the reason, but, at all events, from some cause or other, the issue of envelopes was postponed, and the die converted to another use.

'Two sets of these essays have lately come from the hands of their original possessors to friends who value them as only amateurs can, and we believe one set is in an English, and one in a French collection. For the reason above stated, no reprint or re-impression can be made; and therefore these essays are practically unattainable, and of the highest interest and value. For the benefit of our readers we proceed to describe them:

'Circular impression, coloured ground, device in white relief, arms of Wurtemburg surmounted by a royal head-piece and crown, supported by crowned lion and stag, with motto; figure 3 immediately beneath, with value DREI KREUZER in words; above, following the line of the circle, KON WURTTEMBERG' SCHE FREIMARKE. The size of the die is triflingly less than that of the new penny-piece. The impression is struck at the top left-hand corner of the envelopes, which are of different sizes and shapes; the paper is plain, and bears printed above the stamp, in two lines, in German characters and black ink, WURTTEMBERG' SCHES POST COUVERT DREI KREUZER. They were struck in the five following colours, viz.:—

Yellow,
Carmine,
Blue,
Green,
Bistre, or red brown.

The engraving is very fine and beautiful; indeed almost too fine to stand the wear and tear envelope dies must undergo; but at that period, the manufacture of envelopes was not so well understood as at the present day. The general effect of these envelopes is extremely beautiful; far superior to the matter-of-fact figure now exhibited by the issue in use.'

The last remnant of barbaric type, the queer little shilling Victoria, having survived every one of its fellow-countrywomen,

and, we believe, all other Australian impressions, has retired into private life; and henceforth enjoys the *otium cum dignitate* of collectors' albums, secure from the wear and tear of transit over Atlantic billows. Like other dear departed ones, we suppose it will now rise in estimation and value; and many, like ourselves, will regret they could never summon resolution to invest a shilling in an unused copy. The new substitute is an improvement, yet still a reminder of its predecessor; the octagonal design, and square shape almost peculiar to itself remaining as before. This we rather hail, as a relief to the eye from so many 'dittos repeated.' It is printed indigo on French grey: legend similar to the last; but our queen's head, as we take it for granted the representation professes to portray, though not such a comic caricature, is quite as bad a likeness as before. It is something similar to, but not identical with that on the current issue, the nose being much more *prononcé*, and about as unlike her majesty's as possible. A partial change has rather improved the two shilling stamp of the same colony, which now appears indigo on a yellowish tinted paper.

Before the original Vancouvers pass into equal retirement, we would remind those amateurs who distinguish varying hues, that there are two distinct ones (whether accidental or not, we cannot say) of these once *recherché* stamps; some sheets being of a rosy, others of a rich light red-brown hue. We take occasion here to contradict on authority the canard emanating from some continental magazines, and repeated by ourselves, respecting forthcoming Prince Edward's Island novelties.

A Mexican addition has made its *debût* in Paris, same type as the current series, red-brown impression, value tres centavos. All the present Spanish series are now perforated. The 12½ centimes of Luxembourg, answering to the German silbergroschen, has received similar improvement; the others are to follow in its wake. What choice philatelist has not sometimes mourned the disfigurement of an otherwise perfect specimen owing to the holes of perforation entrenching on the device? This is frequently seen in the Guianas and Liberias especially, and we have noticed Prince Edwards sadly disfigured by the dismemberment of one quarter of the impression! The plan adopted for the Luxembourgs not only counteracts this misadventure, but adds to the effect of the design. The sheets of stamps are marked with coloured lines for the guidance of the perforator, the remains of which form an ornamental dotted framework.

There remain for notice the appearance of a mauve Danish stamp of a new value—3 skillings; a rose-lilac 2 annas India replacing the yellow; the change of the fourpenny rose-red (no value marked) of Barbados into brickish-red; and the Ceylon twopenny, at length perforated, and altered from emerald to a dingy dark-green; and finally, the information received by our publishers from their Hamburg correspondent, that the Duchy of Schleswig and the Duchy of Holstein, will each produce on the first of November new stamps of the following values and colours—

½	schilling	green.
1¼	„	lilac.
1⅓	„	rose.
2	„	blue.
4	„	brown.

THE GAUCHOS.

'A MAN is never astonished or ashamed that he don't know what another does, but he is surprised at the ignorance of the other in not knowing what he does.'—SAM SLICK (Judge Haliburton).

WHO or what is a gaucho? is a question frequently asked since the gaucho stamps have become known to fame. A cavalier, is the reply. True, inasmuch as he is a horseman; false, inasmuch as he is a most uncavalier sort of individual. The gauchos are equestrian rustics, of simple and hardy habits; in fact, the principal peasantry of Buenos Ayres. They are whites; that is, descendants of the original Spanish settlers, and may be considered a fine type of the Spanish-American population. They live exclusively on the pampas or treeless plains of Buenos Ayres. Their wealth consists principally of horses and horned cattle, the hides of which are annually exported to London and Liverpool in large quantities. They live entirely on beef, and drink little else but water.

Vegetables or game are no luxuries to them. The gaucho wears a jacket of coarse cloth or sheepskin (sheep are more numerous with them than formerly), and breeches of the same material open at the knee. His boots are without seam, being drawn without ripping from the hind leg of a horse, the angle of the hock joint forming the heel of the boot. His *poncho*, or mantle, is a square woollen cloth with a slit in the middle to admit the head. A coloured cotton handkerchief is tied over his head, and surmounted by a wide straw hat. His ornaments are spurs with immense silver rowels, silver buckles to fasten his garments, and the handle of the knife which he carries in his belt is generally studded with silver.

The women dress very like the men, but are delighted to add a bright-coloured shawl to their costume. The *rancho* or hut of the gaucho is constructed of sticks interwoven with osiers, and plastered with mud. The internal arrangements are equally simple. Cows' horns are their drinking vessels: a small space paved with sheeps' trotters serves for a hearth: while horses' skulls form their stools. They sleep mostly in the open air; therefore, even when obliged to seek the shelter of their huts, any sort of bedding or bedstead would probably be despised. The gaucho lives almost entirely on horseback, galloping over the plains, collecting his herds and droves, taming wild horses, or catching and slaughtering cattle, in doing which he manifests a wonderful dexterity in the use of the *lasso*, or noose. Though essentially wild and uncivilized and possessing all the sentiments of the savage, he is one of the proudest and most independent of mortals. His spare time is spent in gaming or smoking. He cares little for social development or political progress, the charms of uncivilized life being infinitely preferable to him.

THE VICISSITUDES OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

(*Continued from page 54.*)

In our April number we remarked on the transmogrifications of the Italian now doing duty for the 20 centesimi. We find from a Milan amateur's letter in a Parisian journal, that he has identified a further variety characterized by eight additional points, so that this, as yet, unrecognized individual may be termed the dozen-dotted variety.

The only apparent interpretation for the presence of these dots, of which the lately apprehended eight are not so distinguishable as the original four, is that another mishap necessitated a further repair in the existent plate. They have been detected in the 15 centesimi stamp, both in its normal and present condition. We understand from another source that two of Messrs. Delarue's workmen actually went to Italy to apply the requisite cancelling and adapting brands to the stamps under observation!

The interloping dots may be observed in the left hand upper part of the stamp between PO and after E, and on the right between AL and below the letter N. In the left hand lower part, between the letters UI and also the CI; and on the right, between the EN and under the first I in centesimi. The numerous varieties of this Protean label may be thus classed:

15 centesimi . . pale blue.
„ . . darker blue.
„ . . four-dotted.
„ . . „ value increased.
„ . . twelve-dotted.
„ . . „ „

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The British, Continental, and American Stamp, Coin, Crest, Autograph, and General-Curiosity Collector's Magazine, and Journal of the Bridlington Amateur Association. Bridlington: The Amateur Association. Preston: The Curiosity Society.

If this publication can obtain a list of subscribers at all commensurate with its length of title, and an amount of success proportionate to the scope proposed, its promoters may be congratulated on their literary enterprise. The four pages of interesting and valuable autographs, are well worth the month's subscription; and the opening article on coins will repay perusal, though slightly disfigured by misprints; but it falls

more particularly under our province to note the lion's share of the magazine, devoted to timbrophilic purposes.

The first article touching on purely postal matter is entitled 'Notes on German stamps and their forgeries;' and gives a satisfactory *resumé* of the subject treated on, seasoned with cautions against, and concluded with strong animadversions on the sale, purchase, or admission into collections of the sundry forgeries commented on. This, neverthless, is rather inconsistently capped in the advertising compartment, by the tempting bait to unprincipled speculators and dealers of a large quantity, at low prices, of these rigorously proscribed pariahs, under the meretricious nom-de-guerre of fac-similes!

The bane and the antidote, however, are closely connected; immediately succeeding this objectionable announcement, there being the notice of Mr. J. M. Stourton's new work on *Postage-Stamp Forgeries*.* This we have not yet had an opportunity of seeing, but knowing that gentleman's long experience in, and enthusiastic additions to philately, we take its collectorial value for granted.

Many other advertisements, the number of which tends to prove some alarmists' jeremiads on the decadence of stamp collecting perfectly needless, together with an article on newly-issued stamps, reviews, and other matter, fill up the dozen pages composing the work, of which we take leave for the present with best wishes and anticipatory congratulations.

There now lies on our table for examination, the proof sheets of the French translation of a well-known postal catalogue, —the trusted guide and vade-mecum of German collectors; the publication of which, in a more generally understood tongue, will doubtless prove a valuable boon to the English timbrophilic community. A still more desirable addition, however, to our stamp literature, would be an English edition of this valuable work; but we presume we must be content to study it through a French medium for the present.

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* [This work we have just received, but too late for review in the present number.—Ed.]

HOW MATTHEW MIGGS BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR.

O stamp collectors, list to me! a pleasant tale I tell
Of a nice young man, named Matthew Miggs, and his lady, Clara Bell;
How their acquaintance did begin it matters not to know,
But Miggs was quick at making love, and Clara was not slow;
And as a natural consequence full soon 'their troth was plighted,'
(Whatever that may mean), and Miggs was ardently delighted:
But something now between them comes, his confidence it damps,—
She spends too little time with him, too much on foreign stamps.
Expostulation's vain; for she, absorbéd in her Moens,
Heeds not her faithful Matthew's sighs, his comings, or his goin's.
At length, 'Come, Mr. Miggs,' she said, 'that we should part is better,
I would not wed a man who my pursuits would so much fetter;
So visit me no more, unless you think my stamp collecting
Is worth the time I spend on it, the trouble of selecting
Fine specimens from dealers' lots;'—she ceased, and Miggs departed;
And ('tis a fact that suits the rhyme) he was quite broken hearted:
He tried books, cricket, travel, chess, and many a cure beside,
But found how vainly to forget his Clara Bell he tried;
So he resolved to gather stamps, and win her back again,
And therefore bought the *S.-C. M.*, and read with might and main;
Then, well instructed, he bought well, and got a fine collection,
Feeling for what he once despised an earnest predilection:
He filled his album, and the more he gained the more he wanted,
And of his rare and costly stamps he not unjustly vaunted.
One day, his V. R. from its place he joyfully removed,
And sent it with the following note to the being whom he loved:—
'Dear Clara, my existence' light, my angel, darling, sweet!
I hope that your affection is yet far from obsolete;
Believe me, I have mourned my loss, and hope we ne'er shall part,
If once more you'll accept me; for th' impression on my heart,
Made by you, is, I assure you, still quite unobliterated.
And in conclusion, I must say, if we're not quickly mated,
By my own hand, my wind pipe will be badly perforated.'
Now Clara Bell could not resist the prayer the note contained,
So to her loving Matthew, 'until death,' she soon was chained:
And now not far from Blanktown, 'Connell Cottage' may be seen,
Of which Mr. Miggs is monarch, and Mrs. Miggs is queen;
And, take my word for it, they have a fine stamp album there,
Which is studied and perfected by the young and loving pair;

And I'm sure, to a collector, they would show it any day,
So, timbrophilic friends, call in, should you ever pass that way.

TYROLA.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

LAST YEAR, as appears from a blue book, the charge for postage of public departments amounted to £136,300.

THREE HUNDRED CONNELL STAMPS are now, according to a contemporary, being exhibited at the office of the American Bank-note Company, New York.

THE BELGIAN POSTAL STATISTICS prove that carelessness in epistolary matters is not confined to our side the channel. We read in the *Independence Belge* that during the month of July, no fewer than 4853 letters, from various reasons, could not be transmitted to their respective addresses; and that only 3274 of the number were able to be returned to their writers: the remaining 1579 are still lying unclaimed at the various offices.

SOUTHERN POSTAL DIFFICULTIES.—The people both in Georgia and Alabama complain of the want of postal facilities, and although the Postal Department re-opens offices as rapidly as it can, it does not keep pace with the wants of the South. The great trouble arises from the difficulty of re-opening post routes. There are more obstacles in the way of a mail from New York to the interior of the South, than will be found between New York and China.—*Times.*

STRANGE, IF TRUE.—A French paper not long since stated that a vessel laden with powder, and on the point of starting for Liberia, blew up, and amongst the *debris* was a packet of unobliterated Liberian stamps, pronounced by a collector present at the time [we hope he was not too near when the explosion took place], to be forged. They were directed to the English consul. Inquiry into the circumstance was directed, but the result has not yet been made public.

POST-FREE.—A few weeks ago, Mr. Scudamore, now Senior Assistant Secretary at the Post-office, found an old volume among the records of the establishment, containing entries relating to 1703, and two or three adjacent years; and this shows what sort of things were franked through the over-sea packet post in the early days of Queen Anne's reign:—'Three suits of cloaths for a nobleman's lady at the Court of Portugal. A box containing three pounds of tea, sent as a present by my Lady Arlington to the Queen Dowager of England, at Lisbon. A case of knives and forks for Mr. Stepney, Her Majesty's Envoy to the King of Holland. One littel parcel of lace, to be made use of in clothing Duke Schomberg's regiment. Two bales of stockings for the use of the Ambassador of the King of Portugal. A box of medicines for my Lord Galway, in Portugal. Some parcels of clothing for the clothing-colonels for my Lord North's and my Lord Gray's regiments. A deal case with four flitches of bacon for Mr. Pennington, of Rotterdam.' Living beings were franked as well as lifeless commodities:—'Eleven couple of houndes for Major-General Hompesch. Fifteen couple of houndes, going to the King of the Romans.' But to carry human beings by post was the crowning achievement of all:—'Two servant-maids, going as laundresses to my Lord Ambassador Methuen. Dr. Crichton, carrying with him a cow and divers other necessaries.' We are not told that Dr. Crichton and the cow were stamped before being posted; at all events we do not imagine that they had postage stamps affixed to them.—*Once a Week.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE IRISH PETTY SESSIONS' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I think I can give a little further information as to the use of the Irish Petty Sessions' stamps. They are put on warrants, informations, and summonses; the *green* being used by the civil authorities, and the *pink* by the police only; and in all cases where the police use them, if there is no conviction, the stamps are not charged for, so that the police have to furnish a return of the profitable and unprofitable stamps, which I should suppose is a complicated way of doing things peculiar to Government.

I do not find any other use for these stamps.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
Killarney. R. D.

THE BUENOS AYRES CURRENCY.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As there appear to be various opinions with regard to the value of the Buenos Ayres money, I made inquiries of a friend of mine who has long resided in that country. The value, he informed me, depended upon whether it was in paper or silver currency. A peso in paper currency would only be worth about 2d. of our money, whereas a silver peso is worth 4/2 or one dollar. Eight reales are equal to one peso. The postage stamps of Buenos Ayres are according to the paper currency in value, and are not used for foreign postage; I understood only for the town postage, but of this I cannot be certain.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
Bury St. Edmunds. E. A. P.

NO NAME.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your print of my letter on the so-called Van Diemen's Land 'tenpence,' there is a name misprinted which I should wish corrected. It is that of Monsieur de Saulcy (not Saulay). M. de Saulcy is a senator of France, a member of the French Institute, and vice-president of the French academy of Beaux Arts; in fact, he is one of the most distinguished savans of Europe, and certainly ranks pre-eminent among the *earnest* collectors of postage stamps. *

While writing, allow me to say, with reference to the much-debated stamps attributed to Dutch Guiana, that I have three distinct varieties of colour, viz; rose, bright lavender, and dull slate: also that the rose in my collection has several dashes of the pen across its surface, evidently either to obliterate it or prevent its being used.

I remain, yours faithfully,
London. W. H. H.

THE TWOPENNY BLACK ENGLISH.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have noticed that there was some time back a good deal of discussion, through the medium of your magazine, as to whether the twopenny *black* English ever really existed.

I am one of those who never did believe in it; and my conviction that the colour of the stamps in question was changed by age, has been strengthened by my having

* [It should not be forgotten that to Mons. de Saulcy is the literary world so highly indebted for the organization and publication of the valuable researches in the East, which have tended to illumine the darkness obscuring the actual site of so many localities in the Holy Land, and more especially in the immediate neighbourhood of the mysterious, comparatively unknown, and seldom approached locality, the Dead Sea.—ED.]

lately found among some old letters one which had two connected twopenny stamps affixed to it, the top half of each of which is completely changed to black, while the lower half is still blue. I may add that the part that is black is quite as clear as the blue with regard to the engraving, and the defacing mark (the bars) in both stamps is in the blue part and remarkably clear.

The stamps are of the issue with the bars above the value and below the word POSTAGE.

Hoping that this may interest your numerous readers,

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Barnet. S. H. L.

A RARE BRITISH GUIANA STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As you speak of the extreme rarity of the oblong 4 cents blue British Guiana, I write a few lines to tell you I am one of the fortunate possessors of this rare stamp. Mine, too (like the one mentioned in your magazine), has been snipped at the four corners. It bears the postmark 'Demerara Sp. , 1856:' the exact *day* I cannot decipher. It was brought by a lady from the colony: nor had I, until lately, any idea of its value. I may add that Lallier names the second issue as oblong, but giving,—

magenta red, 4 cents,
dark blue, 1 cent:

this is clearly a mistake.

I believe the lady brought over two specimens, and the other is in the collection of a zealous philatelist in Lincolnshire.

Referring to Dr. Gray's catalogue, I cannot find this stamp properly described; indeed, his account tallies with that of Lallier. Doubtless some of your correspondents can throw light on this subject.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,

E. A. P.

[The excellent article on the stamps of British Guiana in our July number gives every information respecting both attainable and rarities. —ED.]

THE RED HALF-ANNA INDIA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your September impression, a correspondent signing as 'A Lover of Rarities' contradicts all my statements with respect to the India half-anna red. That letter is likely to induce the idea that I make, or am in the habit of making, assertions which cannot be proved; you will, therefore, I am sure, allow me so far to explain, that any prejudice from that letter may not be owing to my silence. The stamp from which my remarks were made is now in the collection of a well-known amateur in the south, with whose name many of your readers are doubtless well acquainted, and those whose pleasure it has been to be in correspondence with him, will not soon forget his acumen in any abstruse point of timbrology. He it was who first called my attention to the sinuous watermark which appeared on this copy of the red ½-anna India, a watermark which I soon found to be common on the usual blue ½ anna. This very copy was sent to Brussels, that it might be compared with a specimen in the collection of an amateur at Ghent, in whose album it has been reposing for nearly ten years. It was M. Moens who compared them, and it passed the examination, which with him would be no idle scanning, but a close examination of the minutiæ of the stamp, and was in no particular found wanting. Thus I have two corroborative proofs, independently of a knowledge of the 'pedigree' (so to speak) of this specimen, that it is a genuine ½-anna red India. By comparison with a very old copy, I find it true in every small detail, and I have further confirmation of its genuine character, by finding a watermark in its paper, which is precisely similar to that occurring in the issued blue ½ anna. This much for the stamp being as I described it in August last, and now for my reasons for thinking it an essay. I have looked in vain for a post-marked copy which shall be satisfactory as to paper, ink, and the cancelling mark. I have had and seen dozens of obliterated copies, but never saw one which could, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered genuine. The copies in the English collections could easily be counted: the four specimens with which I am acquainted are each unused, and each identical with my description. They being from a different die to the issued ½ anna of 1854, and being unused, it is difficult to see any solution of their origin, than that the stamp was an essay: it cannot be said it is an invention, for two out of these four can trace back beyond the era of stamp collecting. I have the authority of Mr. Pearson Hill that the stamp is an essay. Surely with these proofs 'A Lover of Rarities' will let me use the letters ENS, which appear on one copy of the four mentioned, as a part of the word *Specimens!* I fully admit that the letters ENS do not *prove* the stamp to be an essay, but if we are never to exercise an idea, to follow up a slight clue, or to make an oblique deduction from a trivial point, it would be hopeless to explain any subject shrouded by obscurity. In conclusion, I again repeat my former statement that the red ½-anna India is an essay, and that it is from a die differing from the blue; the points of difference, I maintain, are that in all genuine red ½ annas the arches at the sides differ in number from those on the blue stamp; that there exists a very minute difference in the eye, and a more perceptible one in the top of the head of the said ½-anna red, as compared with the issued blue stamp. All which differ from this are forgeries, and I doubt not it is from such a one that your correspondent describes. Since the stamp was never 'current in India,' I might argue that your correspondent's copy could never have come from thence.

I again allude to the new Moldo-Wallachian. In my correction of Mr. Overy Taylor's remarks on these stamps, I stated that but one die had been engraved for each value; this is quite correct as to the 2 and 5 paras, but I find the 20 is engraved twice, the two types are side by side, and are repeated to make up the sheet. This is curious, and would be worth investigating; it seems strange that one value should be printed from a double die, the other from a single one.

Yours truly,

Edgbaston. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOEL, Burton-on-Trent.—Your New Zealand black shilling stamp must have undergone shipwreck, and thus got stained.—The Ocean Postage stamps were a species of advertisement calling attention to the supposed advantages of such a universal boon.

A. J. S., Rochdale.—Five months ago, page 91 of the current volume, we chronicled and described the eightpenny Victoria. The partial change in the two shilling, and more complete in the one shilling, are noted in the present number.

W. D. R.—We happen to have slightly alluded to the isle of Heligoland elsewhere in this number; but are in the dark as to its postal arrangements.—A Gotha almanack for South America is at present among the desiderata.—We will try to answer your third query next month.

A SUBSCRIBER.—*Elua Keneta* on the obsolete and current Honolulu stamps denotes the value, two cents. —CORREOS on the Spanish is equivalent to POSTAGE, in contradistinction to the receipt labels of the same country which are marked RECIBOS.—We have often expressed our opinion as to the admissibility of the Canton Bern stamps into collections.—Bomba is not the surname of the ex-king of Naples and his family. It was derisively applied to his father, whose head figures on the Sicilian series, but we do not recollect ever having heard whence it arose. No doubt your query on this will elicit information in our next number.—Your former question as to the existence of a stamp for Honduras has been visibly answered.—There is a tradition of the appearance of a stamp with Queen Victoria's head and German money for the value. Supposing such individual existent, it could only represent Heligoland; being, we believe, our solitary possession using that currency.

A. T. H., Pimlico, forwards the description of a recent acquisition which we reproduce for the benefit of the unwary. View of Sydney, twopence, grey, figures badly drawn, no inscription on bale of goods, POSTAGE and value well done, but border coarse and uneven; usual oval postmark. This avowed fiction is exposed, among other excellent but tantalizing imitations, for sale in Paris at the low rate of 15 centimes.—We have ourselves the penny New South Wales, laurel series, red on blue, background composed of fine lines. Dr. Gray does not distinguish varieties on blue or white paper, consequently includes this in his catalogue without particular specification.

J. B., Fleetwood Lane.—ANNULATO on the defunct Sicilians means annulled, cancelled, or, in our own parlance, postmarked.

GULIELMUS, Chichester.—The 1½ schilling lilac of Schleswig-Holstein is a nearer equivalent to the Prussian silbergroschen than the now superseded 1½ sch. green.

W. VIPOND, Nether Hearth Mine.—Your hand-stamped oblong oval, POST OFFICE, PAID, VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, being apparently the substitute for a proper adhesive during the interregnum previous to the new issue, we think worthy a corner in your album.

N. A. B. B., Cambridge.—The Bermudas are usually classed as West India Islands.—DIOS on the Honduras stamps signifies God, and is therefore aptly represented by a triangle, the conventional emblem of the Holy Trinity. We take this opportunity of tendering our acknowledgments to our correspondent, W. E. H., for his ingenious and satisfactory interpretation of the design on the stamps in question.—You will see the varieties of the 15 centesimi of Italy, both in its original and altered state, fully commented on in previous numbers of our magazine.

ALICE.—The Hamburg stamps of Lafrenz are equally genuine, however printed.

COLUMBIA, Chippenham.—This correspondent informs us he was given to understand on authority that the triangular New Granada stamp, figured last month, was intended for letters which were to be delivered into the hands of the persons to whom they were addressed: the 5 cent. (A) for letters *anotados*, or noted; and the 5 cent. (R) for those registered.

MAXIMILIAN, Worthing.—The eagle series is still current in Mexico. We do not imagine the set of which an example was figured in our July number, has come into use The proposed essays alluded to some months since bore the head of the emperor, not that of Juarez.

S. E. G.—The labels you describe and figure are for Austrian bills and receipts: we have them from ½ kr. to 30 kreuzer.

QUERIST.—We imagine the Falklanders have not yet attained the dignity of possessing a regular postal establishment; and that American and Asiatic Russia are in the same category.—*Espana* is Spanish for *Spain*. —We know little of the postal management of the minor British possessions, such as Ascension Isle, &c.—If the Honduras stamps are not employed in Honduras, we do not see the utility of their issue.—The Sierra Leone stamps are exclusively for their own colony.—There is no doubt that the Italian isles use Italian stamps.

E. B., Aldershot, forwards a stamp for inspection which we describe in hopes of information. Rectangular, denticulated, red impression on white paper: bunch of flowers in centre, surrounded by an ornamental oval bearing RIGI * KALTHAD. Space between this and a fancy framework filled in with ornamentation. This specimen might be immediately pronounced fictitious, but it is regularly postmarked with an octagon in blue ink containing the same inscription as the stamp, and the date of September 16 or 18, '65.

M. E., Liverpool.—Neither the 4 pf. nor 6 pf. Prussian king's head series ever existed on the uniform ground, or what is usually known as the second issue of Prussia.—Many spaces intended for nonentities may be found in albums.—The Austrian and Venetian complementary stamps have been frequently and fully canvassed in our pages. They ceased with the small-headed sets of their respective countries, and are now unattainable except from the breaking up of old collections.—We possess ourselves a 5 centavos Chili unused, on blue paper, and have not the slightest doubt of its being a distinct issue. We never expressed any thereon, but afford room for the opinions of contributors without always agreeing therewith.—You rightly remark the various shades of colour in our own penny stamp. The question is, which is the normal? This being decidedly unanswerable; a specimen of every shade ought to figure in a complete collection.—We have always understood the oval latticed cancelling mark to be peculiar to the Philippines, and distinctive of letters from thence, when any stamp common to the Eastern and Western possessions of Spain was employed.

GERTRUDE, London.—The lilac stamp of New South Wales, like the emission of 1861, but with value and the word *postage* omitted, is an essay. This and its congeners were first noted and described in the first volume of our magazine, page 91. Your specimen may probably have been intended for a sixpenny, on account of its colour. They are all exceedingly rare.

C. W. P. ROSSALL.—Compared with Lewes & Pemberton's work on forged stamps, your Winterthur, and Poste Locale labels are genuine; not so the Vaud. The first and last were strictly local, the other for general use, and all three in 1850.—The 1 franc orange of the Republic to which you allude as of extreme rarity is the vermilion variety of Continental catalogues. Mount Brown mentions also a pale brown, which with the lake and carmine will make four distinct shades of colour, all which we have seen uncancelled in Parisian albums. The former two, especially the first, are exceedingly scarce. The 1 franc of the empire has become of late almost unattainable, though we remember it comparatively common: this is also the case with the 25 centimes of similar date.—There are ten different colours and values of the original issues of Hong Kong, besides the decided variation of hue in the 8, 30, and 96 cents.

L. M.—We understand, from our publishers, that the covers for Vol iii. will be ready, without fail, on the 1st December.

THE WELLS, FARGO, & CO., EXPRESS.





THE following interesting account of the Wells, Fargo, & Co. Express—to which we have appended a catalogue of their stamps—is taken from an American paper, kindly forwarded by one of our correspondents.

'There si no institution of the Pacific coast more interesting than the Wells & Fargo express. It is the omnipresent, universal business agent of all the region from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean. Its offices are in every town, far and near; a billiard saloon, a restaurant, and a Wells & Fargo office are the first three elements of a Pacific or coast mining town; its messengers are on every steamboat and railcar and stage in all these states. It is the ready companion of civilization, the universal friend and agent of the miner; his errand man, his banker, his post-office. It is much more than an ordinary express company; it does a general and universal banking business, and a great one in amount; it brings to market all the bullion and gold from the mining regions—its statistics are the only reliable data of the production; and it divides with the government the carrying of letters to and fro. In the latter respect its operations are rather curious. Going along hand in hand with the rapidly changing population of the mining states, offering readier and more varied facilities than the slower-moving and circumscribed government machinery; carrying the goods of the merchant and the bullion of the miner, as well as their letters, it has grown very much into the heart and habit of the people, and even conveys many of the letters upon routes that the government mail now goes, as quickly and as safely as the express company, though their cost by the latter is much the greatest. The company breaks none of the post-office laws, but pays the government its full price for every letter it carries. The process is thus: Wells & Fargo buy the post-office envelopes bearing the government stamp, and then put their own stamp or frank upon them, and sell the same for 10 c. each; and in these envelopes, thus doubly stamped, all the letters by express are carried. Where the letters are above the single rate, additional government stamps are put on and charged for by the company.

'The extent of this business is shown by the facts that Wells & Fargo bought of the government in 1863 over *two millions* of three cent envelopes, fifteen thousand of six cent envelopes, and thirty thousand of ten and eighteen cent ones, besides seventy thousand of extra three cent stamps and twelve thousand five hundred of six cent ditto. In 1864 the business increased, as it has steadily all along, and the three cent envelopes bought and sold by Wells & Fargo in 1864 were nearly two and a quarter millions, and the extra stamps about one hundred and twenty-five thousand. Thus, all the agencies of Wells & Fargo are private post-offices, doing the business of the government better and more satisfactorily than it does it itself, and paying the government its full price for the same. One long side of the great San Francisco office is devoted to the letters; clerks wait courteously, and at all hours, on all callers; and lists of the letters received each day are regularly posted, so that any one can tell at once, without inquiry, if there be anything

for him. The messengers of the company on stages and steamboats receive all letters under the appropriate envelopes, and the facilities of letter carriage they afford are much wider and more intimate than the government gives. This part of the business of Wells & Fargo is very profitable, and its success, popularity, and wide extension, reaching through one hundred and seventy-five different towns and villages, and extending as well to the newest mining regions in Idaho as to the chief cities of California—even beyond post-offices and off mail routes,—presents very effective practical arguments for the government's giving up its monopoly of the mail service. The main reason offered against such abandonment has generally been that the sparsely settled states, and widely separated populations, could not, by private enterprise, be served with their letters except at high cost; but the experience on the Pacific coast more than meets this. Private enterprise here does better than the government, and is preferred to it. Wells & Fargo even offered some years ago to do the whole mail service of the Pacific coast at five cents a letter, provided the franking privilege was abolished. They could doubtless perform it with profit at three cents, and would, if the business were all secured to them.

'The Wells & Fargo express is mostly owned in New York, but it is managed out here by men of large business experience and great sagacity, and in its enterprise and popular facilities not only strikingly illustrates but greatly advances the civilization of these states. Often it runs special treasure waggons with escort, and frequently its messengers are exposed to great peril from robbers and Indians. Those from Idaho now have to ride wide awake day and night, with guns and pistols, ready loaded and cocked. The stages on which their messengers and treasure were passing were stopped and robbed on the road eight times during 1864; several serious robberies have also occurred this year, and in one case a messenger was murdered. The managers of the express are influential leaders and movers in the opening of new routes and in establishing lines of stages; even also are high powers in the construction of railroads.'

Formerly, Wells, Fargo, & Co. undertook the conveyance of letters from New York to San Francisco, by virtue of a contract with government. On the 2nd of March, 1861, the postmaster-general of the United States was directed to run a pony express from New York to San Francisco, in ten days for eight months, and twelve days for four months. The contractors were to carry for the government 5 lbs. of mail matter free of charge; were to have the privilege of issuing postage stamps, charging the public one dollar per half-ounce letter, and were to receive £20,000 per annum. The contract was to expire on the 1st July, 1864.

Wells, Fargo, & Co., having accepted the government offer, issued stamps of the following values.

Device, man on horseback. Inscription, WELLS, FARGO, & CO., PONY EXPRESS.

1 dollar, red.
2 „ rose, green, black.
4 „ green, black.

Same device. Inscription, WELLS, FARGO, & CO., PONY EXPRESS, IF ENCLOSED IN OUR FRANKS.

10 cents, ½ oz., brown.
25 „ ½ oz., blue, red.

These latter are under the amount authorized by the government to be charged for the carriage of letters, but we expect that they only franked them over a portion of the route. The 10 cents has always been the commonest of the Pony Express stamps, but the two 25 cents, both recent discoveries, are very scarce, especially the red. Besides these, an envelope was issued inscribed,

WELLS, FARGO, & CO., ½ OZ., PAID FROM ST. JOSEPH TO PLACERVILLE, PER PONY EXPRESS.

Rose ink.

It was catalogued by Mount Brown preceded by a note of interrogation, indicative of his own doubts about it. In response to a query, in the July number, Mr. J. H. Applegate, jun., of San Francisco, has favoured us with the following information concerning the envelope.

'At the time of the existence of the Pony Express between New York and San Francisco, all letters by it were obliged to be

covered by the *doubtful* envelope of W., F., & Co., "½ oz., paid from St. Joseph to Placerville," or they would not come through. This envelope was, as its name indicates, affixed [?] at St. Joseph, Missouri, and a charge of 10 cents was collected on such letters on their arrival here.'

As the Pony Express stamps were placed in circulation under the authority of government, they cannot be put in the same category as ordinary American local stamps. They are, in our opinion, collectable by those amateurs who do not recognise the latter as worthy of admission into their albums.

In addition to those named above, Mount Brown catalogues,

WELLS, FARGO, & CO. (name in garter), coloured impression, circular.

½ oz., 1 dollar blue.

WELLS, FARGO, & CO., PAID EXPRESS, TO BE DROPPED IN NEW YORK POST-OFFICE. Black impression, large oblong.

The value of the first of these seems to indicate that it was used on the Pony Express line; what purpose the second served we do not quite understand, but trust for enlightenment to the courtesy of our San Franciscan friends.

Independently of the 'Rocky Mountain stamps,' Wells, Fargo, & Co. have issued a newspaper label, and have impressed their variously-inscribed franks on the United States envelopes, as stated above. The narrative we have extracted shows that these franks, also, are possessed of peculiar claims to recognition as of a higher order than the crowd of American locals.

Collectors are familiar with the newspaper stamp described in Mount Brown's catalogue.

WELLS, FARGO, & CO., ONE NEWSPAPER OVER OUR CALIFORNIAN ROUTE. Coloured impression, large oblong. Blue. The probable value of which is less than 10 cents, as it was employed exclusively on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Charles H. Lomler has kindly forwarded us a list of all the Californian locals with which he is acquainted; and from it we take the following catalogue of Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s impressions on United States envelopes, which we have every reason to believe is authentic.

1. WELLS, FARGO, & CO. THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIAN AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS. Red on buff and on white.

2. WELLS, FARGO, & CO. OVER OUR CALIFORNIAN AND COAST ROUTES. Black on white and on buff, blue on buff.

3. Same device with BOISE MINES. PAID 50 CENTS printed in red beneath. Red on buff and on white.

4. Same device with FOR MEXICAN PORTS. PAID 25 CENTS printed in red beneath. Red on buff and on white.

The first of these is certainly obsolete; the second in present use, but we are not aware whether the other two are so or not. The illustration at the head of the article will give an idea of the manner in which the oblong is impressed on the envelope.

On July 1st, 1864, the Pony Express stamps became obsolete by the termination of the contract; but this circumstance, far from increasing their scarcity, has rendered them quite common. At one time their nominal value placed unused specimens out of the reach of most collectors, and post-marked specimens were by no means easily got; but on the conclusion of the contract the company sold the blocks to a New York stamp dealer, by whom reprints of all the values have been made, which can now be had for a trifle.

A NOVEL PASTIME FOR ELEGANT LEISURE.

AN ingenious Parisian *artiste* has recently struck out a new caprice of like calibre with the multitudinous ways and means of combining idleness with industry, that have resulted in the invention of potichomanie, décalcomanie, &c., &c. It is a species of mosaic work; but the patterns, in lieu of being formed of various coloured marbles, or other stones, are manufactured entirely out of *postage stamps!* The amount of effect produced, from such an apparently barren source, is almost inconceivable, without ocular demonstration. Garlands, crowns, and baskets of flowers are accurately portrayed in their natural colours; and, strange to say, all those hitherto produced, by the taste and patience of the inventor, have been made solely from the various current French

labels. Of course, were other stamps also drawn into requisition, a still greater variety would be attainable; the French series, though varying much in tint, being devoid of bright yellow, mauve, and other shades common to the floral tribe. There is, however, no great paucity of colour in the set of French stamps, as an inspection of some of the productions under notice would prove. The 1 c. and 5 c. afford each two shades of green for the foliage; the 40 c. and 80 c. the same number of scarlet and rose shades; the 20 c. gives two blues; and the 2 c., 4 c., and 10 c. supply the requisite contrasting neutral tints. Pen, pencil, or brush takes no part in the dainty work; even the pistils of the flowers being represented either by a dot of the natural colour, or by a cancelling mark carefully cut out by scissors into the required shape.

The flower-baskets and garlands, interesting as they may be in themselves, do not call for our immediate attention; but the crowns, representative of the different European dynasties, are so peculiarly adapted for heading pages in a postage-stamp album, that we cannot but recommend those of our readers, the gentler sex especially, who have sufficient taste and leisure, to try their hands in the production. The same remark is applicable to the flags, crests, or other armorial insignia of countries: and the objection raised by some amateurs to the introduction of such embellishments, as quite extraneous and intrusive, in this case may be satisfactorily met with the verity, that the interlopers are wholly and solely transmuted postage stamps!

Trivial as the occupation may seem to those who do not enter into the requirements of the contrivance, we beg to assure them that no small amount of taste, patience, ingenuity, and artistic skill must, of necessity, be brought to bear upon a correct execution. Should any of our fair patronesses wish to obtain a specimen as a model for industrious imitation, the address of the inventress may be had on application to our publishers.

Bremen.—There are four post-offices in Bremen, in addition to that belonging to the city, viz, those of Hanover, Prussia, Oldenburg, and Thurn and Taxis, each of which employs its own stamps.

POSTAGE-STAMP DEVICES.

(*Concluded from page* 162).

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Next in order after the stamp deities come the emblematic figures of Hope and of Helvetia. The former of these is the central



figure on both the triangular and rectangular Cape stamps. Probably no better device could have been adopted for the emissions of a colony which has Hope in its name; although we do not see sufficient affinity between Hope and mutton to justify their being connected on the current issue. Annexed is an engraving of the triangular fourpence, which, like its fellows, is now obsolete.

The Swiss figure resembles that of liberty (may it not possibly be intended for the goddess?), but the head is surrounded by a wreath, and the shield bears the Swiss cross clearly displayed. On the old stamps the full face is given, and as the features are in very indistinct relief, the entire head has somewhat the appearance of a mop. The figure is smaller, and altogether more graceful, on the current stamps, and the profile only is shown. Following these, we may note the figure on the Nevis, and the interesting group on the Sydney stamps, which concludes the list of emblematic human figures.

The animal kingdom is pretty well represented on postage stamps, though a naturalist might find fault with the delineation of some of the creatures which appear. The enthusiastic Englishman will discover from observation of stamps that his country has not a monopoly of the lion; that there are others besides the redoubtable British one, which reposes wide awake at Britannia's feet on the Mulready envelope. In that wonderful design—we may remark in passing—the elephant, the camel, the reindeer, and the dog, together with the ethereal beings which are flying away to right and left, also find place, but none of them are portrayed on any adhesive stamp.

A lion with a unicorn supports the arms of Hanover on the obsolete stamps; another, the shield of Tuscany: two more are just visible on the Schleswig Holstein shield. A fifth is represented on the Finland stamps holding a dagger; a sixth on the Norwegian issue clutching an axe. On the current 3 öre Sweden is a seventh lion taking his ease with his back to the sun; and an eighth (concerning which our readers will find an interesting account in vol. ii., p. 139, of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*) figures on the second and third issues of Oldenburg.

But the eagle has made its appearance on a still larger number of stamps. Double-headed, and with a shield on its breast, it is the central figure on the Austrian, Russian, and Polish labels, and is on all these engraved in regular heraldic style. The shield on the Austrian has, by the bye, another lion on it, and the Russian one contains a representation of St. George and the Dragon —whereby our readers will learn that another nation beside our own has a partiality for the Cappadocian saint. The device on the shield of the Polish stamps is extremely indistinct; so much so, that we could never discover any on the adhesives, but on a close examination of well-printed envelopes a single-headed eagle is visible. This is in accordance with the Polish arms as given in Moens' album, but the mounted soldier, which occupies one half of the shield there engraved, is certainly wanting in that on the stamp. The Lubeck issues also bear a double-headed eagle with the plain shield of the city on its breast; and half the bird and half the shield are shown on the Bergedorf stamps.

The Prussian bird has but one head, and that is on both stamps and flags turned to the right, whilst on the arms in Moens' album it is turned to the left—which is correct? Some months since it was stated, in this magazine, that the letters T. R., or F. R., on the eagle's breast, were merely the initials of the engraver; but Moens, in his plate of the arms, places the letters F. R. on the shield in front of the bird, proving, if he is right, that they mean something different from what was supposed. Perhaps some Prussian collector can explain their significance.

The old Modenese stamps are graced by an eagle rather out of condition; the Genevese possessed half of one; and on the old series of Moldo-Wallachia a quaint bird, possibly an eagle, shares the honour of representation with a bull's head.

The countries of the new world are hardly less partial than those of the old to the adoption of the eagle as a portion of their armorial bearings. It is the central figure of the current Venezuela, the obsolete 'drop-letter' stamp of the United States, and the Imperial Mexican. It appears on some of the hand-stamped Bolivians; surmounts the new issue of Colombia; and adorns the stamps of Martinique.

The horse has its patrons in Hanover, Brunswick, Naples, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and is drawn most naturally on the *gaucho* stamps, where it is represented bearing on its back one of the country postmen or his guide. A stag is portrayed on the Wurtemburg issue, a cow on the Uruguay, a llama on the Peru, a bull's head on the two Mecklenburgs and old Wallachian, a bear on the Madrid, a dove on the Basle, a swan on the Western Australian, a beaver on the Canadian, and a serpent on the Mexican stamps.

Amongst legendary animals, two griffins support the Baden shield, another is *segreant* on the current Livonian; two dolphins grasp the upper scroll on the Java stamp; and, strangest of all, a creature composed of nothing but three legs forms part of the Naples arms—what it is supposed to mean, or why it was adopted as an heraldic emblem, we cannot say.

The vegetable world is poorly represented by a tree, wreaths, and branches, on the Peru and Madrid; a cactus twig on the current Mexican; a wheat-sheaf on the old Venezuela; the British heraldic flowers on the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland; and, possibly, a yam on the Bahamas.

The Nicaraguan and Costa Rica stamps each contain a fine view splendidly engraved. The Costa Rica scene is, of course, intended to represent the two great oceans, and the land which divides them. The Nicaraguan view is said to be that of the valley of Leon.

A ship has presented itself to the minds of several stamp engravers as an appropriate device for labels intended to frank letters across broad seas to distant countries. Those on the 12½ c. Brunswick and Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps are the best drawn; those on the Buenos Ayres (a specimen of which we engrave) and Ecuador, the worst. The La Guaira stamps also bear a steam-packet at the top, and the British Guiana, a ship with canvas spread. Liberia, Trinidad, Barbados, and old Mauritius have a ship as a subordinate part of the device, as also have the Sydney stamps. The ship on the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's labels has its bows to the right on the 2 rls., and to the left on the 1 rl.



Our list must conclude with the mention of the flags of the South American countries; the warlike cannon on the one-cent New Granada; the castles of Hamburg, Bergedorf, Spain, and Honduras; the keys of Bremen and Geneva; the house and sun on the Urnguay; the train on the one-cent New Brunswick; and the crowns, which as the emblem of sovereignty, appear on such a large number of postage stamps.

WHAT SHALL WE CALL IT?

We must premise that this is a very free rendering of the original title, which is more in accordance with French than English notions of propriety. The talented author of the article commences with the natural wonder that during the six or seven years, in which so many have busied themselves in postage-stamp collecting, no one has thought upon a proper designation for a pursuit so fascinating to some, and so profitable to others. He objects to the word 'timbromania' as being rather sarcastic and susceptible of a wrong interpretation; and proposes, therefore, henceforth, as it had been hitherto employed only in default of a better term, to banish it from common parlance, and forget that so odious an appellation ever existed.

Supposing then, he proceeds to say, that the beast is dead and its venom powerless, we must look out for a successor, having none of its defects, but more than all its good qualities. Where seek for this *rara avis?* Any one is entitled to offer advice on the subject, and fortune ever favouring the bold, he ventures to suggest something quite applicable.

In the article from which we quote, the term 'timbrophily' and its derivatives timbrophilic, &c., are totally ignored; of course according to the received law that a compound word must not draw from two languages at once. Adhering strictly to this rule, we ought to discard such accepted and acceptable words as fire-arms, steam-engine, picture-frames, &c., and where is the impropriety of calling our ingenious friend a name-giver?

After a few remarks on the universality of borrowing scientific compounds from the classic tongues, he proposes the word *philatélie*, which we anglicise into 'philately' for our pet pursuit. He derives the word from φιλος, friend or amateur, and ατελης, the adjective, or ατελεια, the substantive, the latter word implying exemption from tax. A philatelist, then, is one who is fond of these rounds, ovals, squares, or other forms which bring your epistles free of postage to your doors.

Twelve months have glided on since the substance of this little dissertation was penned; and the French terms *philatéle* and *philatélie*, as well as their English equivalents 'philately,' 'philatelist,' and 'philatelic,' launched into life have become household words in the postage-stamp collecting world. We would go farther than our Parisian friend, and suggest 'Philatelia' as an elegant name for a young lady infant. Some score or so years hence, the first column of the *Times* may announce the marriage of Timbrophilus Blank, Esq., to Philatelia, daughter of Stamp Collector, Esq., of Postage Place!

It was in consequence of being unaware of the correct derivation of the word philatelist that the corrector of the press misspelled the word in the preface to Mr. Staunton's work, reviewed in this number; believing it came from φιλος, and τηλε, from afar. The word thus spelt *philotelist* would be alike applicable, only we could scarcely collect our *own* issues with propriety in this case,

and we fancy amateurs would object to banish them. Moreover, Mons. Herpin's coinage will serve equally to designate the collection, which, no doubt, the roll of years will eventually bring into vogue, of receipt, bill, and other commercial labels whose presence clears from any further tax.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

'Ringing the changes.'

This hackneyed quotation will most happily introduce a twin series of twice five individuals, just introduced to the philatelic world in time to close our dozen chapters on novel issues, in this third year of our magazine's career, with great éclat. Communications from more than one correspondent announce, and the specimens before us prove the fact of the dissolution of the postal firm of Schleswig and Holstein, and the commencing of business by each partner on his own account. The page of our albums appropriated to Schleswig Holstein will now present a goodly array to the spectator. Not very long since the pair of rarities launched forth into brief circulation in 1848, were the sole representatives of their country; and these remained so for sixteen years: but a shoal of novelties started up with dazzling rapidity, and now no fewer than two-and-twenty perfectly distinct labels lie before us, emanating all from Schleswig and Holstein, either separately or conjunctly!

We write 'perfectly distinct' advisedly, though the uninitiated would be puzzled to appreciate distinction or difference between several of the specimens were they all laid at once before them. They remind one of the marriage of widowers with widows, each supplied with a progeny; and in course of time, obliged to allude to—your family—my family—and our family—the changes being rung on Schleswig, on Holstein, and on Schleswig Holstein. Though but five colours are used for the whole twenty-two—blue, rose, green, pale-bistre, and lilac,—numbering seven, five, four, three, and three respectively,—the shades, especially the blue, are so varied as to present a pleasing aspect on the page appropriated to them. The original rose and blue, of course, figure side by side on the top, and are readily distinguished from the rest both by shape and design. Then come the three square ones, all blue: the latest of the three is distinct enough, both from device, semi-perforation, and the peculiarly-patterned paper on which it is printed; but the two others are so alike as to have once given occasion for a tolerably acute connoisseur to send us a communication that the new Holstein stamp was 'already forged.' On comparison, however, they are easily identified; the blue in one being much paler, the central circle and lettering smaller, but the border inscription larger.

The remaining seventeen are oval; congenerical with the Oldenburgs and some of the Prussians in shape, colour, and wretched substitute for perforation; but sporting the figure-design of the Thurn and Taxis envelope. Here comes the difficulty of identification. We imagine the collector who wishes to complete his sets must be gifted with a most uncommon memory to do so without notes. There are but five values in all; four of which are 4 schillinge, and three of them pale bistre. There are three of the 2 sch., all blue; two of the $1\frac{1}{3}$ sch., equivalent to a silber groschen: one of these is lilac, the others rose. There are two green and the same number of lilac $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch.; and two green and one rose $\frac{1}{2}$ sch.! The colours being no guide for recollection, let us look at the inscription: this equally fails us; the first-issued pair of the seventeen are circumscribed HERZOGTH SCHLESWIG, and value in words; which is repeated in figures, 4 and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in the central ovals. But the corresponding pair of the set of five, just out, bears a precisely similar legend: here, consequently, we must return to the colours, which are rose and green for the originals, and bistre and lilac for the latest. The next five in order are the Schleswig Holsteins, and unmistakable on inspection of such printed title. Additional to the values $1\frac{1}{4}$ and 4, the former being the same colour as, but the latter substituting the shabby Prussian bistre for the rose of the preceding, three new values appear, the $\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{3}$, and 2 sch. in rose, lilac, and blue.

For the double series just started the same values do duty, but the ½ sch. rose has become green; the 1¼ green is lilac; and the 1⅓ lilac, rose in both sets; the blue 2 sch. alone being unchanged, and the 4 sch. bistre as before. In ovals, therefore, the spectator will notice one ½ sch. rose, and two greens; two green and the same number of lilac 1¼ sch.; one lilac and two rose 1⅓ sch.; a trio of blue 2 sch.; and one rose, and three bistre 4 sch. These colours, nevertheless, are not precisely of the same shade; in the specimens we described from, the pair of latest greens, and the Holstein lilac are paler, but the Schleswig azure, and the Holstein bistre are deeper than the others; and the 1⅓ sch. of the latter country is a decided carmine. The figures, moreover, of the new Schleswigs, like their predecessors, are in cameo; whereas, the Holstein are not so; and the bistre of the latter set, in lieu of a large 4, shows 4 schillinge=3 s. gr. in the central oval. This stamp too, as well as the carmine 1⅓ sch.=1 s. gr., sports, not only the legend in colour on white, but the word HERZOGTHUM at full length, whereas the three others have it abbreviated into HERZOGTH., white on colour, and show a boundary of white dots within, and a scalloped border without the inscription. Though the 4 sch. of Schleswig does *not* remind of its equivalent in silber groschen, the 1⅓ s. gr. does so, and, unlike the Holsteins, the general design is precisely similar in the stamps for that country. Finally, without reference to the several inscriptions, the blue of Holstein cannot be confounded with those of Schleswig or Schleswig Holstein, as, independently of the white dots previously noted, the figure 2 is broader and more ornamental; neither can that of Schleswig Holstein be mistaken for the Schleswig, the word SCHILLINGE of the latter being SCHILLING in the former. A collector able to recollect and repeat all this correctly *memoriter ac verbatim*, may, with propriety, claim the title and diploma of president of the society of postage-stamp collectors.

The red penny stamp of the series for the Bermudas, described in our October number, forms our first illustration. As the



work of a metropolitan engraver we must patriotically credit its perfection; in print at least; whatever our own private opinion of its merits. Yet, truth to tell, we think our own postal designers and engravers might condescend to take a lesson from those of the United States. Here, however, are the new candidates—the stamp delegates—from a hitherto unrepresented colony, and we can but introduce them to the notice of philatelists, leaving each one to pass his own judgment on their design.



We have just received a description of the new Belgian issue; but have time and space for a bare mention only, reserving a full detail for the New Year. Profile to left, 10 c. grey, 20 c. blue, 30 c. brown, 40 c. carmine, 1 franc lilac (which we engrave). The 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c., are to bear the arms of the kingdom.

The long-anticipated Brunswick emission, a proof of which was figured in the number for February, is now in process of issue. We do not admire the new so much as the old specimens, which were really ornaments to collections. The only advantage we see derivable from the modern set, is the fact of their allowing more room for the address on letters; and, as stamps are decidedly issued more for business than collectorial purposes, we dare say nothing against them. The values are ½ groschen black, 1 groschen rose, 2 groschen blue, 3 groschen bistre, of which the last three only are placed on envelopes.



The stamp reported as finally adopted by the Persian government, bears in central circle a lion *passant* with drawn sword, behind which the sun awkwardly rises as though with a wry neck; value in small circles in each corner; impression bright blue on white; perforated.

The quoted 2 annas rose-lilac of India turns out a chemical imposture. The ½ anna envelope impressions are now printed on sheets of paper, we presume for use as newspaper labels.

The accompanying cut of a fourpenny Trinidad was engraved from a specimen of a rather abnormal colour, which may, or may not, be the effect of age or some extraneous cause. It is of an exceedingly dingy violet, almost similar in hue to the earlier shilling of the island, no value designated.



Many of our readers will remember the old school-boy tale, 'eyes and no eyes, or the art of seeing.' Never is its moral better exemplified than by the continued introduction of novel features hitherto unremarked in even the commonest postage stamps. A correspondent of the observant species calls our attention to a peculiarity noticeable in the second series of our own fourpenny stamps, which he attributes,—and here, for reasons presently to be stated, we disagree with him,—to a misfortune similar to what befel the transmogrified 15 centesimi of Italy. In some specimens the four small corner squares have the exterior angle cut off by a slight but very distinct white line; and on the right of the left, and on the left of the right hand lower squares appear a *pair* of white units. Other individuals are entirely destitute of the diagonal lines, and show one unit only in the specified positions. What is the reason of this? Is it designed or accidental? The regularity of both units and diagonals seems to preclude our correspondent's view of the subject: if purposely, it seems purposeless to the uninitiated. That these extra marks were not originally in the stamps is proved by our possession of a specimen-marked label, obtained on the day of their first issue, which is devoid of both peculiarities; and our specimen ninepenny is equally free from such characteristics; while, strange to say, the current ninepennies evidence the four diagonals exactly as does the fourpenny in question. It would be singular were it ascertained a similar accident had happened to each plate. The courtesy of some qualified official will perhaps solve the mystery.

A new series for Uruguay will be ready for the first of January, 1866. They have been engraved in England, and are slight reminders of the current Hamburg series: a large central figure of value partially obscured by armorial insignia.

Our next cut represents a novelty, both in colour and value, from our lately too-unfortunately remarkable colony, New Zealand, being a fourpenny rose, perforated; and from what we understand it replaces the violet threepenny now obsolete. The 3 c. and 6 c. U. S. envelopes, are now respectively printed brown and violet, both on white and yellow paper. We are informed that a new issue is in preparation for Luxembourg, and that a violet 10 c. stamp has already been issued.





The portrait on the new Vancouver stamps (one of which is here represented) is identical with that on the Bermuda. The design is also precisely similar to that of the new 1/ stamp of the latter island, and the design of the Bermuda 1d., engraved above, is the same as that of the 10 cents Vancouver. The colour of the appended stamp is red.

Our concluding cut is that of the San Marino essay, before referred to, from M. Riester's design. We doubt not, had it been accepted, the cost of engraving would have been repaid by the extra sale of stamps to philatelists.



For the special benefit of the collectors of varieties, may be noticed the existence of three, if not all of the envelopes of Mecklenburg Schwerin with inscription nearly double the usual size. The 1½, 3, and 5 sch. blue, being known, no doubt the 1 sch. is forthcoming.

The French colonies are about to receive

the long-expected blue and carmine values, chronicled by anticipation several years ago. Amateurs have waited some time, but must have patience yet a little longer, only a few highly-favoured individuals having been hitherto enabled to procure them from engraver or officials in whose hands they lie for the present.

A couple of envelopes open for acceptance or rejection, according to the idiosyncracies of collectors, are now to be described. One is of plain buff paper, such as are known as American envelopes, the other of white paper, much more pretentious in appearance on the reverse or tongue-side, though the obverse bears the simple hand-stamped inscription, DRESDEN, date of use, and SANGER FEST-PLATZ surmounting a small post horn, in a large oval, like its companion. What are they? They may be placed in the same category as the sanitary fair emanations *et hoc genus omne;* being a temporary but none the less a legitimate postal issue.

Germany is essentially a musical nation; and it is customary for the *Gesangs Vereine*, or Orpheonic societies, which exist in almost all the principal, and some of the minor towns, to meet occasionally, with due pomp and ceremony, on common ground. One of these meetings, and that the most splendid that has ever taken place, was celebrated at Dresden in the present year, lasting from the 22nd till the 25th of July. The number of assembled musical professors and amateurs amounted to nineteen thousand. An elegant and imposing looking temporary edifice was erected on the banks of the beautiful Elbe, elaborately decked and ornamented with all sorts of appropriate devices, flags, and banners. Every art and trade was represented in the interior, for that purpose, apportioned into streets after the manner of a town; each shop, or rather standing, like a large bazaar or fair, exhibiting a distinctive calling in the exposition of wares. His majesty of Saxony, who, with all his family, was present in the course of every day, had given orders that both the telegraph and the post-office should be duly represented. Hence originated the envelopes we are offering to notice. Special communication took place, at appointed times, between the imitative and regular post-offices, the envelopes under notice being expedited direct, either with or without the necessary postal labels. They were to be purchased at the stalls devoted to papêterie, &c. All that remained from the originally-printed thousand were bought up by a Parisian dealer, * who is ready to supply them to philatelists. The much larger and more elaborate of the two has the obverse covered by an exceedingly elegant and tasty device in green, except the *locus sigilli*, which is filled by a very large medallion of the genius of German song emblazoned in gay colours on a golden background. Below is a motto in German which may be freely rendered:

'Be joyful with united heart and hand;
God ever favours you, ye tuneful band!'

In relation to the ever-streaming crew of essays, proofs, &c., perhaps some line of demarcation, providing always such a line could be accurately and satisfactorily defined, ought to be decided on. For our own part, as we have repeatedly remarked, whatever may be our private views and actual practice in the moot point, our public duty necessitates our chronicling each, every, and all in the remotest degree appertaining to postal productions.

The most fastidious objectors to essays unless well authenticated, if he admit any at all among his veritable specimens, cannot in common justice, lay a fine set of Tuscans under his ban. Those we mean are, in fact, proofs taken from the original plate; decidedly not re-impressions, the dies having been all destroyed.

Specimens exist, on white paper without any watermark, of the soldo, quatrini, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9 crazie in the colours that were afterwards used. There is, moreover, the 2 crazie black impression, on yellow,

* Coincidently with the penning of these remarks, the *Times* announces the decease of the party alluded to, in the following terms:—THE FATTEST MAN IN PARIS.—A German named Elb Lévy, the largest man in Paris, has just died at the age of fifty-two. At the time of his death he weighed thirty-seven stone, twelve pound, although he had been previously somewhat reduced by illness. For many years he had been engaged in Brussels and Paris as correspondent for German journals; but two years back he abandoned that profession, and became a dealer in postage stamps for collections.—*Times*, 10th ult.

green, pink, red, violet, blue, and grey paper.

Here we may not inappropriately introduce an anecdote illustrative of the reason why the lion was chosen to be figured among the blazonry of the Tuscan arms. It is extracted from the work of Mons. J. Vandermaelen of Brussels, intituled, *Historical Essays on the Armorial Bearings, Crests, and Devices of the European States and Sovereigns.* The presence of a lion in the heraldry of Florence, takes rise from a dramatic event in the history of that city. In the year 1259, a lion having escaped from his cage, rushed upon a young boy, and was on the point of devouring him. The child's mother courageously threw herself in the way of the fierce beast, and by her screams and shouts so terrified the animal that he let his prey drop safe and sound at the feet of the bold parent. The republic, in memory of the circumstance, took upon itself the education of the child, on whom the people bestowed the appellation of Orlanduccio del Leone, which his descendants abbreviated into Leoni.

A STATE OF SIEGE.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

A day or two after my arrival in San Francisco, the steamer *Unicorn* came into the harbour; being the third which had arrived without bringing a mail. These repeated failures were too much for even a patient people to bear; an indignation meeting in Portsmouth-square was called; but a shower, heralding the rainy season, came on in time to prevent it. Finally, on the last day of October, on the eve of the departure of another steamer down the coast, the *Panama* came in, bringing the mails for July, August, and September, all at once. Thirty-seven mail-bags were hauled up to the little post-office that night, and the eight clerks were astounded by the receipt of forty-five thousand letters, besides uncounted bushels of newspapers. I was at the time domiciled in Mr. Moore's garret, and enjoying the hospitalities of his plank-table; I therefore offered my services as clerk-extraordinary, and was at once vested with full powers, and initiated into all the mysteries of counting, classifying, and distributing letters.

The post-office was a small frame building of one story, and not more than forty feet in length. The entire front, which was graced with a narrow portico, was appropriated to the windows for delivery, while the rear was divided into three small compartments—a newspaper room, a private office, and kitchen. There were two windows for the general delivery, one for French and Spanish letters, and a narrow entry at one end of the building, on which faced the private boxes, to the number of five hundred, leased to merchants and others at the rate of a dollar and a half per month. In this small space all the operations of the office were carried on. The rent of the building was 7000 dls. a-year, and the salaries of the clerks from 100 to 300 dls. monthly, which, as no special provision had been made by government to meet the expense, effectually confined Mr. Moore to these narrow limits. For his strict and conscientious adherence to the law, he received the violent censure of a party of the San Franciscans, who would have had him make free use of the government funds.

The *Panama's* mail-bags reached the office about nine o'clock. The doors were instantly closed, the windows darkened, and every preparation made for a long siege. The attack from without commenced about the same time. There were knocks on the doors, taps on the windows, and beseeching calls at all corners of the house. The interior was well lighted; the bags were emptied on the floor, and ten pairs of hands engaged in the assortment and distribution of their contents. The work went on rapidly and noiselessly as the night passed away, but with the first streak of daylight the attack commenced again. Every avenue of entrance was barricaded; the crowd was told through the keyhole that the office would be open that day to no one; but it all availed nothing. Mr. Moore's Irish servant could not go for a bucket of water without being surrounded and in danger of being held captive. Men dogged

his heels in the hope of being able to slip in behind him before he could lock the door.

We laboured steadily all the day, and had the satisfaction of seeing the huge pile of letters considerably diminished. Towards evening the impatience of the crowd increased to a most annoying pitch. They knocked; they tried shouts and then whispers, and then shouts again; they implored and threatened by turns; and not seldom offered large bribes for the delivery of their letters. 'Curse such a post-office and such a postmaster!' said one; 'I'll write to the department by the next steamer. *We'll* see whether things go on in this way much longer.' Then comes a messenger, slyly, to the back door; 'Mr. —— sends his compliments, and says you would oblige him very much by letting me have his letters; he won't say anything about it to anybody.' A clergyman, or perhaps a naval officer, follows, relying on a white cravat or gilt buttons for the favour which no one else can obtain. Mr. Moore politely but firmly refuses; and so we work on, unmoved by the noises of the besiegers. The excitement and anxiety of the public can scarcely be told in words. Where the source that governs business, satisfies affection, and supplies intelligence, has been shut off from a whole community for three months, the rush from all sides to supply the void was irresistible.

In the afternoon, a partial delivery was made to the owners of private boxes. It was effected in a skilful way, though with some danger to the clerk who undertook the opening of the door. On account of the crush and destruction of windows on former occasions, he ordered them to form into line and enter in regular order. They, at first refused, but on his counter-refusal to unlock the door, complied with some difficulty. The moment the key was turned, the rush into the little entry was terrific; the glass faces of the boxes were stove in, and the wooden partition seemed about to give way. In the space of an hour the clerk received postage to the amount of 600 dls.: the principal firms frequently paid from 50 to 100 dls. for their correspondence.

We toiled on till after midnight of the second night, when the work was so far advanced that we could spare an hour or two for rest, and still complete the distribution in time for the opening of the windows at noon the next day. So we crept up to our blankets in the garret, worn out by forty-four hours of steady labour. We had scarcely begun to taste the needful rest, when our sleep, deep as it was, was broken by a new sound. Some of the besiegers, learning that the windows were to be opened at noon, came on the ground in the night, in order to have the first chance for letters. As the nights were fresh and cool, they soon felt chilly, and began a stamping march along the portico, which jarred the whole building, and kept us all painfully awake. This game was practised for a week after the distribution commenced, and was a greater hardship to those employed in the office than their daily labours. One morning, about a week after this, a single individual came about midnight, bringing a chair with him, and some refreshments. He planted himself directly opposite the door, and sat there quietly all night. It was the day for despatching the Monterey mail, and one of the clerks got up about four o'clock to have it in readiness for the carrier. On opening the door in the darkness, he was confronted by this man, who, seated solemnly in his chair, immediately gave his name in a loud voice; 'John Jenkins!'

When, finally, the windows were opened, the scenes around the office were still more remarkable. In order to prevent a general riot among the applicants, they were recommended to form in ranks. This plan once established, those inside could work with more speed and safety. The lines extended in front all the way down the hill into Portsmouth square, and on the south side all across Sacramento-street to the tents among the chapparal; while that from the newspaper window in the rear stretched for some distance up the hill. The man at the tail of the longest line might count on spending six hours in it before he reached the window. Those who were near the goal frequently sold out their places to

impatient candidates, for ten, and even twenty-five dollars; indeed, several persons, in want of money, practised this game daily as a means of living. Vendors of pies, cakes, and newspapers established themselves in front of the office, to supply the crowd, while others did a profitable business by carrying cans of coffee up and down the lines.

The labours of the post-office were greatly increased by the necessity of forwarding thousands of letters to the branch offices, or to agents among the mountains, according to the orders of the miners. This part of the business, which was entirely without remuneration, furnished constant employment for three or four clerks. Several persons made large sums by acting as agents, supplying the miners with their letters at one dollar each, which included the postage from the Atlantic side. The arrangements for the transportation of the inland mail were very imperfect, and these private establishments were generally preferred.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage-Stamp Forgeries; or, the Collector's Vade Mecum. By J. M. STOURTON. London: Trübner & Co.

THE *Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire* employed the pen of one of the most elegant of modern historians. Avaunt the evil day when the rise, progress, and decadence of postage-stamp collecting shall afford fuel for the sarcastic fire of 'the Hebdomadal Reviler'! *Our* pleasing duty consists, at present, in testifying to the better-half of the quoted title.

That we are right in our assumption, the publication under review is ample proof. Not many months since, we had occasion to mention a work of similar character: now the supply and demand for all sorts of food, both mental and corporeal, being usually in equal ratio, the appearance of these little volumes of the *caveat emptor* species would seem necessitated by the prevalence of postage-stamp forgeries. Again, were there no purchaser, there would be neither vendors nor concoctors of counterfeits; and the gulls, in all innocence, by encouraging the fraud, testify their desire for the genuine article. Argal; Messrs. Spiro, Brothers, and their Swiss and Scotch brethren, the bane; and Messrs. Pemberton & Dalston, and now Mr. Stourton, the antidotes, prove, not only the non-decadence of timbrophily, but, as the dupes in most cases are mere tyros, the continued enlistment of recruits in the timbrophilic ranks. Q.E.D.

The author of the work before us, still young, has been an enthusiastic collector for many years; and now offers the benefit of his experience to the postage-stamp-collecting portion of the community.

Exclusive of title-page, dedication, preface, advertisements, and testimonial from a talented antiquarian author, the work is composed of sixty pages, throughout which the distinctive characteristics of the several genuine stamps, and their imitations, are so accurately portrayed as to be unmistakably recognizable in cases of doubt. Proofs and essays are not at all touched upon; indeed we are scarcely aware of such having ever been imitated. In fact, the author, in the preface,—and here we do not altogether side with him,—takes occasion to note his own total rejection of them; and, we believe, would relegate them under the same category as forgeries.

In the description of the forged and genuine Pony Expresses, an unerring and remarkable distinction between them is not alluded to. Probably from a slip of the engraver's tool, in the real 1, 2, and 4 dollar stamps may be observed on the left of the crescent canopying the figures of value a small *extra* segment partially obscured by the shading. The N.B. should, moreover, have specified the blue 25 cents as equally exempt from condemnation with the 10 c. brown.

Comparing their Tuscan lions with Mr. Stourton's notified discrepancies, collectors must not reject any specimens unless presenting *all* the given characteristics of impostors. For instance; we possess ourselves, undoubtedly genuine, a black lion with tail and crown perfectly distinct; the 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 60 crazie without any *thick* coloured lines on the animal's back; the 2 c.

and 6 c. without watermark; and the 9 c. and others on thin paper. The 6 truzi and 3 mara Turkish are not *imaginary:* we have seen them. They were presented to their possessor by the Turkish ambassador, and are probably official stamps. Neither is the titular tenpenny of Tasmania to be utterly scouted. What and whence appears unascertainable, but its existence is indubitable. There are more fictitious old Spanish than noted by Mr. S., and some of the characteristics given as distinguishing the genuine, are found in the forgeries. It is probably a misprint that substitutes *Correo* for *Correos* in the black 6 cuartos of 1850.

This reminds us of a few clerical and other errors we propose touching upon. Instancing the Ionians, KRATOZ is most likely misprinted for KRATOS; 1 obolo, and 2 and 4 obolos, though not classical may possibly be correct modern Greek. Under the Sandwich Islands head, page 47, either 1 c. is a misprint for 2 c., or *cents* should be cent. These trifles are nothing to an experienced collector, but would rather bother a mere tyro.

We had nearly omitted mentioning that the animadversions on the Trinidad forgeries are rather too vague; because the very *recherchè* and indubitably genuine red, blue, and slate blocks of that island, are, like the imitatives, 'wretchedly-executed lithographs.' Taking leave, for the present, of our author's publication, we hope soon to congratulate him on the appearance of a second edition.

'YE CONNELLE.'

A BALLAD IN YE OLD STYLE.

'Ye Connelle is a famous stampe,
Or oughte to be I'm sure.
Since it's gained a notorietie
That's likelie to endure
Longer than manye kindes of fame;—
Such baubles oft are but a name.

For this ye brave designer payed
Six hundred pound a yeare,
Or rather lost his salarie,
Which means ye same I feare;
Six hundred pound to see his fayce
Posting around from place to place.

'Twas gallantrie that prompted him,
As any one might see:
Such business was too servile for
Her gracious Majestie:
A man can rougher usage bear,
Therefore he placed his visage there.

Some little minds pretend to see
His vanitie quite playne;
Yet who e'er hearde of such a sin
Lodged in a manlie braine,
Tho' true upon the stampe you see
Ye looke of kind complaisancie.

Collector, you should bend before
That image on your booke,
Just as ye miser does his gold,
In hidden box or nooke.
Remember that ye essaye cost
Ye salarie—oh "lost! lost!! lost!!!"'

—*Stamp Argus* (*New Brunswick*).

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

AN OLD PALACE was, it is reported, offered by the Italian government to De la Rue & Co., in order that their workmen might manufacture the current series of stamps on the spot, but the offer was declined.

THE WIGAN LETTER-BAG was hung as usual last Saturday morning (Sept. 9), for reception by a passing train, when something went wrong, and missing its destination, the bag was flung on the rails, where it was cut to pieces by the wheels, many of the letters being scattered and destroyed.—*Illustrated London News.*

A FRENCH PENNY-A-LINER, under the sensational heading, 'Nothing is sacred in the eyes of a postage-stamp dealer,' pretends to have seen advertised in the window of a well-known commercial depôt, opposite the Opera in Paris:—'A letter just arrived from Naples!!! Pierced by the postal authorities as being supposed to contain the germ of the cholera: price 5 francs.' It is needless to add that the respectable vendor in question never dreamed of such a ridiculous piece of clap-trap.

THE LIVONIAN STAMPS.—The Russian government, according to the Paris correspondent of the *Times* of the 4th ult., 'intends to introduce the use of the Russian language in the transaction of administrative affairs in the German provinces adjoining the Baltic, where the German is still used.' As the supercession of the Polish language by the Russian was followed by the suppression of the Polish stamps, it seems not improbable that the Livonian stamps may be, in like manner, abolished.

HAT STAMPS.—William Pitt in his financial desperation, and when he had laid the salt-box, the wash-house skylight, and the hair-powder dredger, under contribution, bethought himself of taxing hats. A hat stamp was accordingly imposed, the penalty for forging which was *Death.* Turning over an old volume of the *Universal Magazine* the other day, we discovered that in July 1798, a wretched man was absolutely *hanged* at the Old Bailey for forging a hat stamp!—*Illustrated London News.*

MAIL ROBBERY.—We extract from a Californian newspaper the following:—*Oroville*, August 16.—The stage from La Porte to Oroville was stopped by five robbers, at daybreak this morning, a short distance this side of La Porte. The robbers had built a barricade of fence rails across the road. They were armed with shot-guns, and demanded the treasure box of *Wheeler, Rutherford, & Co.'s Express.* After breaking it open and taking out the treasure, they returned the box and left for the woods. The stage driver thinks they got very little treasure, as the box was light.

AN ILL-TEMPERED LETTER once sent will embitter a lifetime. We once saw an old gentleman with a wise fine head, calm face, and most benevolent look, but

evidently thin-skinned and irascible, beg of a postmaster to return him a letter which he had dropped into a box. To do so, as everybody knows, is illegal, but, won over by the old gentleman's importunity, the postmaster complied, upon full proof, on comparing the writing, &c., being given. Then with a beaming face, the old gentleman tore the letter into fragments, and scattering them to the wind, exclaimed, 'Ah, I've preserved my friend!' The fact was, he had, in a state of irritation, written a letter which was probably unjust and hurtful, but which he had wisely recalled.—*About in the World.*

WHY THE OBSOLETE NEW BRUNSWICK ARE SO RARE.—In the days when the old stamps were in use, no commission for sale of stamps was allowed to the several postmasters, and this circumstance accounts in a great measure for the exceeding rarity of the one shilling violet. The method then in use for marking prepaid letters was a simple circular hand-stamp, bearing the word 'paid' and the value, threepence, sixpence, &c., in the middle. It was a great deal easier for the officials to impress them in this manner than to stick the stamps on and obliterate them afterwards. Now that the postmasters are allowed commission on all labels sold, it is an object for them to sell them, where it formerly brought them trouble without remuneration, and we all know how little persons in official positions will do for nothing. The method of pre-payment on letters going to England by these old stamps was in this wise, either a sixpenny and a threepenny cut corner-wise, or two and one-half threepenny stamps were put on to make the necessary amount, sixpence sterling, or sevenpence halfpenny currency. The only place in which the old one shilling stamp could come in would be on domestic letters, over three ounces in weight; or on heavy English or Foreign letters. Comparatively few of them were ever distributed in this province. They were sometimes cut as the others,—thus, in a collection in this city is to be seen a piece of an envelope on which is a fourth part of one of these stamps—making the postage on a colonial letter. Some idea of their rarity may be formed from the fact that in the government offices at Fredericton there is only one, and that is kept as a specimen. It could not be procured for any amount of money.—*Stamp Argus.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your November number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, that Mr. Pemberton quotes me as an authority for the statement that the ¼ anna (red) Indian stamp is an essay. As I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Pemberton, any statement of mine must have reached him second or third-hand, and have got altered in course of transmission; for I have expressed no such opinion.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

General Post-Office. PEARSON HILL.

THE BANCROFT EXPRESS STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—We note a remark on page 136 of your magazine which does not appear to be correct.

Mr. Bancroft is the very respectable proprietor of 'The City Express Co.' of Montreal. He issued stamps of which we enclose a specimen. His customers stick one of these on any parcel they may wish him to send. He delivers parcels of all sizes, and goods of all kinds. Shortly after its issue he informed us that his stamp was counterfeited in Albany; this we presume led to his initialing those issued by himself.

Yours truly,

Montreal. DAWSON, BROS.

THE AMERICAN BANK-NOTE COMPANY.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In the correspondence column of the September number, appeared an article, saying the American Bank-Note Co. were the manufacturers of the current Nova Scotia stamps.* Our friend is in error; for the National Bank-Note Co. are the engravers. They have also engraved the two and five cent stamps of the Hawaiian Islands; and, recently, they have engraved a new style of large stamps for the United States; the denominations being five, ten, and twenty-five cents, to be used for the transmission, by mail, of packages or bundles containing considerable quantities of newspapers. I know of but one place where they can now be obtained, which is at the post-office in Chicago, Illinois.

Very respectfully yours,

Boston, Mass. JAMES W. HUNTER.

* [We believe the sheets of Nova Scotia stamps bear at bottom the imprint, '*American* Bank Note Company, London and New York.' We know they show all the words except the first.—ED.]

STRANGE, BUT TRUE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—With reference to the paragraph headed 'strange if true,' at page 174 of your magazine, I have not seen the French paper referred to; but the facts on which the paragraph is founded are as follows:—A day or two after the great explosion on board a powder ship in the Mersey, which took place about two years ago, the Liverpool water police picked up a floating packet which they opened. It had *no* address, much less (as an Irishman might say) that of the English consul at Liberia; but it proved to consist of a large quantity of Liberian postage stamps. The Liverpool police sent these up to the consul-general of that republic in London, who examined them in my presence, and at once found that all were spurious. As the ship which blew up was about to sail for the west coast of Africa, it was *conjectured* that these stamps *might* have formed part of her freight, and so this story arose. I hope you will insert these few lines in justice to the aforesaid English consul.

By the way, at page 176, 'A Subscriber' remarks 'Bomba is not the surname of the ex-king of Naples.' Most of your readers, of course, well know that this title was given to the ex-king's father; he having ordered Naples to be bombarded (I think at the time of the revolution attempted there in 1848). *Bomba* is the Italian for a bomb-shell.

Yours faithfully,

London. W. H. H.

GENUINE AND FORGED WINTERTHUR STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Observing in your recent number another inquiry relative to the genuineness of a Winterthur stamp, it may not be out of place if I give you the result of several comparisons which I have made, between the real issue and the counterfeits of that country. In the genuine stamp there is a full stop after the letter R in the upper left-hand corner, as also after the word ORTSPOST. In addition to these points of difference, which might be easily rectified by the forger of the stamp, there are others still more distinctive. With regard to the general execution of the stamp, there is a clear space between the red

shading and the upper line of the cartouche, and, also at the bottom of the cartouche, there is a cessation of the cross red shading a little to the right of the centre. There is also a similar space of white between the red shading and the bottom line of the post horn. The right-hand lower stroke of the letter R is printed with a turn at the bottom, instead of being straight, as in many of the counterfeits. The chain supporting the tassel ought to have eight links, and passes through the inner line of the square border; and the right and left corner scrolls at the top of the cartouche also touch the upper inner line of the square. In conclusion, there is no stamp, which, from its clean but simple execution, bears on its face so genuine an appearance as the Winterthur stamp, and which, when well acquainted with, a collector ought to be less liable to be deceived in.

Since your insertion of a former letter of mine in your February number, in which the merits of postage-stamp albums were canvassed, I have formed a further judgment of Lallier's album; and while according to it the value of the assistance received from it, as a beginner, I must object to the numerous shades of colour introduced, and which, in many cases, are as fallacious as they are troublesome. An instance of the former I have in a sixpenny Nevis, which from exposure in a sunny window, is of a blue-green colour. This, doubtless, would be considered by some as a variety; but in what category would they place a Hanoverian stamp from which, from the same cause, the design of value has completely vanished, leaving only the network and obliterating mark?—a strong instance of the caution with which unusual shades of colour should be received.

Apologizing for the length of this letter,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

London. NOVICE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

William.—The same die being employed for the current Austrian labels and envelopes, they are distinguishable only by the absence of adhesive matter in the latter; or, what better means of ascertaining would you have?—the perforations in the former.—The old barbarous custom of cutting out the envelopes into ovals is now obsolete; you will therefore seldom find stamps so hopelessly damaged as not to bear ocular evidence of their original character.

H. E. Lilley, Herts.—Your communication is received with thanks, but is too long to claim space in the present number.

C. H.—This correspondent endorses S. H. L.'s opinion expressed in our last number, that no genuine black twopenny English ever existed; having found among some old letters a blue specimen almost black, but not so entirely discoloured as to belie its original tint.

S. D., Henley-on-Thames.—Your stamp is the 8 centavos of Monte Video, present issue; which with its congeners was described, and your specimen engraved in the June number of our second volume.

C. J. W. C.—The stamp you sketch and describe is a 300 reis of Brazil, present emission.

O. P. Q.—We are quite sure that your Spanish 1854, 5 rl. stamp is a forgery

Miss G. M. C., Cheltenham.—We have the authority of M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue for putting the values of all the Livonians at 2 kopecks each.

W. H. S., Carfax.—The valuable catalogue of M. Berger-Levrault is now in press, translated into French; and we trust, ere long, will be forthcoming in an English form.

Theodore C. G.—We are particularly pleased with this correspondent's first query, showing that, notwithstanding the jeremiads of croakers, new enrolments are taking place in our ranks. He must be a tyro, as he inquires, Who is Mount Brown? That gentleman is one to whom timbrophilists are greatly indebted; he has published a catalogue which has attained the respectable age of five editions, price one shilling: and a letter to him simply addressed London will be sure to reach him.—Timbrophilist is derived from the French word *timbre*, a stamp, and the Greek, φιλος, a friend. It is a mongrel, and as such put in the back ground by most collectors. We refer you to our article on nomenclature in the present number.—Essays are stamps proposed to the postal authorities for acceptance.

H. W. E. C. S.—The stamp you figure is quite novel in our eyes. It may be an official; but you do not say whether it is an adhesive, or hand-stamped.—The covers for the first or second volume of our magazine can still be had, 1/8 post free.

J. B. B., Norwich.—Thanks for your communication; which, together with your query, is noticed elsewhere in the present number.

N. J. L., Exeter.—You write that you cannot make out from reading the magazine what an essay is! A short definition of one is given to Theodore C. G. above: but on pages 143 and 173 of last year's volume, you will find the subject fully entered into.—The stamps you figure and describe are evidently Indian officials; but not recognizable in a postal collection.

Novice.—The variety of the Wells, Fargo, & Co. envelope, to which you allude, was noted by a correspondent in the July number, and again referred to by Mr. Pemberton in a letter in the August number.

Mr. D. Dean, of Weymouth, informs us that he has now no connection whatever with Mr. S. H. Marsden, Stamp Dealer, of Salford, Manchester.

Jacobus, Blackheath.—There is no genuine 50 c. French. The small imitation is for labelling packets of *bon-bons*.—The Spanish you figure is a bill stamp. Newspaper stamps, if freeing postage, are admissible. Revenue and bank cheque stamps have nothing to do with postage.—*Elua Kenets* means two cents.

A Subscriber.—Your query in last month's magazine is politely responded to by a communication, for which we thank.

Max Joseph.—This gentleman warns collectors to be cautious in accepting private Russian stamps; having been informed by a relative of superior rank in the Post-office that that government does not allow private stamps to be used within the limits of the empire. He adds that this prohibition does not prevent such foreign companies as the one issuing the stamp figured on page 136 of this volume, from employing their own postage stamps; but such impressions cannot be classed as Russian.

Inquirer, Paddington.—Mr. Stourton must surely be allowed as the best authority for the derivation of his quotation. It is not from *Paradise Lost*, but from the *Winter's Tale* (act ii., scene 3), where Paulina presents his infant to the jealous Leontes. Mr. Stourton is an enthusiastic philatelist, not a dealer in stamps.

C. D., Blackheath.—Who writes that the title of Bomba was given to the late king of the Two Sicilies after his bombardment of Messina, in retribution for the abortive attempt of the Sicilians to shake off the Neapolitan yoke in 1848.

Erratum.—Page 167, 1st col.,

For, Figure of value in oval at side. SIXPENCE, yellow. orange.

Read, SIXPENCE, orange-yellow.