

SAPPHIRE

THE

Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

ILLUSTRATED.

VOL. III.

LONDON:
E. MARLBOROUGH & CO., AVE MARIA LANE.
BATH:
STAFFORD SMITH & SMITH, THE FOREIGN STAMP AND CREST DEPÔT.
MDCCCLXV.

383.220542
S795
Hist. Coll.

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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 shaped 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 disappointment; 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 $2\frac{1}{4}$d. to $2\frac{3}{4}$d. 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 reasón 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, Auchtermuchty. 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.

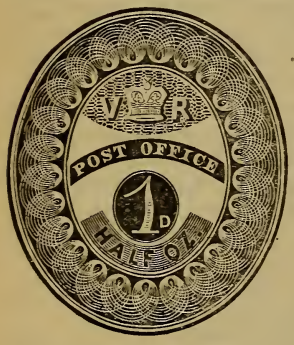
In conclusion, do not be disheartened if you cannot get all the stamps you want at once. Patience is necessary in collecting as well as in everything else. You must be content to gather your required stamps as opportunity offers, and meanwhile 'learn to labour and to wait.'

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 KGL. 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 sixpennyworth 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 COMMR. OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS, another CHIEF SECRETARY, and the third—impressed on ruled paper, which looks like foolscap—has COMMR. 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 FIST 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 fac-similes, 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 Spanish 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°.' 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 superseders, 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 1¼d., 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 Curaeas*,' 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; portbio 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 FIST 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 pourtrayal 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.

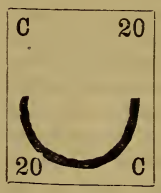
There is in such an arrangement an ingenuity which is peculiarly American in its nature. Everybody concerned is no doubt cheated by the system. The constituents are cheated; the public, which pays, is cheated; and the post-office is cheated. But the House is spared the hearing of the speech, and the 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.*

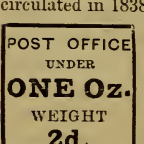
By a Notice issued by the British Postmaster-General on the 20th ult., certain alterations in the postal rates were promulgated, which will certainly prove a great boon to the public, and may possibly necessitate the issue of stamps of new values. On and after the 1st of this month, the rate of postage 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 two-penny '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 xº. 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 1¼ 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. F^CO. below, EBR. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 hope 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch. brown, blue, and 4 sch. mauve, blue, yellow, and black. The variety of the $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 10 c., 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 1039,* 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 evidence:—

'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 STRT. 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. FE. 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.

Sir Alfred Smith & Co. Monthly Circular.
b.167. 100 Oct 1878.

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.

No. 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.

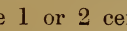
1862. These stamps so well known, and so commonly catalogued as *Newspaper* stamps, have hardly received the attention they merited; the various writers seem to have assumed that a complete series of each variety existed, and why or wherefore, it seems difficult to conceive, but most, if not all, concur 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.

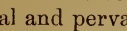
1 cent on pink paper.
2 cents on yellow paper.
4 cents on deep-blue paper.

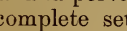
The design was of the simplest, consisting merely of the words BRITISH to left, GUIANA above, POSTAGE to right, with value beneath, printed on the four sides of a rectangle; in most cases four plain lines are placed within the letters, thus forming an inner rectangle. These stamps are surrounded by borders 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.

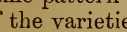
After the utmost care in collating and examining every specimen to be obtained, the writer of these lines has come to the conclusion that no authentic copy of the 4 cents value can be found bearing a border of the same identical pattern as that of any of the 1 or 2 cent stamps, and that it is a general 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.

See vol V. 1867. p. 101. (continuation)

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 corespondent 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 ⅓ 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 reproduced 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 disregarded 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, *valeat 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 Ca.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 th

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 $\frac{1}{3}$ silbergroschen of Brunswick, and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 BRYSTSUKKER. 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 noted in the present number. The 1 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. Yl simply means, *and* a quarter; *y* 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 1¼ sch. blue, within the circle, is 1¼ 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 ¼ 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; epigœus.' 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 emission 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 suppositious 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.

$3\frac{1}{8}$	centimos	peso	forte,	black on buff.
$6\frac{2}{8}$	„	„	„	green on lilac.
$12\frac{4}{8}$	„	„	„	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, but his ministry was overthrown in the following year. Dissensions at this period arose between the queen and her mother, and various plots were formed against her by her mother and Louis Philippe, in the planning of which Marshal Narvaez, then ambassador at Paris, had a large share. In October, 1847, a reconciliation was effected; and he 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 nina*," she exclaimed, "*que ciudem á 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 25, 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.

3⅛	cent.,	Po. Fe.	black on buff.
6⅜	,,	,,	green on lilac.
12½	,,	,,	blue on flesh.
25	,,	,,	vermilion on flesh.

§ Engraved in 1864 early, but not used in the Islands until this year. 3⅛ cent. Po. Fe. means three and an eight-hundredth of a peso fuerte or peso sterling (as opposed to currency).

Yours faithfully,
Edgbaston. 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 ; $\frac{1}{2}$ ($2\frac{1}{2}$) 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;

$1\frac{1}{3}$ 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,

$\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, rose.
$1\frac{1}{4}$ 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 curved 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.

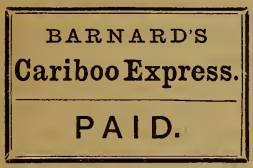
Several sheets of these stamps have recently come to light at the post-office in Madrid; of their authenticity no doubt can reasonably be entertained, and that they are not of the detestable genus of re-impressions is satisfactorily guaranteed by the fact that the die no longer exists, but was converted, 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 TALE 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 1½ 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 *post-marked:* 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 six-penny 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 $12\frac{1}{2}$ 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—

$\frac{1}{2}$	schilling	green.
$1\frac{1}{4}$	„	lilac.
$1\frac{1}{3}$	„	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 little 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 attainables 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 1¼ 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 * KALTBAD. 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 BOISR 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 Uruguay; 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 advertized 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 ½ 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 Keneta* 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.